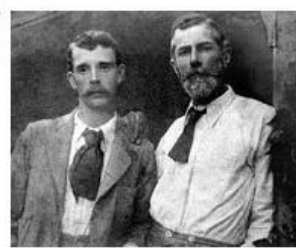




SWITCHINGVIEW

BY SIMON DAWSON

LOOKING AT GAY LIFE
THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS



TEXTS AND RESOURCES

TALKING ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY – VIDEO 2.

SIX GAY WRITERS WHO DEFINED HOMOSEXUALITY

This document gives a list of the main sources I have used to create the video, and recommendations for further reading if you want to follow anything up for yourself.

Wherever possible for my videos I have tried to recommend publicly available books, websites, and other texts in my work, so that people who want to follow things up can easily access the resources. Where possible I try not to use academic research locked away in university libraries. This knowledge should be available to all.

EDWARD CARPENTER

Edward Carpenter is probably the best known of the early gay writers, and extensive documentation exists.

Sheila Rowbotham's biography "*Edward Carpenter: a life of Liberty and Love*" is a superb, well documented and comprehensive work which covers everything he did, not just the work on homosexuality. But there is a good index if you want to dig down to the detail.

My own website - <https://www.edwardcarpenter.net/> - also gives a range of biographical material and the full text of all of his books on homosexuality.

MAGNUS HIRSCHFELD

I have had to rely mainly on websites for my Hirschfeld data, where many people are seeking to bring him into wider public attention. The main ones I have used are:

<https://blog.sciencemuseum.org.uk/magnus-hirschfeld-and-the-institute-for-sexual-science/>

<https://www.pinktrianglelegacies.org/hirschfeld>

And for the attacks on Hirschfeld and the Institute

<https://elierlick.com/transholocaust/>

It is fascinating to see how quickly the acceptance described in the first website moves to total suppression after only a few years.

If you are researching Hirschfeld be aware that whilst his views on sexuality and transgenderism were scientifically valid and are well supported nowadays, he also had views on race and eugenics (typical of many men of his time) which would be considered unacceptable nowadays.

HARRY HAY

Probably the best biography of Harry Hay is "*The Trouble with Harry Hay: founder of the modern Gay Movement*" by Stuart Timmons.

Will Roscoe's "*Radically Gay: Gay Liberation in the words of its founder Harry Hay*" gives you the full text of many of Harry's key texts and writings, with an incisive commentary from somebody who knew Harry well.

The video extract about Harry Hay is taken from "*Hope along the Wind, The Life of Harry Hay*". This is a full-length biography of Harry, created by Eric Slade, and can be found on the Vimeo Platform at:

<https://vimeo.com/45524983/278eabe951>

MICHEL FOUCAULT

For Michel Foucault one of my main concerns is to present arguments against what he said rather than in favour. I would argue that he was a brilliant philosopher who discussed many important concepts, but he was a sloppy historian who got quite a few things wrong in the stories that he told to illustrate his arguments. And the wrong stories he told have been taken as factual history.

If you want to follow this argument for yourself, his own ideas are presented part one of his three-part work "*The Will to Knowledge: The History of Sexuality part 1*".

In this book he argued that the idea of homosexuality as an innate disposition only arose with the writings of the medical doctors in the late 19th century. But the book credits the doctors with this idea, and ignores the gay writers such as Ulrichs Hirschfeld and Carpenter.

Many people have criticised Foucault, arguing that homosexuality as an innate disposition can be evidenced in many cultures way before this time. There is this essay by Rictor Norton:

<https://rictornorton.co.uk/social15.htm>

Georgian England is a good culture to study in this regard, recent enough to have extensive documentation but well before Foucault's claimed invention of homosexual.

Anthony Delaney's *"Queer Georgians: a hidden history of lovers, lawbreakers and homemakers"* is a highly recommended, very readable book about same sex attracted and gender variant people at the turn of the 19th century. Delaney explicitly discusses, with evidence, how these people were seen as a "type" both by themselves and others.

Richter Norton's other essay on gay subcultures makes the point that homosexuality has always existed in a semi-hidden subcultures. The only thing that changes is the availability of documentation about the subcultures for later researchers. Just because something wasn't documented does not mean it didn't happen.

<https://rictornorton.co.uk/eighteen/molly2.htm>

Or explore his wider website about Georgian homosexual England

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

The Greek "Kinaidos" is another example of extensive documentation portraying effeminate, same-sex attracted men as a clear type of person with a disposition to behave that way.

<https://blog.oup.com/2022/09/unmanly-men-and-the-flexible-meaning-of-kinaidos-in-classical-antiquity/>

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