

# LGBTQ+ history

In the early medieval period.



## What is LGBTQ+?

### What is the early medieval period?

- “**LGBTQ+**” is an initialism, standing for **L**esbian, **G**ay, **B**isexual, **T**ransgender & **Q**ueer.
- The **early medieval period** is a period of time stretching from the **late 5th century to the late 10th century**.
- The fall of the Western Roman empire & the rise of the Goths is thought to signal the beginning of the medieval era.

LGBTQQIAAP25...

## A modern phenomenon?

- It's often thought that diversity in sexuality & gender identities is a modern phenomenon – this is completely untrue.
- Some more common examples may be the well-documented homosexual relationships of Roman emperors, the nonchalance and acceptance surrounding sexuality in both Ancient Greece and Rome & the gender-neutral priests of Cybele & Attis.

But what about the early medieval period?

## The early medieval period

- The early medieval period is not often mentioned in terms of LGBTQ+ history. This is risky.
- Where there may not be documentation of diversity, isn't because it didn't exist – it simply means there was a lack of documentation.

But why is this?

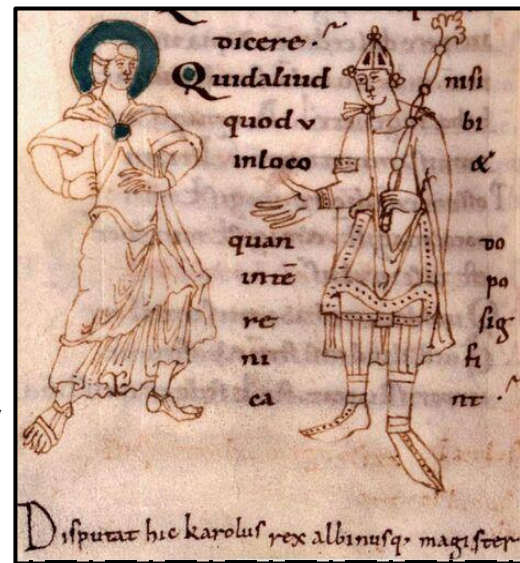
- Despite a lack of documentation, there were many historical figures that would've been considered a part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Here are a couple of the many I found interesting.

# Alcuin of York

Beginning of the 8th century - 804CE

- A Northumbrian cleric, poet, scholar & an advisor to Charlemagne.
- He enjoyed great influence within the Frankish empire.
- He greatly promoted the learning of liberal arts, wrote many theological treatises, helped develop the hugely influential Carolingian Minuscule script & left behind a huge legacy of written works.
- Whilst he travelled to religious councils, he often wrote passionate, romantic letters to his various colleagues, friends & proteges.



Caption translates to: "Here King Charles and master Albinus [Alcuin] dispute."

# Marinos the Monk

Somewhere between the 5th century and 8th century, also known as "Saint Marina"

- Born female, but lived as a man until death.
- They were widely venerated amongst medieval Europe. Worshippers celebrated the saint for their instructive displays of modesty, selflessness and tenacity, with distinctions of gender possibly trivialised by an assertion of equality of the holy under God.
- Their life story begins after joining their father at the monastery & assuming a male identity – not wanting to be married off & separated from their father.
- Whilst they may have assumed a male identity to stay with their father in the monastery at first, they stayed true to it even when they had everything to lose & nothing to gain.



Marinos the Monk (red) and their father Eugenius (blue) arriving at the monastery. A 14th century French manuscript depiction.

## Conclusion

- There were powerful & venerated people that would've identified with the LGBTQ+ community.
- Where there may not be documentation of diversity isn't because it didn't exist, it just means a lack of documentation.
- Diversity in sexuality & gender identities is *not* just a modern phenomenon.
- A lack of discussion surrounding diversity in a period of time can cause those with harmful views towards diversity to falsely identify with it.

**I hope you enjoyed my presentation!**