

famous hermaphrodites in history

famous hermaphrodites in history is a topic that delves into the lives and legacies of individuals who have challenged and expanded our understanding of gender and biological diversity throughout the ages. From ancient mythology and classical literature to modern scientific discoveries, the concept of hermaphroditism has long fascinated scholars, historians, and the general public alike. This article explores the historical context of hermaphrodites, highlights notable figures and legendary beings, and examines the cultural significance attached to them in various societies. Readers will discover how these individuals have impacted art, science, and the ongoing dialogue about gender identity. Whether you're interested in mythological tales, medical history, or the evolution of social perceptions, this comprehensive guide offers valuable insights into the world of famous hermaphrodites in history.

- Understanding Hermaphroditism: Historical Perspectives
- Mythological Hermaphrodites: Legends and Influence
- Famous Hermaphrodites in Ancient Civilizations
- Hermaphrodites in Renaissance and Enlightenment Periods
- Modern History: Scientific Discoveries and Notable Cases
- Cultural Impact and Legacy of Hermaphrodites

Understanding Hermaphroditism: Historical Perspectives

Hermaphroditism, historically referred to as a condition in which an individual possesses both male and female reproductive organs, has been documented across centuries in diverse cultures. The term itself derives from Hermaphroditus, a figure in Greek mythology symbolizing the union of male and female characteristics. Early medical texts often used the term “hermaphrodite” to describe intersex individuals, though modern terminology favors “intersex” to reflect scientific understanding and respect for personal identity.

Throughout history, hermaphrodites were viewed with curiosity and sometimes reverence, but also faced misunderstanding and stigma. Ancient physicians and naturalists attempted to classify and explain variations in human anatomy, while philosophers pondered the metaphysical implications of dual-gendered beings. The study of hermaphroditism became a focal point in discussions about the nature of sex, gender,

and the boundaries of human biology.

- The concept of hermaphroditism has evolved significantly, from mythological symbolism to medical classification.
- Historical texts reveal a mixture of fascination, fear, and admiration for individuals identified as hermaphrodites.
- Changing terminology reflects broader shifts in understanding gender and sexual diversity.

Mythological Hermaphrodites: Legends and Influence

Hermaphroditus: The Origin of the Term

One of the most influential mythological figures is Hermaphroditus, the child of Hermes and Aphrodite in Greek mythology. According to legend, Hermaphroditus fused with the nymph Salmacis, resulting in a being embodying both male and female traits. The story of Hermaphroditus inspired countless works of art, literature, and philosophical debate throughout the centuries, symbolizing unity and duality.

Other Mythological Figures and Representations

Beyond Hermaphroditus, various cultures have depicted hermaphroditic beings in myth and folklore. These figures often held special significance, representing fertility, transformation, and cosmic balance. In Hindu mythology, Ardhanarishvara is a composite form of Shiva and Parvati, illustrating the synthesis of masculine and feminine energies.

- Hermaphroditus (Greek mythology)
- Ardhanarishvara (Hindu mythology)
- Baphomet (occult symbolism)
- Agdistis (Phrygian mythology)

Famous Hermaphrodites in Ancient Civilizations

Historical Figures Identified as Hermaphrodites

While mythological accounts are abundant, historical records of individuals identified as hermaphrodites are less common but noteworthy. Roman and Greek historians occasionally documented cases of people with ambiguous sexual characteristics, often provoking medical and philosophical inquiry. In some societies, such individuals were granted special status or considered to possess unique spiritual powers.

Public Perceptions and Social Roles

Ancient societies varied in their treatment of hermaphrodites. Some saw them as omens or portents, while others integrated them into religious rituals or social hierarchies. For example, certain Native American tribes recognized “two-spirit” individuals, who embodied aspects of both genders and often held respected roles as healers or spiritual leaders.

- Cases documented by Roman historians such as Pliny the Elder
- Greek philosophical debates about sex and gender
- Native American “two-spirit” traditions
- Ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian references to dual-gendered priests

Hermaphrodites in Renaissance and Enlightenment Periods

Medical Advancements and Changing Attitudes

During the Renaissance and Enlightenment, the study of human anatomy advanced rapidly. Physicians and scientists began to investigate hermaphroditism with greater rigor, documenting notable cases and challenging old superstitions. Ambroise Paré, a prominent French surgeon, wrote extensively about intersex individuals, contributing to the evolving medical understanding of sex differentiation.

Notable Historical Cases

One of the most famous cases was that of Marie/Charles-Geneviève-Louis-Auguste-André-Timothée d'Éon de Beaumont, known as the Chevalier d'Éon. This French diplomat, soldier, and spy lived part of life as a man and later as a woman, sparking speculation about hermaphroditism and gender identity. The Chevalier's story fascinated European society and continues to be studied today.

- Ambroise Paré's medical writings on hermaphroditism
- The Chevalier d'Éon: A historical figure with ambiguous gender identity
- Legal cases involving "hermaphrodites" in 17th and 18th-century Europe

Modern History: Scientific Discoveries and Notable Cases

The Evolution of Medical Terminology and Ethics

In the 19th and 20th centuries, advances in genetics, endocrinology, and psychology transformed the understanding of hermaphroditism. The term "intersex" gradually replaced "hermaphrodite," reflecting a more nuanced appreciation of biological diversity. Medical professionals began to approach intersex conditions with greater sensitivity, though challenges regarding ethics, consent, and treatment persisted.

Contemporary Notable Individuals

Modern history has seen a growing number of intersex individuals sharing their stories and advocating for rights and recognition. While privacy concerns limit public knowledge of specific cases, several figures have gained attention for their roles in science, activism, and the arts. Their experiences highlight ongoing issues related to identity, medical intervention, and social acceptance.

- Hanne Gaby Odiele: Belgian model and intersex advocate
- Georgina Beyer: First openly transgender and intersex Member of Parliament (New Zealand)
- Tony Briffa: Australian intersex politician and activist
- Cheryl Chase: Founder of the Intersex Society of North America

Cultural Impact and Legacy of Hermaphrodites

Representation in Art and Literature

Famous hermaphrodites in history have left a lasting mark on art, literature, and popular culture. From classical sculptures depicting Hermaphroditus to contemporary novels exploring intersex experiences, representation has evolved alongside changing social attitudes. These works often challenge conventional notions of gender and invite reflection on the complexity of human identity.

Influence on Modern Gender Discourse

The legacy of hermaphrodites continues to shape modern discussions about gender, sexuality, and human rights. Their stories inspire advocacy for greater understanding and acceptance of intersex individuals worldwide. By examining famous cases and cultural representations, society gains a deeper appreciation for the diversity and resilience of those living outside traditional gender binaries.

- Classical art and sculpture inspired by hermaphroditic figures
- Literary works addressing intersex experiences
- Influence on LGBTQ+ advocacy and medical ethics
- Contemporary media representation of intersex individuals

Questions and Answers about Famous Hermaphrodites in History

Q: Who was Hermaphroditus and why is this figure significant in history?

A: Hermaphroditus is a figure from Greek mythology, the child of Hermes and Aphrodite, who became a symbol of dual gender after merging with the nymph Salmacis. Hermaphroditus is significant because the term "hermaphrodite" originates from this myth, representing the combination of male and female traits and influencing later cultural and scientific discussions on gender.

Q: Are there documented cases of hermaphrodites in ancient civilizations?

A: Yes, ancient civilizations such as Greece, Rome, Egypt, and indigenous cultures documented cases of individuals with ambiguous sexual characteristics. These records were often intertwined with medical, religious, and philosophical discussions about the nature of sex and gender.

Q: What role did hermaphrodites play in art and literature?

A: Hermaphrodites have been depicted in classical art, sculpture, and literature as symbols of unity, transformation, and the complexity of human identity. Their representation has evolved over time, challenging societal norms and inspiring dialogue about gender diversity.

Q: How did the understanding of hermaphroditism change during the Renaissance and Enlightenment?

A: During the Renaissance and Enlightenment, scientific inquiry into human anatomy and sexuality advanced. Medical professionals began to study hermaphroditism more rigorously, leading to a shift from myth and superstition to scientific classification and eventually to more respectful terminology like "intersex."

Q: Who was the Chevalier d'Éon and why is this person notable?

A: The Chevalier d'Éon was an 18th-century French diplomat, soldier, and spy who lived as both a man and a woman. This historical figure became famous for challenging gender norms and was subject to speculation about hermaphroditism, making d'Éon a symbol of gender fluidity in European history.

Q: What is the difference between "hermaphrodite" and "intersex"?

A: "Hermaphrodite" is an outdated term historically used to describe individuals with both male and female reproductive organs. "Intersex" is the modern, respectful term referring to people born with physical or genetic traits that do not fit typical definitions of male or female bodies.

Q: How have hermaphrodites influenced modern gender discourse?

A: Hermaphrodites and intersex individuals have played a key role in questioning and expanding traditional ideas about gender, sex, and identity. Their stories have contributed to advocacy for rights, medical ethics reform, and the recognition of gender diversity.

Q: Are there modern-day famous intersex individuals?

A: Yes, modern intersex individuals such as Hanne Gaby Odiele, Georgina Beyer, Tony Briffa, and Cheryl Chase are known for their advocacy, public service, and contributions to raising awareness about intersex rights and experiences.

Q: How are hermaphrodites represented in contemporary media?

A: Contemporary media is increasingly portraying intersex individuals in a more accurate and respectful manner, highlighting their experiences and advocating for acceptance and equality within society.

Q: What is the cultural significance of hermaphrodites in history?

A: Hermaphrodites have historically symbolized unity, duality, and transformation in various cultures. Their presence in mythology, religion, art, and social roles reflects enduring questions about gender, identity, and the diversity of human experience.

Famous Hermaphrodites In History

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Famous Hermaphrodites in History: Exploring Intersex Identities Through Time

Introduction:

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

acknowledging the problematic nature of the historical terminology.

H2: The Challenges of Historical Documentation and Terminology

Before diving into specific examples, it's crucial to acknowledge the significant limitations of historical records when discussing intersex identities. Many accounts were written through a lens of societal bias, often pathologizing or sensationalizing intersex variations. The terminology used – "hermaphrodite," "androgynous," etc. – reflects outdated medical and societal understandings and can be deeply hurtful. Many historical accounts lack the nuance and sensitivity required for a respectful understanding of individual experiences. This makes the task of accurately portraying these individuals' lives inherently challenging, requiring careful interpretation and a critical awareness of historical context. Furthermore, many accounts were filtered through the biases of observers who may not have understood or respected the individuals' self-perception.

H2: Notable Figures Historically Described as Hermaphrodites

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

H3: Anne of Brittany (1477-1514)

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

H3: Caster Semenya (1991-Present)

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

H3: Ambiguous Cases Throughout History:

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

H2: The Evolution of Understanding and Terminology

The understanding of intersex variations has significantly evolved over time. The term "hermaphrodite" is now considered outdated and offensive by many within the intersex community, rightly so. Modern medicine recognizes the diversity of intersex conditions, moving away from simplistic binary classifications. The term "intersex" is preferred and reflects a more accurate and

respectful understanding of this complex topic. Increased awareness and advocacy are leading to greater inclusivity and a more nuanced understanding of sex and gender diversity.

H2: The Importance of Respectful Representation

It is crucial to approach these historical narratives with sensitivity and respect. While exploring these accounts can provide insights into past attitudes and understandings, it's essential to avoid perpetuating harmful stereotypes or sensationalizing individuals' experiences. We must strive for accurate and nuanced representations, recognizing the complexity of intersex identities and the individual lived experiences of those historically labelled as "hermaphrodites."

Conclusion:

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

FAQs:

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

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

Alice Domurat Dreger, 2009-07-01 Punctuated with remarkable case studies, this book explores extraordinary encounters between hermaphrodites--people born with ambiguous sexual anatomy--and the medical and scientific professionals who grappled with them. Alice Dreger focuses on events in France and Britain in the late nineteenth century, a moment of great tension for questions of sex roles. While feminists, homosexuals, and anthropological explorers openly

questioned the natures and purposes of the two sexes, anatomical hermaphrodites suggested a deeper question: just how many human sexes are there? Ultimately hermaphrodites led doctors and scientists to another surprisingly difficult question: what is sex, really? Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex takes us inside the doctors' chambers to see how and why medical and scientific men constructed sex, gender, and sexuality as they did, and especially how the material conformation of hermaphroditic bodies--when combined with social exigencies--forced peculiar constructions. Throughout the book Dreger indicates how this history can help us to understand present-day conceptualizations of sex, gender, and sexuality. This leads to an epilogue, where the author discusses and questions the protocols employed today in the treatment of intersexuals (people born hermaphroditic). Given the history she has recounted, should these protocols be reconsidered and revised? A meticulously researched account of a fascinating problem in the history of medicine, this book will compel the attention of historians, physicians, medical ethicists, intersexuals themselves, and anyone interested in the meanings and foundations of sexual identity.

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

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

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

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

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

famous hermaphrodites in history: The Shape of Sex Leah DeVun, 2021-05-25 Winner, 2024 Haskins Medal, Medieval Academy of America Winner, 2023 Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science Prize, History of Science Society Winner, 2022 Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion: Historical Studies, American Academy of Religion Honorable Mention, 2023 John Boswell Prize, The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender History (CLGBTH) Longlisted, 2022 Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Studies, Lambda Literary Awards *The Shape of Sex* is a pathbreaking history of nonbinary sex, focusing on ideas and individuals who allegedly combined or crossed sex or gender categories from 200–1400 C.E. Ranging widely across premodern European thought and culture, Leah DeVun reveals how and why efforts to define “the human” so often hinged on ideas about nonbinary sex. *The Shape of Sex* examines a host of thinkers—theologians, cartographers, natural philosophers, lawyers, poets, surgeons, and alchemists—who used ideas about nonbinary sex as conceptual tools to order their political, cultural, and natural worlds. DeVun reconstructs the cultural landscape navigated by individuals whose sex or gender did not fit the binary alongside debates about animality, sexuality, race, religion, and human nature. *The Shape of Sex* charts an embrace of nonbinary sex in early Christianity, its brutal erasure at the turn of the thirteenth century, and a new enthusiasm for nonbinary transformations at the dawn of the Renaissance. Along the way, DeVun explores beliefs that Adam and Jesus were

nonbinary-sexed; images of “monstrous races” in encyclopedias, maps, and illuminated manuscripts; justifications for violence against purportedly nonbinary outsiders such as Jews and Muslims; and the surgical “correction” of bodies that seemed to flout binary divisions. In a moment when questions about sex, gender, and identity have become incredibly urgent, *The Shape of Sex* casts new light on a complex and often contradictory past. It shows how premodern thinkers created a system of sex and embodiment that both anticipates and challenges modern beliefs about what it means to be male, female—and human.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Myth* G. S. Kirk, 2023-09-01 This book attempts to come to grips with a set of widely ranging but connected problems concerning myths: their relation to folktales on the one hand, to rituals on the other; the validity and scope of the structuralist theory of myth; the range of possible mythical functions; the effects of developed social institutions and literacy; the character and meaning of ancient Near-Eastern myths and their influence on Greece; the special forms taken by Greek myths and their involvement with rational modes of thought; the status of myths as expressions of the unconscious, as allied with dreams, as universal symbols, or as accidents of primarily narrative aims. Almost none of these problems has been convincingly handled, even in a provisional way, up to the present, and this failure has vitiated not only such few general discussions as exist of the nature, meanings and functions of myths but also, in many cases, the detailed assessment of individual myths of different cultures. The need for a coherent treatment of these and related problems, and one that is not concerned simply to propagate a particular universalistic theory, seems undeniable. How far the present book will satisfactorily fill such a need remains to be seen. At least it makes a beginning, even if in doing so it risks the criticism of being neither fish nor fowl. Sociologists and folklorists may find it, from their specialized viewpoints, a little simplistic in places; and a few classical colleagues will not forgive me for straying far beyond Greek myths, even though these can hardly be understood in isolation or solely in the light of studies in cult and ritual. Others may find it less easy than anthropologists, sociologists, historians of thought or students of French and English literature to accept the relevance of Levi-Strauss to some of these matters; but his theory contains the one important new idea in this field since Freud, it is complicated and largely untested, and it demands careful attention from anyone attempting a broad understanding of the subject. The beliefs of Freud and Jung, on the other hand, are a more familiar element in the situation and have given rise to an enormous secondary literature, much of it arbitrary and some of it absurd. The author has tried to isolate the crucial ideas and subject them to a pointed, if too brief, critique; so too with those of Ernst Cassirer.

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

BL has become a controversial topic in contemporary Japan.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Born Both* Hida Vioria, 2017-03-14 From one of the world's foremost intersex activists, a candid, provocative, and eye-opening memoir of gender identity, self-acceptance, and love. My name is Hida Vioria. I was raised as a girl but discovered at a young age that my body looked different. Having endured an often turbulent home life as a kid, there were many times when I felt scared and alone, especially given my attraction to girls. But unlike most people in the first world who are born intersex--meaning they have genitals, reproductive organs, hormones, and/or chromosomal patterns that do not fit standard definitions of male or female--I grew up in the body I was born with because my parents did not have my sex characteristics surgically altered at birth. It wasn't until I was twenty-six and encountered the term intersex in a San Francisco newspaper that I finally had a name for my difference. That's when I began to explore what it means to live in the space between genders--to be both and neither. I tried living as a feminine woman, an androgynous person, and even for a brief period of time as a man. Good friends would not recognize me, and gay men would hit on me. My gender fluidity was exciting, and in many ways freeing--but it could also be isolating. I had to know if there were other intersex people like me, but when I finally found an intersex community to connect with I was shocked, and then deeply upset, to learn that most of the people I met had been scarred, both physically and psychologically, by infant surgeries and hormone treatments meant to correct their bodies. Realizing that the invisibility of intersex people in society facilitated these practices, I made it my mission to bring an end to it--and became one of the first people to voluntarily come out as intersex at a national and then international level. *Born Both* is the story of my lifelong journey toward finding love and embracing my authentic identity in a world that insists on categorizing people into either/or, and of my decades-long fight for human rights and equality for intersex people everywhere.

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

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

famous hermaphrodites in history: *As Nature Made Him* John Colapinto, 2013-03-05 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER "We should aspire to Colapinto's stellar journalist example: listening carefully to the circumstances of those who are different rather than demanding that they conform

to our own.” —Washington Post The true story about the twins case and a riveting exploration of medical arrogance, misguided science, societal confusion, gender differences, and one man's ultimate triumph In 1967, after a twin baby boy suffered a botched circumcision, his family agreed to a radical treatment that would alter his gender. The case would become one of the most famous in modern medicine—and a total failure. The boy's uninjured brother, raised as a boy, provided to the experiment the perfect matched control. As *Nature Made Him* tells the extraordinary story of David Reimer, who, when finally informed of his medical history, made the decision to live as a male. Writing with uncommon intelligence, insight, and compassion, John Colapinto sets the historical and medical context for the case, exposing the thirty-year-long scientific feud between Dr. John Money and his fellow sex researcher, Dr. Milton Diamond—a rivalry over the nature/nurture debate whose very bitterness finally brought the truth to light. A macabre tale of medical arrogance, it is first and foremost a human drama of one man's—and one family's—amazing survival in the face of terrible odds.

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

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

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

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

contribution to our understanding of human sexuality and a must-read for people with intersex variations, health practitioners, psychologists, advocacy groups, students, and anybody interested in knowing more about our diverse human make-up.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *The Hermaphrodite* Julia Ward Howe, 2004-12-01 Written in the 1840s and published here for the first time, Julia Ward Howe's novel about a hermaphrodite is unlike anything of its time--or, in truth, of our own. Narrated by Laurence, who is raised and lives as a man, is loved by men and women alike, and can respond to neither, this unconventional story explores the understanding that fervent hearts must borrow the disguise of art, if they would win the right to express, in any outward form, the internal fire that consumes them. Laurence describes his repudiation by his family, his involvement with an attractive widow, his subsequent wanderings and eventual attachment to a sixteen-year-old boy, his own tutelage by a Roman nobleman and his sisters, and his ultimate reunion with his early love. His is a story unique in nineteenth-century American letters, at once a remarkable reflection of a largely hidden inner life and a richly imagined tale of coming of age at odds with one's culture. Howe wrote *The Hermaphrodite* when her own marriage was challenged by her husband's affection for another man--and when prevailing notions regarding a woman's appropriate role in patriarchal structures threatened Howe's intellectual and emotional survival. The novel allowed Howe, and will now allow her readers, to occupy a speculative realm otherwise inaccessible in her historical moment.

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

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

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

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Edinburgh Companion to Queer Reading* Declan Kavanagh, Jeremy Chow, 2024-11-30 What does it mean to read queerly? The *Edinburgh Companion to Queer Reading* upholds intersectional thinking to recognise the wide currency and appeal of queer studies for a new generation of scholars, activists, students and interested allies. Its four interconnecting parts - 'transing queer readings', 'reading queer ecologies', 'queer reading as practice' and 'reading queer futures' - speak to, and help to critique and foreground, expansive queer epistemologies. Contributors evocatively explore the relationships between queerness and

genders, embodiments, race, narrative, methodology, history, literature, media and art. Bringing together emerging and established queer theorists, this timely collection demonstrates how germane queer readings, theories and companions are to the livelihood of interdisciplinary research and humanistic inquiry in the 2020s.

famous hermaphrodites in history: Hermaphroditus Antonio Beccadelli, 2001 Eugene O'Connor's superb translation of Antonio Panormita's Hermaphroditus brings to life this little known Renaissance writer's bawdy masterpiece. Modeled on the writings of the Roman poet Martial, Panormita's work was initially greeted with enthusiasm by humanist scholars upon publication in 1425 only to be reviled and censured as obscene by Christian apologists. O'Connor's excellent introduction offers a wealth of historical and literary information on Panormita's often profane poetry, presented here in both English and the Latin original. This new translation will be a delight to classical, neo-Latin, and Renaissance scholars interested in tracing the development of the epigram from Latin to the vernacular, and to scholars of gender and gay studies seeking to understand the popular portrayal of women and sexual themes in the early Renaissance.

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

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

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

famous hermaphrodites in history: Lessons from the Intersexed Suzanne J. Kessler, 1998 Focusing on intersexuality, having physical gender markers that are neither female or male, the author examines the social institutions that are mobilized to maintain the two seemingly objective

sexual categories. She argues that we need to rethink the meaning of gender, genitals and sexuality.

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

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Intersex Narratives* Viola Amato (verst.), 2016-02-29 This book explores representations of intersex - intersex persons, intersex communities, and intersex as a cultural concept and knowledge category - in contemporary North American literature and popular culture. The study turns its attention to the significant paradigm shift in the narratives on intersex that occurred within early 1990s intersex activism in response to biopolitical regulations of intersex bodies. Focusing on the emergence of recent autobiographical stories and cultural productions like novels and TV series centering around intersex, Viola Amato provides a first systematic analysis of an activism-triggered resignification of intersex.

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

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

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

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

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

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Taking Stock - Twenty-Five Years of Comparative Literary Research*, 2023-03-30 Read an interview with Norbert Bachleitner. In this 200th volume of *Internationale Forschungen zur Allgemeinen und Vergleichenden Literaturwissenschaft* the editors Norbert Bachleitner, Achim H. Hölter and John A. McCarthy 'take stock' of the discipline. It focuses on recurrent questions in the field of Comparative Literature: What is literature? What is meant by 'comparative'? Or by 'world'? What constitute 'transgressions' or 'refractions'? What, ultimately, does being at home in the world imply? When we combine the answers to these individual questions, we might ultimately reach an intriguing proposition: Comparative Literature contributes to a sense of being at home in a world that is heterogeneous and fractured, rather than affirming a monolithic canon marked by territory and homogeneity. The volume unites essays on world literature, literature in the context of the history of ideas, comparative women and gender studies, aesthetics and textual analysis, and literary translation and tradition.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Medicalizing Difference* Stephanie M. Hilger, 2024-10-17 Exploring 18th-century medicine's construction of individuals with non-standard sexual anatomy as "hermaphrodites", this book focuses on the genre of the case history from three different languages and national contexts-British, French, and German. *Medicalizing Difference* examines case studies written about Anne Grandjean, Michel Anne Drouart, Maria Dorothea Derrier, and an unnamed "Angolan hermaphrodite." Multiple case studies were published about each of these individuals and are discussed throughout the book's four chapters, each of which focuses on one momentous epistemological shift in the eighteenth-century: an increasing focus on empiricism and the related

professionalization of medicine, the expanding market for popular scientific literature, changing notions about generation and reproduction, and the exploration of foreign territories. This book reads these case histories against the grain and historicizes 18th-century medicine's construction of the category of the "hermaphrodite", demonstrating that, rather than describing a fact, these histories created their subject of study

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Bibliography of the History of Medicine* , 1989

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Three Rings* Daniel Mendelsohn, 2022-04-26 A memoir, biography, work of history, and literary criticism all in one, this moving book tells the story of three exiled writers—Erich Auerbach, François Fénelon, and W. G. Sebald—and their relationship with the classics, from Homer to Mimesis. In a genre-defying book hailed as "exquisite" (The New York Times) and "spectacular" (The Times Literary Supplement), the best-selling memoirist and critic Daniel Mendelsohn explores the mysterious links between the randomness of the lives we lead and the artfulness of the stories we tell. Combining memoir, biography, history, and literary criticism, *Three Rings* weaves together the stories of three exiled writers who turned to the classics of the past to create masterpieces of their own—works that pondered the nature of narrative itself: Erich Auerbach, the Jewish philologist who fled Hitler's Germany and wrote his classic study of Western literature, *Mimesis*, in Istanbul; François Fénelon, the seventeenth-century French archbishop whose ingenious sequel to the *Odyssey*, *The Adventures of Telemachus*—a veiled critique of the Sun King and the best-selling book in Europe for a hundred years—resulted in his banishment; and the German novelist W.G. Sebald, self-exiled to England, whose distinctively meandering narratives explore Odyssean themes of displacement, nostalgia, and separation from home. Intertwined with these tales of exile and artistic crisis is an account of Mendelsohn's struggle to write two of his own books—a family saga of the Holocaust and a memoir about reading the *Odyssey* with his elderly father—that are haunted by tales of oppression and wandering. As *Three Rings* moves to its startling conclusion, a climactic revelation about the way in which the lives of its three heroes were linked across borders, languages, and centuries forces the reader to reconsider the relationship between narrative and history, art and life.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Ambiguous Gender in Early Modern Spain and Portugal* Francois Soyer, 2012-08-27 Using new inquisitorial sources, this study examines the complexities revolving around transgenderism and the construction of gender identity in the early modern Iberian World and the self-perception of individuals whose behaviour, whether consciously or unconsciously, flouted social and sexual conventions.

famous hermaphrodites in history: *Intersex and Identity* Sharon E. Preves, 2003 Examines how intersexed individuals negotiate identity in a dual gendered culture.

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