friendship" filled the gap between societal demands of heterosexuality and natural homosexual desires. While publicly portraying the rugged "New American Man" who ruled over his wife and progeny, many men (and women) maintained intimate relationships with their same-gendered peers. Whether sexual or not, these relationships exhibited (and often exceeded) all the passions of romantic love indicative of contemporaneous heterosexual partnerships.

As the product of a seasoned gay activist, this book is likely to draw criticism concerning its overt assumptions of sexuality. Bronski openly admits, while a politically driven work of revisionism, this is not a book about "outing" historical individuals. Rather, in supporting his theory of commonplace homosocial relationships, Bronski draws heavily on documented frontier relationships in which gender roles were relaxed, the growing availability and readership of queer literature by Whitman and other gay writers, and the sobering impact of war on encouraging young men's sexual appetites and explorations. The various roles of women as financial providers who often shared close working tenements, cross-dressing combatants, and the intimate bonds of wartime widows serve as evidence that, although society at large often rejected public same-sex relationships, queer romances existed throughout American history.

While the Gay Liberation Movement of the 1970s is the most discernible and publicized event in the queer history of modern America, it was merely a paradigm shift where that which had long existed privately could finally gain varying degrees of public acceptance. Gay men and women founded the United States, fought in its wars, and struggled for gender and racial equality. *A Queer History of the United States* is the history of one nation and one people - inseparable along the lines of their sexual identities. This book is appropriate for students of American history, gender and queer studies, and lay readers interested in new interpretations of sexuality in America.

Phillip Mikell

Josie McLellan. *Love in the Time of Communism: Intimacy and Sexuality in the GDR.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. Pp. 239. Paper $31.99.

In *Love in the Time of Communism,* Josie McLellan, senior lecturer of Modern European History at the University of Bristol, explores the regulation of people’s sexuality living in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) from the 1950s to 1989. She argues that although

sexuality was officially a taboo topic in Communist societies, East Germany was unique because people's intimate activities did not remain in their private lives. While monogamy and heterosexuality were the norms, East Germans broke away from these ideals to liberate their bodies from repression. Even with the Communist Party's stranglehold on society through the secret police spying on the masses, she points out that people in the GDR had sexual freedom because they did not see intimacy as a threat. In addition, the GDR's government used sexuality to shape their society and determine what was acceptable based on their interpretation of Communist ideals.

McLellan's thematic approach addresses marginalization, marriage, intimacy, sexual values, and cultural mores. Through interviews, secret police documents, erotica collections, surveys and government documents, she analyzes social trends and sexual activities among the masses, and shows how East German culture changed as it evolved into a socially progressive state. The sources underscore the perspective of ordinary people, and illustrate that intimate activities enabled East Germans to liberate their bodies from government control, conservative values, and heterocentricism. Youth sexuality, for example, became a key subject for the Communist Party since they wanted to encourage the younger generation to engage in intimate activities. According to McLellan, the government's relaxed approach to regulating sexuality meant that a sexual revolution occurred in East Germany earlier than in western countries. As part of its effort to promote sexual freedom and to make their society appear progressive, the government introduced abortion rights.

McLellan's interviews with individuals who lived in the GDR between the 1950s and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 confirm that they experienced openness in spaces outside of the public sphere. Nudism and the objectification of women in pornography, for example, became part of popular culture in the GDR due to people searching for ideals of natural beauty. The level of sexual freedom present in East German society allowed the state to take advantage of people's display of intimacy in public to link the GDR closer to the western world. Tolerance towards eroticism reveals that the Communist Party and the masses pushed the boundaries of accepted norms in their communities in hopes of changing their global image. This reveals the evolution of East German values because of the government's laxness towards intimate activities, compared to the Soviet Union's policies, which ensured such conduct remained in the social periphery.

Love in the Time of Communism is an original study that expands the historiography of sexuality in the GDR. McLellan's work allows scholars to explore topics regarding intimacy in East Germany

and the role it played in German reunification. McLellan provides scholars with a stepping-stone for investigating people's private spaces under Communism. Her findings open up the possibility of discussing sexual dissent and western influences in how East Germans saw notions of love, intimacy, and sexuality before the end of Communism. Those interested in the history of sexuality, gender, repression, and the Cold War era will enjoy this new perspective on East German society through its exploration of private life under communist authoritarianism.

Stefan Ogbac

Anthony Everitt. *The Life of Rome's First Emperor: Augustus*. New York: Random House, 2006. Pp. 377. Paper $18.00.

Anthony Everitt, a visiting Professor in the Performing and Visual Arts at Nottingham Trent University, provides a unique look at the *man* who was arguably one of Rome's most influential rulers. Everitt argues that most books written about Augustus only highlight his achievements and not his life as an individual. His book is based on the premise that there is more to Augustus than the fact that he ruled Rome with an iron fist. To support his argument, Everitt uses texts from ancient and modern historians that range from letters, a plethora of museums, and personal visits to locations significantly related to Augustus' life such as the houses of Augustus and his wife Livia.

Much of the first part of the book deals with Augustus as a child (known then as Octavian prior to becoming emperor) and the first twenty years of his life. Everitt highlights significant events such as the death of his great grand-uncle, Julius Caesar, which had a profound affect on Augustus. In fact it was at this moment that Augustus, who had no previous political aspirations, decided to return to Rome from personal exile to pursue politics. Everrit gets a bit carried away, however, in his descriptions of people around Augustus since they distract from him as the main focus. Apart from the first chapter, the book is a chronological account of the life of Augustus that ends with his death. Overall, Everitt does a fantastic job delving deeply into the mindset of Augustus during key moments in his life that allow readers insight into the personality of Augustus.

Later chapters go much further into his career as Rome's first emperor and the expansion of the empire. These chapters recount his personal struggles including the loss of many designated heirs, political strife, and his legendary ruthlessness. The book also addresses the change Augustus underwent to a more benign ruler. Everitt maintains