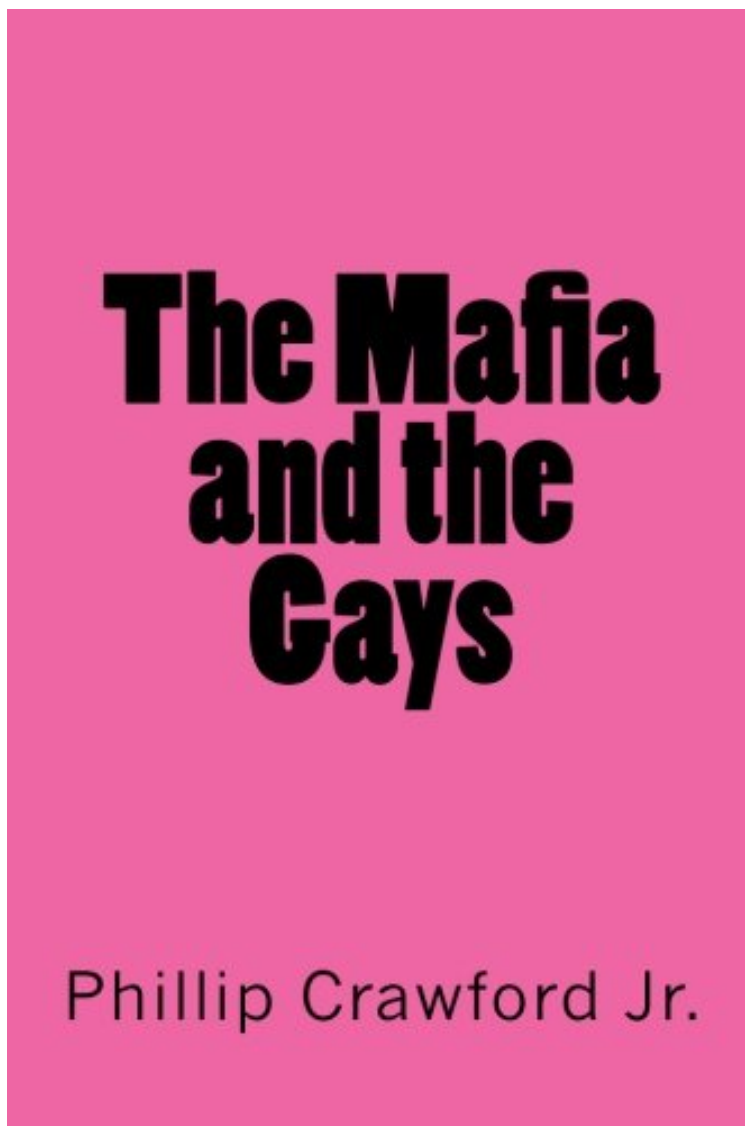


(Free pdf) The Mafia and the Gays

The Mafia and the Gays

Phillip Crawford Jr.

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Phillip Crawford Jr. : The Mafia and the Gays before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mafia and the Gays:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. La Cage aux Folles meets the GodfatherBy PhilaBobPhillip, thanks for researching and writing about this important but largely unexplored bit of LGBT history. It was well written and fascinating.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy GeoffVery interesting to learn about this aspect of gay history.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Gay Bars, Before StonewallBy Jim

Provenzano This surprisingly quick read offered detailed insight into the history of New York and Chicago gay bars, and the corruption they suffered under the control of the Mafia. As many people were debating the veracity of accounts during the 1969 Stonewall rebellion (before the release of the deservedly critiqued 2015 'Stonewall' movie), I realized that Crawford's book is an essential part of that overall history. This should be included in any scholarly collection of American LGBT history. The small font size, however, made for a bit of difficulty. Also, it's too bad that a few historic photos were not licensed to make it more appealing to the general reader.

The Mafia historically controlled gay bars as part of their vice rackets in many cities across the United States including New York and Chicago due to their once illicit status. A common misunderstanding among the general public is that the wise guys were eliminated from the gay bars following the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York City. However, organized crime kept a hidden hand -- often through violent means resulting in a few murders -- in many watering holes for the gay community at least into the mid-1980s if not later. Indeed, the Mafia hijacked gay liberation for political cover and used so-called Auntie Gays -- the Uncle Toms of the gay community -- as frontmen for their bars to evade suspicion. The Mafia and the Gays provides a comprehensive look at the mob's involvement with gay bars including the iconic Continental Baths which had Colombo protection and the infamous Haymarket which was under Genovese control. The Mafia and the Gays relies upon an extensive collection of historical sources including FBI files many of which have not been publicly available until recently acquired by the author through the Freedom of Information Act.

About the Author Phillip Crawford Jr. is a retired attorney from the New York bar. He attended Bates College in Lewiston, Maine from which he graduated with a B.A. in English in 1985. At Bates he was President of the Gay-Straight Alliance in 1983, and spearheaded a campaign to oust military recruiters from the campus for their discriminatory policies against the LGBT community. Crawford then attended George Washington University Law School where he was a Notes Editor for the Law . After graduating in 1988 he clerked for Chief Judge Judith W. Rogers on the D.C. Court of Appeals, and then with Judge George H. Revercomb on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. He practiced law for fifteen years in New York City including several years with the plaintiffs' class action bar, and then retired after exposing his concerns about billing practices. Professor Lester Brickman characterized him in Lawyer Barons as a whistle blower. Since 2009 he has been blogging about organized crime at Friends of Ours, and is the leading authority on the historic role of the Mafia in gay bars. Crawford was interviewed by Helen Nianias for VICE about his book The Mafia and the Gays, and quoted in an article by Logan Hendrix for the New York Press papers on the closing of The Candle Bar.