

Famous Hermaphrodites In History



Famous Hermaphrodites in History: Exploring Intersex Identities Through Time

Introduction:

The term "hermaphrodite," while outdated and often considered offensive, historically referred to individuals born with intersex variations – possessing sex characteristics that don't fit typical binary definitions of male or female. This blog post explores the lives of several individuals throughout history who were identified, often inaccurately or with harmful judgment, as hermaphrodites. We'll delve into their stories, highlighting the complexities of their identities and challenging the limited societal understanding of sex and gender that prevailed during their lifetimes. It's crucial to remember that these individuals deserve respect and recognition for their lived experiences, regardless of historical terminology used to describe them. We will use the contemporary term "intersex" wherever appropriate and applicable, recognizing the limitations of historical documentation. Our goal is to understand their stories within their historical context, while acknowledging the problematic nature of the historical terminology.

H2: The Challenges of Historical Documentation and Terminology

Before diving into specific examples, it's crucial to acknowledge the significant limitations of historical records when discussing intersex identities. Many accounts were written through a lens of societal bias, often pathologizing or sensationalizing intersex variations. The terminology used –

"hermaphrodite," "androgynous," etc. – reflects outdated medical and societal understandings and can be deeply hurtful. Many historical accounts lack the nuance and sensitivity required for a respectful understanding of individual experiences. This makes the task of accurately portraying these individuals' lives inherently challenging, requiring careful interpretation and a critical awareness of historical context. Furthermore, many accounts were filtered through the biases of observers who may not have understood or respected the individuals' self-perception.

H2: Notable Figures Historically Described as Hermaphrodites

While definitive proof of intersex conditions is often lacking in historical records, certain individuals have been described in ways suggesting intersex variations. It's essential to remember that these descriptions are filtered through the lens of the time and may not accurately reflect the individuals' self-perception or experience.

H3: Anne of Brittany (1477-1514)

The Duchess of Brittany, Anne's marriages and reproductive history have led to speculation about her possible intersex traits. Historical accounts, often fueled by political intrigue, contain conflicting information, making it difficult to definitively assess. However, some scholars suggest that ambiguous genitalia or other intersex variations may have been present. Her story illustrates the way in which physical ambiguity could be exploited for political advantage.

H3: Caster Semenya (1991-Present)

While a contemporary figure, Caster Semenya, an Olympic runner, highlights the ongoing challenges faced by intersex athletes. The intense scrutiny she faced regarding her sex characteristics underscores the persistent societal pressures and misunderstandings surrounding intersex variations. Her case, while controversial, serves as a powerful example of the ongoing struggle for inclusivity and fairness in sports.

H3: Ambiguous Cases Throughout History:

Many historical sources mention individuals described as hermaphrodites, but the details are often scant and unreliable. These accounts often lack medical precision and reflect prevailing societal views. These cases serve as reminders of the pervasive lack of understanding and the potential for misinterpretation in historical records.

H2: The Evolution of Understanding and Terminology

The understanding of intersex variations has significantly evolved over time. The term "hermaphrodite" is now considered outdated and offensive by many within the intersex community, rightly so. Modern medicine recognizes the diversity of intersex conditions, moving away from simplistic binary classifications. The term "intersex" is preferred and reflects a more accurate and respectful understanding of this complex topic. Increased awareness and advocacy are leading to greater inclusivity and a more nuanced understanding of sex and gender diversity.

H2: The Importance of Respectful Representation

It is crucial to approach these historical narratives with sensitivity and respect. While exploring these accounts can provide insights into past attitudes and understandings, it's essential to avoid

perpetuating harmful stereotypes or sensationalizing individuals' experiences. We must strive for accurate and nuanced representations, recognizing the complexity of intersex identities and the individual lived experiences of those historically labelled as "hermaphrodites."

Conclusion:

Examining the historical figures described as "hermaphrodites" requires careful consideration of the historical context, acknowledging the limitations of historical records and the evolution of understanding surrounding intersex variations. By using contemporary terminology and focusing on respect and inclusivity, we can learn from past inaccuracies and move towards a more accurate and compassionate representation of intersex individuals and their multifaceted experiences.

FAQs:

1. Why is the term "hermaphrodite" considered offensive? The term is outdated, medically inaccurate, and reflects a simplistic, binary understanding of sex. It is often associated with stigma and pathologizes intersex variations.
2. How common are intersex variations? Intersex variations are more common than often realized, affecting an estimated 1.7% of the population. However, the exact prevalence is difficult to determine due to variations in definitions and reporting.
3. What is the difference between sex and gender? Sex refers to biological characteristics, while gender refers to social and cultural roles and identities. Intersex individuals challenge the simplistic notion of a strict correlation between sex and gender.
4. What are some contemporary issues facing intersex individuals? Intersex individuals continue to face challenges relating to medical intervention, legal recognition, and societal acceptance. Advocacy groups work to combat discrimination and promote inclusivity.
5. Where can I learn more about intersex issues? Organizations such as Intersex Human Rights Australia (IHRA) and the Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) offer valuable resources and information on intersex variations, rights, and advocacy.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex

Alice Domurat Dreger, 2009-07-01 Punctuated with remarkable case studies, this book explores extraordinary encounters between hermaphrodites--people born with ambiguous sexual anatomy--and the medical and scientific professionals who grappled with them. Alice Dreger focuses on events in France and Britain in the late nineteenth century, a moment of great tension for questions of sex roles. While feminists, homosexuals, and anthropological explorers openly questioned the natures and purposes of the two sexes, anatomical hermaphrodites suggested a deeper question: just how many human sexes are there? Ultimately hermaphrodites led doctors and scientists to another surprisingly difficult question: what is sex, really? *Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex* takes us inside the doctors' chambers to see how and why medical and scientific men constructed sex, gender, and sexuality as they did, and especially how the material conformation of hermaphroditic bodies--when combined with social exigencies--forced peculiar constructions. Throughout the book Dreger indicates how this history can help us to understand present-day conceptualizations of sex, gender, and sexuality. This leads to an epilogue, where the

author discusses and questions the protocols employed today in the treatment of intersexuals (people born hermaphroditic). Given the history she has recounted, should these protocols be reconsidered and revised? A meticulously researched account of a fascinating problem in the history of medicine, this book will compel the attention of historians, physicians, medical ethicists, intersexuals themselves, and anyone interested in the meanings and foundations of sexual identity.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Unmaking Sex Anne E. Linton, 2022-03-24 A landmark study in the history of sexuality which redefines thinking about sex and gender in nineteenth-century France and beyond.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Middlesex Jeffrey Eugenides, 2003-09-01 Winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction: the dazzling international bestseller from the author of *The Virgin Suicides*. a rollicking family epic like no other!

famous hermaphrodites in history: Disability in the Ottoman Arab World, 1500-1800 Sara Scalenghe, 2014-07-21 This book is the first on the history of both physical and mental disabilities in the Middle East and North Africa during Ottoman rule.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Cultural Approaches to the History of Medicine* C. Usborne, W. Blécourt, 2003-12-18 A pioneering contribution to the cultural history of medicine exploring issues as diverse as dissection of the heart, childbirth, masturbation, animal care, hermaphrodites, orthopaedics, 'miracle' drugs, smallpox and sex advice in different European cultures from the 1600s to the present day. Each case study illustrates various roles of mediation; reconciling conflicting ideas in the medical encounter; as an instrument of domination, or conversely, of resistance. Roy Porter's brilliant foreword conveys the methodological significance as well as the pleasure of these essays.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Translating Life Shirley Chew, Alistair Stead, 1999-01-01 The identification of reading with translation has a distinguished literary pedigree. This volume, comprising many individual but conceptually interrelated studies, sets out to multiply perspectives on the concept of translation.

famous hermaphrodites in history: The Shape of Sex Leah DeVun, 2021-05-25 Winner, 2024 Haskins Medal, Medieval Academy of America Winner, 2023 Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science Prize, History of Science Society Winner, 2022 Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion: Historical Studies, American Academy of Religion Honorable Mention, 2023 John Boswell Prize, The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender History (CLGBTH) Longlisted, 2022 Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Studies, Lambda Literary Awards *The Shape of Sex* is a pathbreaking history of nonbinary sex, focusing on ideas and individuals who allegedly combined or crossed sex or gender categories from 200-1400 C.E. Ranging widely across premodern European thought and culture, Leah DeVun reveals how and why efforts to define "the human" so often hinged on ideas about nonbinary sex. *The Shape of Sex* examines a host of thinkers—theologians, cartographers, natural philosophers, lawyers, poets, surgeons, and alchemists—who used ideas about nonbinary sex as conceptual tools to order their political, cultural, and natural worlds. DeVun reconstructs the cultural landscape navigated by individuals whose sex or gender did not fit the binary alongside debates about animality, sexuality, race, religion, and human nature. *The Shape of Sex* charts an embrace of nonbinary sex in early Christianity, its brutal erasure at the turn of the thirteenth century, and a new enthusiasm for nonbinary transformations at the dawn of the Renaissance. Along the way, DeVun explores beliefs that Adam and Jesus were nonbinary-sexed; images of "monstrous races" in encyclopedias, maps, and illuminated manuscripts; justifications for violence against purportedly nonbinary outsiders such as Jews and Muslims; and the surgical "correction" of bodies that seemed to flout binary divisions. In a moment when questions about sex, gender, and identity have become incredibly urgent, *The Shape of Sex* casts new light on a complex and often contradictory past. It shows how premodern thinkers created a system of sex and embodiment that both anticipates and challenges modern beliefs about what it means to be male, female—and human.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Myth G. S. Kirk, 2023-09-01 This book attempts to come

to grips with a set of widely ranging but connected problems concerning myths: their relation to folktales on the one hand, to rituals on the other; the validity and scope of the structuralist theory of myth; the range of possible mythical functions; the effects of developed social institutions and literacy; the character and meaning of ancient Near-Eastern myths and their influence on Greece; the special forms taken by Greek myths and their involvement with rational modes of thought; the status of myths as expressions of the unconscious, as allied with dreams, as universal symbols, or as accidents of primarily narrative aims. Almost none of these problems has been convincingly handled, even in a provisional way, up to the present, and this failure has vitiated not only such few general discussions as exist of the nature, meanings and functions of myths but also, in many cases, the detailed assessment of individual myths of different cultures. The need for a coherent treatment of these and related problems, and one that is not concerned simply to propagate a particular universalistic theory, seems undeniable. How far the present book will satisfactorily fill such a need remains to be seen. At least it makes a beginning, even if in doing so it risks the criticism of being neither fish nor fowl. Sociologists and folklorists may find it, from their specialized viewpoints, a little simplistic in places; and a few classical colleagues will not forgive me for straying far beyond Greek myths, even though these can hardly be understood in isolation or solely in the light of studies in cult and ritual. Others may find it less easy than anthropologists, sociologists, historians of thought or students of French and English literature to accept the relevance of Levi-Strauss to some of these matters; but his theory contains the one important new idea in this field since Freud, it is complicated and largely untested, and it demands careful attention from anyone attempting a broad understanding of the subject. The beliefs of Freud and Jung, on the other hand, are a more familiar element in the situation and have given rise to an enormous secondary literature, much of it arbitrary and some of it absurd. The author has tried to isolate the crucial ideas and subject them to a pointed, if too brief, critique; so too with those of Ernst Cassirer.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Boys Love Manga and Beyond Mark McLelland, Kazumi Nagaike, Katsuhiko Suganuma, James Welker, 2015-01-28 Boys Love Manga and Beyond looks at a range of literary, artistic and other cultural products that celebrate the beauty of adolescent boys and young men. In Japan, depiction of the “beautiful boy” has long been a romantic and sexualized trope for both sexes and commands a high degree of cultural visibility today across a range of genres from pop music to animation. In recent decades, “Boys Love” (or simply BL) has emerged as a mainstream genre in manga, anime, and games for girls and young women. This genre was first developed in Japan in the early 1970s by a group of female artists who went on to establish themselves as major figures in Japan's manga industry. By the late 1970s many amateur women fans were getting involved in the BL phenomenon by creating and self-publishing homoerotic parodies of established male manga characters and popular media figures. The popularity of these fan-made products, sold and circulated at huge conventions, has led to an increase in the number of commercial titles available. Today, a wide range of products produced both by professionals and amateurs are brought together under the general rubric of “boys love,” and are rapidly gaining an audience throughout Asia and globally. This collection provides the first comprehensive overview in English of the BL phenomenon in Japan, its history and various subgenres and introduces translations of some key Japanese scholarship not otherwise available. Some chapters detail the historical and cultural contexts that helped BL emerge as a significant part of girls' culture in Japan. Others offer important case studies of BL production, consumption, and circulation and explain why BL has become a controversial topic in contemporary Japan.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Born Both Hida Vilorio, 2017-03-14 From one of the world's foremost intersex activists, a candid, provocative, and eye-opening memoir of gender identity, self-acceptance, and love. My name is Hida Vilorio. I was raised as a girl but discovered at a young age that my body looked different. Having endured an often turbulent home life as a kid, there were many times when I felt scared and alone, especially given my attraction to girls. But unlike most people in the first world who are born intersex--meaning they have genitals, reproductive organs, hormones, and/or chromosomal patterns that do not fit standard definitions of

male or female--I grew up in the body I was born with because my parents did not have my sex characteristics surgically altered at birth. It wasn't until I was twenty-six and encountered the term intersex in a San Francisco newspaper that I finally had a name for my difference. That's when I began to explore what it means to live in the space between genders--to be both and neither. I tried living as a feminine woman, an androgynous person, and even for a brief period of time as a man. Good friends would not recognize me, and gay men would hit on me. My gender fluidity was exciting, and in many ways freeing--but it could also be isolating. I had to know if there were other intersex people like me, but when I finally found an intersex community to connect with I was shocked, and then deeply upset, to learn that most of the people I met had been scarred, both physically and psychologically, by infant surgeries and hormone treatments meant to correct their bodies. Realizing that the invisibility of intersex people in society facilitated these practices, I made it my mission to bring an end to it--and became one of the first people to voluntarily come out as intersex at a national and then international level. *Born Both* is the story of my lifelong journey toward finding love and embracing my authentic identity in a world that insists on categorizing people into either/or, and of my decades-long fight for human rights and equality for intersex people everywhere.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *The Female Brain* Louann Brizendine, 2009-05-04 Accessible, fun and compelling, and based on more than three decades of research, *The Female Brain* will help women to better understand themselves - and the men in their lives. In this groundbreaking book, Dr Louann Brizendine describes the uniquely flexible structure of the female brain and its constant, dynamic state of change - the key difference that separates it from that of the male - and reveals how women think, what they value, how they communicate, and whom they'll love. She also reveals the neurological explanations behind why... - A woman remembers fights that a man insists never happened... - Thoughts about sex enter a woman's brain perhaps once every couple of days, but may enter a man's brain up to once every minute... - A woman's brain goes on high alert during pregnancy - and stays that way long after giving birth... - A woman over 50 is more likely to initiate divorce than a man... - Women tend to know what people are feeling, while men can't spot an emotion unless someone cries or threatens them with bodily harm!

famous hermaphrodites in history: *The Figure of the Nymph in Early Modern Culture* , 2018-03-20 Throughout the early modern period, the nymph remained a powerful figure that inspired and informed the cultural imagination in many different ways. Far from being merely a symbol of the classical legacy, the nymph was invested with a surprisingly broad range of meanings. Working on the basis of these assumptions, and thus challenging Aby Warburg's famous reflections on the *nympha* that both portrayed her as cultural archetype and reduced her to a marginal figure, the contributions in this volume seek to uncover the multifarious roles played by nymphs in literature, drama, music, the visual arts, garden architecture, and indeed intellectual culture tout court, and thereby explore the true significance of this well-known figure for the early modern age. Contributors: Barbara Baert, Mira Becker-Sawatzky, Agata Anna Chrzanowska, Karl Enenkel, Wolfgang Fuhrmann, Michaela Kaufmann, Andreas Keller, Eva-Bettina Krems, Damaris Leimgruber, Tobias Leuker, Christian Peters, Christoph Pieper, Bernd Roling, and Anita Traninger.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *As Nature Made Him* John Colapinto, 2013-03-05 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER "We should aspire to Colapinto's stellar journalist example: listening carefully to the circumstances of those who are different rather than demanding that they conform to our own." —Washington Post The true story about the twins case and a riveting exploration of medical arrogance, misguided science, societal confusion, gender differences, and one man's ultimate triumph In 1967, after a twin baby boy suffered a botched circumcision, his family agreed to a radical treatment that would alter his gender. The case would become one of the most famous in modern medicine—and a total failure. The boy's uninjured brother, raised as a boy, provided to the experiment the perfect matched control. *As Nature Made Him* tells the extraordinary story of David Reimer, who, when finally informed of his medical history, made the decision to live as a male. Writing with uncommon intelligence, insight, and compassion, John Colapinto sets the historical and

medical context for the case, exposing the thirty-year-long scientific feud between Dr. John Money and his fellow sex researcher, Dr. Milton Diamond—a rivalry over the nature/nurture debate whose very bitterness finally brought the truth to light. A macabre tale of medical arrogance, it is first and foremost a human drama of one man's—and one family's—amazing survival in the face of terrible odds.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Sex, Identity and Hermaphrodites in Iberia, 1500-1800* Francisco Vazquez Garcia, 2015-10-06 Early modern European thought held that men and women were essentially the same. During the seventeenth century, medical and legal arguments began to turn against this 'one-sex' model, with hermaphroditism seen as a medieval superstition. This book traces this change in Iberia in comparison to the earlier shift in thought in northern Europe.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Transgender History* Susan Stryker, 2009-01-07 Covering American transgender history from the mid-twentieth century to today, *Transgender History* takes a chronological approach to the subject of transgender history, with each chapter covering major movements, writings, and events. Chapters cover the transsexual and transvestite communities in the years following World War II; trans radicalism and social change, which spanned from 1966 with the publication of *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, and lasted through the early 1970s; the mid-'70s to 1990—the era of identity politics and the changes witnessed in trans circles through these years; and the gender issues witnessed through the '90s and '00s. *Transgender History* includes informative sidebars highlighting quotes from major texts and speeches in transgender history and brief biographies of key players, plus excerpts from transgender memoirs and discussion of treatments of transgenderism in popular culture.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *"I Want to Be Like Nature Made Me"* InterACT, Human Rights Watch (Organization), 2017 This report examines the physical and psychological damage caused by medically unnecessary surgery on intersex people, who are born with chromosomes, gonads, sex organs, or genitalia that differ from those seen as socially typical for boys and girls. The report examines the controversy over the operations inside the medical community, and the pressure on parents to opt for surgery—Publisher's description.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Intersex* Tiffany Jones, Bonnie Hart, Morgan Carpenter, 2016-02 Sex is complex. Humans are simultaneously more similar in their sex development, and more diverse, than is commonly appreciated or understood. Females and males are not made of wildly different ingredients. The potential to have intersex variations—to be born with atypical sex characteristics—exists for all humans in the first few weeks of their prenatal development. 1.7% of people actually go on to be born intersex. However, most of us know little about intersex variations. This is only partly due to their occasional invisibility. Intersex people have historically faced deep social stigma—the assumption that they were simply bizarre aberrations from the human norm. Furthermore, intersex infants have been widely subjected to systematic institutional mistreatment, particularly within medical settings. Finally, some people with intersex variations have simply tried to integrate themselves unnoticed into the socially accepted categories of male and female. Drawing on stories and statistics from the first national study of intersex the book argues for a distinct 'Intersex Studies' framework to address intersex issues and identity—foregrounding people with intersex variations' own goals, perspectives and experiences. Collected in 2015 and arranged in thematic chapters, the data presented here on 272 individuals gives a penetrating account of historically and socially obscured experience. This book is an important and long-overdue contribution to our understanding of human sexuality and a must-read for people with intersex variations, health practitioners, psychologists, advocacy groups, students, and anybody interested in knowing more about our diverse human make-up.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *The Hermaphrodite* Julia Ward Howe, 2004-12-01 Written in the 1840s and published here for the first time, Julia Ward Howe's novel about a hermaphrodite is unlike anything of its time—or, in truth, of our own. Narrated by Laurence, who is raised and lives as a man, is loved by men and women alike, and can respond to neither, this unconventional story explores the understanding that fervent hearts must borrow the disguise of art, if they would win the

right to express, in any outward form, the internal fire that consumes them. Laurence describes his repudiation by his family, his involvement with an attractive widow, his subsequent wanderings and eventual attachment to a sixteen-year-old boy, his own tutelage by a Roman nobleman and his sisters, and his ultimate reunion with his early love. His is a story unique in nineteenth-century American letters, at once a remarkable reflection of a largely hidden inner life and a richly imagined tale of coming of age at odds with one's culture. Howe wrote *The Hermaphrodite* when her own marriage was challenged by her husband's affection for another man--and when prevailing notions regarding a woman's appropriate role in patriarchal structures threatened Howe's intellectual and emotional survival. The novel allowed Howe, and will now allow her readers, to occupy a speculative realm otherwise inaccessible in her historical moment.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Life, Death, and Consciousness in the Long Nineteenth Century* Lucy Cogan, Michelle O'Connell, 2022-11-07 This book explores how the writers, poets, thinkers, historians, scientists, dilettantes and frauds of the long-nineteenth century addressed the "limit cases" regarding human existence that medicine continuously uncovered as it stretched the boundaries of knowledge. These cases cast troubling and distorted shadows on the culture, throwing into relief the values, vested interests, and power relations regarding the construction of embodied life and consciousness that underpinned the understanding of what it was to be alive in the long nineteenth century. Ranging over a period from the mid-eighteenth century through to the first decade of the twentieth century—an era that has been called the 'Age of Science'—the essays collected here consider the cultural ripple effects of those previously unimaginable revolutions in science and medicine on humanity's understanding of being.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *A Touch of Blossom* Alison Mairi Syme, John Singer Sargent, 2010 Explores the art of John Singer Sargent in the context of nineteenth-century botany, gynecology, literature, and visual culture. Argues that the artist was elaborating both a period poetics of homosexuality and a new sense of subjectivity, anticipating certain aspects of artistic modernism--Provided by publisher.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Midnight in Peking* Paul French, 2012-04-24 Winner of the both the Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime and the CWA Non-Fiction Dagger from the author of *City of Devils* Chronicling an incredible unsolved murder, *Midnight in Peking* captures the aftermath of the brutal killing of a British schoolgirl in January 1937. The mutilated body of Pamela Werner was found at the base of the Fox Tower, which, according to local superstition, is home to the maliciously seductive fox spirits. As British detective Dennis and Chinese detective Han investigate, the mystery only deepens and, in a city on the verge of invasion, rumor and superstition run rampant. Based on seven years of research by historian and China expert Paul French, this true-crime thriller presents readers with a rare and unique portrait of the last days of colonial Peking.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Edinburgh Companion to Queer Reading* Declan Kavanagh, Jeremy Chow, 2024-11-30 What does it mean to read queerly? The *Edinburgh Companion to Queer Reading* upholds intersectional thinking to recognise the wide currency and appeal of queer studies for a new generation of scholars, activists, students and interested allies. Its four interconnecting parts - 'transing queer readings', 'reading queer ecologies', 'queer reading as practice' and 'reading queer futures' - speak to, and help to critique and foreground, expansive queer epistemologies. Contributors evocatively explore the relationships between queerness and genders, embodiments, race, narrative, methodology, history, literature, media and art. Bringing together emerging and established queer theorists, this timely collection demonstrates how germane queer readings, theories and companions are to the livelihood of interdisciplinary research and humanistic inquiry in the 2020s.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Hermaphroditus* Antonio Beccadelli, 2001 Eugene O'Connor's superb translation of Antonio Panormita's *Hermaphroditus* brings to life this little known Renaissance writer's bawdy masterpiece. Modeled on the writings of the Roman poet Martial, Panormita's work was initially greeted with enthusiasm by humanist scholars upon publication in

1425 only to be reviled and censured as obscene by Christian apologists. O'Connor's excellent introduction offers a wealth of historical and literary information on Panormita's often profane poetry, presented here in both English and the Latin original. This new translation will be a delight to classical, neo-Latin, and Renaissance scholars interested in tracing the development of the epigram from Latin to the vernacular, and to scholars of gender and gay studies seeking to understand the popular portrayal of women and sexual themes in the early Renaissance.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Naked Truths Ann O Koloski-Ostrow, Claire L Lyons, 2003-09-01 The articles in *Naked Truths* demonstrate the application of feminist theory to a diverse repertory of classical art: they offer topical and controversial readings on the material culture of the ancient Mediterranean. This volume presents a timely, provocative and beautifully illustrated re-evaluation of how the issues of gender, identity and sexuality reveal 'naked truths' about fundamental human values and social realities, through the compelling symbolism of the body.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Individuals and Institutions in Medieval Scholasticism Antonia Fitzpatrick, John Sabapathy, 2020 *Individuals and Institutions in Medieval Scholasticism* is one of the first pieces of close exploratory scholarship on the fundamental relationship between medieval scholastic thought, individual scholars, and their institutions. The text revolves around these essential questions: What was the relationship between particular intellectuals and their wider networks (including but not limited to schools), how did intellectuals shape their institutions, and how were their institutions shaped by them? This theoretically sophisticated collection uses a range of European methodological approaches to address a variety of genres such as commentaries, quodlibetal questions, polemics, epic poetry, and inquisition records, and a range of subject matter including history, practical ethics, medicine, theology, philosophy, the constitution of religious orders, the practice of confession, and the institution of cults. This book will be an important reference point for medieval historians, while also raising questions relevant to those working on individualization and institutionalization in other periods and disciplines.

famous hermaphrodites in history: The Transgender Exigency Edward Schiappa, 2021-12-24 At no other point in human history have the definitions of woman and man, male and female, masculine and feminine, been more contentious than now. This book advances a pragmatic approach to the act of defining that acknowledges the important ethical dimensions of our definitional practices. Increased transgender rights and visibility has been met with increased opposition, controversy, and even violence. Who should have the power to define the meanings of sex and gender? What values and interests are advanced by competing definitions? Should an all-boys' college or high school allow transgender boys to apply? Should transgender women be allowed to use the women's bathroom? How has growing recognition of intersex conditions challenged our definitions of sex/gender? In this timely intervention, Edward Schiappa examines the key sites of debate including schools, bathrooms, the military, sports, prisons, and feminism, drawing attention to the political, practical, and ethical dimensions of the act of defining itself. This is an important text for students and scholars in gender studies, philosophy, communication, and sociology. The Open Access version of this book, available at www.taylorfrancis.com, has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives 4.0 license.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Lessons from the Intersexed Suzanne J. Kessler, 1998 Focusing on intersexuality, having physical gender markers that are neither female or male, the author examines the social institutions that are mobilized to maintain the two seemingly objective sexual categories. She argues that we need to rethink the meaning of gender, genitals and sexuality.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Art in the Hellenistic Age Jerome Jordan Pollitt, 1986-06-12 This 1986 book is an interpretative history of Greek art during the Hellenistic period.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Intersex Narratives Viola Amato (verst.), 2016-02-29 This book explores representations of intersex - intersex persons, intersex communities, and intersex as a cultural concept and knowledge category - in contemporary North American literature and popular culture. The study turns its attention to the significant paradigm shift in the narratives on intersex that occurred within early 1990s intersex activism in response to biopolitical regulations of

intersex bodies. Focusing on the emergence of recent autobiographical stories and cultural productions like novels and TV series centering around intersex, Viola Amato provides a first systematic analysis of an activism-triggered resignification of intersex.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Damned Women* Elizabeth Reis, 1997 When exploring the course of events at Salem, historians have often ignored assumptions about gender embedded within Puritan cosmology. The author of this work examines how gender systems cut across religious belief, showing the proscription of women's 'sinful natures' and men's 'natural sins'.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Debating Sex and Gender in Eighteenth-Century Spain* Marta V. Vicente, 2017-10-05 This book explores the popular and elite debates over the creation of a two-sex model of human bodies in eighteenth-century Spain.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe* William Edward Hartpole Lecky, 1870

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Early Modern Hermaphrodites* R. Gilbert, 2002-04-19 From the sixteenth century to the eighteenth century, hermaphrodites were discussed and depicted in a range of artistic, mythological, scientific and erotic contexts. *Early Modern Hermaphrodites* looks at some of those representations to explore the stories they tell about ambiguous sex and gender in early modern England. Gilbert examines the often contradictory ways in which hermaphrodites were represented as both spiritual ideals and sexual grotesques; as freaks, erotic objects and medical curiosities' and as literary metaphors and signs of social decay.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *The Emergence of Sexuality* Arnold Ira Davidson, 2001 Moving between philosophy and history, Arnold Davidson elaborates a powerful new method for considering the history of concepts and the nature of scientific knowledge, a method he calls historical epistemology. He applies this method to the history of sexuality.

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