

them by reason of its dependent and colonial status—in which case the trichotomy virtually collapses into a dichotomy. The notion was clearly suggested by the analogy with the Third Estate which at the end of the Old Regime was demanding its share of the political power previously monopolized by the clergy and the nobility.

The French philologist Georges Dumézil has argued that tripartition is an archetypal component of the original institutions and religious ideas of the **Indo-European** peoples, who think in terms of the three functions of sovereignty, power, and fecundity. However this may be, the examples cited support the view that formations in terms of threeness are characteristic of human institutions—or of the cultural interpretation of biological givens—but rarely of the biological world itself. Thus our bodies have either one organ (the heart, the nose) or two (eyes, kidneys, arms); never three. So the “third sex” was in the last analysis a social more than a biological reality.

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TIBULLUS, ALBIUS (50–17 B.C.)

Latin elegiac poet. Apart from his own writings, a poor anonymous biography and references in Horace and Ovid furnish the only data on Tibullus' life. In the tradition of poetic lovers that the Latins borrowed from the Greeks, he complained of poverty and failed to gain Maecenas' patronage. Only the first two of the four books ascribed to Tibullus are actually his. Book One celebrates impartially his love for his mistress Delia and for his boyfriend Marathus. Book Two contains poems to another mistress, Nemesis. Occasional pieces in the two books honor his patron Massalla. The third book contains six brief poems by Sulpicia and poems about her

that are perhaps by Tibullus himself. Quintilian termed Tibullus, who combined deceptive simplicity with refinement, the “most terse and elegant” of Latin elegists.

A frequent subject of Tibullus is the *puer delicatus*, the boy who, in the Hellenic tradition, would be young, handsome, and even girlish, that is to say, with none of the repellent coarseness of the adult male. But the Roman counterpart, or those of the **Hellenistic monarchies**, is cruel, unfaithful, and mercenary, closer to the Alexandrian or modern hustler or kept boy than to the classical *eromenos*. Marathus, Tibullus' love, conforms to type: endowed with beautiful hair and a fair complexion, somewhat femininely preoccupied with his physical appearance and the use of cosmetics. He torments his lovers, lies to them, and is unfaithful to them. At one point Tibullus considers terminating the unhappy affair with its psychologically sado-masochistic overtones. Yet Marathus himself, when he falls in love and is repaid in the same coin, is reduced to childish whining and tearful bewilderment. In all these respects Roman pederasty as depicted by Tibullus, like that of **Alexandria**, came nearer than did the Hellenic antecedents to certain modern unedifying variants of the homoerotic liaison.

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William A. Percy

TILDEN, WILLIAM T., II (1893–1953)

American tennis player. Also known as Big Bill and Gentleman Bill Tilden, he was voted the most outstanding athlete of the first half of the twentieth century by the National Sports Writers Association, ahead of such notables as Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, and Johnny