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The Sexuality of History: Modernity and the Sapphic, 1565-1830

By Susan Sniader Lancer

The University of Chicago Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Sexuality of History: Modernity and the Sapphic, 1565-1830, Susan Sniader Lancer, The period of reform, revolution, and reaction that characterized seventeenth - and eighteenth-century Europe also witnessed an intensified interest in lesbians. In scientific treatises and orientalist travelogues, in French court gossip and Dutch court records, in passionate verse, in the rising novel, and in cross-dressed flirtations on the English and Spanish stage, poets, playwrights, philosophers, and pundits were placing sapphic relations before the public eye. In The Sexuality of History, Susan S. Lancer demonstrates how intimacies between women became harbingers of the modern, bringing the sapphic into the mainstream of some of the most significant events in Western Europe. Ideas about female same-sex relations became a focal point for intellectual and cultural contests between authority and liberty, power and difference, desire and duty, mobility and change, and order and governance. Lancer explores the ways in which a historically specific interest in lesbians intersected with, and stimulated, systemic concerns that would seem to have little to do with sexuality. Departing from the prevailing trend of queer reading, whereby scholars ferret out hidden content in "closeted" texts, Lancer situates...



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