

As the initial enthusiasm cooled, however, it was perceived that, applied to present day society, the androgynous ideal might lead to a disregard of the inherent strengths of male and female, whether these be culturally or biologically determined. Thus some feminist thinkers today emphasize nurturing and cooperative behavior as distinctive and desirable female traits. Despite some exaggerations, recent discussions have had the merit of helping bring into question earlier popular negative dismissals of androgyny, promoting a more supple concept of the relation between sex roles and gender.

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Wayne R. Dynes

ANDROPHILIA

This rarely used term serves to focus attention on those homosexuals who are exclusively interested in adult partners rather than adolescents and children. In our society such a focus would seem self-explanatory, inherent in the definition of homosexuality itself. Yet in other societies, such as ancient Greece, China, and Islam, and in many tribal groups, age-graded differences were or are the norm in same-sex conduct in contradistinction with androphilia, which is most familiar to us. Because of the prevalence of androphilia in modern Western culture, its assumptions are sometimes unwittingly or deliberately imported into other settings; some discussions of homosexual behavior in ancient Greece, for example, tend to

gloss over the fact that it was predominantly **pederastic** (though not **pedophile** in the narrow sense of attraction to prepubertal boys).

In the early years of the present century, the great German sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld offered a three-fold classification of homosexuals: (1) **ephebophiles**, who prefer partners from puberty to the early twenties (in current usage, from about 17 to about 20); (2) **androphiles**, who love men from that age into the fifties; and (3) **gerontophiles**, who seek out old men.

Contemplating this scheme from the standpoint of an individual of, say, thirty years of age, it is evident that the first and third categories of sex object constitute differentiation, the second relative similarity.

The shift to dominance of androphilia, in which the two partners are of comparable age, occurs only with the rise of industrial society in Europe and North America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; in **Mediterranean** countries the shift remains incomplete, and in much of the world has barely begun or has not occurred at all.

Attempts at explaining the new homosexual pattern include keying it to a change in heterosexual marriage, which led the way by becoming more companionate and less asymmetrical; to the rise of the democratic ideal; to demographic changes such as increased life expectancies; and to changes in the social treatment of **youth** which made the young less available as sexual partners. Nevertheless, the dynamics behind this fundamental transition remain historically mysterious, a major challenge to any attempt to draw up a reasonably comprehensive history of homosexuality.

Wayne R. Dynes

ANGLICANISM

Anglicanism, or Episcopalianism as it is also termed, is a worldwide Christian religious fellowship, stemming from