Advance Praise

"Angus McLaren is the most imaginative, productive, and thorough scholar I know in the history of modern sexuality and gender studies. Clear, witty, and thematically rich, his engaging book effectively brings alive the social, cultural, and urban scene of 1930s London in a way that readers of crime dramas and mystery thrillers will enjoy. A tour de force."
—Robert A. Nye, author of *Crime, Madness and Politics in Modern France: The Medical Concept of National Decline*

"*Playboys and Mayfair Men* is a rich, innovative and exciting cultural history of 1930s Britain. McLaren uses a sensational robbery case as a starting point, before taking us on a thought-provoking journey encompassing the topics of crime, class, gender, sexuality and politics. Essential reading for anyone interested in the 'devil's decade'."
—Adrian Bingham, coauthor of *Tabloid Century: The Popular Press in Britain, 1896 to the Present*

"A fascinating story, a model of research and analysis, and beautifully written, *Playboys and Mayfair Men* is that rare thing: a book that entertains the reader as much as it challenges the boundaries of existing scholarship. This is essential reading for anyone interested in twentieth-century Britain."
—Stephen Brooke, author of *Sexual Politics: Sexuality, Family Planning, and the British Left from the 1880s to the Present Day*

"If London society found the 1938 sensational trial of the 'Mayfair Men' riveting, so too will readers of this exhilarating book. Combining accessibility with erudition, Angus McLaren brilliantly demonstrates how the 1930s' 'playboy' became a cipher for current anxieties concerning gender, class, crime, generation, and politics. This is cultural history at its best."
—Lucy Bland, author of *Modern Women on Trial: Sexual Transgression in the Age of the Flapper*

"With four 'idle and seductive' London upper-class men's violent crime in 1938, atop resonant evidence of their generation's resistance to Depression-era impingement upon expected class, gender and sex privileges—in a grim contra-parallel with flappers (for which see Lucy Bland, *Modern Women on Trial*)—McLaren has done it again. A riveting tour de force, shrewd, erudite, compelling."
—Judith A. Allen, author of *Sex and Secrets: Crimes Involving Australian Women since 1880*