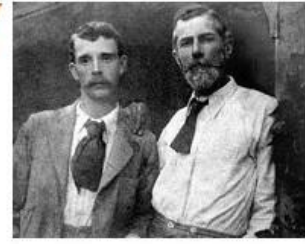




SWITCHINGVIEW

BY SIMON DAWSON

LOOKING AT GAY LIFE
THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS



TEXTS AND RESOURCES VIDEO A1-APP1 EDWARD CARPENTER – A VIDEO BIOGRAPHY

I am a big fan of Edward Carpenter, and much of the *switchingview* channel content will be inspired by his ideas.

EDWARD CARPENTER WEBSITE

I maintain an Edward Carpenter website (<http://www.edwardcarpenter.net/>) which gives a lot of data about the man and his life.

On the website there is:

- A short biography - <http://www.edwardcarpenter.net/ecbiog.htm>
- A bibliography taken from *My Days and Dreams*, running up until 1916 (I mention only a few of his books in the video) - <http://www.edwardcarpenter.net/ecddbib.htm>
- Carpenter's biography of George Merrill - <http://www.edwardcarpenter.net/ecmerrill.htm>
- Various recordings of his music - <http://www.edwardcarpenter.net/ecmusic.htm>
- Full text versions of some of his books.

CARPENTER BIOGRAPHIES

The Carpenter Biography I mentioned in the video is *Edward Carpenter – a Life of Liberty and Love* by Sheila Rowbotham, published in 2008 by Verso.

One other useful source is *Edward Carpenter – In Appreciation*, edited by Gilbert Beith, published by George Allen and Unwin in 1931. This book consists of a series of recollections of Carpenter written by twenty-eight of his friends.

Carpenter's own autobiography, *My Days and Dreams*, was first published in 1916 – (available at <http://www.edwardcarpenter.net/ecddtite.htm>)

CARPENTER'S POETRY AND MYSTICISM

There are various resources if you wish to explore Carpenter's mysticism and poetry.

I have put some extracts from *Towards Democracy* on my website, along with a short introduction by Gilbert Beith, and Carpenter's own "Note" about *Towards Democracy*:

<http://www.edwardcarpenter.net/ectdindx.htm>

[Note that Carpenter worked on the poetry for over 20 years, and published it in four volumes between 1883 and 1902. There are many different editions on the market.]

The Spiritual Vision of Edward Carpenter – as expressed in his own words is a compilation of various Carpenter quotes, related to his spirituality, produced by Alan Rowlands. The final section cites various descriptions of Carpenter's spiritual life by his friends.

<http://www.edwardcarpenter.net/switchingview/spirvis-Rowlands.pdf>

Rictor Norton's essay focuses on Carpenter as "the poet of hitherto unuttered joy". By this he meant the explicit, unrepressed union of physical and spiritual homosexual love.

In a culture where the stereotypical mystic was often seen a celibate, ascetic monk, Carpenter the Hindu influenced determinedly non-celibate mystic produced poetry exalting post-coital bliss.

<https://rictornorton.co.uk/carpent2.htm>

[Apart from this essay, Rictor Norton's website is a superb resource for anybody interested in gay history and literature. Do please explore it - <https://rictornorton.co.uk/index.htm>]

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Most of the video is informed by the three biographies listed above. Additional sources are:

- Raymond Unwin and Garden Cities etc.

Historic England website "Millthorpe and Edward Carpenter"

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/inclusive-heritage/lgbtq-heritage-project/homes-and-domestic-spaces/millthorpe-and-edward-carpenter/>

- Harry Hay

The Trouble with Harry Hay – the Founder of the Modern Gay Movement by Stuart Timmons, published by Alyson Publications, Boston, USA in 1990

- Opposition to Carpenter

National Archive website "Edward Carpenter: Free love advocate and LGBTQ+ rights pioneer"

https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/edward-carpenter-free-love-advocate-and-lgbtq-rights-pioneer/?fbclid=IwAR27Nds9myvl7o1Vvk2kz7_SZi-zfzbuqziu3mXyd88k_E6JrAKxbQ_j-94

- Athenaeum Magazine and Lord Elton quotes

Baruah, D. K., 'An unacknowledged source of some of D H Lawrence's ideas', 1969 (Local Pamphlets, Vol. 321 No. 2 and copy taken from 'The Indian Journal of English Studies', Vol. 10, 1969, pp.58-70. Local Pamphlets Vol. 275 No. 15 (042 S)) – Obtained from Sheffield City Archive – Carpenter collection

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries-archives/access-archives-local-studies-library/collections/edward-carpenter-collection>

OBTAINING COPIES OF BOOKS BY CARPENTER

If you want to obtain your own copy of Carpenter's books there are three main choices.

Firstly, many reprints are available to purchase on-line. These are basically the original old books photocopied and bound together, or sometimes some form of OCR reproduction. These can vary hugely in quality. Some are excellent. Some are appalling. Sadly, you don't know which is which until you have bought them. This may not always be the best way forward.

Secondly, it is possible to find versions of most reasonably popular Carpenter books online for free download, either as a PDF scanned copy or some form of e-publication format like Kindle. Personally, I will quite often download a PDF, and then print it onto paper, bound in a folder, so then I can read it like a book and make notes on the pages.

Finally, it is often possible to buy original copies of the books from 100 years ago from on-line, second-hand bookshops. Many Carpenter books are still widely available and not too expensive, although popular ones like *My Days and Dreams*, and *The Intermediate Sex*, tend to be rarer. Some of the books can be a bit old and frail but it can be nice to have such an object in your hands.

ABEBooks is a massive online portal linking thousands of second-hand bookshops. It is where I have found most of my Carpenter publications. There is a good advanced search option so you can search by country, or type of book (hardback/softback) or whatever. You can also submit a "want" for a book not currently listed and they will email you when it appears.

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switchingview
Updated March 2023