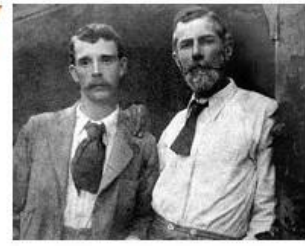




SWITCHINGVIEW

BY SIMON DAWSON

LOOKING AT GAY LIFE
THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS



TEXTS AND RESOURCES - VIDEO INT 2.

HOW DO YOU TELL THE HISTORY OF HOMOSEXUAL PEOPLE?

This video follows on from the first three videos in the series, where I set out my basic “Intermediate Type” thesis:

- Across history, homosexual and other LGBTQIA+ people have often been accepted and valued by the cultures they lived within.
- Sadly, much of the activity was repressed and destroyed when European colonialism spread Christian inspired anti-gay values across the world.
- Because of the suppression that history has been all but forgotten, but the evidence is still there and can be uncovered.

These videos can be accessed through my switchingview website

<https://www.switchingview.com/>

THE CAUSES OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

See - *“The causes of human sexual orientation”*. By Christopher C.H. Cook, in *Theology and Sexuality* Vol 27, 2021

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13558358.2020.1818541>

This paper discusses current research as at 2020. It was prepared for the Church of England’s LLF debate on homosexuality and the church, so parts of the debate are set in a theological framework, but the science it presents is well explained and unbiased.

The *Coronet Magazine* from 1950’s America evidences older but very common views about “predatory” homosexuals – “A New Moral Menace to our Youth”

<https://jimburroway.com/history/coronet-magazine-1950-new-moral-menace-to-our-youth/>

SHAMEN CASE STUDY

This is taken from Edward Carpenter's *"Intermediate Types amongst Primitive Folk – A study in Social Evolution."* This is the book that first put me onto this entire topic. The full text of this book, and many other Carpenter texts, can be found on my "Edward Carpenter Archive" website - <https://www.edwardcarpenter.net/>

Carpenter obtained this and other examples from Edward Westermarck's *"The Origin and Development of the Moral Ideas"*. Vol 2 Chapter XLIII (published in 1908). This is a fascinating text which describes the breadth of intermediate type behaviours and cultures across the world. Although some of Westermarck's analysis may be dated, in other areas he gives sensible suggestions we may have forgotten today. The book can be well worth reading if you are interested in these ideas. There is a very good and very cheap edition on Amazon Kindle.

CARDINAL JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

This Guardian article by Peter Tatchell gives the basic details

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2008/sep/04/catholicism.gayrights>

The Ambrose StJohn quote is taken from *"Newman's Unquiet Grave: the Reluctant Saint"* by John Cornwell.

Diarmaid MacCulloch's quotes are taken from *"Silence - a Christian History"* published in 2013

Readers of Tatchell's article may be pleased to know that although Newman and St John were exhumed by the church, it was found that the bones had decomposed so much that all was left was amorphous mud and soil. The two could not be separated, and still lie together in their new grave.

ANIMAL HOMOSEXUALITY

"Queer Ducks and Other Animals" by Eliot Schrefer a fun, popular introduction. It is aimed at teenagers and above but still gives a fascinating data.

"A Little Gay Natural History" by Josh L Davis (published by the Natural History Museum, London) is a very readable but very competent overview of the whole range of gender diverse expressions, within not just animals but plants and microorganisms.

The academic debate about homosexuality in animals is as contested as that about homosexuality in humans, and it is interesting to compare the two stories.

Scientists have been at times unable to agree about what is or is not homosexual behaviour, and until recently reluctant or embarrassed to publish details in academic journals about what they have noted in their private diaries.

For example, scientists in Scott's Antarctic expedition (1910-13) noted same sex behaviour in penguins but failed to report it in the published report as it might cause scandal. Things did not improve much until quite late in the 20th Century.

See this Guardian article for a basic introduction to this topic. The linked "PLOS One" article is fascinating if you want to follow this up.

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/article/2024/jun/20/animal-homosexual-behaviour-under-reported-by-scientists-survey-shows>

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