

Chapter 1 : The Memoirs of John Addington Symonds : Amber Regis :

This edition is the first to reproduce John Addington Symonds's Memoirs in its entirety. It offers a panoramic view of middle-class Victorian life, shedding light upon sexual cultures and life histories too often hidden from history.

The source edition contains a critical introduction to the sources. John Addington Symonds Language: Cambridge University Press Format Available: The Minerva Group, Inc. John Addington Symonds was considered the first and foremost 19th century British homosexual writer to "put the facts on record. His *A Problem in Greek Ethics* was first written in and first published in in an edition of only 10 copies, and comprised the earliest published defense of homosexuality in the English language. Symonds here reviews the development of homosexual activity in ancient Greece. Poet, essayist, and literary historian, he delved into every field of the humanities. The present work led to a collaboration with Havelock Ellis in the first volume of *Studies in the Psychology of Sex*. Symonds is remembered for his untiring efforts to loosen the restraints on homosexuals in England, and his *Memoirs* are the only diary of a Victorian homosexual of his stature. It offers a panoramic view of middle-class Victorian life, shedding light upon sexual cultures and life histories too often hidden from history. Symonds began writing his *Memoirs* in But rather than unfold a simple tale of public and private achievement, the *Memoirs* record his struggle to reconcile his homosexuality with these professional and familial identities. His autobiography offers a confessional account of relationships beyond the accepted bounds of nineteenth-century social mores, presenting an alternative case study that contests the legal and medical authorities that would label his desires a crime or disease. Yet being so eloquent on matters of heterodox sexuality, the *Memoirs* were suppressed. Library of Alexandria Format Available: At the same time, it was intended to make the first three parts subsidiary and introductory to the fourth, for which accordingly a wider space and a more minute method of treatment were reserved. The first volume was meant to explain the social and political conditions of Italy; the second to relate the exploration of the classical past which those conditions necessitated, and which determined the intellectual activity of the Italians; the third to exhibit the bias of this people toward figurative art, and briefly to touch upon its various manifestations; in order that, finally, a correct point of view might be obtained for judging of their national literature in its strength and limitations. To literature, therefore, I felt that the plan of my book allowed me to devote two volumes. The subject of my inquiry rendered the method I have described, not only natural but necessary. Yet there are special disadvantages, to which progressive history is not liable, in publishing a book of this sort by installments. Readers of the earlier parts cannot form a just conception of the scope and object of the whole. They cannot perceive the relation of its several sections to each other, or give the author credit for his exercise of judgment in the marshaling and development of topics. They criticise each portion independently, and desire a comprehensiveness in parts which would have been injurious to the total scheme. Furthermore, this kind of book sorely needs an Index, and its plan renders a general Index, such as will be found at the end of the last volume, more valuable than one made separately for each part.

John Addington Symonds (/ ɛ̃ː s ɛ̃ː m ɛ̃ː m n d z /; 5 October - 19 April) was an English poet and literary critic. A cultural historian, he was known for his work on the Renaissance, as well as numerous biographies of writers and artists.

Edit Symonds was born at Bristol. Considered delicate, the younger Symonds did not take part in games while at Harrow School and showed no particular promise as a scholar. At Harrow he was exposed to the sexualized atmosphere of the English public school of his time, which he found repulsive and which he was to describe later in his memoirs: The talk in the dormitories and the studies was incredibly obscene. Here and there one could not avoid seeing acts of onanism , mutual masturbation , or the sports of naked boys in bed together. Symonds was shocked and disgusted, feelings complicated by his growing awareness of his own homosexuality. Conington approved of romantic relationships between men and boys, having earlier given Symonds a copy of *Ionica*, a collection of thinly disguised homoerotic verse by William Johnson Cory , the influential Eton Master and advocate of pederastic pedagogy. Nonetheless, Conington encouraged Symonds to tell his father, who subsequently forced Vaughan to resign. In spring of that same year he had fallen in love with Willie Dyer, a Bristol choirboy three years younger than himself. Their friendship continued for several years afterwards. At Oxford , Symonds began to reveal his academic ability. In he had been elected to an open fellowship at the conservative Magdalen. Unfortunately, scandal followed him there, and this time he was the focus. He made friends with a C. Shorting, whom he took as a private pupil. However, when Symonds refused to help Shorting gain admission to Magdalen, Shorting sent a letter to school officials alleging "that I [Symonds] had supported him in his pursuit of the chorister Goolden, that I shared his habits and was bent on the same path" *Memoirs* Although Symonds was officially cleared of any wrongdoing, the stress of the ordeal precipitated a breakdown in health, and shortly thereafter he left for Switzerland. After a romantic betrothal in the mountains, he married her at Hastings on November 10 , Symonds hoped to study law , but his health again broke down and forced him to travel. While in Clifton in he met and fell in love with, Norman Moor, a schoolboy about to go up to Oxford, who also became his pupil. *A Volume of Verse*. His work, however, was again interrupted by illness, this time more serious. In his life was in danger, and the recovery he made at Davos-Platz led to a belief that this was the only place where he was likely to be able to enjoy life. He practically made his home at Davos. A charming picture of his life there is drawn in *Our Life in the Swiss Highlands* Symonds became a citizen of the town; he took part in its municipal business, made friends with the peasants and shared their interests. There he wrote most of his books: There, too, he completed his study of the Renaissance , the work for which he is mainly remembered. He was feverishly active throughout his life. The amount of work he achieved was remarkable, considering his poor health. He had a passion for Italy and for many years resided during the autumn in the house of his friend, Horatio F Brown , on the Zattere , in Venice. He died in Rome and was buried close to Shelley. After death Edit He left his papers and his autobiography in the hands of Brown, who wrote an expurgated biography in , which Edmund Gosse further stripped of homoerotic content before its publication. His activity was unbroken to the last. In life Symonds was morbidly introspective, but with a capacity for action. Robert Louis Stevenson described him, in the *Opalstein of Talks and Talkers*, as "the best of talkers, singing the praises of the earth and the arts, flowers and jewels, wine and music, in a moonlight, serenading manner, as to the light guitar. He was tormented by the riddles of existence. This side of his nature is revealed in his gnomic poetry , and particularly in the sonnets of his *Animi Figura* , where he has portrayed his own character with great subtlety. His poetry is perhaps rather that of the student than of the inspired singer, but it has moments of deep thought and emotion. It is, indeed, in passages and extracts that Symonds appears at his best. Rich in description, full of " purple patches ," his work lacks the harmony and unity essential to the conduct of philosophical argument. His translations are among the finest in the language; here his subject was found for him, and he was able to lavish on it the wealth of colour and quick sympathy which were his characteristics. Homosexuality and homosexual writings File: Symonds-a problem in greek ethics. Simultaneously to these widely available works, Symonds was writing, privately publishing and distributing more candid writings about homosexuality. As well as a large number of poems

written throughout the 1850s and 1860s, Symonds wrote one of the first essays in defense of homosexuality in the English language, *A Problem in Greek Ethics*, in 1859. A follow-up essay from 1861, *A Problem in Modern Ethics*, includes proposals for reforming anti-homosexual legislation. These essays were widely read by an underground of homosexual writers and continued to be secretly published and distributed decades after his death. Some of his other personal writings and letters were finally published in the late twentieth century, and are of great interest to historians for the candid descriptions of an "unspeakable" sexual culture which existed against the "social law" of his time that "regarded this love as abominable and unnatural. In addition to realizing his own homosexuality, Symonds daughter, Madge Vaughn, was a lesbian lover for a time to writer Virginia Woolf, the cousin of her husband William Wyamar Vaughan. Another daughter, Charlotte Symonds, married the classicist Walter Leaf. *Soldier Love*, or *Soldatenliebe* since it was limited to a German edition.

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Edit Symonds, son of a physician in Bristol, was educated at Harrow and Oxford. His delicate health obliged him to live abroad. He also made remarkable translations of the sonnets of Michelangelo and Campanella, and wrote upon philosophical subjects in various periodicals. He gave great intellectual promise, though associated with an incapacity for abstractions and a delight in the concrete, betokening the future historian and the artist which he became rather than the thinker which he would have liked to be. At Harrow, whither he was sent in May, he took little or no share in the school games, read with monotonous assiduity, but without the success commensurate with his ability, held aloof until his last year from boys of his own age, and became painfully shy. Six months after his success at Magdalen he broke down altogether. Suffering from impaired sight and irritability of the brain, he sought refuge in Switzerland, and spent the winter in Italy. They were married on 10 November at St. The symptoms of pulmonary disease became more pronounced, and he was obliged to spend the greater part of several years on the continent, visiting the Riviera, Tuscany, Normandy, and Corsica. At length, in November, he settled near his father at Victoria Square, Clifton, and devoted himself deliberately to a literary life. He edited the literary remains of his father, who died in, and in the following year performed the same pious office for those of Conington, whom, after Jowett, he always considered his chief intellectual benefactor. With returning health his literary ambition rekindled. The first volume of the history of the Renaissance in Italy, *The Age of the Despots*, appeared in 2nd edit. Symonds contributed his experiences in an attractive article to the *Fortnightly* of July. The essay powerfully stimulated the formation of English colonies not only at Davos but elsewhere in the Engadine, and it formed the nucleus of an interesting series of chapters on Alpine subjects, collected in *Our Life in the Swiss Highlands* London, 8vo; five of the papers were by his third daughter, Margaret. On 20 September he settled in a house which he had built during the summer of, and named "Am Hof. Becoming intimately acquainted with the life of the small community around him, he took a leading part in its municipal business, and was able to render it service in many besides pecuniary ways, though here, too, he was most generous. He always made a point of providing relief for others, when possible, from his own earnings as a man of letters, leaving his fortune intact for his family. Both are fully up to the average level, but neither possesses the distinction with which some writers of abridged biographies have known how to invest their work. He computed that the work, which was abridged by Lieut. Pearson in, and reissued in 7 volumes in 1888, occupied him the best part of 11 years. *Many Moods*, a volume of poems, had been published in *New and Old* followed in, *Animi Figura* of special autobiographic interest in, and *Vagabunduli Libellus* in. He was next induced to undertake a prose translation of the *Autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini*, published in London, 2 vols. It is a masterly performance; a version of *The Autobiography of Count Carlo Gozzi* is not inferior, and is accompanied by a valuable essay on the Italian impromptu comedy. His friends and intimates unanimously describe him as one endowed with an ardour and energy amounting to impetuosity, and their testimony is fully borne out by what is known of his taste for mountain-climbing and bodily exercise, his quick decision in trying circumstances, his ability in managing the affairs of the community to which he devoted himself, and the amount and facility of his literary productions. The evidence of his own memoirs and letters, on the other hand, would stamp him as one given up to morbid introspection, and disabled by physical and spiritual maladies from accomplishing anything. The former is the juster view. *Speculative and suggestive* London, 2 vols. This book was remarkable, among other things, for an essay upon Edward Cracroft Lefroy, an unknown poet whose merits Symonds had detected, and whom he generously snatched from oblivion. *A study* London, 8vo. Of these Robert Louis Stevenson was the most remarkable. I dare say you know his work, but the man is far more interesting. He was interred in the protestant cemetery, close by Shelley; the Latin epitaph on his gravestone was written by Jowett. *Man and Author* London, 4to, did not add to his reputation. He bequeathed his papers to the care of Mr. Brown, the historian of Venice, who, by a skilful use of the autobiography which Symonds had commenced in, of diaries,

and of letters contributed by friends, produced a model biography, executed on a large scale, but deeply interesting from beginning to end. When, however, he has to deal with something tangible, such as an historical incident or a work of art, whether literary or formative, he is invariably stimulating and suggestive, if not profound. Himself an Alexandrian, as one of his best critics has remarked, he is most successful in treating of authors whose beauties savor slightly of decadence, such as Theocritus, Ausonius, and Politian. Detached portions are admirable, and if Symonds appears to have sometimes consulted his authors at second hand, it should be remembered that his access to libraries was greatly impeded by his captivity at Davos. It is impossible not to admire the skill and science of his versification and the richness of his phraseology; but everything seems studied, nothing spontaneous; there is no sufficient glow of inspiration to fuse science and study into passion, and the perpetual glitter of fine words and ambitious thoughts becomes wearisome. Campanella, a still more crabbed original, is treated with even greater success, and difficulties of an opposite kind are no less triumphantly encountered in his renderings of the bird-like carols of Tuscany. His version of Benvenuto Cellini is likely to be permanently domesticated as an English book. His very facility, indeed, while it always gives his verse remarkable accomplishment, frequently leads him astray from the fine purposes of poetry, when he is content to describe the externalities of things, without exploring their sources. His work then, dazzling as it often is, becomes hard and slippery on the surface, and barren of the intimacy and precision which are the blood of poetry. In these moods—and they were not rare in his experience—he was the prey and not the master of words, and the seductiveness of a merely gorgeous verbal array confused his perception of the real nature of an image; as, for example — Upon the pictured walls amid the blaze Of carbuncle and turquoise, solid bosses Of diamonds, pearl engirt, shot fiery rays: Here languid men with pleasure tired may sleep: Here revellers may banquet in the sheen Of silver cressets: This is striking virtuosity, but it is not the disciplined manner of poetry; it produces not an image in the mind, but a glittering confusion. His really imposing accomplishment, too, was subject to startling lapses, such as Splits the throat Of maenad multitudes with shrill sharp shrieks, and his literary scholarship should have saved him from such an indiscretion as — Pestilence-smitten multitudes, sere leaves Driven by the dull remorseless autumn breath. Not only had he great richness in description, which could be arresting when it was not unbridled, but there were moments when he wrote simply and with his eye on his object, as in Harvest, and the result gives him a place that we can only wish he had earned by a greater body of work of his best quality. Yet better, he could now and again subject himself to real emotional truth, and express it with sustained if unequal directness, as in Stella Maris. This sonnet sequence is, I think, his best achievement as a poet. There is here a spiritual intensity which Symonds generally missed, but by virtue of his having achieved it here and in one or two other places, he claims his place in the company of genuine poets. Symonds—a problem in Greek ethics. Chaddock for introducing "homosexual" into the English language in , Symonds had already used the word in A Problem in Greek Ethics. He treats "Greek love" as central to Greek "esthetic morality. Woolf was the cousin of her husband William Wyamar Vaughan. Another daughter, Charlotte Symonds, married the classicist Walter Leaf. Soldier Love, or Soldatenliebe since it was limited to a German edition. Another portrait is prefixed to Our Life in the Swiss Highlands,

Chapter 4 : Project MUSE - Memoirs of Symonds

Symonds () never intended to publish these memoirs, which frankly describe his agonized homosexuality, during his lifetime;and his literary executor, when he died in , condemned them to another 50 years' enforced obscurity in the archives of the London Library.

It offers a panoramic view of middle-class Victorian life, shedding light upon sexual cultures and life histories too often hidden from history. Symonds began writing his Memoirs in It was, he confessed,? Symonds was a respected man of letters, an historian, translator, essayist and poet; he was also married with children. But rather than unfold a simple tale of public and private achievement, the Memoirs record his struggle to reconcile his homosexuality with these professional and familial identities. His autobiography offers a confessional account of relationships beyond the accepted bounds of nineteenth-century social mores, presenting an alternative case study that contests the legal and medical authorities that would label his desires a crime or disease. Yet being so eloquent on matters of heterodox sexuality, the Memoirs were suppressed. The manuscript survives because Symonds recognised its import, however? We offer unbeatable prices, quick shipping times and a wide selection second to none. All items are from licensed Distributors. We do not deal with any Bootleg or Used items! Seller assumes all responsibility for this listing. Shipping and handling This item will ship to Germany, but the seller has not specified shipping options. Contact the seller- opens in a new window or tab and request a shipping method to your location. Shipping cost cannot be calculated. Please enter a valid ZIP Code. Illinois, United States Shipping to: Philippines, Brazil No additional import charges at delivery! This item will be shipped through the Global Shipping Program and includes international tracking. Learn more- opens in a new window or tab Quantity: There are 2 items available. Please enter a number less than or equal to 2. Select a valid country. Please enter 5 or 9 numbers for the ZIP Code.

Chapter 5 : John Addington Symonds | LibraryThing

The Memoirs of John Addington Symonds are a startling, engrossing and unique new contribution to our understanding of nineteenth-century sexual mores, and an instant, new classic of Victorian autobiography.

Early life[edit] Symonds was born at Bristol , England in His father, the senior John Addington Symonds , M. Considered delicate, the younger Symonds did not take part in games after age 14 at Harrow School , and he showed no particular promise as a scholar. Symonds was shocked and disgusted, feelings complicated by his growing awareness of his own homosexuality. He did not mention the incident for more than a year until, in and a student at Oxford University , he told the story to John Conington , the Latin professor. Conington approved of romantic relationships between men and boys. He had earlier given Symonds a copy of Ionica, a collection of homoerotic verse by William Johnson Cory , the influential Eton College master and advocate of pederastic pedagogy. In spring of that same year, he fell in love with William Fear Dyer " , a Bristol choirboy three years younger. They engaged in a chaste love affair that lasted a year, until broken up by Symonds. The friendship continued for several years afterward, until at least At University of Oxford , Symonds became engaged in his studies and began to demonstrate his academic ability. He made friends with a C. Shorting, whom he took as a private pupil. When Symonds refused to help Shorting gain admission to Magdalen, the younger man wrote to school officials alleging "that I [Symonds] had supported him in his pursuit of the chorister Walter Thomas Goolden " , that I shared his habits and was bent on the same path. They married at Hastings on 10 November Janet born , Charlotte born , Margaret Madge born and Katharine born ; she was later honoured for her writing as Dame Katharine Furse. Norman Moor While in Clifton in , Symonds met and fell in love with Norman Moor January 10, " March 6, , a youth about to go up to Oxford, who became his pupil. On one occasion he left his family and travelled to Italy and Switzerland with Moor. A Volume of Verse. From his lectures, he prepared the essays in his Introduction to the Study of Dante and Studies of the Greek Poets " Since his prize essay on the Renaissance at Oxford, Symonds had wanted to study it further and emphasise the reawakening of art and literature in Europe. His work was interrupted by serious illness. In his life was in danger. His recovery at Davos Platz led him to believe this was the only place where he was likely to enjoy life. Symonds became a citizen of the town; he took part in its municipal business, made friends with the peasants and shared their interests. There he wrote most of his books: He was feverishly active throughout his life. Considering his poor health, his productivity was remarkable. His activity was unbroken to the last. He had a passion for Italy and for many years resided during the autumn in the house of his friend, Horatio F Brown , on the Zattere , in Venice. He died in Rome and was buried close to the grave of Percy Bysshe Shelley. Legacy[edit] Symonds left his papers and his autobiography in the hands of Brown, who wrote an expurgated biography in , which Edmund Gosse further stripped of homoerotic content before publication. This side of his nature is revealed in his gnomic poetry , and particularly in the sonnets of his Animi Figura He portrayed his own character with great subtlety. His poetry is perhaps rather that of the student than of the inspired singer, but it has moments of deep thought and emotion. It is, indeed, in passages and extracts that Symonds appears at his best. Rich in description, full of " purple patches ," his work lacks the harmony and unity essential to the conduct of philosophical argument. His translations are among the finest in the language; here his subject was found for him, and he was able to lavish on it the wealth of colour and quick sympathy which were his characteristics. Homosexuality and homosexual writings[edit] Front cover of the reprint edition, edited by John Lauritsen In , Symonds wrote A Problem in Greek Ethics, a work of what would later be called " gay history. Chaddock for introducing "homosexual" into the English language in , Symonds had already used the word in A Problem in Greek Ethics. His private memoirs, written but never completed over a four-year period from to , form the earliest known self-conscious homosexual autobiography. Woolf was the cousin of her husband William Wyamar Vaughan. Another daughter, Charlotte Symonds, married the classicist Walter Leaf. Soldier Love, or Soldatenliebe since it was limited to a German edition. Leipzig, Wine, Women, and Song.

Chapter 6 : John Addington Symonds - Wikipedia

The Memoirs of John Addington Symonds has 13 ratings and 2 reviews. Bernard said: A sad and poignant tale illustrating the horrors and suffocating effect.

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THE MEMOIRS OF JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS John Addington Symonds (5 October - 19 April) was an English literary critic, writer on the Renaissance and biographer.

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Chapter 9 : 13 Oct “ Talk on John Addington Symonds + OutStories AGM ” OutStories Bristol

John Addington Symonds: John Addington Symonds, English essayist, poet, and biographer best known for his cultural history of the Italian Renaissance. After developing symptoms of tuberculosis while a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, Symonds traveled extensively for his health, settling in Davos, Switz., in