Queer History Month
Oxford College Library LGBTQIA+ Resource Guide
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Queer History is not a monolith. Featured in this display are texts in the collection of the Emory library system that speak to the diversity of experiences within the LGBTQIA+ community in the United States and beyond. As a selection of texts, this display aims to be inclusive but cannot aim to represent either a comprehensive or complete collection of queer and trans lives or texts. We hope the story told in this display and guide inspires you to share your story as you seek out further texts and contexts for the study of queer history.

This guide groups texts using periodization taken from Dr. Eric Solomon’s American Studies 385 cultural history course “Queer Intersections.” Dr. Solomon’s organizing method is one way among many to structure the story we tell about queer history. Each period below features a brief description, a list of texts featured in the Oxford College library Queer History display, and a sampling of other suggested literary, historical, and visual texts for your consideration. Please also check out the Library’s collection highlights page for further suggestions (https://guides.libraries.emory.edu/c.php?g=570875&p=3941902)

“The Wilderness Years”: Emergent Communities (~1950)

Description:
The historian Hugh Ryan writes, “It is often assumed that the history of American sexuality is one of linear progress, moving from a time of benighted homophobia to our present-day enlightenment. However, the further back one looks, the more it seems to be a story of incoherence before intolerance, of 'not knowing' before 'not accepting.'" In what Dr. Solomon terms “the wilderness years,” one neither observes “backwards” subjects nor a dearth of what we would call today queer subject matter but rather one witnesses texts that explore a proliferation of desires and pleasures against a backdrop in which early sexologists and researchers would create the modern categories of “homosexual” and “heterosexual.”

Texts Featured in Library Display:

Further Suggested Texts in Chronological Order:
- Plato, *The Symposium*, featuring a famous speech by Aristophanes (c. 385–370 B.C.)
- Christopher Marlowe, *Edward II* (1592/93)
- Marquis de Sade, *120 Days of Sodom* (1782)
- Jeremy Bentham, *Offences Against One’s Self* (c. 1784)
- Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (1860)
- Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, *Research on the Riddle of Male-Male Love* (1864-65)
- Henry James, *The Bostonians* (1886)
- John Addington Symonds, “A Problem in Modern Ethics” (1891)
- Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891)
  - *De Profundis* (1897)
- Edward Carpenter, “Homogenic Love” (1894)
- Willa Cather, “Tommy the Unsentimental” (1896)
- Xavier Mayne [Edward Prime-Stevenson], *The Intersexes* (1908)
- Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice* (1912)
- Marcel Proust, *In Search of Lost Time* (1913–1927)
- Gertrude Stein, *Lifting Belly* (1915)
- Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness* (1928)
- Virginia Woolf, *Orlando* (1928)
- Nella Larsen, *Passing* (1929)
- Kay Boyle, *Gentlemen, I Address You Privately* (1933)
- Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood* (1936)
- Christopher Isherwood, *Goodbye to Berlin* (1939)
- Carson McCullers, *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* (1940)
  - *Reflections in a Golden Eye* (1941)
- Jane Bowles, *Two Serious Ladies* (1943)
• Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie* (1944); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947); *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955)
• Robert Duncan, “The Homosexual in Society” (1944)
• Lillian Smith, *Strange Fruit* (1944)
  o *Killers of the Dream* (1949)
• Evelyn Waugh, *Brideshead Revisited* (1945)
• Anonymous/ Jean Genet, *Querelle of Brest* (1947)
• John Horne Burns, *The Gallery* (1947)
• Gore Vidal, *The City and the Pillar* (1948)
• Truman Capote, *Other Voices, Other Rooms* (1948)
• Hubert Creekmore, *The Welcome* (1948)
• Donald Windham, *The Dog Star* (1950)
• Thomas Hal Phillips, *The Bitterweed Path* (1950)
• Angus Wilson, *Hemlock and After* (1952)
• Mary Renault, *The Last of the Wine* (1956)
• James Baldwin,
  o *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (1953)
  o *Giovanni’s Room* (1956)
  o *Another Country* (1962)


Description:
In 1948, Dr. Alfred Kinsey, a sexologist at the University of Indiana Bloomington, published his study *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, which stated that roughly 37% of adult U.S. men had engaged in some type of homosexual behavior in their lifetime. Kinsey’s study shocked many in the midcentury United States, and over the course of the 1950s, numerous studies were conducted to try to understand what Betty Friedan described in 1963’s *The Feminine Mystique* as “the murky smog” of “homosexuality” that was “spreading” “over the American scene.” The texts mentioned below were produced by writers who came of age during the period of both “the lavender scare,” the period of moral panic about homosexuality at midcentury, and the attendant homophile movement, comprised of groups like The Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis, which were some of the first gay and lesbian rights organizations in the United States. Some of the texts featured offer uniquely U.S. perspectives while others broaden our understanding of queer life at midcentury.

Texts Featured in Library Display:
- Dorothy Allison, *Bastard Out of Carolina* (1992)

Further Suggested Texts in Chronological Order:
- Yukio Mishima, *Confessions of a Mask* (1949)
- James W. Fugaté/ James Barr, *Quatrefoil* (1950)
- Patricia Highsmith, *Strangers on a Train* (1949)
  - Claire Morgan/ Patricia Highsmith, *The Price of Salt* (Carol) (1952)
- Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems* (1956)
- John Rechy, *City of Night* (1963)
- Jane Rule, *Desert of the Heart* (1964)
- Christopher Isherwood, *A Single Man* (1964)
- James Leo Herlihy, *Midnight Cowboy* (1965)
- *The Homosexuals* (1967) (Documentary: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tu1r6igC0Dw)
- Frank O’Hara, *Collected Poems* (1972)
“Gay is Good”: Stonewall, Pride, and Gay and Lesbian Liberation (1969–)

Description:
Though much had occurred before the 1969 Stonewall riots, the activist and memorial practices that arose in the aftermath of the New York City events spurred the creation of groups like the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activist Alliance in many U.S. cities and localities. However, what began as a radical, intersectional, multidimensional movement in the immediate aftermath of Stonewall would slowly become one-dimensional as the 1970s progressed. Many questioned who was included in the “gay” of the mantra “Gay is Good.” Additionally, the 1970s saw the proliferation of gay and lesbian enclaves and resort communities as the sexual liberation movement continued to unfurl. Texts featured below highlight the multiple valences of the term “liberation” for gay and lesbian communities since the 1970s.

Texts Featured in Library Display:
  - Speaks to a variety of periods in queer history in a “modern” context.
- Gregory Samantha Rosenthal, Living Queer History: remembrance and belonging in a southern city (2021)

Further Suggested Texts in Chronological Order:
- Eric Marcus, Making Gay History Podcast (https://makinggayhistory.com/)
- Matt Crowley, The Boys in the Band (1968)
- Rita Mae Brown, Rubyfruit Jungle (1977)
- Andrew Holleran, *Dancer from the Dance* (1978)
- Armistead Maupin, *Tales of the City* (1978)
  - *A Boy’s Own Story* (1982)
- Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* (1985)
  - *Has the Gay Movement Failed?* (2018)
- Roderick Ferguson, *One Dimensional Queer* (2018)

Description:
When the New York Times reported of a strange new disease largely affecting gay men in 1981, what would become known as HIV/AIDS was already widely circulating around the world. Texts featured below both document and remember the HIV/AIDS crisis that continues to disproportionally impact marginalized communities. According to a 2016 CDC report, 1 in 2 African American men who have sex with men will be diagnosed as HIV positive in their lifetimes.

Texts Featured in Library Display:
- Paris is Burning (documentary) (1990)
- Queercore: How to Punk a Revolution (documentary) (2017)

Further Suggested Texts in Chronological Order:
  - Reports from the Holocaust (1989)
- Tony Kushner, Angels in America (1991/92)
- David Wojnarowicz, Close to the Knives: A Memoir of Disintegration (1991)
  - David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night (2018)
- Reinaldo Arenas, Before Night Falls (1993)
- Mark Doty, My Alexandria (1993)
o *Heaven’s Coast* (1996)

- *We Were Here* (documentary) (2010)
- *How to Survive a Plague* (documentary) (2012)
- Tim Murphy, *Christadora* (2016)
- Sarah Schulman, *Let the Record Show: A Political History of ACT UP* (2021)

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**The Trouble with the Normalcy Wars: LGBTQIA+ Movement and Queerer Futures (1990s–Present—Beyond)**

Description:
As HIV/AIDS transitioned to a largely chronic infection for those countries and individuals who could afford the costly treatments, what many consider to be simplistic debates over marriage and military service took center stage for the LGBTQIA+ movement across the 1990s. Though some consider the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges to be a decisive victory in queer history, others understand that the work is far from over. Writers and activists featured below continue to push the queer community to be more inclusive and multidimensional in challenging norms and normativity of all kinds.

Texts Featured in Library Display:
- Rainbow Rowell, Carry On (2015)
- Carmen Maria Machado, Her Body and Other Parties (2017)
  - In the Dream House (2019)
- C. Riley Snorton, Black on both sides: a racial history of trans identity (2017)
- Becky Albertalli, Leah on the Offbeat (2018)
- Ocean Vuong, On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous (2019)
- Alice Oseman, Heartstopper, vol. 1 (2020)
- Johnathan Bell, editor, Beyond the politics of the closet: gay rights and the American state since the 1970s (2020)
- Kristen Arnett, With Teeth (2021)
- Benjamin Alire Sáenz, Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe (2021)
- Jeremy Atherton Lin, Gay Bar: Why We Went Out (2021)

Further Suggested Texts in Chronological Order:
- Randal Kenan, A Visitation of Spirits (1989)
- Michael Warner, Fear of a Queer Planet (1993)
  - The Trouble with Normal (1999)
- Kate Bornstein, Gender Outlaw (1995)
- Rafael Campo, What the Body Told (1996)
  - Diva (1999)
- Sarah Waters, Tipping the Velvet (1998)
- D.A. Powell, Tea (1998)
- Reginald Shepherd, Wrong (1999)
• Jamie O’Neill, *At Swim, Two Boys* (2001)
• Carol Ann Duffy, *Rapture* (2005)
• Patrick Ryan, *Send Me* (2006)
• Kevin Sessums, *Mississippi Sissy* (2007)
  o *The Tradition* (2019)
• Saeed Jones, *Prelude to Bruise* (2014)
  o *How We Fight for Our Lives* (2019)
• Timothy Liu, *Burnt Offerings* (1995)
• Danez Smith, *Insert Boy* (2014)
  o *Don’t Call Us Dead* (2017)
  o *Homie* (2020)
• Andrew Sean Greer, *Less* (2017)
• Brandon Taylor, *Real Life* (2020)
  o *Memorial* (2020)
• Taylor Johnson, *Inheritance* (2020)
• George M. Johnson, *All Boys Aren’t Blue* (2020)
• Kacen Callender, *Felix Ever After* (2020)
• Robert Jones Jr., *The Prophets* (2021)
Queer and Trans Studies Scholarship Resource List:
This list features a sample of some scholarship in the interdisciplines of queer and trans studies. Far from complete, it is meant to provide exposure to the variety of work from scholars and historians in the field. Please also check out the Oxford College Library’s Trans Literature resource list (https://guides.libraries.emory.edu/c.php?g=570875&p=3935188#s-lg-box-12199599).

  - Tendencies (1993)
  - Men Like That (1999)
  - Trans* (2018)
  - Lost Prophet (2003)
- Gayle Rubin, *Deviations* (2011)
- Julio Capó Jr., *Welcome to Fairyland* (2017)
• Heather Love, *Underdogs* (2021)
• José Esteban Munoz, *Cruising Utopia* (2009)
  - *The Sense of Brown* (2020)
• Martin Padgett, *A Night at the Sweet Gum Head* (2021)