

Archives of Sexuality and Gender: L'Enfer de la Bibliothèque Nationale de France

EXPLORE SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST FORBIDDEN WORKS

Search through one of the most storied and sought-after private case collections in the world. *L'Enfer* (hell) from the Bibliothèque Nationale de France is the focus of the fifth installment of Gale's popular *Archives of Sexuality and Gender* program. The collection, created in the 1830s, houses erotic and pornographic content dating from 1531 to 2012. Unlike other private collections, none of the works in *L'Enfer* were locked away solely for political or religious reasons. Rather, they were considered contrary to public morality and therefore forbidden, prosecuted, and proscribed. Fortunately, this is to our benefit today. Now researchers can have unprecedented access to over 500,000 pages of monographs to study what was once considered the darker side of gender and sexuality.

Various sources. *Archives of Sexuality and Gender: L'Enfer de la Bibliothèque Nationale de France.*



CREATE AN INCOMPARABLE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Archives of Sexuality and Gender: L'Enfer de la Bibliothèque Nationale de France is comprised of more than 2,400 printed works. Roughly 950 additional items come from an appendix to the printed books of *L'Enfer*, called *Flagellation*, which is the result of an editorial subgenre that flourished in France between the 1880s and 1930s. Researchers can also digitally cross-search and compare *L'Enfer* with the British Library's *Private Case*, which is available in our third installment of the *Archives of Sexuality and Gender* series, to expand their understanding of sexual history, developing views on sexuality, the policing of sexuality, and the nature of titillation throughout history.

Sample Content:

- *Les aventures de Chérubin, l'enfant du bordel*, by Pigault-Lebrun (1753–1835)
- *The life and amours of the beautiful, gay and dashing Kate Percival, the Belle of the Delaware*, by Kate Percival, 1903
- *The pleasures of cruelty, being a sequel to the reading of Justine et Juliette*, by Donatien Alphonse François de Sade (1740–1814), 1898
- *Mémoires d'une femme de chambre écrits par elle-même en 1786*, by J. J. Gay, 1883
- *Histoire d'un homme débauché et entretenu par le concubinage*, by Lebrun, 1859
- *Dictionnaire érotique moderne par un professeur de langue verte*, by Alfred Delvau (1825–1867), 1864
- *Confessions of Miss Coote, a most voluptuous and refined collection of ten letters respecting her experiences as a flagellant*, printed for the Society of Vice, 1892
- *Marriage-love and woman amongst the Arabs, otherwise entitled the Book of Exposition* (Kitab al-Izah Fi'il-m al-Nikah b-it-Tamam w-al-Kamal), 1896
- *The amorous adventures of a Japanese gentleman, related for the entertainment of his honorable friends*, printed for the Daimio of Satsuma, 1897
- *Sue Suckit, maid and wife, to which is added the Philosophical Sister's Tale*, New Orleans, 1913
- *Caresse infernales* [Scènes érotiques vécues], by J. Van Styk, 1935
- *Sadie Blackeyes. Baby, douce fille, roman suivi de lettres concernant la flagellation des femmes et des filles, le tout illustré par un maître du crayon*, by Pierre Mac Orlan (1882–1970)

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