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BACON, FRANCIS, SIR (1561–1626)

English statesman, philosopher, and essayist. After a somewhat shaky start in the service of Queen Elizabeth, during the reign of James I Bacon advanced from knight (1603) to the offices of attorney general (1613) and lord chancellor (1618). In 1621, however, his position collapsed when he was forced to plead guilty of charges of taking bribes; he then retired to study and write. In the philosophy of science Bacon has become identified, sometimes simplistically, with the method of induction, the patient accumulation of data to reach conclusions. Recent research, however, has shown that this stereotypical picture of a skeptical, essentially modern figure is distorted and anachronistic; Bacon's interest in experiment is in fact rooted in magical, alchemical, and esoteric traditions. Although the notion that he wrote Shakespeare's plays is now discounted, his aphoristic *Essays* (1597–1625) are a stylistic achievement in their own right.

Evidence for Bacon's erotic predilection for young men in his employ comes from two seventeenth-century writers, John Aubrey and Sir Simonds D'Ewes. The latter even states that there was some question of bringing him to trial for buggery. A letter survives from Bacon's mother chastizing him for his fondness for Welsh boys. His marriage, which was childless and probably loveless, took place at the mature age of 46. Sir Francis Bacon seems to have moved entirely in a masculine world. In accord with Greco-Roman and Renaissance predecessors, his essay "Of Friendship" confines itself to relations between men. "Of Beauty" discusses the

matter exclusively in terms of male exemplars. Also significant is his Machiavelian commendation of dissimulation; the best policy is "to have openness in fame and opinion, secrecy in habit, dissimulation in seasonable use, and a power to feign if there be no remedy." The need to "edit" one's persona thus recognized is of course one facet of the closeted life, though Bacon's caution may have been reinforced by sensitivity regarding his occult and magical interests, which were scarcely popular among the masses.

BIBLIOGRAPHY. Fulton Henry Anderson, *Francis Bacon: His Career and His Thought*, Los Angeles: University of Southern California Press, 1962; Paolo Rossi, *Francis Bacon: From Magic to Science*, London: Routledge, 1968.

✓ BAILEY, DERRICK SHERWIN (1910–1984)

British theologian and historian; Canon Residentiary of Wells Cathedral from 1962. After World War II Bailey joined a small group of Anglican clergymen and physicians to study homosexuality; their findings were published in a 1954 Report entitled *The Problem of Homosexuality* produced for the Church of England Moral Welfare Council by the Church Information Board. As part of this task Bailey completed a separate historical study, *Homosexuality and the Western Christian Tradition* (London: Longmans, 1955). Although this monograph has been criticized for tending to exculpate the Christian church from blame in the persecution and defamation of homosexuals, it was a landmark in the history of the subject, combining scrutiny of the Biblical evi-