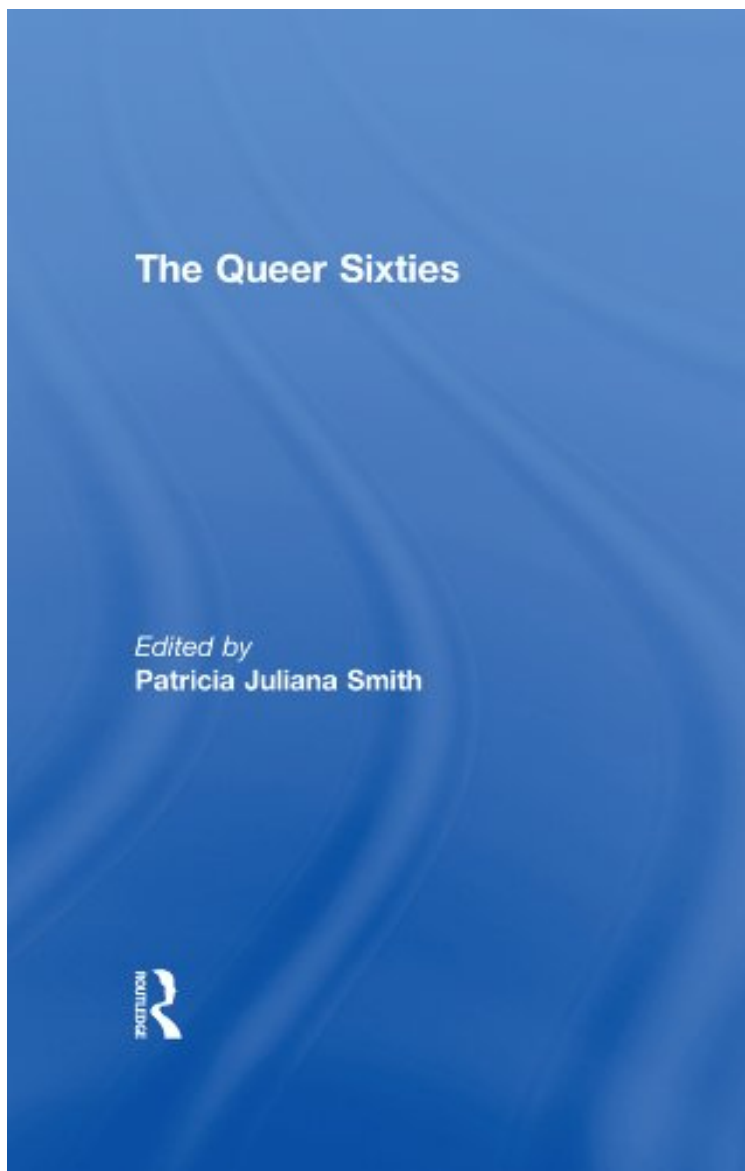


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## The Queer Sixties

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**From Routledge : The Queer Sixties** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Queer Sixties:

The Queer Sixties assembles an impressive group of cultural critics to go against the grain of 1960s studies, and proposes new and different ways of the last decade before the closet doors swung open. Imbued with the zeitgeist of

the 60s, this playful and powerful collection rescues the persistence of the queer imaginary.

From Publishers Weekly The bold premise of Smith's anthology is that contemporary lesbian and gay culture did not begin in June 1969 with the Stonewall riots. These 14 essays by "scholars trained as literary critics" do not form a social history, but "employ the methodologies of textual criticism to 'read' the queer iconography" present in much 1960s culture. Smith's contributors cover both obvious subjects: lesbian pulp novels, the British playwright Joe Orton and Mart Crowley's *The Boys in the Band* and surprising ones: Valerie Solanas and the S.C.U.M. Manifesto, Dusty Springfield's career and the homoeroticism of Jim Morrison. Smith's instinct that representations of homosexuality were not only prevalent in 1960s culture but clearly set the stage for the gay liberation movement is persuasive, and her choice of topics expands the parameters of how "queer culture" is conceptualized. At their best, the essays make astonishing, even brilliant associative leaps. In "Give Us a Kiss," Ann Shillinglaw links surrealism and sexual alienation in her dissection of the homoeroticism of the Beatles film *A Hard Day's Night*. In "Myra Breckenridge and the Pathology of Heterosexuality," Douglas Eisner uses New Left politics and feminism to explicate Gore Vidal's work. Unfortunately, many of the essays are shot through with the jargon of postmodern critical theory ("Solanas's attempt to resignify 'scum' in her manifesto must take into account its previous use by dominant discourses"), which may diminish the readership for this notable collection of essays. (July) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This eye-opening work of cultural history is recommended for larger public libraries and academic collections with gay studies or art specializations." -Jeffery Ingram, Newport P.L., OR, "Library Journal June 15, 1999 "Smith's volume examines the iconography of queer sexuality in popular culture during the decade preceding Stonewall. Fourteen essays arranged in five subsections approach this topic through subjects ranging from pulp fiction and pop music to theater and film. Smith (UCLA) provides an introduction, and each of the essays includes substantial notes." - "Choice." "Smith collects a broad sampling of literary, film, and music criticism for a reading of the culture of the 1960s through queer-colored glasses. This eye-opening work of cultural history is recommended for larger public libraries and academic collections with gay studies or art specializations." - "Library Journal, June 15, 1999 About the Author Patricia Juliana Smith is Assistant Professor of English at UCLA.