

STEVENSON, EDWARD  
IRENAEUS PRIME-  
("XAVIER MAYNE";  
1868-1942)

American novelist and scholar.

Born in Madison, New Jersey, and educated in the United States, he began to write for the press while still in school. He was admitted to the New Jersey bar but never practiced. Stevenson was a member of the staff of the *Independent*, *Harper's Weekly*, and other magazines, and gained a wide reputation as musical, dramatic, and literary critic. He specialized in foreign, including European and Oriental literatures and claimed fluency in nine languages. Down to 1900 he divided his time between the United States and many parts of Europe, then settled permanently abroad out of dislike for the homophobia of contemporary American society, ultimately dying in Europe in 1942. He wrote many novels and short stories, several of which broach the homosexual theme but in the innocuous guise of "male friendship." In a boys' book about Bonnie Prince Charlie, *White Cockades* (1887), there is "half-hinted" an erotic liaison between the prince and a rustic youth.

Under the pseudonym "Xavier Mayne" he published in Naples in 1908 what was perhaps the first explicit homosexual novel by a native-born American: *Imre: A Memorandum*. The novel's simple plot describes the love affair between the thirty-year-old Oswald who is spending a leisurely summer of language study in Hungary and the twenty-five-year-old Imre, a Hungarian cavalry officer.

More important was his nonfiction book *The Intersexes: A History of Similisexuality as a Problem in Social Life* (Rome, 1908), the first large-scale survey in the English language of the subject of homosexuality from all aspects. It was based not just upon his reading of nearly everything that had been published until then in the homophile movement press and in the psychiatric literature, but

also upon his first-hand observations of the homosexual scene in the major cities of Europe and the United States, with much folklore and gossip thrown in for good measure. The author describes the mores of the gay subculture of that era, from the nobleman in his salon to the hustler on the street, with an objectivity that is free of both polemic and condemnatory bias. He alludes to many all-but-forgotten incidents and scandals that made the metropolitan newspapers, and names scores of illustrious figures of the past and present as Uranians or Uraniads (lesbians). Stevenson adheres to the line of Magnus Hirschfeld and the Scientific-humanitarian Committee that homosexuality is inborn and unmodifiable, that homosexuals should not be forced to don "masks" to hide from would-be persecutors, and that religion and the law are powerless to extirpate a predisposition of human nature. So thorough is the volume that not a few of the topics broached on its more than 600 pages have yet to be investigated by modern scholars. As the work of a participant observer, *The Intersexes* remains a precious collection of fact and commentary that anticipates Donald Webster Cory's *The Homosexual in America* of 1951, its first American successor.

BIBLIOGRAPHY. Roger Austen, *Playing the Game: The Homosexual Novel in America*, Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1977; Noel I. Garde, "The Mysterious Father of American Homophile Literature," *ONE Institute Quarterly*, 1:3 (Fall 1958), 94-98.

Warren Johansson

## STOICISM

Founded by Zeno of Citium (335-263 B.C.), Stoicism became the leading philosophical school under the Roman emperors, until the triumph of Neoplatonism in the third century. Insisting in the trying times of the Hellenistic monarchies that even poverty, pain, and death are as nothing to the eternal soul, Stoics vanquished their materialistic rivals, the