

Genders and Sexualities in History

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Mark D. Chapman · Dominic Janes
Editors

New Approaches in
History and Theology
to Same-Sex Love
and Desire

palgrave
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SERIES EDITORS' PREFACE

New Approaches in History and Theology to Same-Sex Love and Desire is a genuinely groundbreaking collection, where international and interdisciplinary new scholarship explores the relationship between religion and same-sex desire. The collection re-evaluates the history of same-sex relationships in the churches, as they have been understood in different periods of history and in various contexts. Recent marriage equality legislation in many countries has meant that churches of all types have found themselves forced to address questions on same-sex marriage and queer lives, for which they are often ill-prepared. The collection reveals the hidden queer histories of the Church and its theologies, and the many counter-currents through history that question the dominant, negative understanding of same-sex relationships in the contemporary churches. The authors tell unexpected stories. Some in the churches have been at the vanguard of legislative and social change affecting queer lives. Some churches have offered safe queer spaces. The essays offer new interpretations and original research into the history of sexuality that inform the contemporary debate in the churches as well as in the academy. The collection provides new perspectives and approaches that enrich the historiography of sexuality and of religion. In common with all volumes in the 'Genders and Sexualities in History' series, *New Approaches in History*

and Theology to Same-Sex Love and Desire presents a multifaceted and meticulously researched scholarly collection, and is a sophisticated contribution to our understanding of the past.

John Arnold
Joanna Bourke
Sean Brady

CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction: Same-Sex Love and Desire—A Time for New Approaches** 1
Mark D. Chapman and Dominic Janes
- 2 Theological Amnesia and Same-Sex Love** 11
Adrian Thatcher
- 3 Sexuality as a Guide to Ethics: God and the Variable Body in English Literature** 29
Chris Mounsey
- 4 The Tradition of Homophobia: Responses to Same-Sex Relationships in Serbian Orthodoxy from the Nineteenth Century to the Present Day** 55
Nik Jovčić-Sas
- 5 Sexual Ethics in the Shadow of Modernism: George Tyrrell, André Raffalovich and the Project that Never Was** 79
Philip Healy

6	‘Pope Norman’, Griffin’s Report and Roman Catholic Reactions to Homosexual Law Reform in England and Wales, 1954–1971	93
	Alana Harris	
7	Some Found a Niche: Same-Sex Attracted People in Australian Anglicanism	117
	David Hilliard	
8	‘The Ecclesiastical Wing of the Lavender Revolution’: Religion and Sexual Identity Organising in the USA, 1946–1976	139
	Heather R. White	
9	<i>Christ and the Homosexual: An Early Manifesto for an Affirming Christian Ministry to Homosexuals</i>	161
	Bernard Schlager	
10	‘Homosexual Practice’ and the Anglican Communion from the 1990s: A Case Study in Theology and Identity	187
	Mark D. Chapman	
11	How Queer Can Christian Marriage Be? Eschatological Imagination and the Blessing of Same-Sex Unions in the American Episcopal Church	209
	Rémy Bethmont	
12	Setting the Table Anew: Queering the Lord’s Supper in Contemporary Art	227
	Mariecke van den Berg	
13	The Queerness of Saints: Inflecting Devotion and Same-Sex Desire	249
	Donald L. Boisvert	
	Index	265

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LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 12.1	Elisabeth Ohlson, <i>Palm Sunday</i> , 1998	232
Fig. 12.2	Elisabeth Ohlson, <i>Calvary</i> , 1998	238
Fig. 12.3	Elisabeth Ohlson, <i>The Last Supper</i> , 1998	240