

yes



King Aknahton, 14th C. BC

## Episodic Timeline of Transsexuality

**Isis and Osiris:** Sororal gods in Egyptian mythology.

After Osiris was dismembered, Isis found his penis and used it to conceive and give birth to Horus.

**Scythian Amazons:** charred or cut off one breast to signify their male sides.

**The Eleusinian Mysteries:** secret mass rituals of initiation that included the hierogamos or erotic marriage of the priests and priestesses as signal of cosmic fertility and human rebirth.

**Plato:** Greek philosopher who proposed the thesis that male and female were once joined in one being and then were separated. Since then male and female parts now search for each other endlessly, but can never really be joined again.

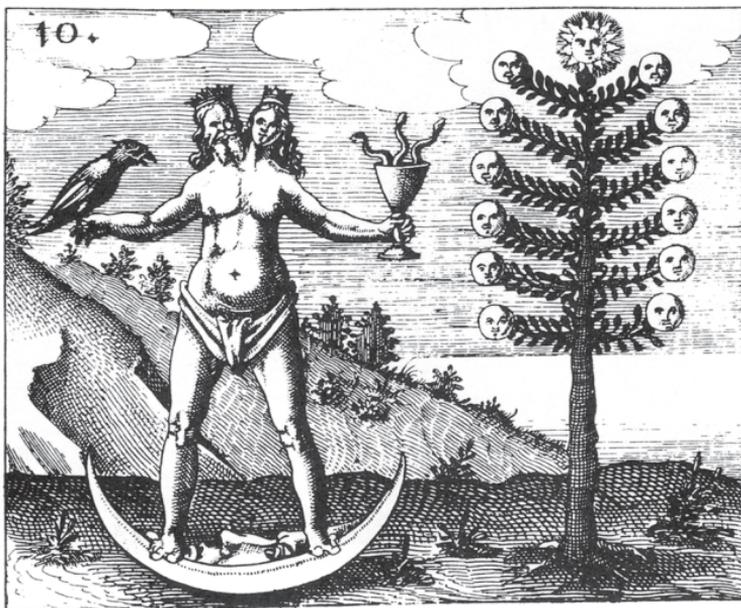
yes

**Teirisias:** blind seer of Greek myth, underwent several sexual transformations from MTF, and FTM in order to probe the mysteries of sexuality and orgasm.

**4th Century BC:** Dyonisus, the hybrid God. Born from Zeus' thigh, Dyonisus was the god of excess and ecstasy. He ran with the maenads, women who were said to tear wild animals to pieces in their ecstatic possession

**Sappho:** Best lyric poet of Greece, founded a school for women on the island of Lesbos.

**1200–1500:** Alchemical manuscripts such as Villanova's, *Rosarium Philosophorum*, and M. Maier's *Atalanta Fugiens* illustrate the alchemical principles of androgynous transformation of male and female matter and spirit (sun and moon, silver and gold) through sexual union.



Transformation, Alchemical MS, 1622

**yes** **1600:** John Donne: *The Canonization* (poem).

*By us, we two being one, are it.  
So, to one neutral thing both sexes fit,  
We dye and rise the same, and prove  
Mysterious by this love.*

**1646:** Sir Thomas Browne, *Pseudoxia Epidemica*, a consideration about hermaphrodites among other matters.

**1784:** Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Mignon*. A boyish girl brought up by a father-protector in the land where the citron blooms. Set to music by Hugo Wolff (*Kennst du das Land wo die Zitronen blühn?*)

**1799:** Friedrich Schlegel, German pioneer of art history and aesthetics writes a novel *Lucinde* in which he describes fantasies of gender-inversions in love relationships. He also advocated mixing all genres of literature and producing fiction that dissected “unnatural pleasures.”

**19th Century:** With the consolidation of medicine as a profession the condition of intersex became medicalized, as did many other bodily anomalies and conditions that people generally considered part of “nature” in pre-medicalized times.

**1835:** Theophile Gautier, *Mademoiselle de Maupin*. Novel in which Mademoiselle seduces men and women alike with boldness and grace.

**1835:** Honore de Balzac, *Seraphita*, a novel about an hermaphroditic youth who ascends from nature into supernatural realms of the angels. His/Her flower is the blue saxifrage.

**1898:** Aubrey Bearsdley, gay artist, illustrates *Mademoiselle de Maupin*, Oscar Wilde’s *Salome*, and many other poems and plays.

**1898–1942:** Robert Musil, *The Man Without Qualities*. Brother Ulrich and hermaphroditic sister Agathe become intertwined for life and experience the liquid state of two-in-one of the androgyne.

yes



Native American Shaman

**1904:** French writer Colette experiments with androgyny and becomes part of a Parisian lesbian salon that included artist Natalie Barney, poet Djuna Barnes, and many other artists, actresses, and denizens of homosexual subcultures.

**1928:** Virginia Woolf, *Orlando. A Biography*. In which the character Orlando undergoes several gender inversions. Features photographs of Vita Sackville-West, Woolf’s friend and lover, as Orlando.

**1929:** Mei Lan Fang, was one of the foremost actors of China, and portrayed many female roles in Chinese theater.

**1952:** Sir Ewen Forbes, born Elizabeth Forbes-Semphill was issued a new male birth certificate on the basis that he was a transsexual and his gender should have been marked as indeterminate at birth.

**1950s–1970s:** Dr. John Money conducted research in sexual dysphoria. He concluded that intersexual babies



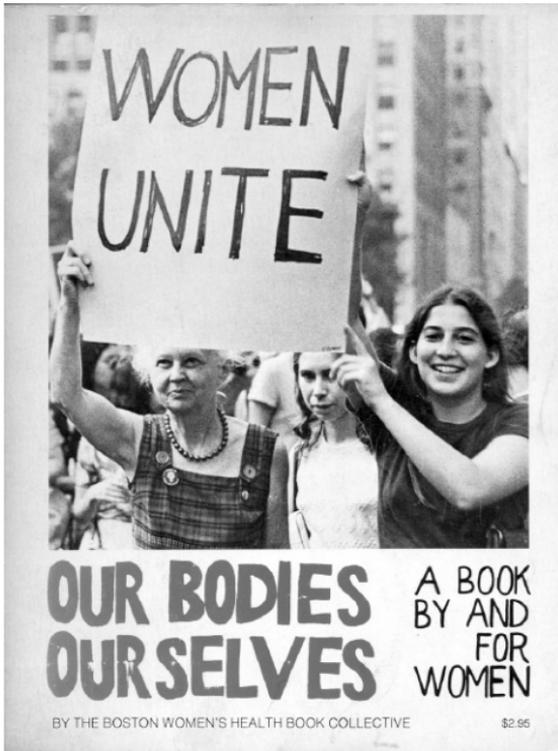
could be assigned to whichever gender the physician or parent desired; however, to achieve a stable gender identity a child must have unambiguous genitalia and unequivocal parental assur-

Mei Lan Fang

yes

ance of the chosen gender. This led to a clinical practice of withholding knowledge of its condition from the child and the parents and early, often secret genital surgery before 18 months of age.

**1950s:** Dr. Lawson Wilkins, pediatric endocrinologist at Johns Hopkins started collaborating with Dr. Money who was advocating his method of establishing the basis of secure gender identity for intersex individuals. Dr. Wilkins became the proselytizer and advocate in the US of the practice of secret gender surgery and lying to parents and children.



yes

- 1969:** The highest court of South Korea ruled that a woman who had been raped had actually not been raped because she was not chromosomally a woman.
- 1969:** Ursula Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*, a dystopian novel about a country of androgynes.
- 1970:** In the famous case of *Corbett vs. Corbett* sex was defined legally as based on genital and chromosomal criteria only. This has since been overturned.
- 1970s:** LSD was considered a de-gendering drug. According to Timothy Leary LSD would unleash you from the “gyroscopic male-female linkage.”
- 1978:** Carlos Castaneda, *The Second Ring of Power*. A seeker is inducted into shamanism by some very powerful hermaphroditic witches.

**1985:** Dr. Hoenig publishes *The Origin of Gender Identity and Gender Dysphoria*. New York, Plenum Press.

**1988:** Dr. Docter commented on Hoenig's work and concluded that there is now a weight of evidence of "the formation of some kind of gender system within the brain that is fundamental to ultimate gender identity and gender-role development." The consensus among medical people and scientists now seems to be that gender is biologically based, and due to multiple factors.

**1995:** The Court of Justice of the European Community ruled on an interpretation of the Equal Treatment Directive of 1976, which forbids discrimination on the basis of sex. The European Court of Human Rights ruled that in the interpretation of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in sexual discrimination cases, sex should be regarded as a continuum and not as either male



yes

or female. Therefore all legal rights granted to males and females must also be granted to transsexuals, including the right to contract a valid (heterosexual) marriage.

**July 4, 2000:** The American Academy of Pediatrics issued guidelines for the treatment of newborns with ambiguous genitalia. Calling the birth of such a child a "social emergency" pediatricians called on doctors and nurses not to use "dehumanizing" language or assign a gender to an intersexual child too soon. Parents were cautioned to refer to the child as "my child" or "our baby" not as "it", "he", or "she".

A Woman Healer, 14th C. AD



- 2004:** Colombia's highest court rules to protect rights of intersex people and restricts authority of parents and physicians to authorize medically unnecessary surgery.
- 2004:** San Francisco's Human Rights Commission holds the first public US hearings on Intersex Issues in the US.

yes



**yes**