

SWITCHINGVIEW BY SIMON DAWSON

LOOKING AT GAY LIFE
THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS



TEXTS AND RESOURCES VIDEO INT 1-INTERMEDIATE TYPES PART 1,2 AND 3

PART 1. EDWARD CARPENTER'S INTERMEDIATE TYPES HOW TO UNCOVER LGBTQ+ HISTORY

The underside of history argument comes from Philip Sheldrake's *Spirituality and History* (SPCK, revised edition 1995). Sheldrake discussed how lay people and women can recover their history from within a church dominated by the views of male, celibate priests and religious. But the same argument and method is applicable in many other fields.

I am a big fan of Edward Carpenter, and much of the *switchingview* channel content will be inspired by his ideas. 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
- Full text versions of some of his books, including *The Intermediate Sex, Iolaus Anthology of Friendship*, and *Intermediate Types among Primitive Folk*.
- the switchingview YouTube channel also has a video biography of Carpenter if you want to learn more about him.

The information about Carpenter's relationships with the other "sexologists" is taken from Sheila Rowbotham's detailed and excellent biography - Edward Carpenter – a Life of Liberty and Love (Verso Books 2008).

PART 2. INTERMEDIATE TYPES — THE EVIDENCE STORIES OF QUEER PEOPLE IN HISTORY

The Kamchatka C1900 and Peru 1554 quotes are from Carpenter's Intermediate Types.

The Canadian Two Spirit report can be downloaded from:

https://www.ccnsa-nccah.ca/docs/emerging/RPT-HealthTwoSpirit-Hunt-EN.pdf

The Japanese Buddhist data can be found in the homosexuality chapter in Dag Oistein Endsjo's *Sex and Religion: Teaching and Taboos in the History of World Faiths* (Reaktion Books 2011). This is a fantastic and very readable discussion of the interactions between sex and religion across the world and across history. Be a bit careful however. Because of the book's date Endsjo does not take account of very recent research challenging common patriarchal assumptions absorbed into the religions he describes.

Tsuneo Watanabe has written a good introduction to Japanese same sex love culture in *The Love of the Samurai: a thousand years of Japanese Homosexuality* (GMP Publishers 1989). Despite the title the book describes same-sex love in the theatre and in religion as well as Samurai *Wakashudo* culture.

We'wha and their life in the Zuni tribe is described by Will Roscoe in *The Zuni Man-Woman* (University of New Mexico press).

The Sacred band of Thebes has been written about widely both in books and online. This is one website that might get you started in your own research. Note the quote from Plato's *Symposium*, a Greek philosophical discourse on the origin and benefits of love. This speech by Pahaedrus shows the Greek praise for male-to-male love which Carpenter described in many of his books.

https://www.worldhistory.org/Sacred Band of Thebes/

The Japanese *Wakashudo* Samurai images and texts are taken from *A Little Gay History: Desire* and *Diversity Across the World* by RB Parkinson, published by the British Museum (London 2013). This is a fantastic (and quite cheap) introduction to "a great unrecorded history" (in Parkinson's words). He covers the theory in a very accessible way, and then gives some wonderful images and descriptions.

The Azande data is published in an academic journal, *American Anthropologist*. The article is titled *Sexual Inversion among the Azande* by E.E. Evans-Pritchard, December 1970.

https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1525/aa.1970.72.6.02a00170

If you cannot access the original document then an online search of the title will give you some good website descriptions of the content, or possibly a downloadable pdf scan of the article. Evans-Pritchard describes both male and female same-sex love.

I will give much fuller reading lists with the Queer Ministry and Warrior Love videos if you want to do even more research for yourself.

PART 3. SUPPRESSION AND GENOCIDE HOW COLONIALISM DAMAGED LGBTQ+ HISTORY

I know that many people might want to challenge what I am describing in this video because of the strong criticism it makes of the behaviour of European colonial behaviour and of the Christian church. Because of that I have taken great care over my sources. In this section my data is taken almost entirely from the church itself, or from publications by official government bodies in Britain and Canada. I am confident in what I say.

The conquistadors savage dogs quote comes from Carpenter's *Intermediate Types*, and the image from *a Little Gay History*. There is more information on how dogs were used as a genocidal method in Bartolome de las Casas *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (Penguin Books 1991). Las Casas was a Spanish Catholic bishop who campaigned extensively against the cruelty and genocidal acts of his compatriots in America.

The data on Indian legal suppression is taken from *Living in Love and Faith*, page 125. (Church House publishing 2020). This is a document aimed at "teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage" published by the Church of England.

I have used Canada as an example for the abuses within church run schools because Canada, to its credit, has made a huge effort to research and acknowledge what went wrong, and to try to find a constructive way forward. Similar schools were set up in many other parts of the colonial world without the same attempt at truth seeking.

In Canada there is extensive online documentation. The following websites may help if you want to investigate more for yourself

https://www.archtoronto.org/en/outreach/news/archdiocesan/background-for-catholics-residential-schools/

https://nctr.ca/records/reports/

https://nctr.ca/about/

Pope Francis' discussion with newspaper journalists is recorded in the Tablet magazine for 6th August 2022.

https://www.thetablet.co.uk/

The Canadian Two Spirit health report can be downloaded from:

https://www.ccnsa-nccah.ca/docs/emerging/RPT-HealthTwoSpirit-Hunt-EN.pdf

In later videos I will explore the colonial suppression of intermediate type people in some detail, focusing on the conquistadors in America, British punishment expeditions to Africa in the 19th century, and church mission schools across the world. Again, I will give more detailed reading lists with those videos.

Simon Dawson switchingview Updated March 2024