

# Same Sex Desire In The English Renaissance

## Kenneth Borris

### **The Sciences of Homosexuality in Early Modern Europe** - Kenneth Borris 2013-01-11

The Sciences of Homosexuality in Early Modern Europe investigates early modern scientific accounts of same-sex desires and the shapes they assumed in everyday life. It explores the significance of those representations and interpretations from around 1450 to 1750, long before the term homosexuality was coined and accrued its current range of cultural meanings. This collection establishes that efforts to produce scientific explanations for same-sex desires and sexual behaviours are not a modern invention, but have long been characteristic of European thought. The sciences of antiquity had posited various types of same-sexual affinities rooted in singular natures. These concepts were renewed, elaborated, and reassessed from the late medieval scientific revival to the early Enlightenment. The deviance of such persons seemed outwardly inscribed upon their bodies, documented in treatises and case studies. It was attributed to diverse inborn causes such as distinctive anatomies or physiologies, and embryological, astrological, or temperamental factors. This original book freshly illuminates many of the questions that are current today about the nature of homosexual activity and reveals how the early modern period and its scientific interpretations of same-sex relationships are fundamental to understanding the conceptual development of contemporary sexuality.

**Setting Plato Straight** - Todd W. Reeser 2016  
In 'Setting Plato Straight', Todd W. Reeser undertakes the first sustained and comprehensive study of Renaissance textual responses to Platonic same-sex sexuality. Reeser mines an expansive collection of translations, commentaries, and literary sources to study how Renaissance translators transformed ancient eros into non-erotic, non-homosexual relations.  
The Affectionate Shepherd - Richard Barnfield

2001

Despite various influential writers' and critics' high praise of the poetry of Richard Barnfield (1574-1620/26?), his work has long been marginalized in English literary history because of its pervasive homoeroticism. Current interest in literary representations of gender and sexuality, in dissent from dominant ideologies, and in the early modern possibilities of same-sexual subjectivities, accounts for the renewed interest in Barnfield's poetry. This new collection of essays seeks to provide a forum for his evaluation and reinterpretation in accord with his topicality for literary studies today.

The Genius of the English Nation - Anna Suranyi 2008

Travel literature was one of the most popular literary genres of the early modern era. This book examines how concepts of national identity, imperialism, colonialism, and orientalism were worked out and represented for English readers in early travel and ethnographic writings.

Visions of Sodom - H. G. Cocks 2017-03-29

The Roman Sodom -- City of destruction -- The end of the world -- Laws -- Histories -- Lust and morality in the (long) eighteenth century -- The discovery of Sodom, 1851

How Sex Got Screwed Up: The Ghosts that Haunt Our Sexual Pleasure - Book One - Jon Knowles 2019-03-31

The ghosts that haunt our sexual pleasure were born in the Stone Age. Sex and gender taboos were used by tribes to differentiate themselves from one another. These taboos filtered into the lives of Bronze and Iron Age men and women who lived in city-states and empires. For the early Christians, all sex play was turned into sin, instilled with guilt, and punished severely. With the invention of sin came the construction of women as subordinate beings to men. Despite the birth of romance in the late middle ages, Renaissance churches held inquisitions to seek out and destroy sex sinners, all of whom it saw

as heretics. The Age of Reason saw the demise of these inquisitions. But, it was doctors who would take over the roles of priests and ministers as sex became defined by discourses of crime, degeneracy, and sickness. The middle of the 20th century saw these medical and religious teachings challenged for the first time as activists, such as Alfred Kinsey and Margaret Sanger, sought to carve out a place for sexual freedom in society. However, strong opposition to their beliefs and the growing exploitation of sex by the media at the close of the century would ultimately shape 21st century sexual ambivalence. Volume I of this two-part publication traces the history of sex from the Stone Age to the Enlightenment. Interspersed with 'personal hauntings' from his own life and the lives of friends and relatives, Knowles reveals how historical discourses of sex continue to haunt us today. This book is a page-turner in simple and plain language about 'how sex got screwed up' for millennia. For Knowles, if we know the history of sex, we can get over it.

**Empires of Love** - Carmen Nocentelli  
2013-02-05

Drawing on a wide range of Dutch, English, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish sources, *Empires of Love* shows how the encounter with Asia shaped the way early modern Europeans came to define their racial and sexual identities.

**Medievalia Et Humanistica** - 1943

**Renaissance Papers 2012** - Andrew Shifflett  
2013-11

Yearly volume of the best essays submitted to the Southeastern Renaissance Conference, focusing on sexuality in Elizabethan poetry, Renaissance drama and its links to the wider culture, and on seventeenth-century literature.

**Shakespeare and Outsiders** - Marianne Novy  
2013-06-27

This book offers an engaging account of the portrayal of outsiders in Shakespeare's writings. It considers characters who are outsiders for an array of reasons including their race, religion, gender, psychology, and morality, and highlights the idea of otherness as a relative rather than fixed term.

**Visionary Spenser and the Poetics of Early Modern Platonism** - Kenneth Borris

2017-07-25

Platonic concerns and conceptions profoundly affected early modern English and continental poetics, yet the effects have had little attention. This book defines Platonism's roles in early modern theories of literature, then reappraise the Platonizing major poet Edmund Spenser. It makes important new contributions to the knowledge of early modern European poetics and advances our understanding of Spenser's role and significance in English literary history. Literary Platonism energized pursuits of the sublime, and knowledge of this approach to poetry yields cogent new understandings of Spenser's poetics, his principal texts, his poetic vocation, and his cultural influence. By combining Christian resources with doctrines of Platonic poetics such as the poet's and lover's inspirational furies, the revelatory significance of beauty, and the importance of imitating exalted ideals rather than the world, he sought to attain a visionary sublimity that would ensure his enduring national significance, and he thereby became a seminal figure in the English literary "line of vision" including Milton and Blake among others. Although readings of Spenser's *Shepherd's Calendar* typically bypass Plato's *Phaedrus*, this text deeply informs the *Calendar's* treatments of beauty, inspiration, poetry's psychagogic power, and its national responsibilities. In *The Faerie Queene*, both heroism and visionary poetics arise from the stimuli of love and beauty conceived Platonically, and idealized mimesis produces its faeryland. Faery's queen, projected from Elizabeth I as in Platonic idealization of the beloved, not only pertains to temporal governance but also points toward the transcendental Ideas and divinity. Whereas Plato's *Republic* valorizes philosophy for bringing enlightenment to counter society's illusions, Spenser champions the learned and enraptured poetic imagination, and proceeds as such a philosopher-poet.

**The Ashgate Research Companion to The Sidneys, 1500-1700** - Mary Ellen Lamb  
2017-02-17

Presented in two volumes, *The Ashgate Research Companion to The Sidneys, 1500-1700* assesses the current state of scholarship on members of the Sidney family and their impact, as historical and/or literary figures, in the period

1500-1700. Volume 2: Literature, begins with an exploration of the Sidneys' books and manuscripts and how they circulated, followed by an overview of the contributions of family members -Sir Philip Sidney; Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke; Lady Mary Wroth; Robert Sidney, Earl of Leicester; and William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke - in the genres of prose romance, drama, poetry, psalms and prose. These essays outline major controversies and areas for further research, as well as conducting literary analysis.

*Same-sex Desire in the English Renaissance* - Kenneth Borris 2004

First Published in 2004. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

[Trial of Translation](#) - Adam L. Wirrig 2022-04-04

Did the Bible transition from the medieval Vulgate to the vernacular forms of the Protestant Reformation? What about from Erasmus's Greek text? Were there significant differences in the various vernacular Bibles of the Protestant Reformation? How did this or didn't this come to be? Utilizing the unique Greek text of 1 Corinthians 6:9, this book explores the relationships between culture, location, theology, and the art of biblical translation within the Protestant Reformation. Far from a simplistic transition from their previous forms, this work details the differences even one singular text of translation might find within the various locales of the early modern period. Ultimately, the text details that, in addition to faithful thought, location, culture, and community necessities drove the art of biblical translation in the Protestant Reformation and early modern period.

### **Queer (Re)Readings in the French**

**Renaissance** - Gary Ferguson 2016-12-05

Focusing on multiple aspects of Renaissance culture, and in particular its preoccupation with the reading and rewriting of classical sources, this book examines representations of homosexuality in sixteenth-century France. Analysing a wide range of texts and topics, it presents an assessment of queer theory that is grounded in historical examples, including French translations of Boccaccio's Decameron, the poetry of Ronsard, works in praise of and satirising Henri III and his mignons, Montaigne's Essais, Brantôme's Dames galantes, the figures

of the androgyne and the hermaphrodite, and religious discourses and practices of penance and confession. Close comparison with the ancient models on which they drew - the elegy and epic, the works of Plato, Ovid, Lucian, and others - reveals Renaissance writers redeploing an established set of cultural understandings and assumptions at once congruent and at odds with their own society's socio-sexual norms. Throughout this study, emphasis is placed on the coexistence of different models of homosexuality during the Renaissance - homosexual desire was simultaneously universal and individual, neither of these views excluding the other. Insisting equally on points of convergence and difference between Renaissance and modern understandings of homosexuality, this book works towards a historicisation of the concept of queerness.

*Sexual Types* - Mario DiGangi 2011-11-29

Sexual types on the early modern stage are at once strange and familiar, associated with a range of "unnatural" or "monstrous" sexual and gender practices, yet familiar because readily identifiable as types: recognizable figures of literary imagination and social fantasy. From the many found in early modern culture, Mario DiGangi here focuses on six types that reveal in particularly compelling ways, both individually and collectively, how sexual transgressions were understood to intersect with social, gender, economic, and political transgressions. Building on feminist and queer scholarship, *Sexual Types* demonstrates how the sodomite, the tribade (a woman-loving woman), the narcissistic courtier, the citizen wife, the bawd, and the court favorite function as sites of ideological contradiction in dramatic texts. On the one hand, these sexual types are vilified and disciplined for violating social and sexual norms; on the other hand, they can take the form of dynamic, resourceful characters who expose the limitations of the categories that attempt to define and contain them. In bringing sexuality and character studies into conjunction with one another, *Sexual Types* provides illuminating new readings of familiar plays, such as Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Winter's Tale*, and of lesser-known plays by Fletcher, Middleton, and Shirley.

**The Sex of Men in Premodern Europe** -

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Patricia Simons 2011-10-13

A richly textured cultural history that investigates the characterization of the sex of adult male bodies before the Enlightenment.

**Nothing Natural Is Shameful** - Joan Cadden 2013-09-17

In his *Problemata*, Aristotle provided medieval thinkers with the occasion to inquire into the natural causes of the sexual desires of men to act upon or be acted upon by other men, thus bringing human sexuality into the purview of natural philosophers, whose aim it was to explain the causes of objects and events in nature. With this philosophical justification, some late medieval intellectuals asked whether such dispositions might arise from anatomy or from the psychological processes of habit formation. As the fourteenth-century philosopher Walter Burley observed, "Nothing natural is shameful." The authors, scribes, and readers willing to "contemplate base things" never argued that they were not vile, but most did share the conviction that they could be explained. From the evidence that has survived in manuscripts of and related to the *Problemata*,

two narratives emerge: a chronicle of the earnest attempts of medieval medical theorists and natural philosophers to understand the cause of homosexual desires and pleasures in terms of natural processes, and an ongoing debate as to whether the sciences were equipped or permitted to deal with such subjects at all. Mining hundreds of texts and deciphering commentaries, indices, abbreviations, and marginalia, Joan Cadden shows how European scholars deployed a standard set of philosophical tools and a variety of rhetorical strategies to produce scientific approaches to sodomy.

**The Chaucer Review** - 2011

*Andrew Marvell, Sexual Orientation, and Seventeenth-Century Poetry* - George Klawitter 2017-09-01

*Andrew Marvell, Sexual Orientation, and Seventeenth-Century Poetry* examines the poet's major works to unmask English Interregnum/Restoration attitudes on sexuality with a view of understanding Marvell's own sexuality. Klawitter explicates the poet's lyric pieces, major and minor, against a background of modern theories of human sexuality.

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