



# Free Comrades: Anarchism and Homosexuality in the United States 1895-1917

*Terence Kissack*

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## **Free Comrades: Anarchism and Homosexuality in the United States 1895-1917** Terence Kissack

By investigating public records, journals, and books published between 1895 and 1917, Terence Kissack expands the scope of the history of LGBT politics in the United States. The anarchists Kissack examines—such as Emma Goldman, Benjamin Tucker, and Alexander Berkman—defended the right of individuals to pursue same-sex relations, challenging both the sometimes conservative beliefs of their fellow anarchists as well as those outside the movement—police, clergy, and medical authorities—who condemned LGBT people.

In his book, Kissack examines the trial and imprisonment of Oscar Wilde, the life and work of Walt Whitman, periodicals such as Tucker's *Liberty* and Leonard Abbott's *The Free Comrade*, and the frank treatment of homosexual relations in Berkman's *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*. By defending the right to enter into same sex partnerships, free from social and governmental restraints, the anarchists posed a challenge to society still not met today.

**Terence Kissack** is a former Executive Director of San Francisco's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society; he currently serves on the board of the Society. His writings have appeared in *Radical History Review* and *Journal of the History of Sexuality*.

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