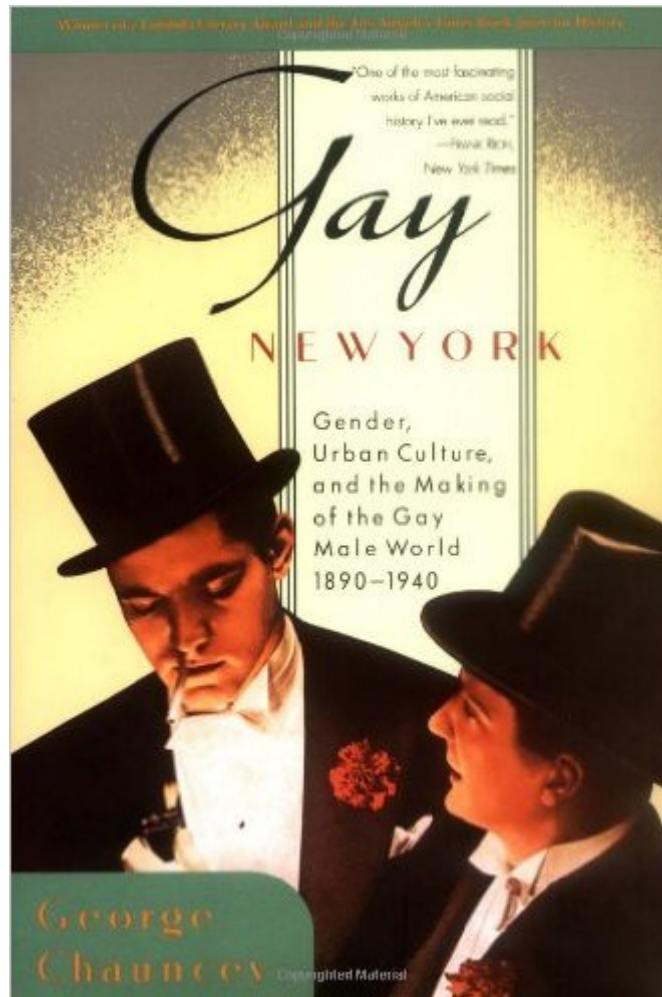


The book was found

Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, And The Making Of The Gay Male World, 1890-1940



Synopsis

Gay New York brilliantly shatters the myth that before the 1960s gay life existed only in the closet, where gay men were isolated, invisible, and self-hating. Based on years of research and access to a rich trove of diaries, legal records, and other unpublished documents, this book is a fascinating portrait of a gay world that is not supposed to have existed.

Book Information

Paperback: 496 pages

Publisher: Basic Books; unknown edition (May 19, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0465026214

ISBN-13: 978-0465026210

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.4 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (36 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #93,134 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Gay & Lesbian Studies #14 inÂ Books > Gay & Lesbian > History #72 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Gay & Lesbian

Customer Reviews

I read a lot of history, but generally not read social history. Nevertheless, this is one of the best books I have read in recent years. According to Author George Chauncey, who teaches at the University of Chicago, a "myth of isolation" "holds that, even if a gay world existed [in New York between 1890 and 1940], it was kept invisible." Chauncey's main premise is that, not only was there a gay New York beginning in the 1890s, it was not invisible. In the marvelous introduction, Chauncey also makes the profound point that the gay male world of the pre-World War II era "was not a world in which men were divided into 'homosexuals' and 'heterosexuals.'" Chauncey proceeds to explain: "This book argues that in important respects the hetero-homosexual binarism, the sexual regime now hegemonic in American culture, is a stunningly recent creation." Later in the introduction, Chauncey writes: "Heterosexuality, no less than homosexuality, is a historically specific social category and identity." Chauncey's study begins in the 1890s, "a time when New York was famous for being a 'wide-open town,' [when] some clubs went so far as to stage live sexual performances." The so-called "Bowery resorts were only the most famous elements of an extensive, organized, highly visible gay world." At the turn of the century, men who were "painted and

powdered,' used women's names, and displayed feminine mannerisms" were called "fairies." According to Chauncey, fairies were tolerated, but not respected, in much of working-class society. During this period "Many men alternated between male and female sexual partners without believing that interest in one precluded interest in the other.

Chauncey's book offers serious and original thinking about queer history and about general urban history as well. Freed from the myths that have persisted about the place of homosexuals in U.S. society, the author paints a new portrait of what transpired just before the turn of the last century and into the early decades of the 20th century. The most important idea he explains is that the concepts of "homosexuality" and "heterosexuality" as we understand them today didn't exist one hundred years ago. Chauncey's research shows that it was adherence to traditional gender role, rather than choice of sex partner, that labelled a man as either a "fairy" or "normal." The author provides detailed descriptions of the process by which working class men in particular could have sexual relations with other men and preserve a "normal" identity so long as the sex partners were effeminate. He uses extensive supporting materials that undergird his conclusions, including accounts of the "pansies" who were not, in fact, demeaned or ostracized but instead were tolerated, courted, and may even have served a vital purpose to working men who had relocated alone to the city to support families that lived elsewhere or to make their way into adulthood. Chauncey shows how the definition of "invert"-- detour from standard gender role-- shifted gradually to the notion of "degenerate" or "homosexual"-- men who chose other men as sex partners. He makes clear how the emerging definition of homosexuality depended on a similarly new definition of heterosexuality. These subtle but powerful social mores are detailed at length, in convincing prose.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940 Soap Making: 365 Days of Soap Making (Soap Making, Soap Making Books, Soap Making for Beginners, Soap Making Guide, Soap Making Recipes, Soap Making Supplies): Soap Making Recipes for 365 Days The New York Times Monday Through Friday Easy to Tough Crossword Puzzles: 50 Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The New York Times Acrostic Puzzles Volume 9: 50 Challenging Acrostics from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Acrostic Crosswords) Re-Visioning Family Therapy, Second Edition: Race, Culture, and Gender in Clinical Practice (Re-Visioning Family Therapy: Race, Culture, & Gender in) Noxious New York: The Racial Politics of Urban Health and Environmental Justice (Urban and Industrial Environments) Women, Feminism and Social Change in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay, 1890-1940

(Engendering Latin America) Race, Nation, and West Indian Immigration to Honduras, 1890-1940
Modern Antiques for the Table: A Guide to Tabletop Accessories of 1890-1940 Making the Second
Ghetto: Race and Housing in Chicago 1940-1960 (Historical Studies of Urban America) GAY: 13
STORIES OF MAN ON MAN (GAY MM ROMANCE, GAY BDSM, FIRST TIME, MM/MMM
MULTIPLE PARTNER, FORBIDDEN TALES, STEAMY TABOO STORIES, ALPHA MALES TOO
BIG TO FIT IN, GAY MENAGE THREESOME STORIES) West Indian Workers and the United Fruit
Company in Costa Rica, 1870-1940: 1870-1940 Mobilizing New York: AIDS, Antipoverty, and
Feminist Activism (Gender and American Culture) Fenton Glass Compendium 1940-7 (1940-1970)
Jewelry Making: Jewelry Making Instructions to Easily Create Beautiful Pendants, Bracelets,
Earrings, and Necklaces (Jewelry Making Books, jewelry making for dummies, jewelry making tools)
Jewelry Making: 33 Tips and Advices For Making Unique Earrings (jewelry making, jewelry making
books, jewelry making kits) NUEVA YORK /NEW YORK: El Estado Imperial (World Almanac
Biblioteca De Los Estados/World Almanac Library of the States) (Spanish Edition) Radical
Relations: Lesbian Mothers, Gay Fathers, and Their Children in the United States since World War
II (Gender and American Culture) Gilbert and Sullivan: Gender, Genre, Parody (Gender and Culture
Series) My New Gender Workbook: A Step-by-Step Guide to Achieving World Peace Through
Gender Anarchy and Sex Positivity

[Dmca](#)