

ence to the Great Uranian Persecution in the Year 1730," the classic study of a wave of intolerance in which 250 men and boys were prosecuted and 57 put to death. His last work on the subject appeared in 1908, an anthology of passages from Nietzsche on homosexuality in the *Zeitschrift für Sexualwissenschaft*. In the same year he unsuccessfully attempted to have a medical dissertation on homosexuality accepted by the University of Amsterdam, but it was rejected on the ground that a number of passages were judged "in conflict with morality and offensive to others." The hostile climate engendered by the Harden-Eulenberg affair in Germany may have influenced him to turn away from the subject. Following Hirschfeld, von Römer always laid stress in his writings on the social obloquy and **blackmail** that embittered the lives of his homosexual subjects, and by defending the existence of innate homosexuality he sought to deliver them from the reproaches of sin, sickness, and degeneracy. He also combatted the Dutch version of the "social purity" movement of his time and idealization of sexual abstinence. A last work of his, the fruit of thirty years' labor, he showed in manuscript to Magnus Hirschfeld when his former teacher visited the East Indies in 1931; it has remained unpublished.

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Warren Johansson

ROOSEVELT, ELEANOR (1884-1962)

American public figure and journalist. Born into an old New York family of Dutch patroon ancestry, she was the niece of President Theodore Roosevelt and a distant cousin of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whom she married in 1905. Even before her marriage she had been an active

and able promoter of social causes, and she continued this career after becoming the wife of a rising star in the Democratic Party who was its vice presidential nominee in 1920. When Franklin was stricken with poliomyelitis in 1921, she overcame her shyness in order to be his liaison with the political scene. When her husband, returning to the political arena, was elected first governor of New York (1928) and then president of the United States (1932), she played a leading role in women's organizations, in promoting consumer welfare, in struggling against unemployment and poor housing, and in furthering the rights of minorities. In 1933 she held the first press conference ever staged by a president's wife, and in 1935 she began a daily column "My Day," which, syndicated in newspapers throughout the country, gave her the opportunity to focus attention on social problems of the time.

Eleanor Roosevelt recast the role of president's wife in a far more activist, political tone, breaking with older conventions and earning the intense hatred of the foes of the New Deal. In an era when the feminist movement, having achieved the goal of women's suffrage in 1920, was in abeyance, she symbolized the career-oriented, politically active, socially concerned woman of modern times.

From 1945 to 1953, and again in 1961, she was United States delegate to the fledgling United Nations Organization, and in 1946 she was named chairwoman of the Commission on Human Rights, a subsidiary of the Economic and Social Council. In the 1950s she remained in politics as a leader of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party and a supporter of Adlai Stevenson. As one of the most prominent women of the first half of the twentieth century, she won an enduring place in American political and social history.

The question of a lesbian component in Eleanor Roosevelt's life and personality is somewhat complicated by the problematic of lesbian self-definition as it emerged in the middle decades of the

twentieth century. It is clear that the wife of an American president in the 1930s could have had no part in an overt lesbian subculture, but on the other hand Eleanor exchanged passionate letters with the journalist Lorena Hickock. These Doris Faber first tried to suppress out of fear that others might "misunderstand" them, but failing this, she wrote a book, *The Life of Lorena Hickock, E. R.'s Friend* (1980), as a lengthy polemic to the effect that neither "of these women can be placed in the contemporary gay category." Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., a noted apologist for the Roosevelt administration, tried to defend the two women by placing them in "a well established tradition" as "children of the Victorian age." It is impossible on the basis of surviving evidence to assert that they had an overt lesbian relationship, but they undeniably had an emotional friendship with homoerotic overtones.

Those attuned to the theme of "great lesbians in history" will no doubt wish to include such a notable as Eleanor Roosevelt on their list, while her enemies will seize upon the label as a confirmation of their dislike. The affairs of the heart are not so easily categorized as the alliances and affinities of political life. Eleanor Roosevelt overcame the feminine shyness and passivity into which she had been socialized to play a role in American politics of the 1930s that was not in her husband's shadow, and possibly she overcame sexual conventions as well. Her need for intense female companionship may have been the equivalent of male bonding—with its nuances and ambiguities. Her role as promoter of women's rights and as a symbol of the emancipated woman of the New Deal era is her chief legacy to the lesbian/feminist movement of today.

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Evelyn Gettone

RORSCHACH TEST

The Rorschach test is the invention of the Swiss psychiatrist Hermann Rorschach (1884–1922), a disciple of Eugen Bleuler. In 1921 he published *Psychodiagnostik*, which was the outcome of a decade of work with a very large number of bilaterally symmetrical inkblot cards administered to a variety of psychiatric groups. After supplementary testing with so-called normal subjects, retarded persons, and other special categories he issued the first German edition with its 10 standard cards that have been used ever since. The crucial feature of the test is that there is no meaning in the inkblots, it is simply "projected" from the mind of the subject onto the shapes and colors which he sees on the cards. The projective principle had been familiar to artists since the time of Leonardo da Vinci; new was its application to depth psychology. The test was scored primarily for the ratio of color to movement responses, and Rorschach's somewhat typological scoring system was based upon a combination of the observable with clinical insight or intuition. In the 1920s some 30 titles relating to Rorschach technique were published, in the next decade some 200 more, and in the following decades the literature swelled into thousands of items.

The popularity of the Rorschach stemmed from a time when psychoanalytic views predominated, and inner processes and the unconscious were the object of clinical assessment. Enthusiastic users claimed that the Rorschach test was a foolproof x-ray of the personality not subject to any situational set, but others rejected the test and predicted its abandonment. The current mean of opinion is that "The Rorschach is a field of study in research which permits workers to investigate such diverse concepts as body image, primary process thinking, hypnotizability, orality, and ego strength." It is further understood that the Rorschach is a complex instrument that cannot yield a simple