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## Sex and Drugs before Rock 'n' Roll

Roberts, Benjamin B.

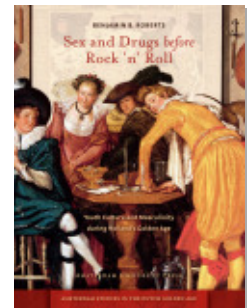
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*Sex and Drugs before Rock 'n' Roll* is a fascinating study that presents an engaging overview of what it was like to be young and male in the 1620s and 1630s of Holland's Golden Age. Well-known cohorts from the generation such as Rembrandt van Rijn (born in 1606) are examined for the ways in which they expressed themselves by defying conservative values and norms. This study reveals how these young men rebelled, breaking from previous generations: letting their hair grow long, wearing colorful clothing, drinking excessively, challenging city guards, being promiscuous, smoking, and singing lewd songs.

Cogently argued, the study paints a compelling portrait of the youth culture of Holland's Golden Age, at a time when the rising popularity of print made dissemination of new cultural ideas possible, while rising incomes and liberal attitudes created a generation of men behaving badly.

Benjamin B. Roberts is an independent American historian and journalist based in Amsterdam.



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