

Chapter 1 : Gay - Wikipedia

Gay Men's Literature in the Twentieth Century presents us with a unified analysis of these, and other, shared themes in the works of James Baldwin, Christopher Isherwood, Tennessee Williams, Lord Byron, Oscar Wilde, E. M. Forster, Jean Genet, Joe Orton, Andrew Holleran, David Leavitt, and Constantine Cavafy, and in the love poetry of the first.

History Overview Cartoon from Punch magazine in illustrating the use of "gay" as a colloquial euphemism for being a prostitute. The word gay arrived in English during the 12th century from Old French gai, most likely deriving ultimately from a Germanic source. For example, the optimistic s are still often referred to as the Gay Nineties. It was apparently not until the 20th century that the word began to be used to mean specifically "homosexual", although it had earlier acquired sexual connotations. The word may have started to acquire associations of immorality as early as the 14th century, but had certainly acquired them by the 17th. A gay woman was a prostitute, a gay man a womanizer, and a gay house a brothel. Such usage, documented as early as the s, was likely present before the 20th century, [2] although it was initially more commonly used to imply heterosexually unconstrained lifestyles, as in the once-common phrase "gay Lothario", [13] or in the title of the book and film *The Gay Falcon*, which concerns a womanizing detective whose first name is "Gay". Similarly, Fred Gilbert and G. This usage could apply to women too. The British comic strip *Jane*, first published in the s, described the adventures of Jane Gay. Far from implying homosexuality, it referred to her free-wheeling lifestyle with plenty of boyfriends while also punning on Lady Jane Grey. Gertrude Stein and her Family, the portrait "featured the sly repetition of the word gay, used with sexual intent for one of the first times in linguistic history," and Edmund Wilson, quoted by James Mellow in *Charmed Circle*, agreed. *Bringing Up Baby* was the first film to use the word gay in apparent reference to homosexuality. When another character asks about his robe, he responds, "Because I just went gay all of a sudden! Gross, executive secretary for the George W. They have a way of describing themselves as gay but the term is a misnomer. This association no doubt helped the gradual narrowing in scope of the term towards its current dominant meaning, which was at first confined to subcultures. Gay was the preferred term since other terms, such as queer, were felt to be derogatory. In mid-19th century Britain, where male homosexuality was illegal until the Sexual Offences Act, to openly identify someone as homosexual was considered very offensive and an accusation of serious criminal activity. Additionally, none of the words describing any aspect of homosexuality were considered suitable for polite society. Consequently, a number of euphemisms were used to hint at suspected homosexuality. Examples include "sporty" girls and "artistic" boys, [24] all with the stress deliberately on the otherwise completely innocent adjective. The s marked the transition in the predominant meaning of the word gay from that of "carefree" to the current "homosexual". In the British comedy-drama film *Light Up the Sky!* Similarly, Hubert Selby, Jr. It has nevertheless been claimed that gay stands for "Good As You", but there is no evidence for this:

Chapter 2 : Gay Men's Literature in the Twentieth Century : Mark Lilly :

Gay Mens Literature in the Twentieth Century presents us with a unified analysis of these, and other, shared themes in the works of James Baldwin, Christopher Isherwood, Tennessee Williams, Lord Byron, Oscar Wilde, E. M. Forster, Jean Genet, Joe Orton, Andrew Holleran, David Leavitt, and Constantine Cavafy, and in the love poetry of the first.

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Chapter 3 : Library Resource Finder: Location & Availability for: Gay men's literature in the twentieth ce

This book is dedicated to all those militant activists in the lesbian and gay community whose courage and tenacity in the face of overwhelming odds is an inspiration.

Specializing in gay titles, gothic and horror novels, as well as literary fiction, they founded Valancourt Books in to restore many of these works to a new generations of readers. Knowing how difficult it is to get a start and to make a go of it, it always reminds me that the passion for literature is as strong as ever, and book lovers will always find a way to share their enthusiasms and the treasures they find in the enormous world library of books. Tell us your story. As an undergraduate, I became really interested in the Gothic fiction of the late 18th and early 19th centuries and eagerly devoured the few books that were in print: The specific impetus for starting the press came when I was doing research on the Gothic novelist Francis Lathom , who was rumored to be gay, and discovered that the only place in North America where you could find his books was on microfiche in Lincoln, Nebraska. It just seemed ridiculous in the 21st century -- with the modern technology we have now for making books available -- that books of such interest to readers and scholars should be out of print. Now I can add Valancourt Books to that list of resources for hard-to-find gems of gay lit. How do you go about rediscovering the books you end up reprinting? Kitchin, to whose books Francis introduced me. WWII-themed novels were still very popular in when it was first published, and it was a bestseller in both the U. An intriguing thing about the book is that in the UK edition, the officer is consumed by guilt and self-hatred and throws himself out of a window at the end, but in the U. I should mention, too, that one thing that sets our editions apart from many publishers who reprint older books is that our editions all have new introductions either by their authors or by leading writers or critics. Look Down in Mercy, for example, has an introduction by Prof. Press, , a book that meant a lot to me when I came across it at age 18 or 19 or so, and which helped me discover a lot of great gay authors. That is important to provide the new introductions, and a great service to your readers. It offers much-needed context. You also republish a lot of gothic horror and books dealing with the supernatural. Why are gay people so into horror? In The Monk, for example, the monk falls in love with one of the young novices, who ends up being revealed as a girl in disguise, but up until that point the gay subtexts are pretty clear. As you mention, in more recent times there are plenty of gay authors working in horror -- Poppy Z. The image you mentioned from our website is a detail from M. These sorts of coded, subtextual ways of writing about homosexuality were often necessary, since up until the s British authors could be prosecuted for writing openly about homosexuality, and in the U. This is obviously a generational misconception, as you guys are both of the younger generation and seem to be very into books. What are your thoughts on this? Though I think most of our books have something to offer to readers of all ages, I do think our audience for some of the gay classics of the s, 50s, 60s, tends to be a little older, while our horror books appeal to all ages, but particularly perhaps to a slightly younger demographic. The huge advances in gay rights over the past decade, with Lawrence v. And, most importantly, a lot of these books feature really interesting, engrossing stories, even if some of the gay issues are occasionally a bit dated. In discovering out-of-print gay classics that clearly will have great interest today, have you found any gay novels by people of color? I know this is likely challenging as those voices, outside of such figures as James Baldwin, Langston Hughes and Yukio Mishima, were often not heard before the 80s. But those would be amazing discoveries and of great interest to a lot of readers. Those are some great writers -- Baldwin and Mishima in particular are writers I really admire. I know translation is costly and ambitious for a small publisher, but have you considered bringing some of these gems into print in English? Chilean Pedro Lemebel comes to mind. The Chilean and other South American literature you mention sounds really interesting. We just visited South America for a couple weeks earlier this year and loved it down there! How do you guys handle the logistics? Being only a two-person operation and republishing mostly little-known titles, we rely heavily on modern technology to make our work possible. The paperbacks are printed on digital presses and done on an "on demand" basis, so that readers anywhere in the world can order them at any time and have a copy printed and bound and sent to them quickly. The advent of e-books has also been great for the kind of work we do. So,

though we like traditional printed books better, e-books have been really helpful in allowing more readers to discover some of these great titles that they might not otherwise have read. Finally, what are turning out to be the bestsellers from your list and are you selling more in ebook format or print? Brite has called "surely one of the most terrifying novels ever written," and which led Stephen King to proclaim McDowell "the finest writer of paperback originals in America today". Though best known today for his screenplays for Beetlejuice and The Nightmare Before Christmas, McDowell is finally beginning to win recognition as an important and highly individual Southern Gothic horror novelist. In addition to his three horror novels, Talbot published a really strange and remarkable book entitled The Holographic Universe - still in print today - which posits the theory that the entire universe is nothing more than a hologram. As for traditional books vs. At the moment, for most of our titles, traditional books are outselling the electronic ones by about a 2: But not long ago, it was a 4: Some of the books, especially the pulp horror titles, actually sell better as e-books. Thanks, Trebor, for taking the time to talk to us.

Chapter 4 : Gay Men's Literature in the Twentieth Century by Mark Lilly

Gay Men's Literature in the Twentieth Century has 8 ratings and 0 reviews. Mainstream academic criticism has usually failed to engage gay work without di.

Sign in or Sign up today! By Padre Peregrino Here are 10 very important nota benes to read before the account of homosexuality in the American Catholic Church: This is not a gay-bashing blog post. I have good friends who have struggled with same-sex attraction. Most of them were smart enough not to enter seminary or religious life. I do not believe anyone is born "gay," so the correct Catholic term is actually "someone who struggles with same-sex attraction. I know a year-old priest who claims that 60 percent of the priests his age are gay and 80 percent of the bishops are gay. Many priests and seminarians from several dioceses concur on these admittedly estimated numbers. If you can show me any time in Church history with as many gays as the Catholic Church in Europe and the Americas currently have, I will give you my vehicle, a Nissan Murano. You giving me numerous quotes from St. Peter Damien in the 11th century is not sufficient. Most priests and seminarians under 45 years old in the United States are straight, so things are getting better. Eighty percent of the cases of priests raping children came from priests including now bishops and cardinals who self-identify as same-sex attracted. This blog post is not about the child abuse in the clergy, but one of the many underlying perversions, namely, homosexuality in the priesthood. That is not the exclusive cause of criminal activity, but it is not a factor we can ignore. This blog post is not about the full history of homosexuals in the priesthood, but rather the cultural factors and attacks on the Church in the 20th century that created the perfect storm for many homosexuals to enter Catholic seminaries. The next blog post after this one will have solutions to many of the below problems. Jesus Christ chose 12 fishermen as His first Catholic bishops. Let that reality set in for a minute: Tough, blue-collar workers who never made it to rabbi school were chosen as Apostles. To be sure, neither were they impious doofuses. They were tough, blue-collar workers who took their faith seriously, even when they had to say things to Our Lord like "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord" Luke 5: They thought in black and whites like that, not Hegelian greys. We know this because of what St. As you know, in Judaism, the son of a priest is always a priest. John the Baptist lived out his priesthood not in the Second Temple, but in the original temple of the cosmos, under the stars, in reflection of the first priest, Adam. That second temple in Jerusalem was ironically built by King Herod who would one day kill St. But Herod was also rumored in Roman circles to be a vicious homosexual. In a little-known passage from the Gospels, Jesus contrasts His saintly second cousin, John the Baptist, to the filthy Herod who would one day kill the Baptist. A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. Do not be deceived: Thomas Aquinas writes, "It is inconsistent for one who is not cast down by fear, to be defeated by lust, or who has proved himself unbeaten by toil, to yield to pleasure. Thomas is saying that the man "unbeaten by toil" is not likely to be effeminate. Unfortunately, the homes of modern bishops are more like those of Herod, than the rough tree canopy of John the Baptist at the Jordan River. Similarly, up until the 20th century, the priesthood was known as the most difficult life that a Catholic man could live. We all know of the constant physical pain felt by the first missionaries to the United States, like the Jesuit St. Isaac Jogues or the Franciscan St. Saint Junipero Serra walked from central Mexico to southern California after being stung on his heel by a scorpion â€” all to establish missions up and down the California coast. Before Vatican II, there was already a small infiltration of homosexuals and communists into seminaries and religious orders in the United States and Europe. People expect this from old-school Jesuits and Franciscans, but did you know that bishops in the 19th century led lives as physically challenging? The first bishop of Colorado, Bp. Joseph Machebeuf, swept up and down the front range modern day I from Santa Fe to Denver and then back again, establishing missions, fighting off bands of bandits, mountain lions and bears, sleeping in tents, eating little, exposed to the New Mexico heat and the Colorado cold. Joseph Machebeuf Bishop Machebeuf left France for this challenge in the 19th century and went everywhere with two priests. It was a hard life that only the toughest Catholic Frenchmen could endure. Machebeuf, came at the price of his own body being racked by constant pain, yet it left him a humble demeanor and an excellent sense

of humor. Only the toughest athletes of Europe could come be priests in the United States, be it religious or diocesan. In the s, a French nurse named Marie Carre took care of a man in a horrible car accident. Remember that the point of this blog post is simply to show how the culture and the Church changed to allow more gays into the priesthood than ever before – part two will be solutions. Catholicism grows very well in pain and opposition. But by the time John F. Kennedy was president of the United States, Catholics were no longer sidelined, but rather mainstream. Fighting side-by-side with Protestants in two World Wars earned us the respect as equals, as true American citizens. This is fine too, but it presents a small problem: It is hard to be faithful when things get easy as a Catholic. The bishop in the middle is straight, but I learned as a priest that gentle elbow grab with a goofy smile is usually a good sign that the cleric struggling with same-sex attraction – I mean, not struggling. As if this was not a perfect storm enough, then Vatican II arrived. For nearly 40 years before Vatican II, there was a small creep of modernism, homosexuality and even communism into seminaries in North America and South America. Vatican II was not the root of such men in the Church, but they certainly hijacked the original documents of the Council in the second week of October. All through seminary, I was told that there was no change to liturgy or doctrine. Vatican II had just been misimplemented. Then, I sadly had five parishes in five years, repeatedly getting booted for disallowing careless so-called "Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. At the end of five years, I had been kicked out of five parishes, and I was exhausted. If I expected my reader in previous blog posts to pity me for having so many parishes, I now write this to prove a simple point: Let me write that again with no exaggeration: Even in conservative dioceses, there is no order to the Novus Ordo liturgy. Many, if not most, American dioceses have at least one young, straight priest who has been suspended from offering public Masses not because he does the Traditional Latin Mass, but because he did the Mass of Vatican II according to the so-called "rules" of Vatican II. Edward Schillebeeckx admitted, the ambiguity of the Mass of Paul VI was ultimately for chaos in the rules. This does not come from me, but from one of the main players of Vatican II. This also proves there is no "hermeneutic of continuity" even in conservative dioceses. This is not only a problem in liturgy, but also doctrine. What kind of men are going to be attracted to a liturgy that puts entertainment ahead of liturgical precision? What kind of men are going to be attracted to popularity ahead of doctrinal precision? The Mass of Vatican II and the amorphous teaching of the last 50 years on doctrine is very attractive to manipulative and emotional men, and such personality traits are always correlative to same-sex attracted men. What happened to the straight men who were attracted to solid, doctrinal parameters? They were kicked out of seminaries in the s. A man who does not believe in any objective order for his sexuality homo-sex at best, child abuse at worst is going to be attracted to a Mass where he, the narcissist, is the only point of reference for entertaining the people. Furthermore, unrepentant gay men prefer the fuzzy doctrine of the post-Vatican II era, for here, every rule can be dispensed for "pastoral reasons. To prove that gay bishops ambitiously helped each other in ladder climbing through the hierarchy would take another five blog posts – always follow the money. Oh, and follow the sex. As we saw in the Cdl. McCarrick history, the gay hierarchy purposefully sought out soft or handsome young men and even boys to enter their seminaries for untoward reasons. It should be noted that this gay perversion and child abuse has even made it a little bit to certain traditional religious congregations that use the Traditional Latin Mass. Battista Ricca, who was a Vatican diplomat posted in Montevideo, Uruguay where he was allegedly caught in an elevator with a male child sex slave. Because most of the straight guys become cowardly, company men under their gay superiors, even when they avoid sexual sins with them. Occasionally, one priest or another has the fortitude to blow the whistle. But when a straight priest blows a whistle on a gay orgy of other priests, his bishop removes him. Of course, the bishop throws a red herring to the faithful to incriminate the solid, young priest. Finally, realize that the necessity of gay men running parishes jives very well with an America where women are the spiritual leaders of the families. Although I blame these scandals entirely on priests, not on families, we must recognize that the breakdown of the family contributed to such rotten priests. Catholic boys for the past 50 years have mostly been raised by their mothers, not their fathers. This has partly contributed to a mostly gay priesthood. These gay priests furthermore surround themselves with old women in the parish, to whom they give much control. We rely on you to support our news reporting.

Chapter 5 : Why Did So Many Gay Men Enter the Priesthood in the 20th Century?

Gay literature is a collective term for literature produced by or for the LGBT community which involves characters, plot lines, and/or themes portraying male homosexual behavior.

Homoerotic literature in ancient Rome Though Homer did not explicitly portray the heroes Achilles and Patroclus as homosexual lovers in his 8th century BC Trojan War epic, the Iliad , [6] [7] later ancient authors presented the intense relationship as such. In a surviving fragment of the play, Achilles speaks of "our frequent kisses" and a "devout union of the thighs". Written in the 1st century AD during the reign of Nero , it is the earliest known text of its kind depicting homosexuality. Genji, for his part, or so one is informed, found the boy more attractive than his chilly sister. The first such explicit work known to be written since ancient times, its intended purpose as a " Carnavalesque satire ", a defense of pederasty , or a work of pornography is unknown, and debated. A particular interest in the Classical era of Greece and Rome "as a model for contemporary life" put the Greek appreciation of nudity, the male form and male friendship and the inevitable homoerotic overtones into art and literature. Across much of Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries, the legal punishment for sodomy was death, making it dangerous to publish or distribute anything with overt gay themes. These sorts of coded, subtextual ways of writing about homosexuality were often necessary, since up until the 19th century British authors could be prosecuted for writing openly about homosexuality, and in the U. S. Kyllenion by Augustus, Duke of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg is "the earliest known novel that centers on an explicitly male-male love affair". A Story of Pennsylvania by Bayard Taylor , the story of a newly engaged young man who finds himself instead falling in love with another man. Paris theater society and the demi-monde are long accustomed to his presence and role as go-between; he knows all the women, escorts them, and runs errands for them. He is "a parasite, with even a touch of pimp", but also a more sympathetic figure than most of the men, as much a moral coward as them but physically brave and not a stereotype. A number of novels with explicitly gay themes and characters began to appear in the domain of mainstream or art literature. A Memorandum was the first in which the homosexual couple were happy and united at the end. Initially published privately under the pseudonym "Xavier Mayne", it tells the story of a British aristocrat and a Hungarian soldier whose new friendship turns into love. Forster earned a prominent reputation as a novelist while concealing his own homosexuality from the broader British public. In 1928, he privately penned Maurice , a bildungsroman that follows a young, upper-middle-class man through the self-discovery of his own attraction to other men, two relationships, and his interactions with an often uncomprehending or hostile society. The book is notable for its affirming tone and happy ending. I was determined that in fiction anyway, two men should fall in love and remain in it for the ever and ever that fiction allows Happiness is its keynote. Mann said of the novel, "[Alec Scudder of Maurice was] a refreshingly unapologetic young gay man who was not an effete Oscar Wilde aristocrat, but rather a working class, masculine, ordinary guy Written in a modernist stream-of-consciousness style, its subject matter was bisexuality and interracial male desire. It is also one of the "definitive war-influenced gay novels", one of the few books of its period dealing directly with male homosexuality. Michael Bronski points out that "gay-male-themed books received greater critical attention than lesbian ones" and that "writers such as Gore Vidal were accepted as important American writers, even when they received attacks from homophobic critics. Yet Drury, a staunchly anti-Communist conservative of his time, regarded the character as sympathetic, not a villain. To portray homosexuals as simply another tribe in a nation comprising many different tribes is both to soften the stigma linked to homosexuality and to encourage solidarity among gay people. And by associating the mistreatment of homosexuals with the discrimination suffered by other minorities in America, Isherwood legitimizes the grievances of gay people at a time when homosexuals were not recognized either as a genuine minority or as valuable members of the human community. Presaging the gay liberation movement, A Single Man presents homosexuality as simply a human variation that should be accorded value and respect and depicts homosexuals as a group whose grievances should be redressed. The novel was met with considerable acclaim, and The New York Times critic Anthony Boucher wrote, "This is a detective story, and unlike any other that you have read. No brief

review can attempt to convey its quality. In his controversial satire *Myra Breckinridge*, Gore Vidal explored the mutability of gender-roles and sexual-orientation as being social constructs established by social mores, [90] making the eponymous heroine a transsexual waging a "war against gender roles". It explores adolescent homosexual relations and includes a fictional first-person account, written in , of a brief tragic encounter between a young soldier and a bakery apprentice in rural France.

Chapter 6 : Pride and prejudice in the gay s | UK news | The Guardian

Gay men's literature in the twentieth century. [Mark Lilly] -- While "the male condition" is increasingly the focus of critical inquiry, the first images to come to most minds are those associated, ironically enough, with the resoundingly heterosexual men's.

His essays, as collected in *Notes of a Native Son*, explore palpable yet unspoken intricacies of A humanist, he was a part of the transition between transcendentalism and realism, incorporating both views in his During the interwar period, Woolf was a significant figure in London literary society He is known best for his ironic and well-plotted novels examining class difference and He was one of the earliest innovators of the then-new literary art form called jazz His work is noted for its He is considered an essential figure in the development of philosophy, especially the Western tradition, and he founded *Ripley, Strangers on a Train, Ripley Under Ground* Patricia Highsmith was an American novelist and short story writer, most widely known for her psychological thrillers, which led to more than two dozen film adaptations. Born in Amherst, Massachusetts, to a successful family with strong community ties, she lived a mostly introverted and reclusive life. His collected works, among other things, *Murphy* Rita Mae Brown is an American writer and feminist. She is best known for her first novel *Rubyfruit Jungle*. Published in , it dealt with lesbian themes in an explicit manner unusual for the *The Alexandrians* included her in the list of nine lyric poets. Her birth was sometime between and BCE, and it is said that He influenced modern literature and arts, inspired various musicians, and prefigured surrealism. Mishima is considered one of the most important Japanese authors of the 20th She has written most frequently as Annie Proulx but has also used the names E. Annie Proulx and E. Her second novel, *The Early* in his life he was a vagabond and petty criminal, but later took to writing. His major works include

Chapter 7 : Gay literature - Wikipedia

Gay Mens Literature in the Twentieth Century presents us with a unified analysis of these, and other, shared themes in the works of James Baldwin, Christopher.

That obscurity reflects nineteenth-century culture. Early in the century, when homosexual activity was perceived almost exclusively as a crime, a sin, or both, men who engaged sexually with one another were most often labelled "sodomites. This array of labels and meanings consolidated into the pervasive "homosexuality" only after the trial of Oscar Wilde for his liaisons with other men. At its inception, the word "homosexual" expressed a largely medical notion of sexual desire, reflecting its first use by the Swiss doctor Karoly Bankert in Through the efforts of Bankert and other sexologists, the public gradually became familiar with an idea of homosexuality as inherent to an individual, a quality that encompassed but also outstripped sexual acts. In the twentieth century, this trend would develop into the image of gay and lesbian identity we find most familiar today. The general silence about sexuality in Victorian culture fostered a corresponding muteness in literature. Rather than being completely absent, however, homosexual desire and activity emerged in literature and in culture through socially acceptable and heavily disguised forms, such as the romantic friendship. Emily Dickinson and George Eliot, for example, enjoyed significant emotional relationships with other women. Romantic friendships between women were integral to Victorian culture since they were entirely compatible with Victorian notions of female sexuality, which was considered almost nonexistent. Historians have disagreed about the extent to which such friendships were actually platonic, some arguing that chaste Victorian women would have maintained asexual attachments. Others insist that at least some of these relationshipsâ€”which often lasted a lifetime and involved not only a shared home but also a shared bedâ€”must have included a sexual component. Such bonds between men were also accepted in a way unfamiliar to twentieth-century culture. Walt Whitman celebrated male-male attachments in *Leaves of Grass* and did not shy from investing them with physicality. Where these descriptions masked physical desire, the disguise was necessary to avoid social and legal condemnation. British lawâ€”and American law in its shadowâ€”maintained a vehement condemnation of homosexual activity throughout the century, even as reforms relaxed measures that had oppressed other minorities for centuries. Slavery, for example, was abolished throughout the United Kingdom in , and laws punishing English Catholics were eased considerably. The death penalty was revoked for many crimesâ€”including rapeâ€”in the law reform. For the "nameless offense of great enormity," however, the death penalty remained intact and was regularly enforced: When the death penalty was abolished in , it was replaced by life imprisonment. The Criminal Law Amendment Act of , aimed primarily at reducing heterosexual prostitution, once again redefined measures against sodomy, heterosexual and homosexual: It was on this last charge that Oscar Wilde went to prison. No such laws addressed lesbianism, however, since authorities appeared to consider it too unimaginable or unmentionable even to condemn. Occasionally, women were prosecuted for "masquerading" in male attire and thereby usurping male social and economic prerogatives. Despite the heavy persecution of male-male sexual activity, homosexual subcultures thrived as they had for centuries. The most visible subcultural activity occurred among middle- and lower-class men, many of whom were exclusively homosexual, usually passive in sex, occasionally transvestite, and whose social life consisted of participation in this subculture. Some historians contend that these men did not represent the majority of the male population who engaged in homosexual sex, but simply the most visible. Court documents suggest that most male homosexuals were married men who maintained conventionally masculine manners and families, like Captain Henry Nicholas Nicholls, a war veteran and member of a respectable family who was executed for sodomy in In general, homosexual men of the upper-middle class and the aristocracy belonged to this less visible milieu, insulated to some degree by wealth and social status. When an explicit subculture emerged later in the century among these men, it contributed to the development of homosexual identity and social rights. Historians attribute this to the influence of two phenomena: The first, a medical discourse that classified individuals according to their sexual desires, owed its development to the work of sexologists throughout Europe, including Karl Heinrich Ulrichs,

Richard von Krafft-Ebing, and Havelock Ellis. The latter owed its development largely to the efforts of Benjamin Jowett, who reintroduced the teaching of Plato and other classical authors at Oxford University as part of the Oxford Great Works Curriculum. This training allowed homosexual undergraduates—including such influential intellectuals as Wilde, Walter Pater, and J. Symonds—to validate their desires as the resurrected spirit of Hellenism: Symonds and Edward Carpenter, in particular, dedicated themselves to defining a positive and coherent image of homosexual identity. Their efforts began to have some effect in the s and s, coexisting with a long-standing conviction that "effeminacy" and "corruption" characterized male-male desire. While the trial brought the discussion of homosexual desire into the open, it also catalyzed the kind of active persecution that had been for some time dormant. Many homosexual men, particularly those of high social status, resettled at least temporarily on the continent, seeking to avoid scandal and prosecution. Even the ambiguous forms of same-sex love that had so far been integral to Victorian culture became suspect, and homoaffectional literature became both more explicit in its sexuality and much less common. The tentative changes that began in the nineteenth century would not blossom until the twentieth century, and until then homosexual desire remained a largely unacknowledged phenomenon. Aside from sexually explicit texts that were a part of a thriving underground Victorian taste for pornography, homosexuality in books, as in real life, was "closeted" or hidden beneath the trappings of heterosexuality and acceptable same-sex affection. Consequently, it has been the work of recent literature criticism—which put forth a branch of gay and lesbian studies in the mids—to point out the same-sex desire evident in much of Victorian literature.

Chapter 8 : Early Gay Literature Rediscovered | HuffPost

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Chapter 9 : Gay Men's Literature in the Twentieth Century - Mark Lilly - Häftad () | Bokus

Scroll down for six classic works of gay literature to add to your reading list in The City and the Pillar by Gore Vidal. Gore Vidal's landmark novel is a must-read for every gay man.