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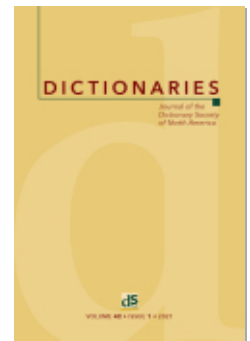
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Updating the *OED* on the Historical LGBTQ Lexicon



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ABSTRACT

Despite rigorously researched updates to many *OED* entries pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity, much work remains to be done in these highly pragmatically marked fields long neglected by professional lexicographers. The data-driven analysis presented here is meant to offer lessons for lexicology, metalexicography, and queer studies, especially in a cross-linguistic onomasiological perspective. Concrete corrections, clarifications, antedatings, and additions are proposed to the historical LGBTQ lexicon as treated in the *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)*, with a nomenclature covering the entire period of Modern English.

Keywords: *OED*, LGBTQ, homosexuality, gender, onomasiology, metalexicography

INTRODUCTION

The *Oxford English Dictionary's* recent focus on updating entries pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity is an excellent example of how dictionaries reflect the time and culture they belong to, and also of how they can play a role in social change. Prioritizing the lexis of sexuality and gender represents an institutional choice that implies

devoting significant resources to the extensive philological research required. In this way, the dictionary gives visibility to phenomena that were long neglected by professional lexicographers, for evolving and very identifiable ideological reasons. Such a focus amounts, more broadly, to acknowledging the inherently social nature of language and thereby inclusively providing dictionary users with word meanings and histories that matter to them, within the actual social context in which they live. Rather than disinterested, descriptive reference works, dictionaries in fact play a “gatekeeping” role both linguistically and culturally (Mugglestone 2016, 553; Turton 2020b, 114, 118), with attendant claims to authority in both realms (Nossem 2018)—whether these are explicitly asserted or merely attributed from the outside. For this reason above all, it is important for major dictionaries—especially the authoritative *OED*—to be as up-to-date, accurate, and complete as possible in their treatment of words with particular social relevance.

To give an idea of the recent *OED* changes in these semantic fields, Table 1 shows the published years of major online updates for some of these lexical series (not an exhaustive list). In fact, most of these have received even more recent revisions (2020–2021) than is noted in the table, which is made apparent via a new, more transparent labeling practice concerning the timestamps (see below). Some changes have additionally been highlighted in blogs on the *OED* site (Dent 2018; Gilliver 2019, 2020), a commendable way of making the research and lexicographical process more accessible to users.

The basic aim of this paper is to show that, despite the rigorously researched modifications recently added to the *OED* pertaining to the LGBTQ lexicon, much work remains to be done in fields as pragmatically marked (i.e., “taboo”) as sexual orientation and gender identity. A number of lessons for lexicology, (meta)lexicography, and queer studies will hopefully emerge from the wealth of concrete philological data provided in the detailed lexical notes that make up the bulk of this article. For the non-specialist reader, this presentation may also serve as a reminder of the partial, contingent nature of all information in “the dictionary”—which is always a product of its times, shaped by the ideologies and limitations of those who write it, and as susceptible to change as the language it aims to describe.

TABLE 1 Some Recently Updated LGBTQ-related Entries in the OED

Date	Headword
2005	<i>pederast, pederasty</i>
2007	<i>queer</i>
2008	<i>gay</i> <i>sexual inversion</i> (s.v. <i>sexual</i>)
2012	<i>uranist, uranism</i>
2017	<i>bugger, buggery</i>
2018	<i>bardash, berdache</i> <i>bisexual, bisexuality</i> <i>homosexual, homosexuality</i> <i>lesbian, lesbianism</i> <i>sapphic, sapphist, sapphism</i> <i>sodomite, sodomy</i> <i>trans, transgender, transgendered, transgenderism</i> <i>transsexual, transsexualism, transsexuality</i> <i>tribade, tribadism</i>
2019	<i>invert, inverted, inversion</i>

The lexis of same-sex sexuality and gender nonconformity—referred to here, out of convenience, as *the LGBTQ lexicon*, as a means of focusing on the continuities we now ascribe to concepts that have historically been categorized or conceived of differently—demands heightened scrutiny due to a number of overlapping factors. The most obvious constraint has been the historical taboo governing sexuality: simply put, dictionaries have long coded heteronormativity, when not outright homophobia, into their treatment of particular words—especially by omission, but also through euphemism or censorious language (for English, see Turton 2019a/b, 2020a; for other languages, see Lo Vecchio 2020). This taboo naturally extended to linguistics in general, meaning that same-sex sexuality was also left mostly untouched in lexicological studies, thus creating a weak basis on which etymological lexicography could build.

Historical taboos certainly had a direct effect on the development of the *Oxford English Dictionary* from the start. A number of recent studies have shown how the original editors of the *OED* contravened their own stated purpose of providing a purely descriptive dictionary based on empirical principles in the aim of conforming to social decorum (generally, see Brewer 2010; Mugglestone 2016; Turton 2020a). Within LGBTQ and related semantic fields, the evidence abounds. For example, unpublished lexicographic commentary explains the reasoning behind *lesbian* and *lesbianism* being silenced in the first supplement to the *OED* (1933) (Brewer 2007, 49–50, 205). Turton 2020a especially provides many illuminating examples, both published and archival, concerning the hesitant early *OED* treatment of the series *homosexuality*, *inversion*, *uranism*, and others. The same author has thoroughly analyzed the effects of the taboo on pre-twentieth-century lexicography (see Turton 2019a/b), which is pertinent too for the *OED*, since dictionaries, including the latter, have always built upon (copied, plagiarized, etc.) prior lexicographical work. How the *OED* applied a Victorian ethic of “decent reticence” on broader matters of sexuality, including contraception, is addressed in Mugglestone 2007, while the dictionary’s treatment of the “woman question” is described in Mugglestone 2013.

While the insidious and far-reaching effects of heteronorms may yet inform dictionary making—therefore rendering lexicography a worthwhile target for queer critiques (see, e.g., Nossem 2018; Turton 2020b)—the glaring bias of earlier eras may, in fact, be the easiest to remedy from an ideological standpoint. Indeed, it would not be credible to suggest that the *OED* (like many other contemporary dictionaries) is still treating such words through a homophobic lens. On the contrary, the recent updates are reflective of a modern ideology of openness and inclusion.

The cumulative legacy of insufficient scholarship on the LGBTQ lexis may, in contrast, be more onerous to correct in practical terms, and that is what the present article primarily intends to demonstrate. The updated *OED* entries are vastly improved in terms of ideology as well as accuracy, but in many cases they build upon marred or incomplete research, held over by lexicographical inertia from one edition to the next or merely drawing on a relatively scant lexicological foundation. Short of starting each entry from scratch, sporadic patchwork revisions at times risk further rooting a kind of “fossilization” (whether documentary or ideological) into the lexicographic record (Nossem 2018, 176).

Just as a dictionary's omissions do not *necessarily* signal intentional exclusion or neglect (Turton 2019b, 30; 2020a, 228), so their other errors and oversights cannot in all cases be attributed to social pressures regarding the subject matter they describe. Almost any entry in any dictionary can always be improved, and the sheer limitation of time and resources may be the most convincing explanation for a dictionary's shortcomings, as is likely the case for a good deal of the missing pieces in the current *OED* treatments. Yet the weight of the past clearly cannot be discounted in a field that represents, arguably, the linguistic taboo par excellence since the emergence of modern European languages.

The following material does not systematically compare the different entries in the various editions and supplements of the *OED*, which would be a useful way to track evolving social attitudes as expressed in dictionary writing. Such a task would be hindered by the online presentation of new material, which makes it difficult to differentiate between old and new scholarship, since "silently rewritten" material creates a "hodge-podge of old and new" (Brewer 2013, 112–15; see also Brewer 2005–). A newly introduced labeling practice more transparently tracks the dates of the latest updates, providing the month and year both of the full revision and of the latest edits made. However, this does not address a central concern raised by Brewer—namely, that the individual online-only modifications integrated over time are not identifiable within the entries themselves; the labeling practice confirms only the fact that changes have been made, by a particular date. Some changes may be traceable through their mention in blogs—for instance, recent edits to *transgender* (via Dent 2018) or *gay* (via Gilliver 2019)—but such transparency does not apply to all silent changes. In addition, since the timestamp covers the entire entry, it remains impossible to determine whether new changes were made to a main entry or to a subentry, where derivatives or compounds are treated (e.g., *lesbianism* s.v. *lesbian*, or *sexual inversion* s.v. *sexual*). This is likewise an issue where highly polysemous words are concerned (e.g., *bugger*, *invert*, *inverted*), since there is no way of knowing whether a particular sense has been altered.

The effectiveness of an approach that is both onomasiological and comparative, as applied here, merits emphasis. Limiting the investigation by semantic field ensures greater focus and conceptual continuity and may lead to discoveries that would not be possible when proceeding alphabetically. Compelling in theoretical terms, the onomasiological

method is equally fruitful in practical terms, as a core set of influential sources (and searchable keywords) may turn up cooccurrences or otherwise unexpected evidence for words that are semantically, but not necessarily genetically, related. It also accentuates semantic ambiguities, such as are found in early conceptualizations conflating physiology, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Researching the historical trans lexicon, for example, will inevitably have to delve into historical texts on homosexuality and bisexuality as well. The onomasiological approach is surely the most effective way to proceed both lexicographically and metalexicographically, with the hope that metalexographical studies may help to improve upon lexicography.

Since the English language is by no means unique in how social pressures have left their mark on the LGBTQ lexicon itself and its representation in the lexicography, the comparative perspective is also highly advantageous. Indeed, this paper focuses on a specific subset within this semantic field: the basic *international* LGBTQ lexicon, by which is meant words whose etymologically related cognates are widely attested in multiple major European languages (and beyond) due to shared conceptualizations as well as, crucially, language contact among them. For English, this involves series of lexemes that have been adapted from other languages, whether classical, modern, or both (e.g., *sodomite*, *against nature*, *bugger*, *bardash*, *tribade*, *pederast*, *sapphist*, *lesbian*, *uranist*, *invert*, *homosexual*, *bisexual*), as well as those that other languages have more recently adapted from English (e.g., *gay*, *queer*, *trans*). Also addressed are several more obscure but historically significant internationalisms with varied origins (e.g., *cinaedus*, *fricatrice*, *antiphysical*, *aselgotripsia*, *amor lesbicus*, *unisexual*).

By putting the English LGBTQ lexicon into a cross-linguistic perspective, it becomes clear that a dialectic has long existed at the international level whereby lexical categories are evidently socially constructed but are not limited to particular societies or, therefore, languages. If we want a fuller picture regarding word history, the comparative perspective, then, is indispensable here—uncommonly so, with respect to other taboo concepts, where internal innovations within languages tend to dominate. A cross-linguistic view also helps to identify larger cultural influences at various stages in history, showing that the English lexicon in this semantic field was highly influenced first by Latin and French, and somewhat by Italian, in the medieval and early modern periods,

then by German in the late nineteenth century, before English itself became the primary lending language starting in the middle of the twentieth century—but not before.

The lexicographical record for French, Italian, Spanish, and German does not appreciably differ from English in its treatment of the LGBTQ lexicon: similar prejudices, oversights, and omissions are constantly observed, as are, more recently, trends to update dictionary entries in a more neutral way (see Lo Vecchio 2020). Again, the lexicological foundation upon which dictionaries in these languages may draw is lacking overall. By looking at the LGBTQ lexis in all five languages transversally, focusing on word families and core groups of texts exhibiting considerable intertextuality among them, the present study is therefore able to more fully investigate the history of this lexis and thus propose many changes to the lexicographic record for each of these languages—many of which would never have been possible outside of a comparatist framework. The LGBTQ lexicon is not unique in this way, and in its internationalization it even shares some features with scientific terminology: many other semantic fields would thus benefit from greater comparison where concepts are articulated similarly across cultures.

The presentation in the following lexical notes is not meaningfully filtered through any queer theoretical analysis, although the results are obviously pertinent for historical LGBTQ studies as well as for queer or “lavender” linguistics—disciplines which have flourished in the past decades but with very little attention paid so far to the historical lexicon. Queer studies, in particular, have done a thorough job of developing elaborate theoretical frameworks, but amassing a solid basis of empirical data has never been a central pursuit, for obvious reasons. Motschenbacher 2011 lays out specific areas of “empirical applicability” for queer linguistics—a welcome overture, especially as regards diachronic lexical studies (172–73). Indeed, the data presented here is meant mostly to push the scholarship forward, if anything complicating our current knowledge, rather than settling it, and leaving the field wide open to yet further lexical interrogation. Die-hard queer theorists may be heartened to learn of the contingent nature of all information in the dictionary—a fact known to any lexicographer but an elusive one for much of the lay public who see “the dictionary” as settled matter. As in other disciplines, LGBTQ studies scholars have at times neglected this fact, attributing excessive faith to the hallowed authority of the

OED—“Entire theories rest on the *OED* dates,” as Donoghue (1993, 269) once so aptly noted.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* is currently the most up-to-date and reliable English-language source on the historical LGBTQ lexicon. Due to the authority granted to it by readers, and claimed itself, it ought to present the lexis of such a pragmatically marked field as accurately, completely, and transparently as possible. A heightened level of scrutiny is merited both by the social relevance of the material to users and by the historical gaps in the record which only, in their roundabout way, prove the salience of the former.

SCOPE OF THIS PAPER

In the following lexical notes, lemmatized and ordered alphabetically, numerous corrections, clarifications, antedatings, and additions are proposed, as is more general commentary about word histories and the most pressing areas for future research. The time period concerned spans the entirety of Modern English, from the Middle Ages (with some earlier references, including to classical languages, for comparison) to the current day.

Since, in this field, what dictionaries omit is as telling as what they include, analyzing established entries is just as important as attempting to fill in the gaps with new entries that have been so far left out. There is thus a balance between treatment of already existing entries and proposed new entries or subentries. For new (sub)entries, the criterion for inclusion here is not solely frequency of attestation in the textual documentation; other considerations need to be taken into account (in line with *OED* practice), such as the information derivatives or compounds may provide about a word family, qualitative importance within a literary or scholarly tradition, or semantic relations around a particular concept. For example, the suffixation *tribadree*, while a hapax, is important because it is the first attested derivative form of *tribade*. Likewise, *tribadarian*, also a hapax, provides useful information about general familiarity with the *tribade* series in the eighteenth century. While rare, *urningtum* and *urningism* demonstrate the alternation between several bases in the *uranism* series depending on the immediate source model (i.e., German or French) and show that the *uranism* form cannot be taken for granted. The Latinism *cynaedus*, while never frequent in

popular speech, recurs in a long scholarly tradition in various European languages. *Asegotripsia* and *macroclitoridea* are not common in the corpora, but attest to the long life of a metonymic trope equating female homosexuality with one body part in particular, and so inform the *tribade* series as well. Inclusion criteria are thus based overall on pertinence to the word family, broadly defined, rather than being narrowly restricted to the lexeme level.

Additional supporting documentation and extensive commentary for many entries may be found in Lo Vecchio 2020. The research project on which this specialized dictionary was based (running from 2014 to 2020) was largely concurrent to the *OED*'s updates (published mostly 2017–2019; see Table 1) and in most cases corresponded reassuringly to the results published in that source. Rather than being an exhaustive audit of the detailed *OED* updates, this paper attempts to provide additional information where errors or omissions stood out most obviously when compared against independent research.

Primary sources are generally cited in footnotes; for space reasons, primary sources cited several times appear in the bibliography. Cross-references within the nomenclature are indicated by the arrow sign (→). Where corrections to headnotes are proposed, ~~striketrough~~ type indicates current *OED* text to be deleted or corrected; **bold** type indicates **new information** to replace or supplement current text. Following *OED* convention, brackets appear around some textual examples that do not directly exemplify the sense under study but are relevant to its development.

LEXICAL NOTES

amor lesbicus, n. 'female homosexuality', 'sex between women'

New entry. Examples:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1889 | We have reason to believe that pæderasty, amor Lesbicus, hetærisism and harlotry prevailed generally among the Greeks, who were in other respects also very human ¹ |
|------|--|

¹J. H. Baas, *Outlines of the History of Medicine and the Medical Profession*, trans. H. E. Anderson, New York: Vail, 1889, 106.

- 1892 The sexual satisfaction of the female probably consists of *amor lesbicus*, or active masturbation.²
- 1894 When this crime [rape] occurs with grown women as the parties, it is called Tribadism, Lesbianism, or *Amor Lesbicus*³
- 1896 She not only has illicit relations with other men, but even extends her unnatural desires, in *amor lesbicus*, to her own sex.⁴
- 1908 Two sympathetic urnindes who lived together described to me very vividly the joys and sorrows of the *amor lesbicus*.⁵

Remarks: This is an adaptation from German, after the same Modern Latin formation (Kaan, 1844,⁶ not there restricted to female homosexuality). While not strictly the earliest attested use, its appearance in several places in the 1892 Chaddock translation of Krafft-Ebing is the most important, since it is used frequently by this author, from the 1886 first edition of his influential work and in later editions and translations. Its classical, and therefore euphemizing, appearance should not conceal its modern origin (compare notably → *aselgotripsia*).

***antiphysical*, adj.** 'of or relating to same-sex relations', 'homosexual'

New sense. Examples:

- 1769 he denies the antiphysical sin to be repugnant to natural right⁷
- 1792 Women or men were a source of equal enjoyment to her; glowing from the incestuous couch of A-tis, she would rush into the anti-physical em-

²Krafft-Ebing, trans. Chaddock, 1892, 281; see also 213, 229, 230, 382, 433.

³J. C. Edgar and J. C. Johnston, "Medico-Legal Consideration of Rape," in Witthaus and Becker 1894, 487.

⁴William Hirsch, *Genius and Degeneration*, trans. from the 2nd German ed., New York: Appleton, 1896, 221.

⁵Bloch 1908, 530. Here, *urnindes* is an adaptation of German *Urninde*, a female variant for → *Urnig*.

⁶Henrico Kaan, *Psychopathia sexualis*, Leipzig: Voss, 1844, 43–44. There is no substantial relation to Krafft-Ebing's later treatise of the same name, beyond the title.

⁷Johann David Michaelis, *A Dissertation on the Influence of Opinions on Language and of Language on Opinions*, trans. from the French adaptation of the German, London: Owen/Bingley, 1769, 49.

- braces of the voluptuous L-b-lle; all the Ganymedes and Messalinas of the court, have been encircled by the meretricious arms of M—ie A-t—n-tte⁸
- 1833[?] But, where no offerings to the surplice fall,
The taste forthwith is anti-physical.⁹
- 1891 “In the numerous books,” says M. Carlier, “which treat of prostitution, the antiphysical passions have hitherto been always deliberately omitted.”¹⁰

Remarks: While *antiphysical* is sporadically attested in English with the more general meaning ‘unnatural’, ‘against nature’ (a1603, *OED*), its ‘homosexual’ sense is an adaptation of the French *antiphysique*. As the earlier English formation is very rare, this lexeme is best considered a morphological rather than simply semantic calque of the French, to form a pair of independently created homographs with different senses. The 1769 and 1891 examples translate text from the French, while the 1792 example evokes a French context by citing Marie Antoinette. For the importance of *antiphysique* to the French lexicon of homosexuality, first attested in texts by Rousseau and Voltaire in the 1710s, see Courrouve 1985 and Hennig 2014.

A rare lexicographic treatment of *antiphysical* is found in Dunglison 1833,¹¹ which records the medical sense “carminative” (= ‘anti-flatulent’), reflecting yet another independent formation attested in various languages but absent from the *OED*. In a remark on the use of this adjective for “any thing preternatural,” Dunglison obliquely acknowledges the French origin (“The French sometimes say, ‘*Un goût antiphysique [sic]*’”), without further elaboration.

⁸Charles Pigott, *The Jockey Club, or A Sketch of the Manners of the Age*, part 3, 2nd ed., London: Symonds, 1792, 71 (ECCO). The graphic form is ambiguous because it breaks over a line (hyphenated at *anti-physical*).

⁹*Don Leon: A Poem by the Late Lord Byron [sic]*, London: n.p., 1866 [ca. 1833], 5; see also several examples in the back matter. See Crompton 1983 on the apocryphal attribution of this poem to Byron and the dating.

¹⁰J. A. Symonds, *A Problem in Modern Ethics*, 1891; in Brady 2012, 136.

¹¹Robley Dunglison, *A New Dictionary of Medical Science and Literature*, Boston: Bowen, 1833.

***aselgotripsia*, n. ‘sex between women’, ‘tribadism’**

New entry. Examples:

- [1811–1812 *Aselgotripsia*, Frictio lasciva (vulgo *Tribadismus*).¹²
 1890 **ASELGOTRIPSIA, ASELGOTRIPSIS** (Lat.), n’s f.
 [. . .] From *άσελγής* lascivious, and *τρίψις*, friction.
 Fr., *aselgotripsie*. See TRIBADISMUS.¹³
 1890 **Aselgotripsia** (L.) [*άσελγής, τρίψις*]. I. aselgotrissia.
 Tribadism.¹⁴
 1893 **Aselgotripsia** [. . .] (*aselges*, lustful, *tripsis*,
 rubbing). Copulation between two females.¹⁵

Remarks: No textual uses are known outside of the lexicography, aside from the initial Latin in the obscure 1811–1812 medical treatise cited. In the modern languages, it appears to be a dictionary artifact that can be explained by subsequent copyings and translations from Bégin’s influential French medical dictionary of 1823,¹⁶ which was the first to record this opaque Neo-Latinism, formed by morphemes of Greek origin and clearly motivated by taboo. Bégin was followed by numerous other dictionaries, notably in Italian, German, and Spanish (see Lo Vecchio 2020, §4.9). The adaptations found in English medical dictionaries could have been modeled on the French or on one of these other languages (Foster 1890 gives a French gloss, Billings 1890 an Italian one).

bardash, n. ‘passive partner in sex between men’, ‘(young or effeminate) male lover’

Clarifications. Revise etymology notes as follows:

Originally < Italian *bardassa* (a1527), +*bardasso*, as a **general term of abuse (c1340), passive male partner (1478 or before)**, (now chiefly regional) *bardascia* (~~both~~ **first half of the** 16th cent.; frequent in many regional varieties of Italian in the extended sense

¹²Franz Swediaur, *Novum nosologiae methodicae systema*, vol. 2, Paris: Gabon, 1812, 792; the word also appears frequently in vol. 1, dated 1811.

¹³Foster 1890, vol. 1.

¹⁴Billings 1890, vol. 1.

¹⁵Robley Dunglison, *A Dictionary of Medical Science*, 21st ed. by Richard Dunglison, Philadelphia: Lea, 1893.

¹⁶Louis-Jacques Bégin et al., *Dictionnaire des termes de médecine*, Paris: Béchét/Baillièrre/Crevot, 1823.

‘boy, young man’), ***bardasso*** (late 16th or early 17th cent.); further etymology uncertain.

In later use also < Middle French, French *bardache* (†1598 1546; 1537 as *bredaiche*) < Italian.

Compare Spanish *bardaje* (17th cent. 1587; 1526 as *bardaxa*, **first half of the 16th cent. as *bardaja***, †1600 c1550 as *bardax*).

Example:

1598 *Bardascia, a bardash, a bugging boy, an ingle.*¹⁷

Remarks: Aside from the tweaks to the datings for the corresponding Italian, Spanish, and French terms, it would be useful to provide the 1598 example since it is the earliest known instance of the *bardash* variant. Occurring in a bilingual Italian-English dictionary and predating all known adaptations from the French *bardache* (a more obvious model for this form), this example raises questions about whether the foreign model was Italian *bardascia* with apocope or French *bardache* despite gaps in the documentation.

The *OED* rightly marks the etymology of this series as unknown, challenging the conventional hypothesis (from Middle Persian via Arabic ‘captive’, ‘slave’), which is in all likelihood spurious and should be eliminated from dictionaries, barring further research (see especially Mason 2015, as well as Lo Vecchio 2020, ch. 3; and → *berdache*).

berdache, n. ‘institutional Native American transgender role’

Corrections and clarifications. Revise etymology notes as follows:

~~Apparently~~ < North American French *bardache* (1721), †*berdache* (1789) (although this is first attested later: 1841 in the passage translated in quot. 1843), transferred use of French *bardache* **BARDASH** n., **following a semantic restriction attested from the early 18th cent. on the continent**, probably on account of European associations between transvestism and homosexuality.

¹⁷John Florio, *A Worlde of Wordes*, London: Blount, 1598. *Bardash* is curiously excised from this gloss in Florio’s revised edition of 1611. Note that the *OED* does cite Florio 1598 in a remark about the verb *bardarsh*, a hapax.

Example:

1800	NATIVE NAME.	FRENCH NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.
	[...]		
4.	[Ø]	4. La Berdash (Sucre's son).	4. Berdash. ¹⁸

Remarks: Note that the 1843 quotation (the translation of an 1841 German text) was deleted for the updated *OED3* entry, so the parenthetical cross-reference in the etymology is incoherent in addition to being inaccurate: *berdache* is attested in North American French in 1789.¹⁹ The “obsolete” mark (†) should be eliminated from *berdache* since this form is widely attested orally in contemporary French (less so in writing); so *berdache* is not necessarily obsolete with respect to *bardache*, yet both are infrequent in modern use. In fact, the vitality of Canadian phonetic variation between preconsonantal forms in *-ar-* and *-er-* (as well as metathetic *-re-* and concomitant forms) only strengthens the argument for why the *bardache* to *berdache* shift represents a clear North American French development (see Lo Vecchio 2020, 111–22).

Concerning the datings for English, the *OED*'s earliest attestation for the common noun *berdash* (1806) is accurate, but its comparison to an earlier use as a proper noun in the same source (*Berdash*, 1801, in a remark) can be backdated to 1800.

bisexual, adj. and n.

Clarifications. Provisionally revise etymology notes as follows:

In sense A. 4 after German *bisexuell* (~~1894 or earlier~~ **1903**) and BISEXUALITY *n.* 3; compare also French *bisexuel* (~~1906 in this sense; 1826 in botany~~ **in this sense, 1896 as adj. and 1904 as n.; 1778 in botany**). With this sense compare earlier HOMOSEXUAL *adj.* and HETEROSEXUAL *adj.*

Remarks: I question the etymological information provided for the entire series (“Formed within English, by compounding” / < BI- *comb. form* + SEXUAL *adj.*), since the English was in all likelihood originally

¹⁸Alexander Henry, Aug. 21, 1800; in Elliott Coues (ed.), *The Manuscript Journals of Alexander Henry and of David Thompson, 1799–1814*, vol. 1, New York: Harper, 1897, 53–54; see also 163–65.

¹⁹Litigations #26, 1789, Sainte Genevieve Archives, 1761–1854, Missouri Historical Society, Saint Louis; in Ward Allison Dorrance, “The Survival of French in the Old District of Sainte Genevieve,” *University of Missouri Studies* 10(2), 1935, 59.

modeled on French *bisexuel*, directly or indirectly. French *bisexuel*, *-elle* and *unisexual*, *-elle* are first attested in Lamarck's 1778 botanical treatise, which had an enormous terminological influence (see, e.g., Buchi 1994), not only for French but also for other European languages. The French chronology should at least be addressed in the comparison note, but more direct evidence may be uncovered with more investigation.

Much more research is needed to adequately describe the early history of *bisexual* with its modern sense regarding sexual orientation; see following → *bisexuality*.

bisexuality, n. 'attraction to, love for, relations with both men and women'

Clarifications. Examples:

- 1908 But remnants of hermaphroditism, of bisexuality in a single individual, of the "third sex," are to be found in every human being, and are disclosed by embryology and comparative anatomy in the form of vestiges of female reproductive organs in the male and of male reproductive organs in the female. Herein exists an indisputable proof of the originally hermaphrodite nature of the human ancestry. [...] Unquestionably the widely diffused phenomenon of "psychical hermaphroditism," or "spiritual bisexuality," is connected with the physical facts just enumerated, and provides us with the key for the understanding of the nature of homosexuality.²⁰

Remarks: There is significant potential for a major lexical study on the *bisexuality* series in English and in relation to the corresponding lexis of other European languages. The period from 1890 to 1910 represents a pivotal moment for bisexuality as a concept and as a lexical category, but it is marked by a great deal of confusion among various concepts. The *OED*'s treatment reports some pertinent early datings as they are currently known, but more study is needed to establish—to the extent possible—a more precise chronology separating the original anatomical sense ('having features of both sexes') from the then nascent ones

²⁰Bloch 1908, 12, 40, *passim*.

of so-called “psychical hermaphroditism,” seen as an explanation for homosexuality; the Freudian sense of a sexual disposition involving traits of both sexes, crucially shared by all individuals; and the modern sense designating a sexual orientation in people who are attracted to both men and women. In some cases, all four of these senses are muddled as one, at least implicitly. I include the translated quotes from Bloch 1908 above as exemplary of this early semantic conflation; many other ambiguous examples can be found in this and other contemporaneous sources.

The *OED*’s first attested use of *bisexuality* (1892),²¹ found in the translation of Krafft-Ebing’s main work, seems to reflect the concept of “psychical hermaphroditism” promoted by that author more than the modern sense of a sexual orientation; it should also be noted that the original anatomical meaning of *Bisexualität* also appears in that work.²² A similar early case of several ambiguous meanings is found in the French of Marc-André Raffalovich, some of whose writings were translated into English and other languages (see → *unisexual*, *unisexuality*).²³ Freudian use of *Bisexualität* can be found in private writings as early as 1896,²⁴ but Freud’s view, extended as it is to all individuals, does not refer to sexual orientation as it is commonly understood.

The first known unambiguous uses of German *bisexuell*, *Bisexuelle(r)*, and *Bisexualität* referring to sexual orientation are found in the writings of Magnus Hirschfeld starting in 1903.²⁵ In one article in particular the following year, the German activist-sexologist clearly contrasts three separate categories—*bisexuell*, *homosexuell*, and *heterosexuell*—thus lexically establishing the system of oppositions still widely in use today.²⁶

²¹Krafft-Ebing, trans. Chaddock, 1892, 187, 227 (*bi-sexuality*). For a similar use, also see Havelock Ellis, “The Study of Sexual Inversion,” *Medico-Legal Journal*, vol. 12, no. 2, 1894, 153 (*bisexuality*).

²²See Krafft-Ebing, 7th German ed., 1892, 190, 228.

²³See Marc-André Raffalovich, “Quelques observations sur l’inversion,” *Archives d’anthropologie criminelle*, vol. 9, 1894, 217; Raffalovich 1896, 17, 72, 202–03.

²⁴Letter from Freud to Fließ, Dec. 6, 1896, in J. Masson, M. Schröter, and G. Fichtner (eds.), *Sigmund Freud. Briefe an Wilhelm Fließ, 1887–1904*, Frankfurt: Fischer, 1986, 222. Also see letters dated Jan. 4, 1898; Mar. 15, 1898; Aug. 1, 1899; Jan. 30, 1901; Aug. 7, 1901; Sept. 19, 1901; July 20–27, 1904.

²⁵Magnus Hirschfeld, “Ursachen und Wesen des Uranismus,” *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen*, vol. 5, no. 1, 1903.

²⁶Magnus Hirschfeld, “Das Ergebnis der statistischen Untersuchungen über den Prozentsatz der Homosexuellen,” *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen*, vol. 6, 1904.

His contributions, and those of his colleagues,²⁷ served as the source of introduction for this lexicon in several European languages,²⁸ and further investigation into *bisexual* history would do well to begin here.

bougeron, n. 'bugger', 'sodomite'

Antedating [from 1632, sense 2]. Examples:

1532 And yours is moste lyke unto the facion of these
 bougerons / and a man can not know you from
 them, nother by your apparell / nor by tendre-
 nesse, nor in change of shirtes, nor in clokes /
 nor in prety showes / nor in trymyng of your here,
 nor in savour. For ye are perfumed lyke them,
 evyn you that are so blessed. But what whan a
 man smell lyke a bougeron?²⁹

Remarks: This text, a translation of Lucian, appears to have been based on a Latin version by Thomas More, who used → *cinædus* where Elyot uses *bougeron*. This antedating, while by a good century, would not alter the OED's hypothesis that English *bougeron* is the adaptation of a French Italianism.

bugger, n. 'heretic', 'sodomite'

Clarifications. Revise etymology notes as follows:

< Anglo-Norman and Middle French *bugre*, *bougre* (French *bougre*) **Bulgarian (c1150)**, heretic (1172 in Old French as *bogre*), person who performs acts classed as 'buggery' (see **BUGGERY** n. 2) (2nd half of the early 13th cent.), **Bulgarian (early 14th cent.)**; general term of abuse or contempt for a person (late 15th 14th cent.)

²⁷For example, in *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen*, vol. 8, 1906, see: Magnus Hirschfeld, "Vom Wesen der Liebe. Zugleich ein Beitrag zur Lösung der Frage der Bisexualität," 1–284; Paul Näcke, "Einige psychiatrische Erfahrungen als Stütze für die Lehre von der bisexuellen Anlage des Menschen," 583–603.

²⁸For example, see Havelock Ellis's reviews of Näcke and Hirschfeld in the *Journal of Mental Science*: vol. 53, Jan. 1907, 178–79; vol. 54, July 1908, 588–89; vol. 54, Oct. 1908, 753–55.

²⁹Lucian of Samosata, *A dialogue betwene Lucian and Diogenes of the life harde and sharpe, and of the lyfe tendre and delicate*, trans. T. Elyot, London: Bertheleti, ca. 1532, 9^v–10^r (Early English Books Online; EEBO).

Remarks: The demonymic function of French *bougre* is the oldest, dating back to ca. 1150 in *Roman de Thèbes* and found in several other late twelfth-century texts. The ‘heretic’ and ‘sodomite’ senses are concurrently attested in the first two decades of the thirteenth century—both in French and in Latin texts reporting on the vernacular—and it is impossible to neatly separate these two meanings as the early evidence is highly ambiguous. In particular, the omnipresent 1172 dating ought to be banished from etymological dictionaries, as it reflects lexicographical inertia due to recopyings without verification. In this case, Godefroy seems to have misinterpreted an entry in a medieval cartulary where “*Petrus bogres [sic for bogrus]*” apparently appeared as a simple family name, without any relation to this series (Zerner 1989).

bugger, n. ‘Bulgarian’

Clarification. Examples:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1499 | a grete parte of Bulgary that men calle the londe of Buggers [. . .] & afterwarde go men to Belgrave and entre in to the londe of Buggers ³⁰ |
| 1775 | Bug’gers (<i>s. in church history</i>) The Bulgarians. ³¹ |

Remarks: The rather limited evidence for the meaning ‘Bulgarian’ may not be sufficient to justify a separate sense category in the dictionary, but it could be mentioned in a headnote. Even though *bugger* was adapted from the French directly with the ‘heretic’ meaning (and possibly the ‘sodomite’ meaning, though this is attested later) and therefore did not evolve from an earlier demonymic sense in English, the metonymic relation with its etymon could be perceived and actualized discursively under certain conditions.

cinaedus, cynaedus [pl. *cinaedi, cynaedi*], n. ‘passive partner in sex between men’, ‘(effeminate) male lover’, ‘sodomite’, ‘adulterer, lascivious man’

New entry. Examples:

³⁰John Mandeville, *Itinerarium* [*Here begynneth a lytell treatyse or booke*], London: Wynken De Worde, 1499, iij-iiij (EEBO).

³¹John Ash, *The New and Complete Dictionary of the English Language*, London: Dilly/Baldwin, 1775.

- 1590 Of which kind of creatures those inward cynædi, S. Paul warneth al godly christians³²
- 1632 By dogge is not meant, *Deut.*23.18. a dogge properly called a dogge, but *Cynaedus*, or *meritorius*, who is unsatiable in lust like a dogge, and that it is meant of such a dogge, the reasons are these.³³
- 1633 Is it an hainous and unseemely thing to overturne the lawes of nature, and to introduce unlawfull and wicked copulations? [. . .] Why then dost thou bring in those Cynaedi, & exolete persons?³⁴
- 1642 Hee is also reckoned amongst the *Cinaedi*, and to bee a *Pederastes*, that is, one abused against nature³⁵
- 1773 From the premises we may, I think, safely conclude, that Juvenal did not in the above lines accuse Socrates of being a Cinædus.³⁶
- 1901 No doubt this was the case in Antiquity as well, so we are by no means justified in attributing every instance of foul breath in harlots and *cinaedi* to the practice of *fellatio*.³⁷

Remarks: The polymorphism of this lexeme as well as its various (related) meanings reflect a lack of consolidation in English: indeed, *cinaedus* is not well integrated into the English language, but belongs to a long scholarly tradition, in English texts (or texts printed in England), and therefore merits inclusion in the dictionary. Corresponding adaptations are also widespread in similar usage in other modern languages.

³²Richard Harvey, *A theologicall discourse of the Lamb of God and his enemies*, London: Windet/W.P., 1590, 28 (EEBO).

³³John Weemes, *An exposition of the morall law, or Ten Commandements of almightie God*, London: Cotes/Bellamie, 1632, 163 (EEBO).

³⁴William Prynne, *Histrion-mastix. The Players Scourge, or, Actors Tragædie*, London: E.A./W.J./Sparke, 1633, 429; see also 200 for *Cinædi* (EEBO). Here, *exolete* is an Anglicization of Latin *exoletus*, another word referring to the passive male partner in sex between men.

³⁵Thomas Taylor, *The second part of the Theatre of Gods Judgments*, London: Herne, 1642, 51 (EEBO).

³⁶T. J., letter to the editor, *The London Magazine*, vol. 42, Nov. 1773, 555 (ECCO).

³⁷Julius Rosenbaum, *The Plague of Lust, Being a History of Venereal Disease in Classical Antiquity*, vol. 2, trans. from the German, Paris: Carrington, 1901, 31 and *passim*.

The majority of attested uses in English texts are in fact Latin (citations from ancient texts, as glosses in bilingual dictionaries, etc.), but *cinaedus* is also discursively presented as part of the English lexicon, as seen in the examples. In almost all cases, the context is classical. Even where its use could arguably represent a kind of code-switch to Latin (notably the 1632 and 1642 examples, co-occurring with other Latin forms), it still reflects a persistent textual presence in English. For useful overviews of the etymons in ancient times, see Winkler (1990, ch. 2) on Greek and Williams (2010, ch. 5) on Latin; McEnery and Baker 2017 discuss *cinaedus* (and the Anglicized adaptation *cynedian*, 1598) in the context of other classicizing terms of the era.

to come out, v. intr. 'to reveal one's (nonnormative) sexual orientation or gender identity'

Antedating [from 1970, s.v. *come*, phrasal verbs: *to come out*, II.13.b].

Example:

1969 *Come Out. A Newspaper by and for the Gay
Community*³⁸

Remarks: New evidence of the shortened form of the slightly earlier *to come out of the closet* (1968 per OED, s.v. *closet* P2.b.(a)). As the title of a publication, there is no proper syntactic context here, but the underlying grammatical function is obviously verbal.

confricatrice, confrictrice, n. 'tribade', 'lesbian'

New entry. Examples:

1662 so that some women abuse the same [the clitoris],
and make use thereof in place of a mans Yard,
exercising carnal Copulation one with another,
and they are termed *Confricatrices* Rubsters³⁹

1689 Sometimes it happens, that contrary to the
common Course of Nature, this part [the clitoris]
grows out much more in length like the Yard of a
Man, so that Women have made an ill use of it, by

³⁸Title of a New York publication; cited in Simes 1996, 336.

³⁹Thomas Bartholin, *Bartholinus Anatomy*, trans. from the Latin, London: Culpeper/Cole, 1662, 76.

- copulating with others of their own Sex, hence called Confricatrices, but anciently *Tribades*.⁴⁰
- 1722 *Confricatrices*, or *Confrictrices*, are used by many Authors for such lustful Women who have learned to titulate one another with their *Clitoris*, in imitation of venereal Intercourses with Men.⁴¹
- 1741 these Confricatrices are more inclined to desire the Access of Women than of Men⁴²

Remarks: The origin of this variant appears to be in the Renaissance Latin of Séverin Pineau, who in 1597 introduced *confricatrices* in a discussion on the clitoris, the *con-* prefix emphasizing the mutual rubbing action between women (compare earlier → *fricatrice*).⁴³ The *OED* dates *confricatrix* to 1626 (s.v. *rubster*, without providing a source), a citation I have not been able to locate myself. The underlying singular form may be considered *confricatrix*, following the Latin, but the early recorded uses studied all appear in the plural.

Copying the 1722 example above from Quincy's medical dictionary (see Turton 2019b, 11–13), Bailey (1724) is the first general dictionary not only to include this lexeme (providing both forms in the plural: *confricatrices* and *confrictrices*), but also to record a headword specific to female homosexuality in English.⁴⁴

crime against nature, n. 'sodomy', 'homosexual act', especially 'anal sex between men'

Antedating [from 1683, s.v. *crime*, phrase P2]. Examples:

- 1563 the crime against nature & with beastes⁴⁵

⁴⁰Diemerbroeck 1689, 183.

⁴¹John Quincy, *Lexicon Physico-Medicum*, 2nd ed., London: Bell/Taylor/Osborn, 1722 (ECCO).

⁴²Parsons 1741, 21; see also 125, 128.

⁴³Séverin Pineau, *Opusculum physiologum et anatomicum*, Paris: Prevosteau, 1597, 62–63.

⁴⁴Nathan Bailey, *An Universal Etymological English Dictionary*, 2nd ed., London: Bell et al., 1724 (ECCO).

⁴⁵Wolfgang Musculus, *Common Places of Christian Religion*, trans. from the Latin, London: Wolfe, 1563 [1562, colophon], 186^v; for clarifications on the category *against nature*, see also 85^{r-v}, which makes clear that *crime against nature* refers here to same-sex sexual acts.

1630 so farre *past grace*, that they commit, that foule
 crime *against nature*.⁴⁶

Remarks: The *OED* sees a calque on the French *crime contre nature* since its earliest example provided (1683) occurs in a translation from the French. As *crime against nature* is found in several earlier sources, the earliest documentation does not directly support this hypothesis, although it is not to be altogether ruled out considering the importance of this locution in French (also see → *sin against nature*). As accurately noted in the *OED* definition, this locution does not always refer to (homo)sexual acts, but is frequently restricted to this sense.

fricatrice, n. ‘tribade’, ‘lesbian’

Clarifications. Revise origin as follows:

A borrowing from Latin, **probably via Italian or French**.

Remarks: Italian sources were primarily responsible for introducing Latin *fricatrices* into the modern languages. Post-classical Latin *fricatrices* appears notably in Calderino’s fifteenth-century commentaries (see Schachter 2015) and is used in the gloss of *tribades* in Calepino’s 1502 dictionary,⁴⁷ but the most important source is the work of Leo Africanus, whose exoticizing account of the women in Fez is constantly cited (with or without attribution to him) in the early discourse about tribades in many languages. Leo Africanus used Italian *fregatrice* in his 1526 manuscript,⁴⁸ to be Latinized as *fricatrices* in Battista Ramusio’s significantly revised Italian edition of 1550,⁴⁹ which was then translated into Latin and French in 1556,⁵⁰ these three latter texts—whose wording closely echoes one other—serving as the entry point for other modern languages, notably English and German. John Pory’s English edition of

⁴⁶John Squire, *A Plaine Exposition upon the First Part of the Second Chapter of Saint Paul His Second Epistle to the Thessalonians*, London: Waterhouse, 1630, 82 (EEBO).

⁴⁷The *tribades* entry appears out of order; see sig. Aa.i’.

⁴⁸Giovanni Leone Africano, *Cosmographia de l’Affrica*, 1526, ed. G. Amadori, Rome: Aracne, 2014, 306 (ms. 175’).

⁴⁹Giovan Lioni Africano, *Descrittione dell’Africa*, in Battista Ramusio, *Primo volume. Delle navigationi et viaggi*, Venice: Giunti, 1550, 43’.

⁵⁰Joannis Leonis Africani, *De Totius Africae descriptione*, trans. J. Florianus, Antwerp: Latium, 1556, 130’; Jean Leon, *Historiale description de l’Afrique*, trans. Jean Temporal, Lyon: Temporal, 1556, 161.

1600,⁵¹ which notes his recourse to various translations (“Latine, Italian, Spanish, French, English”), is the source of the earliest attested use in an English text, although it is presented as Latin (“call these women *Sahacat*, which in Latin signifieth *Fricatrices*”). The *OED* provides this text glossed with the Latin text in brackets, with the suggestion that it was based on the Latin edition; however, it is not clear that Pory would have been translating from the 1556 Latin text as opposed to the 1550 Italian or even the 1556 French one; the subtitle itself specifies: “Written in Arabicke and Italian.” A close inspection of the English against the various other editions might provide telling clues as to the immediate source.

Note also the later and less frequent variant forms *frictrice*, *frictrix*, which appear sporadically in the documentation throughout the nineteenth century (see one example from 1886 at → *rubber*; and compare → *confricatrice*, *confrictrice*).

gay, adj. ‘homosexual’

Clarifications and additional examples. Add headnote as follows (either under etymological note or at sense A.4.d):

The earliest unambiguous evidence for this sense indicates that, prior to the early 1950s, *gay* was used primarily as an in-group code word among gay men in the U.S. for purposes of dissimulation and/or solidarity.

Examples:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1949 | GAY: Homosexual, queer (adj.). The only word used by homosexuals with reference to themselves, their friends, their haunts, etc. ⁵² |
| 1971 | To you, our gay sisters and brothers, we say that you <i>are</i> oppressed [. . .] We gay men and gay women <i>do</i> deny these values of our civilization. ⁵³ |
| 1973 | The new political feminist lesbian who was especially clamorous coming from the angry |

⁵¹John Leo, *A Geographical Historie of Africa*, trans. John Pory, London: Bishop, 1600, 148 (EEBO).

⁵²*Gay Girl's Guide* 1949, “Gayese-English Dictionary,” 9–10.

⁵³“London Gay Liberation Front Manifesto,” 1971, in Len Richmond and Gary Noguera (eds.), *The Gay Liberation Book*, San Francisco: Ramparts, 1973, 117, 125.

aggressive positioning of the Gay Liberation Front—an unprecedented uprising of both gay women and gay men to assert pride in homosexual identity.⁵⁴

1974 But when the other woman came out and decided she was gay, she was so threatened by being gay that she became super-militant about being gay.⁵⁵

Remarks: While space and resource constraints might limit what socio-pragmatic—as opposed to purely denotative—information a dictionary can provide, I advocate for expanding such discussion where possible in the lexicography, especially for words with particular social relevance, as is the case with *gay*.

The headnote is proposed because it is important to acknowledge the origin of *gay* ‘homosexual’ as an in-group code word among gay men in the United States, since this function would have made uses among a wider audience much less likely in the earliest period, from the 1920s to the early 1950s. This puts into perspective some of the oft-cited but highly ambiguous examples that probably reflect earlier meanings. The *OED* concisely addresses this anachronistic interpretation, but the strongest argument against pushing the earliest date of *gay* ‘homosexual’ too far back is its dissimulating in-group origin, which is extremely well documented in early examples.⁵⁶

The 1949 example above, while not specifically addressing the code function, describes the self-referential use of *gay* among gay men themselves. I include it here because it is the first metalexic in-group use in a lexicographic source, a short glossary included in the privately printed *Gay Girl's Guide* from 1949. Aside from the attestations themselves, the main philological value of this brief treatment is the pragmatic perspective it provides, in contrast to the generalist lexicography of the time (highly affected by taboo) or specialist sources written from an out-group perspective—as is notably the case with Legman 1941, an

⁵⁴Jill Johnston, *Lesbian Nation*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1973, 149 and *passim*.

⁵⁵Bettie Wysor, *The Lesbian Myth*, New York: Random House, 1974, 271 and *passim* for many other examples.

⁵⁶See many examples cited in Lo Vecchio 2020 (ch. 11); the most terrific early meta-linguistic citations are found in Cory 1951. See also Butters 1998; Simes 1996 provides a good sample of ambiguous examples from the 1920s onward, but does not address the use of *gay* as a code word.

otherwise well-documented glossary compiled by an author who did not hide his homophobic views (Simes 2005, 3). While the *Gay Girl's Guide* is known to the OED editors (and other lexicographers), it has not been as exhaustively cited as it might be, considering the wealth of examples it can provide.⁵⁷

The 1970s examples above are interesting because they reflect widespread use of *gay* in a female context, alongside *lesbian*, at a key moment in the history of the LGBTQ movement. It may come as a surprise that, at that time, many English-speaking lesbians referred to themselves as *gay*, but in fact the use of *gay* 'lesbian' has fluctuated in popularity over time. The more or less strict repartition, as in *gay(s) and lesbian(s)*, seems to have begun in the latter half of the 1970s, but this understudied aspect of the word's history remains to be addressed. This should be studied in a comparative perspective, since similar pragmatic trends are found in other languages—at the very moment they began borrowing English *gay*.

gay, n. 'gay people as viewed collectively'

Antedating [from 1966, nominal sense C.5.b]. Examples:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1949 | How to Distinguish Readily Between the Gay and Various Types of Trade ⁵⁸ |
| 1951 | The gay walk along the street, and to the initiate they are apparent. No obvious traits are needed to characterize them. ⁵⁹ |
| 1964 | FAG: – Short for faggot. Not in common use among the gay, but commonly favored by police. ⁶⁰ |

Remarks: While nominal use of *gay* 'homosexual person' is attested as early as 1953 (per OED), it is quite infrequent in the documentation before the late 1960s, as applied to individuals. In fact, the earliest noun use of *gay* involved its invariable nominalization with determiner *the*, in *the gay*, to refer to gay people viewed as a collectivity or class of persons. This appears also to be the first nominal sense to be recorded in

⁵⁷Another rich source by the same anonymous author(s) is signed Swasart Nerf and Mona Moosedike, *Gaedicker's Sodom-on-Hudson*, n.p. [private printing], spring 1949.

⁵⁸*Gay Girl's Guide* 1949, 36.

⁵⁹Cory 1951, 116; see other nominal examples on 98, 113, 136, 155, 220, 262, 266.

⁶⁰*Lavender Lexicon* 1964; also see s.v. *fruit*, *fruit fly*, *T room queen*.

the general lexicography (from *Supplement to the OED* 1972, marked as “absolute” use of the adjective), although the now more common meaning ‘homosexual person’ concurrently entered a specialized glossary (Rodgers 1972). Simes (1996, 328–29) provides a number of other useful substantive examples.

gay activist, n. ‘gay person who advocates politically for LGBTQ-related causes’

New subentry (compound s.v. *gay*). Early example:

1969 Without doubt the Times has inadvertently opened
 doors for the gay activist in the Los Angeles area.⁶¹

Remarks: Simes dates this compound to 1969 as above, which seems to be accurate in the context of other compounds from that era—for example, as currently appearing in and dated by the *OED*: *gay power* (1966); *gay liberation*, *gay lib*, *gay pride* (1969); *gay rights*, *gay liberationist* (1970); etc. Additional useful early examples of *gay activist* and other compounds (e.g., → *gay community*) are found in this source (Simes 1996).

gay cat, n. ‘young or inexperienced tramp, sometimes serving in a passive sexual role to older tramps’

Correction. Revise example as follows:

1935 1933 N. ERSINE *Underworld & Prison Slang* 39 *Geycat*,..A
 homosexual boy.

Remarks: The 1933 backdating comes from the copyright page of the work as well as the signature on the acknowledgments page.⁶² The spotty documentation of *gay* in the 1930s means that every explicit ‘homosexual’ example from this period is important, even though, as the *OED* accurately notes, the semantic relationship is far from clear between *gay* ‘homosexual’ and the possibly older sense of *gay cat* referring to a young or inexperienced tramp who sometimes served in a passive sexual role to older tramps.

⁶¹L.A. *Free Press*, Nov. 14, 1969; cited in Simes 1996, 330.

⁶²Noel Ersine, *Underworld and Prison Slang*, Upland (IN): A. D. Freese & Son, 1933, see entry on 39.

gay community, n. 'gay people as viewed as a cohesive or united group'
New subentry (compound s.v. *gay*). Early examples:

- 1968 Cases of 'police brutality' are relatively rare in San Francisco, but they do occur, are discussed widely in the 'gay' community, and create a great deal of anger and resentment toward the police.⁶³
- 1969 *Come Out. A Newspaper by and for the Gay Community*⁶⁴

Remarks: Simes dates this compound to 1968 as above, which seems to be accurate in the context of other compounds from that era, as noted at → *gay activist*. Other useful early examples of *gay community* are found in this source (Simes 1996).

heterosexual, adj. and n. 'person exhibiting a pathological sexual disposition toward persons of the opposite sex'

Antedating [n., from Nov. 1892] and clarifications. Revise etymology notes as follows:

< HETERO- *comb. form* + SEXUAL *adj.*, in sense A. 1 after German *heterosexual*, now rare (1868: see the discussion at HOMOSEXUAL *adj.*; also as noun: 1892 in the passage translated in quot. 1892 **1891 or earlier**⁶⁵).

Compare German *heterosexuell*, in the same sense, now the usual form (1892 or earlier, also as noun (1893 or earlier)) (1871,⁶⁶ also as noun (1891⁶⁷ or earlier)), as well as French *hétérosexuel* (1890 *adj.*, 1893 n.), Italian *eterosessuale* (1893 *adj.*, 1896 n.), Spanish *heterosexual* (1896 *adj.*, 1901 n., after the French).

⁶³R. T. Sweet, *Homophile Organiz.*, 1968, vii, 144; cited in Simes 1996, 336.

⁶⁴Title of a New York publication, 1969; cited in Simes 1996, 336.

⁶⁵See Moll 1891.

⁶⁶See D'Henri 1871, 40; it appears here unetymologically as *hetorosexuellen* [*sic*] (i.e., a typo), but the German *-sexuell* series is first attested throughout this source.

⁶⁷See Moll 1891, 134; many more nominal examples are found in the second edition (Moll 1893).

Example:

1892	Sexual perversion proper.	}	Psychical hermaphroditism or heterosexuals. Pure homosexuals. Effemination or viraginity. Gynandry and androgyny. ⁶⁸
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Remarks: This slight antedating highlights a fascinating aspect of *heterosexual* history, in that this lexeme is first recorded in the context of pathology: here, the noun *heterosexual* refers to a type of “sexual perversion proper.” This sense, attested sporadically for several decades (as coded in *heterosexuality*; see the *OED*’s treatment s.v. as well as Katz 2007, ch. 5), is an innovation in English, in that it very clearly departs from the meaning used by influential German authors (and most prototypical early uses in other languages), but an analogous case is also observed in Italian *omosessualismo* around the same time.⁶⁹ (It is not clear whether the Italian and English senses are related.) Due to the unprototypical meaning of this new example, it should be set off in brackets if cited in the current *heterosexual* entry; alternatively, a separate sense could be created (mirroring sense 2 s.v. *heterosexuality*), marked as obsolete, if additional documentary evidence justifies it.

As with → *homosexual*, other datings from the 1890s highlight the German origin of the innovation in both English and the Romance languages.

heterosexuality, n. ‘attraction to, love for, relations with persons of the opposite gender’

Antedating [from 1895] and clarifications. Revise etymology notes as follows:

< HETEROSEXUAL *adj.* + -ITY *suffix*, after German *Heterosexualität* (1871⁷⁰) (1892 in the passage translated in quot. 1895).

⁶⁸Kiernan 1892, 198; see also review of Krafft-Ebing, *Medical Standard*, vol. 14, no. 1, July 1893, 26.

⁶⁹See Enrico Morselli, *Manuale di semeiotica delle malattie mentali*, vol. 2, Milan: Valardi, 1894, 678.

⁷⁰See D’Henri 1871, 54.

Compare ~~slightly earlier~~ **concurrent** HOMOSEXUALITY *n.* and BISEXUALITY *n.* 3, as well as French *hétérosexualité* (1893), Italian *omosessualità* (1893), Spanish *heterosexualidad* (1896, after the French).

Example:

1892 Dr. Moll mentions several similar cases in individuals of hetero- and homo-sexuality.⁷¹

Remarks: The elliptical construction of this 1892 example probably explains why this was overlooked in the recent *OED* updates, despite the dictionary's citing this same source (Chaddock's translation of Krafft-Ebing) elsewhere. It should be noted that this occurrence is not itself modeled on underlying *Heterosexualität* in the original source, but translates the German "Fälle bei Hetero- und Homosexuellen"⁷²—which fact would not, however, alter the proposed etymology of a morphological calque on the German.

homosexual, adj. and *n.*

Antedating [*n.*, from 1894] and clarifications. Revise etymology notes as follows:

Compare French *homosexuel* (1891, ~~apparently after German~~); and German *homosexuell*, now the usual form (~~1878; 1898 also as noun~~) (1871 adj., 1891 *n.*), and other formations modeled on the various German forms: French *homosexuel-le* (1889 *n.*, 1890 adj.), Italian *omosessuale* (1892 adj., 1896 *n.*), Spanish *homosexual* (1896 adj., 1897 *n.*, after the French).

Example:

1892	Sexual perversion proper.	}	Psychical hermaphroditism or heterosexuals. Pure homosexuals. Effemination or viraginity. Gynandry and androgyny. ⁷³
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⁷¹Krafft-Ebing, trans. Chaddock, 1892, 168–69.

⁷²See Krafft-Ebing, 7th German ed., 1892, 171.

⁷³Kiernan 1892, 198; see also review of Krafft-Ebing, *Medical Standard*, vol. 14, no. 1, July 1893, 26.

Remarks: The new comparison headnote clarifies that there are earlier German forms in *-sexuell* (vs. the original *homosexual*, *Homosexuale* forms) than have previously been acknowledged.⁷⁴ Other datings from the 1890s highlight the German origin of the innovation in both English and the Romance languages, *contra* the position of numerous Romance sources erroneously claiming that this series was adapted from English. Note that the 1892 noun antedating was already reported in Shapiro (1988, 284) but apparently overlooked in the recent *OED* update.

homosexualism, n. 'homosexuality'

Antedating [from 1903] and clarifications. Revise origin as follows:

Formed within English, by derivation, **modeled on German *Homosexualismus***.

Revise etymology notes as follows:

< HOMOSEXUAL *adj.* + -ISM *suffix*, **probably after HOMOSEXUALIST *n.*** **Compare after German *Homosexualismus* homosexuality** (used as a neutral term by K. M. Kertbeny 1869 **and later by Jäger 1880**⁷⁵: see HOMOSEXUAL *adj.*).

Compare earlier HOMOSEXUALITY *n.* **and later HOMOSEXUALIST *n.***, **as well as Italian *omosessualismo* (1894), Spanish *homosexualismo* (1902, after the Italian), French *homosexualisme* (1907).**

Examples:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1893 | Dr. G. [. . .] who defended his homo-sexualism before the police magistrate of Graz, Austria, and claimed protection, or at least tolerance for his mental abnormality. ⁷⁶ |
| 1896 | This I consider to be a minor form of Homo-sexualism or perverted sexual instinct [. . .]
Dr. Clay-Shaw [. . .] quoted what he called the |

⁷⁴See examples in D'Henri 1871, 40, 49, 54, 62, 63, 113, 114, 150. For the noun, see Moll 1891, 116; many more nominal examples are found in the second edition (Moll 1893).

⁷⁵See Gustav Jäger, *Die Entdeckung der Seele*, part III of *Lehrbuch der allgemeinen Zoologie: Psychologie*, 2nd ed., Leipzig: Günther, 1880, 247–66.

⁷⁶Review of Krafft-Ebing, in *Alienist and Neurologist*, vol. 14, no. 3, July 1893, 527.

greatest tribute he ever heard given to
Hetero-sexualism.⁷⁷

homosexuality, n. ‘attraction to, love for, relations with persons of the same gender’

Clarifications, antedating, and additional examples. Revise etymology notes as follows:

Compare French *homosexualité* (1891), **Italian *omosessualità* (1893)**, **Spanish *homosexualidad* (1896, after the French)**.

Compare **concurrent HETEROSEXUALITY n.**, **BISEXUALITY n. 3** and slightly later **SEXUALITY n. 3**.

Examples:

1892 The fact that the majority are uninfluenced by these suggestions, while the minority feel the stirrings of sexual instinct under their impact, seems to prove that in the case of the latter there is an inborn bias toward homosexuality.⁷⁸

1892 It would be worth while to give some attention to the question of the homosexuality of the southern Italians.⁷⁹

Remarks: *Homosexuality* and *heterosexuality* were borrowed/created together as opposing terms, and this lexically coded opposition may in fact be seen as the crux of the entire “modern” concept distinguishing “homosexuality” from earlier abstract categorizations. This entry should therefore be linked in the note to *heterosexuality*. As with → *homosexual*, other datings from the 1890s highlight the German origin of the innovation in both English and the Romance languages.

For context, I also include several other 1892 examples here—concurrent with the OED’s earliest attested use, in the Chaddock translation of Krafft-Ebing—to demonstrate that *homosexuality* was also then in use among a key figure in English sexology (Havelock Ellis) and an early gay activist (John Addington Symonds). The October 1892 example

⁷⁷F. Miller, “Should Women Be Dentists?,” *Dental Record*, vol. 16, no. 4, Apr. 1, 1896, 156–57.

⁷⁸J. A. Symonds, letter to H. Ellis, Oct. 21, 1892; in Brady 2012, 227–28.

⁷⁹H. Ellis, letter to J. A. Symonds, Dec. 21, 1892; in Brady 2012, 236.

above may technically be considered an antedating, as the Chaddock translation is signed November 1892.

inversion, n. 'homosexuality'

Antedating, additional examples, and clarifications. Revise etymology notes as follows:

With use in sense 10 in psychology and psychoanalysis ~~compare earlier~~ **see also** *sexual inversion* n. at SEXUAL *adj.* and *n.* Compounds 2; French *inversion* (1882 in *inversion du sens génital*), and its model German *Verkehrung* (1870 in *Verkehrung der Geschlechts-empfindung*). **Compare the original German model *conträre Sexualempfindung* (1869, Westphal) and its translation into Italian as *inversione* (1870 in *inversione del senso genesico*; 1878 in *inversione dell'istinto sessuale*; 1881 in *inversione sessuale*) and into French, after the Italian, as *inversion* (1879 in *inversion de l'instinct sexuel*; 1882 in *inversion du sens génital*; 1885 as *inversion*; 1886 in *inversion sexuelle*). These Romance formations served as the immediate model for English (*sexual*) *inversion*, as well as later German *sexuelle Inversion* (1889), leading the original German model and its derivatives to fall out of use.**

Examples:

- 1870 This title is used by the author to designate a congenital inversion of the sexual instinct, with a consciousness of the morbid nature of the symptom ["eine angeborene Verkehrung der Geschlechts-empfindung mit dem Bewusstsein von der Krankhaftigkeit dieser Erscheinung"], which has hitherto been but imperfectly described, if at all. The cases relate to individuals of both sexes.⁸⁰

⁸⁰"*Inverted Sexual-feeling* ["*Conträre Sexual-empfindung*"] a Symptom of a Neuro-pathic (Psychopathic) State," *Journal of Psychological Medicine* (New York), vol. 4, no. 2, Apr. 1870, 438–39; reprinted in *Detroit Review of Medicine and Pharmacy*, vol. 5, no. 5, May 1870, 219 (OED's citation). The bracketed German in the quotation above is my addition from Westphal's article; the bracketed German in the title of the article is in the original.

- 1880 INVERSION OF THE SEXUAL INSTINCT.—A recent number of the *Gazette Obstétricale* has a curious instance of what Westphal [*sic*] has termed inversion of the sexual instinct.⁸¹
- 1883 INVERSION OF THE SEXUAL SENSE.—Under this title Charcot and Magnan [. . .] report six cases of imperative conceptions respecting sexual matters, which they consider allied to the sexual perversion of the Germans.⁸²
- 1883 There are few cases on record in which a more decided inversion of the sexual feeling has been exhibited than in this instance.⁸³
- 1893 As regards female inversion, it is true that I have not made a special study of this branch.⁸⁴

Remarks: The OED's 1870 example can be backdated by one month, since the same review had previously appeared in April of that year (also see → *inverted*). The history of this internationalism is complex enough to merit significant explanatory comments in the dictionary. Other examples are provided at → *sexual inversion*.

While *Verkehrung* is used in the phrase translated in the 1870 example, this word appears minimally in Westphal's contribution⁸⁵ and cannot accurately be considered the model for English *inversion*, since there is no discursive continuity or intertextuality between this minor isolated mention and later uses. The immediate model for the lexeme in the relevant period, starting from 1880, is French *inversion*, itself modeled on Italian *inversione*, ultimately translating, via several periphrases, German *conträre Sexualempfindung*. For that reason, I have included *Verkehrung* in brackets in the citation, but the ultimate etymological model must be considered *conträre Sexualempfindung*. Compare also the title of

⁸¹"Clinic of the Month," *American Practitioner*, vol. 21, no. 1, Jan. 1880, 42; for the source cited, see *Gazette obstétricale*, vol. 8, Nov. 20, 1879, 337.

⁸²Review of Charcot and Magnan, *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, vol. 10, no. 1, Jan. 1883, 168; reprinted in *Medical Record*, vol. 23, no. 14, Apr. 7, 1883, 377; *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, vol. 48, no. 16, Apr. 21, 1883, 436.

⁸³Hammond 1883, 63.

⁸⁴J. A. Symonds, letter to H. Ellis, Jan. 17, 1893; in Brady 2012, 239.

⁸⁵Carl Westphal, "Die conträre Sexualempfindung. Symptom eines neuropathischen (psychopathischen) Zustandes," *Archiv für Psychiatrie und Nervenkrankheiten*, vol. 2, no. 1, 1869, 73–108.

the 1870 source, translating (in brackets in the original) *conträre Sexual-empfindung* as “*Inverted Sexual-feeling*” (→ *inverted*).

Indeed, various other formulations to translate the German *conträre Sexualempfindung* were proposed early on in English, such as *contrary sexual feeling* (1877, Bannister); *contrary sexual instinct* (1881, Krueg); *contrary sexual sensation* (1881, Spitzka); *perverted sexual instinct* (1883, Shaw and Ferris); *inverted sexuality* (1891, Symonds). (*Sexual*) *inversion* thus represents the most durable and lexicalized of such formations, reinforced and consolidated in parallel with the corresponding forms in other major languages, which were so influential that ultimately the German was transformed into (*sexuelle*) *Inversion* (1889), primarily after the French, and its earlier model fell out of use.

The *OED* encloses the 1870 and 1883 examples with brackets to indicate that they are “relevant to the development of a sense but not directly illustrative of it,”⁸⁶ although these seem misplaced in light of some of the new early examples presented here and, more generally, of the fact that the entire process of lexicalization played out over two decades with no clear line of separation between discursive precursors and unambiguous denotation. In the complex translanguistic transformation from *conträre Sexualempfindung* to *inversion*, it seems that all the intermediate stages should be presented without such distinction.

Finally, the 1893 example is interesting because it’s an early occurrence specifically coding female homosexuality into the lexical item (see an 1892 example, → *sexual inversion*). While the *inversion* series is unique in that it is indeed the first major modern lexical category to be conceived explicitly to include both male and female homosexuality, the sexist bias whereby female sexuality is considered secondarily can constantly be read in the textual documentation, most obviously via omission.

invert, n. ‘homosexual person’

Clarification. Add headnote as follows:

[Compare noun use in French *inverti*, *invertie* (1886); Italian *invertito* (1888), *invertita* (1900); German *Invertierte(r)* (1895–1896, after the English and French); Spanish *invertido* (1895), *invertida* (1913).]

⁸⁶See “Key to Symbols and Other Conventions,” <https://public.oed.com/how-to-use-the-oed/key-to-symbols-and-other-conventions/>.

Remarks: This information would be useful considering the international context in which this series emerged. English nominal *invert* dates to 1892 in correspondence between John Addington Symonds and Havelock Ellis (as in the *OED*).

inverted, adj. 'of or relating to sexual inversion', 'homosexual'

Antedating and additional examples. Examples:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1870 | <i>Inverted Sexual-feeling</i> ["Conträre Sexual-empfindung"] a Symptom of a Neuropathic (Psychopathic) State ⁸⁷ |
| 1871 | An interesting essay is that by Professor Westphal on "The Inverted Sexual Proclivity" (Die Conträre Sexual Empfindung). Two cases are related. ⁸⁸ |
| 1873 | Dr. Schmincke gives a case of inverted sexual inclination [. . .] in a young man 25 years old ⁸⁹ |
| 1890 | Again, you cannot be ignorant that a certain percentage (small but appreciable) of male beings are always born into the world, whose sexual instincts are what the Germans call "inverted." ⁹⁰ |
| 1891 | Inverted sexuality, the sexual instinct diverted from its normal channel, directed (in the case of males) to males, forms the topic of the following discourse. ⁹¹ |

Remarks: As with → *inversion*, the *OED*'s 1870 example can be backdated by one month, since the same review had previously appeared in April of that year. Additional early examples are provided here, since the entire pre-1890s period is extremely important for the consolidation of this series in English and other European languages. Currently,

⁸⁷"*Inverted Sexual-feeling* ["Conträre Sexual-empfindung"] a Symptom of a Neuropathic (Psychopathic) State," *Journal of Psychological Medicine* (New York), vol. 4, no. 2, Apr. 1870, 438–39; reprinted in *Detroit Review of Medicine and Pharmacy*, vol. 5, no. 5, May 1870, 219 (*OED*'s citation). Brackets in the original.

⁸⁸"Psychological Retrospect," *Journal of Mental Science* (London), vol. 17, no. 79, Oct. 1871, 422.

⁸⁹"Psychological Retrospect," *Journal of Mental Science* (London), vol. 19, no. 87, Oct. 1873, 460–61.

⁹⁰J. A. Symonds, letter to Walt Whitman, Sept. 5, 1890; in Schueller and Peters 1969, 493.

⁹¹J. A. Symonds, *A Problem in Modern Ethics*, 1891; in Brady 2012, 128.

however, the *OED* provides no examples of *inverted* between 1870 and 1897.

lesbian, adj. and n.

Clarifications. Revise etymology notes as follows:

In quot. 1550 after Middle French *Lesbien* (noun) inhabitant of Lesbos (~~1534~~ **1527** in the passage translated; compare French *lesbien* (adjective) of Lesbos (~~1832~~ **1547**), **lesbien** (adjective) **homosexual and lesbienne** (noun) homosexual woman (~~1867~~ **both a1614**)).

lesbianism, n. 'female homosexuality', 'sex between women', '(oral) clitoral stimulation between women'

Antedating [from 1870] and clarification. Add headnotes as follows:

Lesbianism (see 1891 example) may also have the restricted technical sense '(oral) clitoral stimulation between women', following an earlier development for *sapphism*, after the French. [Compare French *lesbianisme* (1844; 1881, this sense).]

Examples:

1868 Mr. Swinburne runs down most of the pictures admired by his friend, but has evidently undertaken the work to string his usual Lesbianisms on to Mr. Watts's *Clytie* [a sculpture]. Mr. Ruskin's mantle has not fallen upon these shoulders, for, whatever the eccentricities discoverable in his *Notes on Art*, one felt they were written by a man.⁹²

1891 In the latter the clitoris is excited by tonguing and by sucking with the lips. This is known as Tribadism, Sapphism or Lesbianism⁹³

Remarks: The meaning of the 1868 example is obscure, especially since it is presented in the plural—an uncommon use of the abstract noun. It appears to relate to the literary production of Swinburne, a poet prolific

⁹²"Notes on the Academy," *The Tomahawk* (London), no. 60, June 27, 1868, 257.

⁹³C. Warren, "Genocatachresia," *St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*, vol. 61, no. 6, Dec. 1891, 339.

on lesbian love and, in fact, the source (via Munby's diary, two years later, as in the *OED*) of an unambiguous use of *lesbianism* pertaining to female homosexuality. *Lesbianism* is infrequent before the 1890s, when it appears more often in the documentation, at times with the technical sense of the 1891 example, following *sapphism*.

lesbism, n. 'lesbianism'

New subentry (derivative s.v. *lesbian*). Include headnote as follows:

[Compare French *lesbisme* (1869), Spanish *lesbismo* (1874), Italian *lesbismo* (1887), German *Lesbismus* (1898).]

Examples:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1894 | In woman it is called tribadism, sapphism or lesbism, according to the method they may employ to produce the sexual orgasm. ⁹⁴ |
| 1920 | It is strongly anti-neomalthusian, an attempt to put an end to what he calls "the mechanical-chemical-sex-as-an-end-in-itself practice," leading "to an acceptance of the practice of 'sodomy' and 'Lesbism.'" ⁹⁵ |
| 1952 | The theory accounts for the abnormal and amoral tendencies of some individuals: sexual perversions—homosexuality, lesbism, exhibitionism, fetishism—and other immoral activities ⁹⁶ |

Remarks: The first recorded use (1894) is clearly modeled on the French *lesbisme*, in the writings of a then-influential French doctor, and here it has the technical sense '(oral) clitoral stimulation between women' following parallel senses for *sapphism* and *lesbianism*. Later uses of this rare variant could reflect independent suffixations on the derivational base *lesb-*.

macroclitoridea [pl. **macroclitorideae**; also sing. **macroclitorideus**], n. 'woman with an enlarged clitoris', hence 'tribade'

⁹⁴Blocq 1894, 549; for the original with *lesbisme*, see Blocq, "De l'inversion sexuelle," *Gazette hebdomadaire de médecine et de chirurgie*, vol. 40, no. 27, July 8, 1893, 314.

⁹⁵T. W., review of Hancock (*Love and Life*), in *Eugenics Review* (London), vol. 11, Jan. 1920, 231.

⁹⁶M. G. Good, "A General Theory of Human Behavior," *Indian Journal of Medical Sciences*, vol. 6, no. 8, Aug. 1952, 555, see also 548.

New entry. Examples:

- 1741 I could not avoid taking the Liberty of forming the adjective Word *Macroclitorideus*; which, tho' not in Use before, as I could find, is highly necessary here for two Reasons; first, because it is a short Way of expressing what, in *English*, would be a considerable Sentence; and, secondly, a much more decent Term, which I have endeavoured to keep up to all along, where the *English* Word might be less agreeable⁹⁷
- 1750 These *macroclitorideæ* are so numerous among many nations of *Asia* and *Africa*⁹⁸
- 1830 The females of this class are sometimes designed the *macroclitorideæ*, from the preternatural enlargement they exhibit⁹⁹
- 1886 Dr. Parsons in 1741 describes [. . .] the post-mortem of an undoubted spurious female hermaphrodite, and to which he gives the name "macroclitorideus."¹⁰⁰

Remarks: This Neo-Latin compound, coined by James Parsons in 1741, reflects the then-prevalent view (throughout Europe) that the etiology for female same-sex desire was to be found in an enlarged clitoris, which frequently led to equating female homosexuality and hermaphroditism. As the author himself notes in the first example, the creation of *macroclitoridea* was motivated by euphemism, and it can be viewed alongside other similarly motivated Modern Latin neologisms such as → *aselgotripsia* or → *amor lesbicus*. All later instances occur within the context of Parsons; see Braunschneider 1999 for a discussion.

⁹⁷Parsons 1741, vii; also see xvii, 63, 152.

⁹⁸James Parsons, letter dated Mar. 14, 1750, in *Philosophical Transactions*, vol. 47, London: Davis, 1753, 144 (ECCO).

⁹⁹David Brewster, *The Edinburgh Encyclopædia*, vol. 10, Edinburgh: Blackwood, 1830, 754, s.v. *hermaphrodite*.

¹⁰⁰John Phillips, "Four Cases of Spurious Hermaphroditism in One Family," *Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London*, June 2, 1886, in vol. 28, London: Longmans, Green, 1887, 164.

pederast, n. 'male homosexual', 'sodomite'

Antedating [from 1638] and clarifications. Revise origin as follows:

A borrowing from Greek, **via post-classical Latin or French**.

Revise etymology notes as follows:

< ancient Greek *παιδεραστής* man who has or desires sexual relations with a boy < *παιδ-*, *παῖς* boy (see **PAEDO-** *comb. form*) + *ἐραστής* lover (see **ERASTES** *n.*). Compare post-classical Latin *paederastes* (5th cent. in an isolated attestation; 15th cent.), *paederasta* (1752 or earlier **16th cent.**), ~~Italian *pederasta* (1687)~~, Middle French, French *pédéraste* (~~1584~~ **1582**), **Italian *pederasta* (1598, as *pederasto*)**. Compare ~~earlier~~ **PEDERASTY** *n.*, ~~earlier~~ **PEDERASTICE** *n.*

Add headnote as follows:

Though less frequent in a modern context, *pederast* now tends to be equated with *pedophile*. Historically, *pederast* was used to refer to adult males who had consensual (anal) sex, but the association with its ultimate etymon denoting the adult partner in the Greek institution of *paiderastia* has led to confusion.

Examples:

1603 *Catamites hate Pæderasts most deadly. [. . .] Protophages a great pæderast.*¹⁰¹

Remarks: The 1603 examples appear in the same source supplied by the *OED* for the first recorded use of → *pederasty* (as *Pæderastie*), the translation of Plutarch by Philemon Holland. The fact that the above appear in the index rather than in the main text probably explains why the dictionary missed these important occurrences.

As for the origin, the English adaptation of the Greek needs to be analyzed within the context of the post-classical Latin textual tradition, with numerous examples of Latin *paederastia*, *paederastes* attested in English texts throughout the sixteenth century. It is implausible that early seventeenth-century scholars would have been adapting a form directly from the Greek without prior knowledge of the long textual

¹⁰¹Holland (trans.), 1603, index.

tradition—including lexicographic¹⁰²—of humanist Latin. More specifically, while these earliest instances of English *pederast* and *pederasty* do occur in a translation from the Greek, Holland himself notes on the title page of the work that he “conferred *with the Latine translations and the French*” (he cites the well-known Amyot translation, which happens also to be the source of the earliest attestation of *pédéraste* in French). The English was thus in all likelihood adapted from Latin or from French, for which the *pédérastie* series would become of utmost importance to the homosexual lexicon in the centuries following.

In modern use, to the extent it is used at all (and when not in reference to the classical Greek institution), *pederast* now tends to be equated with *pedophile*—far from an innocent confusion, as explained at → *pederasty*.

pederasty, n. ‘male homosexuality’, ‘(anal) sex between men’, ‘sodomy’
Clarifications. Revise origin as follows:

A borrowing from Greek, **via post-classical Latin or French.**

Revise etymology notes as follows:

< ancient Greek *παιδεραστία* love of boys < *παιδεραστής* PEDERAST n. + *-ία* -y suffix³. Compare post-classical Latin *paederastia* (4th cent.), Middle French, French *pédérastie* (1580), Italian *pederastia* (1687), Spanish *pederastia* (1580, rare before 20th cent.) **German *Pedasterey* (1545) and *Pederastia* (1581, after the French), Spanish *pederastia* (1580, rare before 19th cent.), Italian *pederastia* (1598).** Compare earlier PEDERASTICE n.

Add headnote as follows:

Though less frequent in a modern context, *pederasty* now tends to be equated with *pedophilia*. Historically, *pederasty* was used to refer to consensual (anal) sex between adult men, but the association with the ancient Greek institution of *paiderastia*, its ultimate etymon denoting relations between an adult and an adolescent male, has led to confusion.

¹⁰²Latin *paederastes* appears already in Calepino 1502. For early English sources, see: Thomas Elyot, *The Dictionary of Syr Thomas Eliot Knyght*, London: Berthelet, 1538, s.v. *paederastes*, *paederastia*; Peter Levens, *Manipulus Vocabulorum*, London: Waley, 1570, s.v. *bugger*; Richard Huloet, *Huloets Dictionarie newelye corrected*, London: Marshij, 1572, s.v. *bugger*, *buggery*; Thomas Cooper, *Thesaurus Linguae Romanae & Britannicae*, London: Denham, 1578, s.v. *paederastes*.

Examples:

- 1603 And if as *Protogenes* saith this *Pæderastium* aimeth not at carnall conjunction, how then can it be love, if *Venus* be not there?¹⁰³
- 1603 *Pæderastî*, The loving of yong boies: commonly taken in the ill part, as signifying the abuse of them against kinde.¹⁰⁴
- 1618 to admonish her sonne from his *pæderastia*, or accompanying with boyes¹⁰⁵

Remarks: The same reasoning as for → *pederast* applies to the reconsideration of the origin of English *pederasty*, which should be attributed to Latin or French. Examples of several early variant forms are provided which have not been studied before: *pæderastium*, *pæderastî*, *pæderastia*.

To the extent it is used in a modern context, *pederasty* now tends to be equated with *pedophilia* (see, e.g., the OED's 2002 example at *pederasty*). However, for several centuries, *pederasty* was used to refer to consensual adult male same-sex activity in a broad sense, and more specifically to anal sex between adult males; in this way, it was seen as essentially synonymous with *sodomy*. This confusion is of course not innocent, though: equating homosexuality with pedophilia (including *avant la lettre*) is a longtime and evidently successful strategy in homophobic discourse, and the history of this loanword manifestly plays a part. This situation should be made clearer in the dictionary's treatment, at least through an explanatory headnote; alternatively, three separate meanings could be distinguished: the sense denoting the ancient Greek institution; the 'male homosexuality' sense; the more recent 'pedophilia' sense.

queer, n. '(male) homosexual'

Clarification.

Remarks: Brackets should appear around the earliest nominal example provided of *queer* 'homosexual', dating to 1894, to indicate that it does not directly exemplify the meaning indicated ("I write to tell you that it is a *judgement* on the whole *lot of you*. Montgomerys, *The Snob*

¹⁰³Holland (trans.), 1603, 1135.

¹⁰⁴Holland (trans.), 1603, back matter: "An explanation of certeine obscure words."

¹⁰⁵Thomas Gainsford, *The Glory of England*, London: Griffin/Norton, 1618, 183 (EEBO).

Queers like Roseberry & certainly Christian hypocrite Gladstone¹⁰⁶). Most significantly, the meaning is obscure here, the word capitalized as if a proper noun, and it can hardly be seen as categorically reflecting a sense development toward the denotation ‘male homosexual’. Contextually, it is an isolated instance in a private British text, whereas *queer* ‘homosexual’ (like *gay*) is a U.S. innovation dating to several decades later, as the 1914 examples (n. and adj.) provided by the *OED* demonstrate. In fact, this sense development of *queer* seems to have originated in homosexual discourse (again, like *gay*); it is well attested early on in in-group discourse, even if it rapidly became a slur in out-group speech (see Ullman 1995; Lo Vecchio 2020, ch. 12). At best, the 1894 example should be seen as a discursive precursor to a development that would become coded lexically elsewhere and several decades hence.

to queer, v. tr. ‘to read or interpret in a queer perspective’, ‘to render queer or make compatible with queerness’

Antedating [from 1993, s.v. *queer* v.2, sense 4]. Example:

1990 To(o) Queer the Writer—Loca, escritora y
 chicana¹⁰⁷

queer theory, n. ‘(cultural or literary) approach that challenges traditional or entrenched normativities related to sexuality or gender’

Clarification. Example:

1990 It follows the tradition in which white middle-class lesbians and gay men frame the terms of the debate. It is they who have produced queer theory and for the most part their theories make abstractions of us colored queers. They control the production of queer knowledge in the academy and in the activist communities.¹⁰⁸

Remarks: Adding this example from 1990—the same year as the first recorded use already in the *OED*, from Teresa De Lauretis—would give

¹⁰⁶Marquess of Queensberry, letter to A. Montgomery, Nov. 1, 1894; in Ellmann 1988, 426.

¹⁰⁷Gloria Anzaldúa, title of an essay, based on a conversation, dated to 1990; in Keating 2009, 163.

¹⁰⁸Gloria Anzaldúa, “To(o) Queer the Writer—Loca, escritora y chicana,” 1990; in Keating 2009, 165.

a fuller picture at that stage, from an often-overlooked author who was nevertheless instrumental in the modern queer movement (see Keating 2009, 5, 163).

rubber, n. 'tribade', 'lesbian'

New entry, linked to later *rubster* [1657]. Examples:

- 1615 But men of judgement and experience call these women Sahacut [*sic*], that is to say, Rubbers or Ticklers, for they have that cursed custome to tickle one another like unto the Tribades; for whenas any faire women come among them, they fall in love with them, as a young man doth with a maiden, and for their hire they require to lie with them¹⁰⁹
- 1689 those female *Rubbers* do not feel less Pleasure in that Coition, than Men in their Copulation with Emission of Seed.¹¹⁰
- 1886 within the Sotadic Zone there is a blending of the masculine and feminine temperaments, a crasis which elsewhere occurs only sporadically. Hence the male *féminisme* whereby the man becomes patiens as well as agens, and the woman a tribade, a votary of mascula Sappho, Queen of Frictrices or Rubbers.¹¹¹

Remarks: *Rubber* in example 1615 essentially serves as a gloss, rather than indicating any meaningful degree of integration into the language, yet this is the same scenario as for all the examples of *rubster* provided by the *OED*. The 1615 quotation is already cited in the *OED3* update s.v. *tribade*; the 1689 one already appears s.v. *rubber* ('A person who rubs in any way', sense II.9.a) but should be pulled out into a separate sense entry, as Brewer 2018 has noted. The raw material is thus already there in the dictionary.

¹⁰⁹Pierre d'Avity, *The estates, empires, & principallities of the world*, trans. E. Grimstone, London: Islip/Lownes/Bill, 1615, 1128 (EEBO).

¹¹⁰Diemerbroeck 1689, 183.

¹¹¹Richard Burton, "Terminal Essay," *The Book of the Thousand Nights and a Night*, vol. 10, n.p.: Burton Club, 1886, 181.

As for the 1886 Burton example, note that it occurs within the context of the author's well-known delusion of the existence of a "Sotadic Zone"—an othering geographical construct wherein homosexual behavior was supposedly endemic, at least more so than in the sober Northern European climes. This late example thus accords with the exoticizing discourse overwhelmingly found, starting in the sixteenth century and across languages, in the early modern discussion of → *tribades* and → *fricatrices*.

sapphism, n. 'female homosexuality', 'sex between women', '(oral) clitoral stimulation between women'

Antedating [from 1795] and clarifications. Revise origin as follows:

From a proper name, combined with an English element, **modeled on French *saphisme***.

Add headnote as follows:

The 1880 examples reflect the restricted technical sense '(oral) clitoral stimulation between women', first found in the writings of the French physician Louis Martineau and later borrowed by other European languages.

Examples:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1788 | The tenth section, having for its subject the Manners of the Lacedemonians, commences with considerations respecting the women, their pusillanimity, dress, dissoluteness, [...] Sapphism ¹¹² |
| 1880 | Masturbation, in women, is the ordinary result of a slight friction of the clitoris with the finger, with the penis, or with the tongue. In the latter case it has received a particular name—saphism or tribadism. ¹¹³ |

¹¹²Review of De Pauw, in *Analytical Review* (London), vol. 2, Sept. 1788, 51; for the original, see Cornelius de Pauw, *Recherches philosophiques sur les Grecs*, Berlin: Decker, 1787, vol. 2, 320–21, 442.

¹¹³Review of Martineau, *Medical Gazette*, vol. 7, June 19, 1880, 397; also see *Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner*, vol. 40, no. 6, June 1880, 642–46. For the original, see Louis Martineau [signed "X"], "Revue critique: Déformations vulvaires produites par la défloration, la masturbation, le saphisme et la prostitution," *Gazette obstétricale*, vol. 9, Mar. 20, 1880, 89.

- 1894 **SAPPHISM** [. . .] 1. Friction and suction of the clitoris.¹¹⁴
- 1964 **SAPPHISM**:-Titillation of the clitoris through mutual masturbation or cunnilingus practiced by females.¹¹⁵

Remarks: *Sapphism* is attested in English in the 1780s–1790s, followed by a long gap before being reintroduced a century later. In both cases, it involves an adaptation from the French, although the evidence is indirect in the first stage. The 1788 example here occurs in a review of a work in French that used “amour Sapphique”; the 1795 example already in the *OED* (as well as the 1789 one for → *sapphist*) from Hester Lynch Thrale is attributed by that author to the queen of France and her entourage.

The new 1880 example here predates the current one in the *OED* by several months and also more clearly expresses the technical sense with which the word was reintroduced via French; this text translates the original from Martineau word for word (and imitates the French spelling, with one *p*), a common scenario in the earliest attestations in several languages (see Lo Vecchio 2020, ch. 6). This technical sense, recorded early in the lexicography (1894 example; but cf. Billings 1890 for a more general definition), can be observed into the latter half of the twentieth century as well (1964 example). This meaning might more properly be considered as a separate sense category; however, the ambiguity between the general and technical senses in many texts makes it impossible to accurately separate them in practice.

sapphist, n. ‘female homosexual’, ‘lesbian’

Clarifications. Revise origin as follows:

From a proper name, combined with an English element, **mod-
eled on French *saphiste***.

Example:

1780–1790[?] damned sapphists¹¹⁶

¹¹⁴Foster 1894, vol. 4. Sense 2 is defined by cross-reference to *tribadism* “Unnatural sexual indulgence between two women in which an abnormally large clitoris takes the part of a penis.”

¹¹⁵*Lavender Lexicon* 1964, “Addendum: Technical Terms.”

¹¹⁶Hester Lynch Thrale’s diaries; cited in Stanley 1992, 218.

Remarks: Again, as with → *sapphism*, English *sapphist* is modeled on French *saphiste* in two separate periods: the 1780s and the 1890s, as indicated by the current examples in the *OED*. Since the early documentation is so sparse, it would be useful to unearth the example of “damned sapphists” from Hester Lynch Thrale, which apparently occurs in an unpublished portion of her diaries (first reported by Stanley 1992, and widely cited since), so as to provide fuller context on its use and date.

sapphistic, adj. ‘of or relating to sapphism’, ‘lesbian’

Antedating [from ca. 1910]. Example:

1892 The sapphists have their places of meeting, recognize each other by peculiar glances, carriage, etc. Sapphistic pairs like to dress and ornament themselves alike, etc.¹¹⁷

Remarks: The example text translates the German “Saphistenpaar,” itself a translation of the French “ménages de Saphistes” from Ali Cofignon (*La corruption à Paris*)—yet another demonstration of both French and German lexical influence during this key period.

Sappho, n. (also attributive) ‘female literary genius’, ‘passionate woman’, ‘debauched woman’, ‘homosexual woman’

New senses. Examples:

1593 Petrarckes Invention, is pure Love it selfe; and Petrarckes Elocution, pure Bewty it selfe: his *Laura* was [...] a delitious Sappho, not a lascivious Lais¹¹⁸

1596 if it please you like our English *Sapho* to look into that which I have slenderly written¹¹⁹

1620 I have need of a *Sapho's* wit, to describe the Rose of their beauty; not an *Aristotles* Judgement, to prove it.¹²⁰

¹¹⁷Krafft-Ebing, trans. Chaddock, 1892, 430.

¹¹⁸Gabriel Harvey, *Pierces Supererogation, or A new prayse of the old asse*, London: Wolfe, 1593, 46.

¹¹⁹T. Lodge, *A Margarite of America*, London: Busbie, 1596, dedication.

¹²⁰C. N., *An Apology for Women: Or, Women's Defence*, London: Whittakers 1620, 38 (EEBO).

- 1700 translated into English by the *Sapho* of our Nation, the incomparable Mrs. *Behn*¹²¹
- 1733 I was far from designing a person of her condition by a name so derogatory to her, as that of *Sappho*; a name prostituted to every infamous Creature that ever wrote Verses or Novels. [. . .] Certainly I meant it only of such modern *Sappho*'s, as imitate much more the *Lewdness* than the *Genius* of the ancient one¹²²
- 1797 the love-lorn Sappho of some novel or other.¹²³
- 1840 She [Anne Temple] figures as the companion of Miss Hobart, a person with all the propensities of a Sappho, without a tittle of the genius of the Lesbian poetess.¹²⁴
- 1941 ****Sappho** A Lesbian; the term usually carries an overtone of tolerant and good-humored derogation.¹²⁵
- 1972 "Your sappho friend really made an impression here"¹²⁶

Remarks: Here are grouped several distinct but related meanings which need to be separated out and supplemented with additional examples to better clarify the chronology. In general, such examples demonstrate the differing views of Sappho over time. While the related meanings 'passionate woman' (positive connotation) and 'debauched woman' (negative connotation) point to a metonymic shift ultimately leading toward (or overlapping with) the 'homosexual' view of Sappho—quite a late development, consolidated only around the end of the nineteenth century—they also reveal ambiguity and concurrently intersecting

¹²¹Bernard Le Bovier de Fontenelle, *The Theory or System of Several New Inhabited Worlds*, trans. Aphra Behn, London: Briscoe, 1700, sig. A.

¹²²Alexander Pope, "Letter to a Noble Lord," Nov. 30, 1733, in *The Works of Alexander Pope Esq.*, vol. 8, London: Knapton, 1751, 196.

¹²³"Novel Reading a Cause of Female Depravity," *Monthly Mirror* (London), Nov. 1797, 278.

¹²⁴John H. Jesse, *Memoirs of the Court of England During the Reign of the Stuarts*, vol. 2, Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1840, 167.

¹²⁵Legman 1941, 1175. The double asterisks indicate that the term was "used only by 'outsiders'" (i.e., in out-group discourse, by heterosexuals; see 1155).

¹²⁶Rodgers 1972, 176.

conceptions of the ancient poetess. Currently, the *OED* provides senses for *Sappho* only in the fields of ornithology (the name of a bird) and astronomy (the name of an asteroid) which do not represent prototypical cases of antonomasia. The various related senses exemplified here, representing older and more widespread lexical trends, merit inclusion.

sexual inversion, n. 'homosexuality'

Additional examples:

- 1883 Several cases of sexual inversion in which the subjects were disposed to form amatory attachments to other men, have been under my observation.¹²⁷
- 1889 The sexual inversion which breaks out at one period of his experience, has nothing to do with the real nature of the man, who was clearly devoured with curiosity about the female.¹²⁸
- 1892 As to female Sexual Inversion we do not know very much.¹²⁹

Remarks: As the *OED* currently does not include examples between 1883 and 1897, a few more are provided here to give a more complete picture at this crucial stage. See more examples at → *inversion*.

sin against nature, n. 'sodomy', 'homosexual act', especially 'anal sex between men'

New subentry (phrase s.v. *sin*). Early examples:

- [1473 ffor to slee thy sone hyt is a vilayn caas and contrarye to honour. reson. pyte. equyte and iustyce hit is synne ageynst nature. ageynst vertu and ageynst all good maners¹³⁰

¹²⁷Hammond 1883, 55.

¹²⁸J. A. Symonds, letter to E. Gosse, Dec. 8, 1889; in Schueller and Peters 1969, 421; for other use in letters, see also, e.g., 518, 710.

¹²⁹J. A. Symonds, letter to H. Ellis, Dec. 1, 1892; in Brady 2012, 232.

¹³⁰Raoul Lefèvre, *Recuyell of the historyes of Troye*, trans. William Caxton, Bruges: Caxton, 1473 (EEBO).

- 1474 And at that tyme the synne of the flesshe was the grettest synne that ony might doo agaynst nature¹³¹
- 1507 The laste is moost foule and soo abhomynable that it ought not be named. This synne is ayenst nature^{132]}
- 1510 The synne agayne nature is commyt in many maners / the whiche synne is soo horryble & detestable that men dare not wryte ne preche that that the scriptures telleth & for cause / for many therin maye offende.¹³³

Remarks: As the 1473 example shows, this locution does not always refer to sex acts. The 1474 and 1507 examples do refer to homosexual acts, but are expressed via periphrastic formulations. *Sin against nature* was likely modeled on the French *péché contre nature*, widespread in that language and introduced via translations, as shown here, with the 1510 example serving as the first known uses of the locution with the meaning ‘sodomy’. *Against nature* is ultimately a calque of the Latin *contra naturam*, omnipresent in medieval texts about same-sex acts (see also → *crime against nature*); *abominable* (see 1507 example) is another major key word in this field, based on Latin *abominatio*, found in several passages in the Vulgate (e.g., Leviticus 18:22).

sodomism, n. ‘sodomy’

New subentry (derivative s.v. *sodomy*). Examples:

- 1753 “British honour farewell! Christianity farewell! Piety, Religion, all farewell! and wellcome ye more delightful Virtues Atheism, Deism, Paganism, Jewdaism, Arianism, Perjurism, Hypocritism,

¹³¹English translation of *De ludo scachorum* [To the right noble, right excellent and vertuous prince George], London: Caxton/Mansion, 1474 (EEBO).

¹³²Laurent d’Orléans, *The boke named the royal* [*Somme des vices et vertus*], trans. William Caxton, London: Wynkyn de Worde, 1507, “Of dyvers estates of the synne of lecherye” (EEBO).

¹³³Chertsey (trans.), 1510, lxxxxv; in the table of contents, the header reads: “Of the synne agaynst nature & of sodomyte that god defendeth”; see another example on CCv.

- Traytorism, Lustism, Rapism, Adulterism, Sodomism,*
and all the rest of your blessed *Diabolicism*".¹³⁴
- 1772 it differs, in my opinion, but few degrees, either from sodomism, or onanism¹³⁵
- 1855 All such horrible violations of nature as pederasty, sodomism, etc., are much less frequent among us than they were among the ancient Greeks, Romans, and the Orientals.¹³⁶
- 1910 It is among the leisure class that we get the classic cases of abnormal tendency, sodomism, masochism and sexual perversion¹³⁷

Remarks: The meaning of this rare suffixed alternative to *sodomy* may mirror the broad meaning of the latter, including the restricted sense 'bestiality' (1855 example; → *sodomy*).

sodomy, n. 'bestiality'

Clarification with new examples. Add headnote as follows:

The 1855 and 1864 examples reflect technical restriction to the meaning 'bestiality (exclusive of other sex acts)' in forensic medicine, following a sense development in German and attested in the Romance languages as well.

Examples:

- 1855 Sodomy was originally practiced by shepherds, who resorted to this mode of gratifying their sexual passion with beasts, for want of more natural opportunities. Even at this day, sodomy is still practiced in Sicily, with goats.¹³⁸
- 1905 Sodomy, or sexual connection between human beings and animals, usually occurs between a

¹³⁴*The Unprejudiced Christian's Apology for the Jews*, London: Owen, 1753, 34–35.

¹³⁵N. D. Falck, *A Treatise on the Venereal Disease*, London: self-published, 1772, 107.

¹³⁶Gollmann, trans. Hempel, 1855, 197. The translator renders the German *Sodomie* by English → *sodomism*.

¹³⁷J. R. Bailey, "The Psychic Phase of Masturbation," *Osteopathic Physician* (Chicago), vol. 17, no. 1, Jan. 1910, 6.

¹³⁸Gollmann, trans. Hempel, 1855, 202. For the original, see Gollmann, *Der homöopathische Rathgeber in allen Krankheiten der Geschlechts- und Harnwerkzeuge*, Vienna: Sommer, 1854, 162–67.

man and a female animal (mare, cow, or goat, more rarely with bitch), and would come to the courts probably only as an offense against the animal.¹³⁹

Remarks: Following a broad ecclesiastical view, the earliest meanings of *sodomy* could include homosexual acts, nonprocreative heterosexual acts, masturbation, and bestiality. In the second half of the nineteenth century, *sodomy* became restricted to the meaning ‘bestiality’, to the exclusion of the other meanings, in the field of forensic/legal medicine as a semantic calque of German *Sodomie*. While the German shares a common etymon and sense history with all the other European languages, by the mid-nineteenth century German *Sodomie* had consolidated this semantic restriction to ‘bestiality’, which was subsequently adapted not only by English but also the Romance languages—mostly from the works of Johann Casper, but not exclusively, as the earlier 1855 example demonstrates. The 1864 example in the *OED*, from a translation of Casper, provides an excellent example of the incongruity between the German and English meanings, since claiming that bestiality equates to “sodomy in the restricted sense of the word” is entirely inaccurate when compared to all the documented uses at that time (and especially the lexicography) in English.¹⁴⁰ Here as elsewhere, a word-by-word translation of metalinguistic commentary rarely leads to a meaningful statement in the target language, but the paronymic resemblance of the cognate form prevailed in this and various other translations, leading to a restricted technical use attested until approximately the turn of the twentieth century (as shown by the 1905 example).

Sufficiently defining *sodomy*—“cette catégorie si confuse,” as Foucault (1976, 134) memorably put it—must count among the more challenging tasks facing the historical lexicographer. The *OED* achieves admirable concision in its very broad approach by including many different meanings under sense 1.a; this may ultimately be the most sensible choice, although it unfortunately renders more finely grained distinctions

¹³⁹Truman Abbe and Frank Bowlby (eds.), *Wharton and Stille's Medical Jurisprudence*, 5th ed., vol. 3: *Physical Conditions and Treatment*, Rochester (NY): Lawyers' Co-operative, 1905, §201, 167.

¹⁴⁰Johann Casper, *A Handbook of the Practice of Forensic Medicine*, vol. 3, trans. G. Balfour, London: New Sydenham Society, 1864, 335–36. Compare similar translations in Italian (1859) and French (1862).

invisible, such as is the case here. Instead of creating a new sense category, then, a headnote could be added, along with (at least) the earlier 1855 dating, such as suggested above.

sodomytly, adv. ‘in the manner of sodomites’

New subentry (derivative s.v. *sodomite*). Examples:

- 1510 Another example of a man the used his wyfe sodomytly [. . .] The dysciple recyteth in his promptuary that a man knewe his wyfe sodomytly. And moche it displeased unto his wyfe.¹⁴¹

Remarks: Four occurrences of this obsolete adverb are found in the same source as that of the earliest recorded use of English *sodomitic* (nominal uses under the forms *sodomytike*, *sodomytycque*)¹⁴² and early uses of → *sin against nature*. Modeled on the French *sodomiti(c)quement*,¹⁴³ these adverbial examples are therefore reflective of the role French played in the sixteenth century for derivatives of the *sodomy*, *sodomite* series, originally imported to English directly via Latin as well as through Anglo-Norman.

transsexualist, n. ‘transsexual’, ‘transgender person’

Antedating [from 1954]. Examples:

- 1953 The transsexualist, transvestite or homosexual is said to have selected, neurotically, to play a role due to fear of the opposite sex. [. . .] The most disturbed group of male transvestites are those who want to be changed into women, even anatomically. They are the transsexualists.¹⁴⁴

Remarks: This 1953 source by Harry Benjamin—a major voice in early discourse on transidentity, and therefore also important in terms of its lexical expression, despite his obviously pathologizing perspective—is

¹⁴¹Chertsey (trans.), 1510, “The seventh commaundement,” CCvi^r; cross-referenced also in the table of contents and lxxxv^v.

¹⁴²Chertsey (trans.), 1510, multiple occurrences, including “woman sodomytike”; see EEBO and OED.

¹⁴³See *La fleur des commandemens de dieu*, Paris: Vérard, 1499, sig. aa.iii^r and table of contents.

¹⁴⁴Harry Benjamin, “Transvestism and Transsexualism,” *International Journal of Sexology*, vol. 7, no. 1, Aug. 1953, 12–13.

cited by the *OED* as the source of the earliest attested use of *transsexualism*, but was overlooked for the corresponding noun *transsexualist*.

transsexuality, n. 'gender identity that does not correspond to one's sex as assigned at birth'

Antedating [from 1950, sense 2]. Example:

1949 That which pertains to the psychopathic transexual may be called *psychopathia transexualis*. There are varying degrees of psychopathic transexuality.¹⁴⁵

Remarks: In a similar oversight as with → *transsexualist*, the pathologizing 1949 Cauldwell text is cited elsewhere by the *OED* (as the source of the earliest attested noun use of *transexual*), but this example of *transexuality* was overlooked.

As a general observation, there is enormous potential for linguistic study of the trans lexicon, not only on lexemes genetically related via the *trans-* morpheme (whose history involves several important German precursors in the first half of the twentieth century; see Lo Vecchio 2020, §10.9), but also on the countless innovations in the semantic field(s) of gender identity. Diachronically, much work remains to be done to describe the chronology of how conceptions of transidentity have been coded lexically, especially considering early—and persistent—confusions between anatomy, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Synchronically, a pragmatic perspective is needed to explain axiological changes under way, such as how *transsexual* may now be perceived as offensive compared to *trans* or *transgender*. A comparative framework will be useful, considering that much of the lexical creation is occurring in an international context (e.g., formations in *cis*-¹⁴⁶). Perhaps the most obvious shift in recent years in terms of gender identity is visibility, which entails widespread lexical expression. Social change brings lexical change, and rigorous study of the latter may help shed light on the former.

¹⁴⁵David Cauldwell, "Psychopathia Transexualis," *Sexology. Sex Science Magazine*, vol. 16, no. 5, Dec. 1949, 275.

¹⁴⁶The prefix *cis-*, of Latin origin, was originally proposed in German (see Sigusch 1991, II: 338–39), but its later spread to many other languages has probably been intermediated largely by English.

tribadarian, n. 'tribade'

New subentry (derivative s.v. *tribade*). Example:

1776 As I am fond of *neologisms*, or *neological* words, I find with pleasure our language enriched with the term, *Tribadarian*, in the *Morning Post*, but not our metropolis with *Tribadism*.¹⁴⁷

Remarks: No other occurrences of *tribadarian* are known besides this one, in a letter to the editor of a London daily (also the source of the first recorded use of → *tribadist*). The scholar who unearthed this curiosity did not manage to locate the previous *Morning Post* use referred to in the letter (Lanser 2014, 290); further detective work may thus reveal an additional attestation.

tribade, adj. 'of or relating to female homosexual relations', 'lesbian'

New grammatical function. Early examples:

[1601 Or with thy *Tribade* Trine, invent new sports¹⁴⁸
a1609 What though with Tribade lust she force a muse?¹⁴⁹

Remarks: The grammatical function of the 1601 *tribade* example is ambiguous, more likely representing a noun modified postpositively, whereas in the noun phrase "Tribade lust" by the same author (Ben Jonson) it clearly functions adjectivally. Adjectival use is overall infrequent but sporadically attested over the centuries.

tribadic, adj. 'of or relating to female homosexual relations', 'lesbian'

New subentry (derivative s.v. *tribade*). Examples:

1884 The tribadic orgies were divided into two kinds¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁷Letter signed "T" to the *Morning Post* (London), Dec. 5, 1776; in Lanser 2014, 290.

¹⁴⁸Ben Jonson, "Præludeum," in R. Chester (trans.), *Loves Martyr*, London: Field/Blount, 1601, 177.

¹⁴⁹Ben Jonson, "An Epigram on the Court Pucell," before 1609, in *The Workes of Benjamin Jonson*, vol. 2, London: Meighen, 1640, 220.

¹⁵⁰F. K. Forberg, *Manual of Classical Erotology (De figuris Veneris)*, Manchester: Smithson, 1884, 210, see also 205, 209, 213. The English translation was based on the French edition (*Manuel d'érotologie classique*, trans. A. Bonneau, Paris: Liseux, 1882).

- 1899 Sensual experiments by tribadic relations with females might develop the male mental state in seemingly feminine male pseudohermaphrodites.¹⁵¹
- 1915 Leo Africanus in the same century mentioned the tribadism of Moorish women and the formal organization of tribadic prostitution in Fez.¹⁵²
- 1948 Tribadic “marriages” are frequent.¹⁵³
- 1998 Lister’s tribadic practices [. . .] should be read for what they are¹⁵⁴

Remarks: Beyond the earliest example (1884) here, modeled on French *tribadique*, most of the early instances studied were found in reference to works by French, German, or Italian authors, suggesting that these textual formations variously imitate the respective foreign models *tribadique*, *tribadisch* and *tribadico/a*. This adjective may in fact be more frequent in recent decades, with the arrival of LGBTQ studies, although it is restricted to a scholarly and historical context (1998 example).

tribadism, n. ‘female homosexuality’, ‘sex between women’, ‘female genital frottage’

Antedating [from 1811–1812] and clarifications. Change headnotes as follows:

Compare **French *tribadisme* (1772), Italian *tribadismo* (c1792)**, German *Tribadismus* (~~1809~~ or earlier **1793**).
 With sense 1 compare ~~earlier~~ **later** SAPPHISM n. (**1788**) and ~~later~~ **lesbianism** n. (**1868**).

Examples:

- 1736 the surprizing Actions of the great HERMAPHRODITE, and the Progress of *Tribadism* in this Kingdom¹⁵⁵

¹⁵¹William Baum, in “Societies,” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, vol. 33, no. 6, Aug. 5, 1899, 349.

¹⁵²Ellis 1915, 207.

¹⁵³*Sexual Anomalies: The Origins, Nature, and Treatment of Sexual Disorders: A Summary of the Works of Magnus Hirschfeld*, New York: Emerson, 1948, 244, see also 241, 243, 469.

¹⁵⁴J. Halberstam, *Female Masculinity*, Durham (NC): Duke University Press, 1998, 72.

¹⁵⁵William King [writing under the pseudonyms Frederick Scheffer/Peregrine O’Donald], *The Toast*, Dublin/London: n.p., 1736, xlvi, see also 108, 109, 230

- 1776 As I am fond of *neologisms*, or *neological* words, I find with pleasure our language enriched with the term, *Tribadarian*, in the *Morning Post*, but not our metropolis with *Tribadism*.¹⁵⁶

Remarks: The 1736 source is highly important to lesbian lexical history, as an earlier edition (1732) supplies the first unambiguous evidence of *lesbian*, both noun and adjective, referring to female same-sex relations (as opposed to the much earlier demonymic function of *Lesbian* ‘inhabitant of Lesbos’). For the 1776 example, see also → *tribadarian* and → *tribadist*.

tribadist, n. ‘tribade’, ‘lesbian’, ‘woman who practices genital frottage with another woman’

New subentry (derivative s.v. *tribadism*). Examples:

- 1776 *Tribade* is from the *Greek*;—I recollect no Latin word;—I generally called them *Tribadists*. I saw several notorious for it upon the continent, during my long stay of many years in different nations and courts of Europe¹⁵⁷
- 1893 He or she develops into an erotic pervert or an erratic lover of his own sex—an “*erninger*,” a “*maedchen schmecker*,” a *sadist*, *fetichist*, *tribadist*, etc.—an unnatural libidinous lover¹⁵⁸
- 1910 [Tuberculosis] may be introduced from without [. . .] by perverted sexual gratification with a tuberculous lesbian tribadist or cunnilinguist.¹⁵⁹
- 1922 A confirmed tribadist is a most dangerous member of society.¹⁶⁰

(ECCO). Presented as the English translation of a Latin text, it is actually a pure invention of the author; see Donoghue 1993.

¹⁵⁶Letter signed “T” to the *Morning Post* (London), Dec. 5, 1776; in Lanser 2014, 290.

¹⁵⁷Letter signed “T” to the *Morning Post* (London), Dec. 5, 1776; in Lanser 2014, 290. See also → *tribadarian* and → *tribadism*.

¹⁵⁸C. H. Hughes, “*Erotopathia. — Morbid Erotism*,” *Alienist and Neurologist* (St. Louis), vol. 14, no. 4, Oct. 1893, 540, see also 576. *Erninger* is apparently an attempt to phonetically Anglicize the German *Urning*.

¹⁵⁹Frederic Shoop, “*Tuberculosis of the Peritoneum, Uterus and Adnexa*,” *American Medicine* [new series], vol. 5, no. 2, Feb. 1910, 71.

¹⁶⁰A. C. Magian, *Sex Problems in Women*, London: Heinemann, 1922, 109.

2001 as I lick the back of her neck, biting and biting,
grinding my own wet cunt against her, an
unrepentant tribadist.¹⁶¹

Remarks: After the isolated 1776 instance, *tribadist* does not reoccur in the English documentation until the end of the nineteenth century. In most of these examples, the meaning is approximate to ‘lesbian’. The 1910 example seems to display the restricted technical sense of ‘woman who practices genital frottage’ (corresponding to OED sense 2 of *tribadism*) due to the opposition of *cunnilinguist*; this is clearly the sense of the 2001 example.

tribadree, n. ‘(metaphorical) female conjunction’

New subentry (derivative s.v. *tribade*). Example:

c1592–1594 Have mercy on mee and my sinfull Muse
Which rub’d and tickled with thine could not chuse
But spend some of her pith, and yeild [*sic*] to bee
One in that chaste and mistique Tribadree.¹⁶²

Remarks: This hapax, in a poem written to John Donne, serves as the first derivative form of *tribade* attested in English. Interestingly—“one of the ironies of *lesbian* history” (Traub 2002, 24)—this metaphoric use occurs in an exchange between two men in reference to male poetic drive.

tribady, n. ‘tribadism’, ‘female homosexuality’, ‘female genital frottage’

Antedating [from 1907] and clarification. Revise headnote as follows:

[compare French *tribadie* (1840 1788), German *Tribadie* (1840
1833 or earlier)]

Examples:

1815 I think the object of this propensity is to contribute
to the preservation of the species. Its abuses are

¹⁶¹Melusine, “Looking, Really Looking at a Painting,” in Hanne Blank (ed.), *Zaftig: Well Rounded Erotica*, San Francisco: Cleis, 2001.

¹⁶²Thomas Woodward, “To Mr J. D.,” ca. 1592–1594, in H. Grierson (ed.), *The Poems of John Donne*, vol. 2, Oxford: Clarendon, 1912, 166.

- masturbation, pederasty, tribady, bestiality, adultery, and incest.¹⁶³
- 1876 all the remedies for pauperism and fecundity [. . .] may be summed up in the following list: masturbation, onanism, sodomy, *tribadie*, polyandry, prostitution, castration, abortion, and infanticide.¹⁶⁴
- 1886 “of tribady and the woman who first conceived this description of voluptuousness; of pæderasty and matters concerned with it”¹⁶⁵
- 1904 In Berlin, one-fourth of the prostitutes are said to practice “tribady;” but also in the circles of our leading dames there are not wanting disciples of Sappho.¹⁶⁶
- 1906 *Moraglia* makes a strong distinction between *Cunnilingus* and *Tribady*.¹⁶⁷

Remarks: Both French (1876, 1886) and German (1904, 1906) influences are observed in this lexeme; the 1815 example could reflect either or neither. As it is infrequent in English, it is likely that *tribady* was variously modeled on each of these languages independently at several stages; internal suffixation on *tribad-* is also of course possible for examples demonstrating no obvious external model.

¹⁶³J. G. Spurzheim, *The Physiognomical System of Drs. Gall and Spurzheim*, London: Baldwin, Cradock, and Joy, 1815, 357.

¹⁶⁴P. J. Proudhon, *What Is Property? First Memoir*, trans. B. Tucker, Princeton (MA): Tucker, 1876, 205.

¹⁶⁵*The Perfumed Garden of the Cheikh Nefzaoui: A Manual of Arabian Erotology (XVI. Century)*, Cosmopoli: Kama Shastra Society of London and Benares, 1886, “Appendix to the Autograph Edition,” 231. The translation, via the French, is attributed to Richard Burton.

¹⁶⁶August Bebel, *Women Under Socialism*, trans. from the 33rd German ed. by Daniel De Leon, New York: Labor News, 1904, 165.

¹⁶⁷Richard von Krafft-Ebing, *Psychopathia Sexualis*, 12th ed., trans. F. J. Rebman, New York: Rebman, 1906, 609.

unisexual, adj. 'homosexual'

New sense. Examples:

- [1844 FRIENDSHIP, *Unisexual Affection*¹⁶⁸
 1847 Friendship, Unisexual affection, ruling especially in the infancy of life¹⁶⁹]
 1850 "it talks of the body of God, of planetary generations, of unisexual loves"¹⁷⁰
 1883 Such facts, taken in connection with abundant modern experience of what are called unnatural vices, only prove the universality of unisexual indulgence in all parts of the world and under all conditions of society.¹⁷¹
 1891 The adjective *homosexual*, though ill-compounded of a Greek and a Latin word, is useful, and has been adopted by medical writers on this topic. *Unisexual* would perhaps be better.¹⁷²
 1895 not only the unisexual women (who are all accomplices of the unisexual men in all degrees from platonism to abjection), but also honorable women.¹⁷³

Remarks: English *unisexual* with this sense possibly reflects multiple origins: the earliest (1840s) and pivotal (from 1895) uses are obviously modeled on French *unisexual*, *-elle*, but the uses by early gay activist John Addington Symonds (1883, 1891) could reflect an independent innovation. This is because the earlier uses are restricted to the extremely prolix and idiosyncratic discourse of Charles Fourier and Pierre-Joseph

¹⁶⁸Parke Godwin, *A Popular View of the Doctrines of Charles Fourier*, New York: Redfield, 1844, 47.

¹⁶⁹Victor Considerant, "Analysis and Synthesis of Passional Attraction," trans. from the French, in *The Harbinger*, vol. 5, no. 10, Aug. 14, 1847, 145.

¹⁷⁰Review of Proudhon (*Confessions d'un révolutionnaire*, 1849), *Eclectic Review*, vol. 27, Feb. 1850, 173.

¹⁷¹J. A. Symonds, *A Problem in Greek Ethics*, 1883; in Brady 2012, 61; see also 115. These examples also appear in the version of the essay appended to the first edition of H. Ellis and J. A. Symonds, *Sexual Inversion*, London: Wilson and Macmillan, 1897.

¹⁷²J. A. Symonds, *A Problem in Modern Ethics*, 1891; in Brady 2012, 151.

¹⁷³Raffalovich 1895, 37, see also 57.

Proudhon (1844, 1847, 1850 examples), whose treatment of homosexuality rarely, if ever, resurfaces in the major works by lexical prime movers starting in the key period post-1860 (see a discussion of these authors in Lo Vecchio 2020, §10.2). Plus, the isolated Fourier-related cases cited above do not directly denote homosexuality, although that is the predominant meaning in his original texts in French. In any case, competing with synonyms from the *uranism*, *inversion*, and *homosexuality* series, *unisexual* and related terms rapidly fell into disuse by the early twentieth century.

Unlike *homosexual*, which blends combining forms of Greek (*homo*) and Latin (*sexual*) origin—and therefore a cause for purist rejection by some—*unisexual* is formed by two elements of Latin origin. As with the original anatomical meaning of → *bisexual*, I question the etymological explanation proposed by the *OED* for the *unisexual* series (here, from post-classical Latin *unisexualis*, 1768 or earlier) and suggest further investigation into the hypothesis of a French borrowing, directly or indirectly via Lamarck’s seminal 1778 work.

unisexual, n. ‘homosexual person’

New sense. Early examples:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1895 | As men, they love men; but they affirm that if they were women, they would love women. These are the unisexuels par excellence. ¹⁷⁴ |
| 1897 | Raffalovich is one of the first authors who has protested against endeavouring to cure the unisexual by sending him to a prostitute. ¹⁷⁵ |

Remarks: The noun function is clearly modeled on the French *unisexual*, and it is a short-lived innovation starting in the 1890s.

unisexuality, n. ‘homosexuality’

New sense. Early examples:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1895 | The unisexual who attempts bisexuality is as corrupt as the normal sexual man who attempts |
|------|--|

¹⁷⁴Raffalovich 1895, 35, *passim*.

¹⁷⁵Review of Raffalovich (1896), *Journal of Mental Science*, vol. 43, no. 182, July 1897, 571.

- unisexuality; they have all vices, both those natural to them and others.¹⁷⁶
- 1896 a thorough exposition of the subject of unisexuality in all of its aspects.¹⁷⁷
- 1896 The wide range of unisexuality is shown by an imposing list of historical sexual inverts.¹⁷⁸

Remarks: The abstract noun *unisexuality* is also modeled on the French in the 1890s and was ultimately eclipsed by *inversion* and *homosexuality*.

uranian, n. 'homosexual person'

Antedating [from 1908] and clarifications. Revise etymology notes as follows:

In senses A. 1c and B. after the reference to Aphrodite in Plato's *Symposium* (180d–e) **and modeled on corresponding German forms**; compare URANISM *n.*, URNING *n.*, URANIST *n.*

Examples:

- 1906 'Urnings,' or Uranians, are by no means so very rare¹⁷⁹

Remarks: In the etymology headnote, the relation to the German series should be made explicit here, since the entire series ultimately is modeled on German innovations.

uranism, n. 'homosexuality'

Antedating [from 1893] and clarifications. Revise etymology notes as follows:

< German *Uranismus* (~~1864~~ **1862**, in ~~an anonymous publication~~ **a private letter** by Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, ~~or earlier in this sense~~ **then 1864 in an anonymous publication by the same**)

¹⁷⁶Raffalovich 1895, 36, *passim*. Note here the ambiguous use of → *bisexuality*, translating an identical use in French (as *bissexualité*). Courouve (1985, 68) considers this as meaning 'heterosexuality', which is unconvincing in the context of Raffalovich's oeuvre (cf. Lo Vecchio 2020, 380).

¹⁷⁷C. J. H., "Uranism," review of Raffalovich (1896), *Journal of Comparative Neurology*, vol. 6, no. 2, June 1896, liv.

¹⁷⁸George Dawson, review of Raffalovich (1896), *Pedagogical Seminary*, vol. 3, no. 3, June 1896, 496.

¹⁷⁹Edward Carpenter, "The Intermediate Sex," *Love's Coming of Age*, 5th ed., London: Sonnenschein, 1906, 118, see also 123.

< ancient Greek *Ὀὐρανία*, an epithet of Aphrodite (see URANIAN *adj.*¹) + German *-ismus* *-ISM suffix*. Compare URANIAN *adj.*¹ 1c and discussion at that entry; and URANIST *n.*, URNINGISM *n.* Also compare French *uranisme* (1893), Italian *uranismo* (1893), Spanish *uranismo* (1896), the latter two after the French.

Examples:

- 1892 For this reason, in spite of the great prevalence of uranism, very few of its subjects seek medical treatment¹⁸⁰
- 1900 **Urnism** [. . .] Sexual perversion; uranism.¹⁸¹

Remarks: The 1892 example above is identical to the one provided by the *OED* (1893), but it is in fact a quotation in a review of the Krafft-Ebing translation, so it is appropriate to cite the original source instead.

The case of *uranism* and → *uranist* shows the etymological advantages of comparing translations cross-linguistically. While English *uranism* does first appear in the 1892 translation of Krafft-Ebing's influential work, it is found, in fact, only in the translator's preface, in a quotation by a different author,¹⁸² who used German *Uranismus*. In the main text by Krafft-Ebing, the translator renders the author's original *Urnigthum* with English *urningism*, alongside *urning* to refer to the homosexual person; likewise, the earlier Italian translation of this author provides *urningismo* (< *Urnigthum*) along with *urningo*.¹⁸³ In contrast, we find the earliest uses of an *-ISM/-IST* pair in French, in the translation from a major work by Albert Moll, who instead used German *Uranismus* throughout (as well as *Urnig* *n.* and *urnisch* *adj.*); the 1893 French translation of Moll thus models *uranisme* on *Uranismus* and simultaneously, by analogy, creates *uraniste* as well.¹⁸⁴ It is then from French that the *-IST* formations—in fact, the *-ISM/-IST* pair—are transferred to other European

¹⁸⁰Krafft-Ebing, trans. Chaddock, 1892, vii–viii.

¹⁸¹W. N. Dorland (ed.), *The American Illustrated Medical Dictionary*, Philadelphia/London: Saunders, 1900.

¹⁸²See Albert Freiherrn von Schrenck-Notzing, *Die Suggestions-Therapie*, Stuttgart: Enke, 1892.

¹⁸³See Richard von Krafft-Ebing, *Le psicopatie sessuali con speciale considerazione alla inversione sessuale*, trans. E. Sterz and L. Waldhart, Turin: Bocca, 1889.

¹⁸⁴See Moll 1891; Moll, *Les perversions de l'instinct génital. Étude sur l'inversion sexuelle*, trans. Pactet and Romme, Paris: Carré, 1893.

languages, as most early recorded uses in English, Italian, and Spanish are found in citations, reviews, or translations of the French; the same is true for German *Uranist* (1895), thus borrowed “back” from French. Independent constructions in each language could of course also be postulated, but the varied formations as seen in the textual documentation demonstrate that this development cannot be taken for granted. While it may seem incongruous to argue that the -ISM/-IST pair in other languages was due primarily to the French innovation in the 1890s while *Uranismus* had been in use for three decades in German, this case indeed reflects the highly internationalized context in which lexical creation was occurring in this semantic field in fin de siècle European medicine.

Note also the rare variant *urnism* (1900 example), which I have not located outside of the lexicography (it is recorded in several other dictionaries). It represents a suffixation on the clipped base *urn-*, emulating one of the two productive combining elements in German for this series (*uran-*, *urn-*).

uranist, n. ‘homosexual person’

Antedating [from 1895] and clarifications. Revise etymology notes as follows:

In sense 2 < *uran-* (in URANISM *n.*) + *-IST* suffix, after French *uraniste* (with *uranisme*, 1893), itself after and by analogy with German *Uranismus*. Compare Italian *uranista* (1893), later German *Uranist* (1895), Spanish *uranista* (1896), all after the French.

Examples:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1894 | According to another authority, in 1888 there were 25,000 adult uranists in Germany, while Moll estimates 4,000 male sexual perverts in Berlin alone ¹⁸⁵ |
| 1894 | It is rare that the uranist considers himself a pathological subject ¹⁸⁶ |

¹⁸⁵Irving Rosse, “Unnatural Crimes,” in Witthaus and Becker 1894, 494.

¹⁸⁶Blocq 1894, 552.

Remarks: On the French origin, see the explanation provided for → *uranism*.

urning, n. '(male) homosexual'

Antedating [from 1883]. Examples:

- 1881 [Ulrichs] computes that one man in every 500 is an "Urning." My authority, [. . .] when he told me that "Urnings" could recognise one another, regards these figures as substantially correct.¹⁸⁷

urningism, n. 'uranism', 'homosexuality'

New subentry (derivative s.v. *urning*). Add headnote as follows:

[Compare concurrent *uranism*, as well as Italian *urningismo* (1889, in an earlier translation of the source translated in quot. 1892).]

Examples:

- 1892 Lesbian love does not seem to approach urningism in frequency.¹⁸⁸
- 1901 Krafft-Ebing relates a case of urningism in which the lover was as sentimental in her tone and general conduct as is usually the case between lovers of the opposite sex¹⁸⁹
- 1912 it seems, however, that Germany emulates the Near-Orient, and that urningism and bisexuality are very frequently observed there.¹⁹⁰
- 1918 (1) Psychic hermaphrodisia; (2) female urningism; (3) viraginity (*effeminatio* in man); (4) Gynandria (*androgynia* in man).¹⁹¹

¹⁸⁷Julius Krueg, "Perverted Sexual Instincts," *Brain*, vol. 4, Oct. 1881, 374; see also *New York Medical Abstract*, vol. 1, no. 11, Nov. 1881, 399–400.

¹⁸⁸Krafft-Ebing, trans. Chaddock, 1892, 428, see also 411.

¹⁸⁹N. Aronstam, "Perversions of the Sexual Instinct," *Medical Age* (Detroit), vol. 19, no. 2, Jan. 25, 1901, 49.

¹⁹⁰Victor Vecki, *Sexual Impotence*, 4th ed., Philadelphia/London: Saunders, 1912, 169.

¹⁹¹George Jacoby, *The Unsound Mind and the Law: A Presentation of Forensic Psychiatry*, New York/London: Funk & Wagnalls, 1918, 351.

Remarks: The 1892 example shows that in some cases *urningism* is restricted to male same-sex behavior, following Ulrichs's original conception (which he later revised), but subsequent cases are applied to women as well (1901, 1918). Also see the discussion at → *uranism*.

urningtum, n. '(male) homosexuality'

New subentry (s.v. *urning*). Examples:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1891 | The oddest information sent me has come from 1) America, in the shape of sharply-defined acute partisanship for Urningthum ¹⁹² |
| 1891 | They saturate one's spirit in Urningthum of the rankest most diabolical kind. ¹⁹³ |
| 1915 | [Ulrichs] referred to the condition itself as "Urningtum." ¹⁹⁴ |

Remarks: A very rare borrowing, first used in German by Ulrichs (1868), attested subsequently in English in letters by the activist John Addington Symonds and in Havelock Ellis's manual.

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¹⁹²J. A. Symonds, letter to H. G. Dakyns, May 20, 1891; in Schueller and Peters 1969, 579.

¹⁹³J. A. Symonds, letter to E. Gosse, Sept. 18, 1891; in Schueller and Peters 1969, 606.

¹⁹⁴Ellis 1915, 2.

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