

pseudonym. In 1912 he belonged, but only in name, to the founders of the Dutch chapter of the Wissenschaftlich-humanitäre Komitee. Aletrino was married twice and laboured under severe addiction to morphine. There is reason to assume that his portrait by de Haan as bisexual and slightly sadist was not far from the truth.

K. Joosse, *Arnold Aletrino. Pessimist met perspectief*, Amsterdam, 1986.

*Gert Hekma*

**Aletrino, Arnold** (1858–1918), Dutch author. This doctor and novelist belonged to the second generation of the literary bent of the 1880s that brought modern literature to The Netherlands.

Aletrino wrote some very sombre novels on the life of hospital nurses. He specialised in criminal anthropology and wrote his first essay on 'uranism' in 1897. It was a review of M. A. RAFFALOVICH's *Urani-sme et unisexualité* (1896). He was the first Dutch figure of some repute to defend the naturalness of homosexual desire, and would continue to write on the topic, shifting his position from the stance of Raffalovich – that homosexuals can be as masculine as normal men – to the position of Magnus HIRSCHFELD – that they are a third sex. In 1901 he addressed the fifth conference of criminal anthropology, held in Amsterdam. His position that uranism is natural and should be accepted was opposed by most other participants, foremost by Cesare Lombroso, the Italian founder of the discipline. After the conference, the Calvinist prime minister raged against the University of Amsterdam, where Aletrino, he claimed, would teach the sins of Sodom. When his friend Jacob Israël DE HAAN published the first gay novel, dedicated to him and having him as a leading character, Aletrino was not amused and bought all available copies to save his reputation. His subsequent booklet on uranism was published under a