Genders and Sexualities in History

Series Editors: **John H. Arnold, Joanna Bourke and Sean Brady**

Palgrave Macmillan's *Genders and Sexualities in History* series aims to accommodate and foster new approaches to historical research in the fields of genders and sexualities. The series will promote world-class scholarship that concentrates upon the interconnected themes of genders, sexualities, religions/religiosity, civil society, class formations, politics and war.

Historical studies of gender and sexuality have often been treated as disconnected fields, while in recent years historical analyses in these two areas have synthesized, creating new departures in historiography. By linking genders and sexualities with questions of religion, civil society, politics and the contexts of war and conflict, this series will reflect recent developments in scholarship, moving away from the previously dominant and narrow histories of science, scientific thought and legal processes. The result brings together scholarship from contemporary, modern, early modern, medieval, classical and non-Western history to provide a diachronic forum for scholarship that incorporates new approaches to genders and sexualities in history.

Wolfenden's Witnesses: Homosexuality in Postwar Britain is a landmark critical source edition. The Wolfenden Report of 1957 has long been recognized as a watershed in gay law reform, in the United Kingdom and throughout the anglophone world. Brian Lewis' superbly edited source edition is an invaluable contribution to scholarship. The testimonials and evidence given to the Wolfenden Committee and published here in this volume represent a fascinating and broad insight into how male homosexuality was understood in Britain in the 1950s. The testimonials give account not only of official attitudes towards male homosexuality – by the judiciary, police, politicians, and a range of other professionals and 'experts' – but also of the self-fashioning of the mostly anonymous homosexual men who gave evidence to the committee. In common with all volumes in the *Genders and Sexualities in History* series, the source edition *Wolfenden's Witnesses: Homosexuality in Postwar Britain* presents a multi-faceted and meticulously researched scholarly study, and is a sophisticated contribution to our understanding of the past.

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Wolfenden's Witnesses

Homosexuality in Postwar Britain

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WOLFENDEN'S WITNESSES: HOMOSEXUALITY IN POSTWAR BRITAIN

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Note on Style

The memoranda and transcripts of interviews in the Wolfenden Papers consist of typed pages, all typed up by a team of stenographers, each deploying slightly different standards. Apart from the correction of an occasional obvious typographical error, I have retained the original spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, underlining and (so far as possible) spacing. I have used ellipses (...) to indicate where text has been omitted.