

Diversity in American Indian Culture,
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Walter L. Williams

BERGLER, EDMUND (1899–1962)

American psychoanalyst. Peripherally associated for a time with Freud in Vienna, he emigrated in 1938 and thereafter practiced in New York City. Perhaps the most vocal of the homophobic "experts" who courted the attention of the American public in the years after World War II, Bergler promoted the notion of "injustice collecting" as a key feature of the allegedly inevitable unhappiness of homosexuals. In his book *Homosexuality: Disease or Way of Life?* (1956) he asserted that all homosexuals harbor an unconscious wish to suffer (psychic masochism) but can be cured if willing to change, tormented by "conscious guilt" over their homosexual activity. But at the same he accused homosexuals of "trying to spread their perversion" and of seducing adolescent boys who would then be "trapped in a homosexual orientation." Bergler also maintained that women's fashions are a masculine invention secondarily foisted upon the female sex to alleviate man's unconscious "masochistic fear of the female body," and that women's fashions are designed by male homosexuals, "their bitterest enemies." Although Bergler had entrée into leading magazines and journals of opinion, he was dismayed by the success of the Kinsey Reports and their implicit tolerance of same-sex relations which he sought to combat. His major theoretical positions rejected by his colleagues even in his lifetime, his influence waned precipitously after his death, so that his writings are now of interest solely as a classic document of psychoanalytic rationalization of moralizing prejudice.

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BERLIN

Berlin rose to prominence first as the capital of Brandenburg and then of

Prussia. It became capital of Germany in 1871, retaining this status through the Weimar republic and the Third Reich until its occupation by the victorious Allies in May of 1945. Currently its three million inhabitants are divided between East Berlin, capital of the Communist German Democratic Republic, and West Berlin, an enclave of Western life surrounded by the Berlin Wall.

No trace of homosexual life has been found in the chronicles of the first three hundred years of the city (founded in the thirteenth century), since the legal prosecution of homosexuality that was usual elsewhere did not exist in Berlin before the introduction of the *Constitutio Criminalis Carolina* in 1532. The Saxon penal code, which Eike von Regow had codified in 1225 in the *Sachsenspiegel* and which was in force in Berlin with some modifications, knew no penalty for "lewd and lascivious acts against nature." In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the Berlin Municipal Court pronounced numerous death sentences for sodomy.

Only with the rise of Prussia to the status of one of the great powers of Europe under King Frederick II (the Great; 1712–1786) can any information other than legal sanctions be discovered on homosexuality in Berlin. In 1753 there appeared the first of many anonymous pamphlets accusing Frederick II and his brother, Prince Henry, of homosexuality. These allegations are probably justified, and under the regime of Frederick II an extensive homosexual subculture developed in the Prussian capital. In 1782, in his *Letters on the Gallantries of Berlin*, Johann Friedel describes homosexual street prostitution, a brothel-like inn (*Knabentabagie*), secret signs by which the homosexuals recognized one another, and the name given the Berlin pederasts, *warme Brüder* ("warm brothers"). By this account persecution by the police seems not to have been especially intensive at that time, and in 1794 a new penal code which retained the inspiration of Frederick II came into force that