

**STUDIES IN THE  
PSYCHOLOGY OF SEX;  
SEXUAL INVERSION**

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Studies in the Psychology of Sex; Sexual Inversion by Havelock Ellis

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**HAVELOCK ELLIS**

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The "Studies in the Psychology of Sex" will probably be completed in five volumes. Each volume is sold separately, and is complete in itself.

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BY  
HAVELOCK ELLIS



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1901

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## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

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ALTHOUGH it is scarcely four years since this book was published, it has had a somewhat eventful history. It was favorably received by the medical press on its first publication in London and no attempt was made to bring it before the general public. A prosecution was, however, initiated by the police against a bookseller who sold the book, and the Recorder of London (the late Sir Charles Hall), sitting as a judge, finally decided that it was not a scientific work, and ordered it to be destroyed. It was a deplorable decision from many points of view, though I need scarcely say that I was able to bear with equanimity the recorder's opinion of my book's scientific value; I have the satisfaction of knowing that neither in my own country, nor in continental Europe, nor in America, has anyone entitled to an authoritative opinion on the subjects with which I deal pronounced adversely to my book, while, on the other hand, many have spoken in its favor in terms more flattering than I can venture to think that I deserve. At the same time I have no wish to act in opposition to the laws of my country, even as interpreted by amateur experts on the judicial bench, and immediately the issue of the Bedborough case was known I declared my intention not to publish any of the further volumes of my *Studies in the Psychology of Sex* in England. So far as I have been able to control the matter, I have most strictly adhered to this resolution.

In the meanwhile I proceeded to revise and enlarge my book, aided in this task by many friends and correspondents. Eleven new cases have been added; these are III, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XXVI, XXXV, XXXVI, and XXXVII, some of them being, I consider, of much psychological interest. Many additions and necessary corrections have also been made throughout, though the stand-point and main conclusions re-



main the same. The only omission made is that of a brief appendix written for me by a woman physician.

As it now stands, this is the only edition of my book in English authorized by me: Any other edition of this book or of any volume of my *Studies in the Psychology of Sex* is issued without my authorization and against my wish.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Carbis Water, Lelant, Cornwall, England,  
June 24, 1901.

## PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

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It was not my intention to publish a study of an abnormal manifestation of the sexual instinct before discussing its normal manifestations. It has happened, however, that this part of my work is ready first, and, since I thus gain a longer period to develop the central part of my subject, I do not regret the change of plan.

I had not at first proposed to devote a whole volume to sexual inversion. It may even be that I was inclined to slur it over as an unpleasant subject, and one that it was not wise to enlarge on. But I found in time that several persons for whom I felt respect and admiration were the congenital subjects of this abnormality. At the same time I realized that in England, more than in any other country, the law and public opinion combine to place a heavy penal burden and a severe social stigma on the manifestations of an instinct which to those persons who possess it frequently appears natural and normal. It was clear, therefore, that the matter was in special need of elucidation and discussion.

There can be no doubt that a peculiar amount of ignorance exists regarding the subject of sexual inversion. I know medical men of many years' general experience who have never, to their knowledge, come across a single case. We may remember, indeed, that some fifteen years ago the total number of cases recorded in scientific literature scarcely equaled those of British race which I have obtained, and that before my first cases were published not a single British case, unconnected with the asylum or the prison, had ever been recorded. Probably not a very large number of people are even aware that the turning in of the sexual instinct toward persons of the same sex can ever be regarded as inborn, so far as any sexual instinct is inborn. And very few, indeed, would not be surprised if it were possible to

publish a list of the names of sexually inverted men and women who at the present time are honorably known in church, state, society, art, or letters. It could not be positively affirmed of all such persons that they were born inverted, but in most the inverted tendency seems to be instinctive, and appears at a somewhat early age. In any case, however, it must be realized that in this volume we are not dealing with subjects belonging to the lunatic asylum or the prison. We are concerned with individuals who live in freedom, some of them suffering intensely from their abnormal organization, but otherwise ordinary members of society. In a few cases we are concerned with individuals whose moral or artistic ideals have widely influenced their fellows, who know nothing of the peculiar organization which has largely molded those ideals.

I am indebted to several friends for notes, observations, and correspondence on this subject, more especially to one, referred to as "Z.," and to another as "Q.," who have obtained a considerable number of reliable histories for me, and have also supplied many valuable notes; to "Josiah Flynt" (whose articles on tramps in *Atlantic Monthly* and *Harper's Magazine* have attracted wide attention) for an appendix on homosexuality among tramps; to Drs. Kiernan, Lydston, and Talbot for assistance at various points noted in the text; and to Dr. K., an American woman physician, who kindly assisted me in obtaining cases, and has also supplied an appendix. Other obligations are mentioned in the text.

All those portions of the book which are of medical or medico-legal interest, including most of the cases, have appeared during the last three years in the *Alienist and Neurologist*, the *Journal of Mental Science*, the *Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde*, the *Medico-legal Journal*, and the *Archivio delle Psicopatie Sessuale*. The cases, as they appear in the present volume, have been slightly condensed, but nothing of genuine psychological interest has been omitted. Owing to some delay in the publication of the English edition of the work, a German translation by my friend, Dr. Hans Kurella, editor of the *Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde*, has already appeared (1896)