



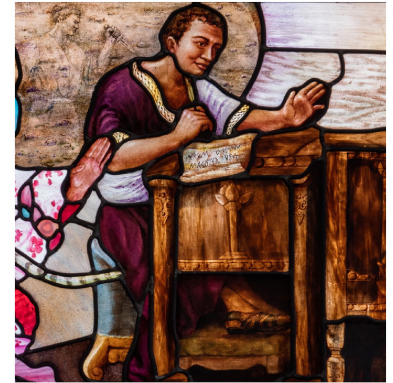
Alexander the Great

Alexander the Great (356–323 BCE) was one of the most influential and successful conquerors of the Classical Age. Records claim that Alexander the Great was in love with Hephastion, a bodyguard and his closest friend.



Greek Tragedy

Historically, in European theater, female roles were filled by male actors. Theatrical performances in Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, and the Globe Theater included crossdressing, with men portraying romantic relationships with other male actors.



Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar (100–44 BCE) is known today for his military and political success. He is also rumored to have had romantic relationships with both women and men. The poet Catullus referred to Caesar as “The husband to every woman and wife to every man.”



Hadrian's Wall

Hadrian (117–138 CE) was a Spanish-Roman emperor. He created a wall between England and Scotland, and many other infrastructure projects. Though homosexuality was common in Roman culture, discrimination still existed based on whether the person was dominant or submissive in the relationship. Hadrian was controversial in his time for his commitment to his lover, Antinous. He even ordered that Antinous be deified after his death.



Shakespeare

William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was a famous English playwright, actor, and poet. His works, such as “Twelfth Night” and “Much Ado About Nothing,” explored the deconstruction of sexuality and gender. Shakespeare’s own sexuality has been the subject of some debate due to the masculine object of many of his romantic sonnets. This has supported some theories of his bisexuality.



Olaudah Equiano

Olaudah Equiano (c. 1745–1797) was an enslaved man who purchased his freedom in 1766. His autobiography, “The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano,” brought public awareness to the brutalities of slavery. Equiano’s memoir also describes his and other enslaved people’s engagement in same sex relationships



Ugly Duckling

Hans Christian Andersen (1805–1875), is the Danish author of "The Ugly Duckling." He is believed to have been gay, as love letters have been uncovered that he sent to different men. It is also believed that "The Little Mermaid" was originally written to represent Anderson's inability to marry whom he loved.



Emily Dickinson

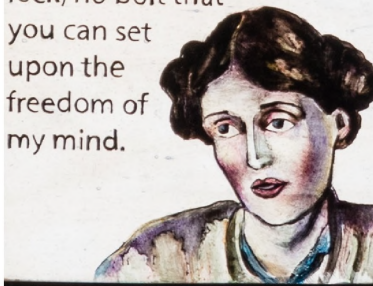
Emily Dickinson (1830–1886) was an American poet whose popularity was celebrated posthumously. She remained unmarried throughout her life, but had such frequent and intimate correspondence with her childhood friend and later sister-in-law, that many scholars believe the relationship was romantic.



Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes (1901–1967) was a poet, writer, social activist, novelist, and playwright during the Harlem Renaissance. Hughes never married, and due to undertones in his poetry, scholars believe he was asexual and/or homosexual.

Lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind.



Virginia Woolf

Virginia Woolf (1882–1941) was an English modernist writer who advocated for equality of the sexes. Her feminist essay, "A Room of One's Own," was based on lectures she would deliver around the country. Although married to a man, Woolf was involved in several romantic relationships with women in her lifetime.



Alan Turing

Alan Turing (1912–1954) was the father of modern computer science and artificial intelligence. He was part of the team that worked to break the German Enigma codes in World War II. He is best known for creating the Turing Test, a way of determining if a computer can demonstrate human intelligence. Turing was prosecuted in 1952 for his homosexuality.