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Title: *Online Companion to Same-Sex Desire in Early Modern England, 1550-1735: An Anthology of Literary Texts and Contexts*

**Abstract:**

Balancing long-overlooked and well-known works, *Same-Sex Desire in Early Modern England, 1550-1735: An Anthology of Literary Texts and Contexts* and its Online Companion comprise a collection of English texts about homoerotic love, relationships, desires, and sexual acts. The anthology’s core texts are selections from drama, fiction, romance, poetry, essays and translations. These core texts are carefully introduced and annotated, and supplemented with illuminating contextual material from other early modern disciplines such as law, medicine, and theology. Juxtaposing literary and non-literary representations of same-sex erotic desire, this anthology explores a rich tradition of works both celebrating and condemning same-sex erotic love. The Online Companion provides additional texts and critical resources, from classical translations to politically motivated satire to religious poetry to moral and theological treatises, as well as legal statutes.

**Summary:**

*Same-Sex Desire in Early Modern England, 1550-1735: An Anthology of Literary Texts and Contexts* and its Online Companion comprise a collection of English texts dealing with same-sex erotic love, relationships, desires and sexual acts. Recent scholarship has explored extensively the nature and representation of early modern homoerotic relationships and sexual acts, but this anthology is the first devoted to their literary and non-literary representations in this crucial period when conceptions about sexuality and identity generally underwent massive change.

Carefully annotated, introduced, and contextualized with selections from texts in several early modern disciplines—such as theology, medicine, and the law—, the anthology’s literary works come from a wide variety of genres. There are extensive selections from works in translation, drama, romance, fiction, poetry, and essays, focusing on a balance between the period’s well-known homoerotic works, such as Shakespeare’s *Sonnets*, and those which have remained much more obscure, such as Catherine Trotter’s heroic drama *Agnes de Catstro*. The anthology includes an Online Companion, offering further primary texts—including classical translations, politically motivated satire, religious poetry, moral and theological treatises, and legal statutes—as well as brief interpretive essays, and an up-to-date bibliography.

The selection of works from many different disciplines and genres makes *Same Sex-Desire in Early Modern England, 1550-1735* and its Online Companion ideal for use in undergraduate courses in the areas of English literature, history, and gender studies. It offers graduate students and academics provocative intersections between canonical and non-canonical literary texts, and the general reader a perhaps unexpectedly rich tradition of texts both celebrating as well as condemning same-sex erotic love.
The print anthology includes:

- Equal focus on texts dealing with male and female same-sex erotic love, relationships, desires, and acts.
- Extensive selections from literary texts and texts from a wide variety of extra-literary disciplines, such as law, theology, philosophy, and medicine.
- Helpful annotations and biographical headnotes.
- Extensive general introduction placing the texts in their social, historical and cultural contexts, as well as in the context of modern questions about the nature of sexuality, desire, and selfhood.
- Detailed section introductions, explaining same-sex erotic desire and relationships in terms of specific early modern disciplines (e.g., medicine, natural science, theology, crime and the law, and ethnography).

The Online Companion includes:

- Extensive selections from literary texts and texts from a wide variety of extra-literary disciplines, such as law, theology, philosophy, and medicine, with a focus on translations from the classics.
- Helpful annotations and biographical headnotes.
- Brief critical essays on topics ranging from the representation of homoerotic love in Scripture to the homoerotics of seventeenth-century devotional poetry to early modern ideas about friendship to the reception of ancient homoerotic texts in early modern England.