

when released from alert for military service, take a 12-year-old upper-class boy as *eromenos* (beloved) and train him until he was 18 and with a beard. Then ready for military service, he was often stationed in barracks. At this time the *erastes* (lover), nearing 30, was eligible for marriage. Solon also imported *gymnasia* and *palestra*, where citizens exercised nude; the seclusion of upper-class women, which later in Athens was to become more pronounced than elsewhere in Greece; and *symposia*, all-male dinner clubs that encouraged pederastic affairs and, in Athens, became, like the *gymnasia*, foci of learning. He invited the Cretan "musician" (i.e., sage, lover of the Muses) Epimenides to Athens to quell the plague and perhaps to promote the reforms. When one of Solon's *eromenoi*, his cousin Peisistratus, overthrew his reforms and established a tyranny, Solon traveled abroad for a decade, visiting Crete again.

Peisistratus and his sons Hippias and Hipparchus ruled from about 545 B.C. until the revolution of 510, which was headed by an old family, the Alcmeonidae. This family produced Cleisthenes, Pericles, and Alcibiades. The Peisistratids furthered Solon's economic and social reforms. After the collapse of Samos, when the Persians in 522 crucified the pederastic tyrant Polycrates, who out of fear of plots hatched in them had ordered all *gymnasia* burned, the Peisistratids enhanced Athens' economic and political rise to dominance in the Aegean. Hipparchus had Homer recited annually at the Panathenaion, establishing the text, emending it to emphasize the importance of Athens. Hipparchus also patronized immigrant poets, exiles and émigrés from Samos and the Ionian states seized by the Persians, including Anacreon, and others fleeing tyranny in Magna Grecia. Some of these myth-makers may have invented the fable that Theseus, after slaying the Minotaur, abandoned Ariadne in Naxos and took an *eromenos*, thus creating a "founder" of pederasty for Athens. Most Peisistratids were *eromenoi* and *eras-*

*tai* in turn, but Hipparchus, the chief patron, was exclusively drawn to boys. When Harmodius, beloved and cousin of the poor but honest citizen Aristogiton, spurned Hipparchus' persistent advances, the pair decided to assassinate the tyrant brothers. The desperate lovers, intent on overthrowing the overbearing tyrants, succeeded in slaying only Hipparchus and were in turn killed (514). Four years later, when the tyranny was overthrown with Spartan help, these "tyrannicides" (Harmodius and Aristogiton) remained heroes of the democracy, and were always toasted at symposia. Their descendants were accorded the right to dine for all time at public expense at the Prytaneum, and their statues in bronze with an inscription composed by Simonides were prominently displayed as models of civic virtue. Thus male lovers became associated with tyrannicide and the defense of self-government.

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## SOTADIC ZONE

In an attempt to sketch the geography of the prevalence of homosexual relations, Sir Richard Burton introduced the expression "sotadic zone" in the famous Terminal Essay appended to his translation of *The Book of the Thousand Nights and a Night* (commonly known as the "Arabian Nights"; 1885-88). Somewhat arbitrarily, Burton took his term from Sotades, an Alexandrian poet of the third century B.C. who wrote seemingly innocuous verses that became obscene if read backwards.

In Burton's words, "There exists what I shall call a 'Sotadic Zone,' bounded westwards by the northern shore of the Mediterranean (N. lat. 43) and by the southern (N. lat. 30), including meridional France, the Iberian Peninsula, Italy and Greece, with the coast-regions of Africa

from Marocco to Egypt. Running eastward the Sotadic zone narrows, embracing Asia Minor, Mesopotamia and Chaldea, Afghanistan, the Sind, the Punjab and Kashmir. In Indo-China, the belt begins to broaden, enfolding China, Japan and Turkistan. It then embraces the South Sea Islands and the New World. . . . Within the Sotadic Zone, the [pederastic] Vice is popular and endemic, held at worst to be a mere peccadillo, whilst the races to the North and South of the limits here defined, practice it only sporadically amid the opprobrium of their fellows who, as a rule, are physically incapable of performing the operation." Possibly Burton's exclusion of sub-Saharan Africa contributed to the erroneous modern belief that black people were originally innocent of the "vice," having been corrupted to it by their slave masters.

Burton's theory was an attempt to give a theoretical framework to his own observations of sexual mores in various parts of the far-flung British Empire to which he was posted as a diplomat. Trained as a classicist, he considered pederasty the only form of homosexuality worth investigating. He did not, however, come up with a plausible theory as to the factors responsible for this Sotadic Zone.

The explanation for much of Burton's zone, at least, probably lies in the persistence of ancient Mediterranean pederasty and its diffusion eastwards by Islam; this however does not account for China, Japan, Indo-China, the South Sea Islands and the pre-Columbian New World.

This further extension may indeed lend some credence to Burton's theory if one looks for climatological factors prevalent in his zone. Northern Europeans, seeking to explain the differences between their own sexual mores and those of the southern Europeans, often pointed to the temperature difference between the two areas and ascribed sexual excitement to the warm climate of the South. Terms such as "sultry" and "torrid" have a primary meaning of "hot" but

acquired the secondary sense of "passionate"; the German terms "schwul/schwül" associate hot-humid conditions with homosexuality directly. As yet, there has been little or no scientific investigation of such notions, which remain largely in the realm of folklore.

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## SOUTH AMERICA

See Brazil; Latin America.

## SOVIET UNION

See Russia and USSR.

## SPAIN

Spain is one of the countries with the richest homosexual history, which is gradually becoming better known. An appreciation of same-sex love, along with a cult of beauty and poetry, has been present during many periods of Spain's history.

*Antiquity.* The rich and mysterious civilization of the pre-Roman south of Spain is known to have been sexually permissive, although evidence on homosexuality in that period is lacking. Hispania was one of the most Romanized provinces, and shared Rome's sexual morality; perhaps it is no coincidence, though, that **Martial**, one of the most homosexual Latin authors, and **Hadrian**, one of the best and gayest emperors, were from Spain. That a special term (*hawī*; see *Encyclopedia of Islam*, "Liwat," pp. 776 and 778) existed in Western Arabic for male prostitutes suggests that such were particularly prevalent there before Islam. The Christian Visigoths, who ruled Spain after the disappearance of Roman authority, were in contrast strongly opposed to homosexuality. Sodomy was outlawed in the seventh century, with castration and exile the punishments; at the same time one finds the emergence of legal measures against Jews. (See *Law, Germanic*.)

*Islam.* In the eighth century most of Spain became Islamic; the inhabitants were glad to be rid of Gothic rule. Andalu-