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# Libertine

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For other uses, see Libertine (disambiguation).

sense of responsibility, or sexual restraints, which they see as unnecessary or undesirable, and is especially someone who ignores or even spurns accepted morals and forms of behaviour observed by the larger society. [1][2] Libertinism is described as an extreme form of hedonism.[3] Libertines put value on physical pleasures, meaning those experienced through the senses. As a philosophy, libertinism gained new-found adherents in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, particularly in France and Great Britain. Notable among these were John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester, and the Marquis de Sade.

A libertine is a person devoid of most moral principles, a



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argued against Calvin's "insistence that church discipline should be enforced uniformly

4.1 Rulers and political figures 4.2 Religious leaders 4.3 Actors 4.4 Musicians 4.5 Writers 4.6 Others 5 See also

6 References History of the term [edit] The word *libertine* was originally coined by John Calvin to negatively describe

against all members of Genevan society". [5] Perrin and his allies were elected to the town council in 1548, and "broadened their support base in Geneva by stirring up

resentment among the older inhabitants against the increasing number of religious refugees who were fleeing France in even greater numbers". [5] By 1555, Calvinists were firmly in place on the Genevan town council, so the Libertines, led by Perrin, responded with an "attempted coup against the government and called for the massacre of the French. This was the last great political challenge Calvin had to face in Geneva".[5] During the 18th and 19th centuries, the term became more associated with debauchery. [6] Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand wrote that Joseph Bonaparte "sought only life's pleasures and easy access to libertinism" while on the throne of Naples.[7] Literature [edit]

opponents of his policies in Geneva, Switzerland.<sup>[4]</sup> This group, led by Ami Perrin,

command of his medium ... was enough to condemn it and play a large part in its destruction."[8] Agreeable to Calvin's emphasis on the need for uniformity of discipline in Geneva, Samuel Rutherford (Professor of Divinity in the University of St. Andrews, and Christian minister in 17th-century Scotland) offered a rigorous treatment of "Libertinism" in his

dangereuses, 1782), and John Wilmot (Sodom, or the Quintessence of Debauchery, 1684).

Eremitism · Free love · Freethought · Human rights · Individual · Individual rights · Individual reclamation · Individuation · Laissez-faire · Libertine · Liberty · Methodological individualism · Negative liberty · Personal property · Positive liberty · Private property · Self-actualization · Self-ownership · Self-sufficiency · Subjectivity [show] **Thinkers** [show] **Philosophies** [show] **Principal concerns** V •T •E

polemical work "A Free Disputation Against Pretended Liberty of Conscience" (1649). A Satyr Against Reason and Mankind is a poem by John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester which addresses the question of the proper use of reason, and is generally assumed to be a Hobbesian critique of rationalism.<sup>[9]</sup> The narrator subordinates reason to sense.<sup>[10]</sup>

politicians of the court of Charles II.[11] The libertine novel was a primarily 18th-century literary genre of which the roots lay in the European but mainly French libertine tradition. The genre effectively ended with the French Revolution. Themes of libertine novels were anti-clericalism, antiestablishment and eroticism.

Authors include Claude Prosper Jolyot de Crébillon (Les Égarements du cœur et de l'esprit, 1736; Le Sopha, conte moral, 1742),

Denis Diderot (Les bijoux indiscrets, 1748), Marquis de Sade (L'Histoire de Juliette, 1797–1801), Choderlos de Laclos (Les Liaisons

inspired by Epicurus and the publication of Petronius. Robert Darnton is a cultural historian who has covered this genre extensively.<sup>[13]</sup> A three part essay in *The Book Collector* by David Foxen explores libertine literature in England, 1660-1745. [14]

Critics have been divided as to the literary merits of William Hazlitt's Liber Amoris, a deeply personal account of frustrated love that

Precursors to the libertine writers were Théophile de Viau (1590–1626) and Charles de Saint-Evremond (1610–1703), who were

is quite unlike anything else Hazlitt ever wrote. Wardle suggests that it was compelling but marred by sickly sentimentality, and also proposes that Hazlitt might even have been anticipating some of the experiments in chronology made by later novelists. [15]

Other famous titles are *Histoire de Dom Bougre*, *Portier des Chartreux* (1741) and *Thérèse Philosophe* (1748).

language; and as, possibly, the first book in its fervour, its vehemency, and its careless exposure of passion and weakness—of sentiments and sensations which the common race of mankind seek most studiously to mystify or conceal—that exhibits a portion of the most distinguishing characteristics of Rousseau, it ought to be generally praised". [16] Dan Cruickshank in his book London's Sinful Secret summarized Hazlitt's infatuation stating: "Decades after her death Batsy (Careless) still haunted the imagination of the

essayist William Hazlitt, a man who lodged near Covent Garden during the 1820s, where he became unpleasantly intimate with the

One or two positive reviews appeared, such as the one in the *Globe*, 7 June 1823: "The *Liber Amoris* is unique in the English

social consequences of unconventional sexual obsession that he revealed in his *Liber Amoris* of 1823, in which he candidly confessed to his infatuation with his landlord's young daughter."[17] Philosophy [edit] During the Baroque era in France, there existed a freethinking circle of philosophers and intellectuals who were collectively known as libertinage érudit and which included Gabriel Naudé, Élie Diodati and François de La Mothe Le Vayer. [18][19] The critic Vivian de Sola Pinto linked John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester's libertinism to Hobbesian materialism. [20]

## Rulers and political figures [edit]

Henry IV of France

John Wilkes<sup>[23]</sup>

Actors [edit]

Musicians [edit]

Notable libertines [edit]

Some notable libertines include:

 Caligula, third Emperor of Rome Edward VII of Great Britain Elagabalus

#### • Sir Charles Sedley, 5th Baronet, English noble<sup>[21]</sup> Dominique Strauss-Kahn, French economist and politician<sup>[22]</sup>

Religious leaders [edit]

George IV of the United Kingdom

• Aleister Crowley, creator of Thelema<sup>[24]</sup> Anton Szandor LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan and creator of LaVeyan Satanism<sup>[25]</sup>

Louis XV of France, King of France from 1715 to 1774

• Tallulah Bankhead, American actress<sup>[27]</sup> • Charlie Sheen, American actor<sup>[28][29]</sup>

• Pope Alexander VI, Pope of the Catholic Church from 1492 to 1503<sup>[26]</sup>

### Marquis de Sade, French novelist • Ivan Barkov, Russian poet[32]

Others [edit]

Bacchanalia

Bohemianism

Cainites

Writers [edit]

• Charles Baudelaire, French poet<sup>[33]</sup> • Aphra Behn, English playwright<sup>[34]</sup> Cyrano de Bergerac, French novelist

• Giacomo Casanova, Italian adventurer[37]

Lorenzo Da Ponte, Italian librettist

court of Louis XIV). • Lord Byron, English poet<sup>[35]</sup> • Arthur Rimbaud, French poet[36]

Marilyn Manson, American industrial rock/metal musician who plays with his band of the same name

• Jim Morrison, musician best known as the singer and primary songwriter of The Doors<sup>[30][31]</sup>

- Amoralism Antinomianism
- Charvaka Cyrenaics Decadence
- Free love Hypersexuality Incest taboo
- Libertine novel The Libertines
- Polyamory Rake (character) Sodomy

Orgy

 Sexual revolution Swinging (sexual practice) Taboo

Sexual deviancy

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- unrequited love in English literature". To James Ley, "It is ... an unsparing account of the psychology of obsession, the way a mind in the grip of an all-consuming passion can distort reality to its own detriment". Armitage, p. 223; Dart 2012, p. 85; Ley
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- Bussy-Rabutin, cousin of Madame de Sévigné, and author of *Histoire Amoureuse des Gaules* (chronicling the love affairs of the
- See also [edit]

• Don Juan, legendary character known for his machismo and sexuality<sup>[38]</sup>

# Epicureanism

Hookup culture

Hellfire Club

- LaVeyan Satanism Libertarianism

Sodom and Gomorrah

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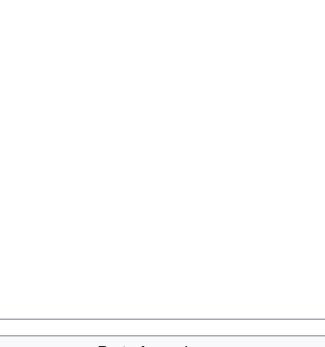
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Les Liaisons dangereuses (Dangerous Liaisons, 1782), an epistolary novel by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, is a trenchant description of sexual libertinism. Wayland Young argues: "... the mere analysis of libertinism ... carried out by a novelist with such a prodigious It is based to some extent on Boileau's version of Juvenal's eighth or fifteenth satire, and is also indebted to Hobbes, Montaigne, Lucretius, and Epicurus, as well as the general libertine tradition.<sup>[11]</sup> Confusion has arisen in its interpretation as it is ambiguous as to whether the speaker is Rochester himself, or a satirised persona.<sup>[12]</sup> It criticises the vanities and corruptions of the statesmen and

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