

# Guide to the Bert Hansen Papers

MS 2042



compiled by Christy Tomecek and Emily Komornik

October 2016

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 2042

**CREATOR:** Hansen, Bert, 1944-

**TITLE:** Bert Hansen papers

**DATES:** 1838–1998

**BULK DATES:** 1970–1996

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5.58 linear feet (13 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** The material is in English and French.

**SUMMARY:** The papers document the work and research interests of academic and activist Bert Hansen. The material is divided into three categories, AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) records, newspaper clippings, and subject files. The AIDS Committee of Toronto records consist of administrative files related to operations of the group, board and committee-related minutes, agendas, and correspondence, and printed ephemera. These files date from 1983 to 1984. Newspaper and magazine clippings are generally focused on the AIDS epidemic in Canada and the United States, starting from the early period of the epidemic in 1982 until 1996. Some of the aspects of the epidemic that these clippings document include activism in the gay and lesbian community, medical research, human interest stories about people living with AIDS, and discrimination against people with AIDS. There are also a small number of clippings on other topics, such as discrimination within and towards the gay community, visibility of gay men and lesbians in media and history, and anti-pornography activism. The bulk of these date from 1980 to 1984. Subject files date from 1838 to 1996, though the bulk of the materials date from 1970-1996. They consist of materials pertaining to Bert Hansen's research on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) activism, medical history and academia, and the intersection of both fields. Topics covered in the subject files include the history of the gay rights movement, sociology and sexuality, and portrayals of the gay and lesbian community in the media. Additionally, these subject files contain testimonials of and clippings documenting discrimination against members of the gay and lesbian community.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box  
f.        folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Bert Hansen, 2015 and 2018.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has been transferred to Yale University for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection whether such works are at Yale or physically located elsewhere in the world. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Bert Hansen Papers (MS 2042). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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### Separated Materials

*Lesbians Rising: Lesbian Feminist Newspaper*, has been separated from this collection and added to the Queer Zines, Magazines, and Newspapers Collection (MS 1847).

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## Biographical / Historical

*Bert Hansen*

Bert Hansen was born on February 5, 1944 in Chicago, Illinois. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Columbia College in 1965 and earned his doctorate in the history of science from Princeton University in 1974. Hansen received a Mellon Fellowship at Harvard University in 1978 and taught medical history courses there until 1979. His academic work focuses on the history of medicine and the history of science, such as the relationship of magic and science in the Middle Ages and the medicalization of

homosexuality. Hansen held academic appointments in multiple institutions including Binghamton, State University of New York, the University of Toronto, New York University, and Baruch College, City University of New York. In 1973, Hansen and several other colleagues founded the Gay Academic Union, an organization which brought together gay and lesbian and allied academics across the country. He was also a founding member of the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) and served as their first chair in 1983. Hansen worked with ACT from 1983 to 1984 and returned to the United States in 1985.

Hansen's publications include a 2009 book entitled *Picturing Medical Progress from Pasteur to Polio: A History of Mass Media Images and Popular Attitudes in America* and his doctoral dissertation: *Nicole Oresme and the Marvels of Nature: A Study of His De Causis Mirabilium*. In 2015, Hansen retired from Baruch College. He continues to present at academic conferences across the country, and his current research projects include the American Pasteur Institutes, nineteenth century homosexuality in New York City, and gay and lesbian scientists.

### *AIDS Committee of Toronto*

The AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) was founded in 1983. The first Canadian organization of its kind, the ACT has its roots in a public health forum on AIDS and Hepatitis B held on April 5, 1983 at the Hassle Free Clinic in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Some of the people who participated decided to form an "ongoing AIDS committee." On July 19, 1983 the Toronto AIDS Committee held their first press conference to announce their organization and their work. They changed their name to the AIDS Committee of Toronto soon after. Their services have two major focuses: supporting people living with HIV and AIDS, and educating the community at large in Toronto on HIV and AIDS, especially the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. ACT projects that support people living with HIV and AIDS include counseling, social events, meals, support groups, and programs that provide job training and placement. Educational programming includes substance abuse counselling, community health forums, and outreach activities at bars, night clubs, festivals, bath houses, and online.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers document the work and research interests of academic and activist Bert Hansen. The material is divided into three categories: Hansen correspondence with with Susan Chambré, AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) records, and newspaper clippings, and one grouping of additional material containing subject files. The AIDS Committee of Toronto records consist of administrative files related to operations of the group, board and committee-related minutes, agendas, and correspondence, and printed ephemera. The ACT records include source materials from different advocacy groups and reports on the Gay Men's Health Crisis's model of activism and work with AIDS patients. These materials mainly date from 1983 to 1984, the length of Hansen's involvement with ACT.

Newspaper and magazine clippings are generally focused on the AIDS epidemic in Canada and the United States, starting from the early period of the epidemic in 1982 until 1996. Some of the aspects of the epidemic that these clippings document include activism in the gay and lesbian community, medical research, human interest stories about people living with AIDS, and discrimination against AIDS patients. There are also a small number of clippings on other topics, such as discrimination within and towards the gay community, visibility of gay men and lesbians in media and history, and anti-pornography activism. The bulk of these date from 1980 to 1984.

Subject files, dated from 1838 to 1996, bulk 1970-1996, consists of materials pertaining to Bert Hansen's research on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) activism, medical history and academia, and the intersection of both fields. It includes magazines, news clippings, annotated research papers, conference schedules, correspondence, academic journals, and informational pamphlets. Topics covered in the subject files include the history of the gay rights movement, sociology and sexuality, and portrayals of the gay community in the media. Additionally, these subject files contain personal testimonials of and news clippings documenting discrimination against members of the gay and lesbian community.

## **Arrangement**

The material is arranged under three headings: Hansen correspondence with Susan Chambré, AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) files, Newspaper clippings; and one addition consisting of subject files. Materials are arranged alphabetically therein.

## Collection Contents

### 2016-m-0023: Original accession

b. 1, f. 1	Hansen correspondence with Susan Chambré This file contains correspondence between Hansen and academic Susan Chambré about the contents of this collection.	February 1998
AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) files		
b. 1, f. 2	ACT Activities Bulletins	1983-1984
Administrative		
b. 1, f. 3-6	General	1983-1984
b. 1, f. 7	Bruner, lease and hiring	Circa 1983-circa 1984
b. 1, f. 8	Fundraising	1983-1984
b. 1, f. 9	Introduction to ACT	1983
b. 1, f. 10	Office staff	1983
b. 1, f. 11	Personnel	1983-1984
b. 1, f. 12	Press kit	1983
Board and committee files		
b. 1, f. 13	General	1981-1984
b. 1, f. 14	Education committee	1983
b. 1, f. 15-16	Executive committee	1983-1984
b. 2, f. 1	Medical liaison committee	1983
b. 2, f. 2	Staff liaison committee	1983
Printed materials		
b. 2, f. 3	General	1981-1985
b. 2, f. 4	Brochures	1983
Subject files		
b. 2, f. 5-7	AIDS	1982-1984
b. 2, f. 8	AIDS seminar information kit	1983
b. 2, f. 9	Board of Health	1983

## AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) files &gt; Subject files (continued)

b. 2, f. 10	Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) crisis intervention handbook A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:mssa.assist@yale.edu">mssa.assist@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	June 1983
b. 3, f. 1	Hepatitis B vaccine	1982-1983
b. 3, f. 2	Mole walk-a-thon	1983-1989
b. 3, f. 3	Red Cross	1983
b. 3, f. 4	Reportability	1983
b. 3, f. 5	The Theater Project	1983
b. 3, f. 6	Writings, AIDS and cholera talk	February 13, 1984
Newspaper clippings		
b. 3, f. 7-11 b. 4, f. 1-6 b. 5, f. 1-10	AIDS	1982-1996
b. 6, f. 1	Anti-pornography activism	Circa 1980-1984
b. 6, f. 2	Discrimination against the gay community	1981-1983
b. 6, f. 3	Discrimination within the gay community	1981
b. 6, f. 4	Humorous comics	1983
b. 6, f. 5	Sadomasochism in the gay community	1981
b. 6, f. 6	Sexual relationships with the underage	1981-1983
b. 6, f. 7	Visibility of gay men and lesbians in media and history	1981-1983
b. 6, f. 8	Written accounts of gay men and lesbians' lives	1981-1984



## Accession 2018-M-0032: Subject files, 1838-1996, 1970-1996

This accession contains Bert Hansen's subject files on various topics related to his research on the LGBT community. The bulk of the materials date from 1970 to 1996. They include magazines, news clippings, annotated research papers, conference schedules, and informational pamphlets. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) organizations represented include the Lesbian Herstory Archives, the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History of the American Historical Association (CLGH-AHA), the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), and Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE). Many of the subject files also contain materials related to various medical and academic organizations, including *The Journal of Psychology*, as well as the Sex Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). Others focus on the intersection between both communities; examples of these organizations include the Gay Academic Union and the Center for Homosexual Education, Evaluation, and Research (CHEER).

Several folders contain substantive correspondence which helps track the growth and development of Hansen's research on the LGBT community. Notable materials in this accession include nine of the earliest issues of RFD, the publication of the Radical Faeries, booklets and pamphlets celebrating gay pride events in New York City, and news clippings and letters written to Hansen by members of the LGBT community which detail acts of discrimination such as raids on gay night clubs, questionable arrests, and personal testimonials of harassment. This series also includes a pin from the Christopher Street Festival Committee, the festival celebrating LGBT activism and the gay pride movement in New York City. The earliest item in the collection is an affectionate 1838 letter written by Homer Sears of Ashford, Connecticut, to his colleague, Master Franklin, in Springfield, Massachusetts. Hansen's accompanying notes and correspondence within the file speculate as to the nature of the relationship between the two men.

Subject files under this heading are arranged alphabetically by subject. General news clippings are filed first, with specific subject files organized alphabetically immediately following.

b. 1, f. 1-10	<p>General</p> <p>Folder one contains a letter from the group "Gays Against the Movie Cruising" expressing their disdain for the portrayal of gay characters, which "perpetuates all the oppressive stereotypes against gay men, and firmly links homosexuality with violence and death." It also contains a letter to Bert Hansen from a colleague discussing dropout rates among gay students and the initiative to set up scholarships on behalf of these students.</p> <p>Folder two contains a 1974 letter from Bert Hansen to the editor of <i>The Village Voice</i>, which failed to report on a gay pride march in New York City. Hansen called the lack of coverage "offensive and revealing of a deep anti-gay bias."</p> <p>Folder seven contains correspondence between Bert Hansen and Guillaume Marche, discussing interviews for a research project on the sociology of gay identity and the gay movement in the age of AIDS, comparing San Francisco and New York City.</p>	Circa 1970-circa 1996
b. 1, f. 11	AIDS and bath houses	Circa 1984
b. 2, f. 1	<p>American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the "gay revolution"</p> <p>Contains correspondence regarding the AAAS planning to conduct research on the hormonal status of the LGBT community, and about discriminatory hiring practices and homophobia within the larger scientific community.</p>	Circa 1974-circa 1981
b. 2, f. 2	"Among Women, Among Men" conference in Amsterdam English	1983

b. 2, f. 3	Bathing and sex, correspondence, clippings, and research notes	Circa 1990
b. 2, f. 4	"Blue Collar Buddies" English	1985
b. 2, f. 5	The "boy love" debate	Circa 1982-circa 1984
b. 2, f. 6	Canadian AIDS Society Royal Commission	1994
b. 2, f. 7	Canadian Gay Archives, <i>Gay Archivist</i> , newsletter	1977-1981
b. 2, f. 8	Canuck, Jack	Circa 1911
b. 2, f. 9	Center for Homosexual Education, Evaluation, and Research (CHEER) Contains letters regarding a proposal for a records program, created by CHEER's Archive of Homosexuality, to survey archival materials related to gay life and history and to gather these materials in centralized locations such as New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.	1978
b. 2, f. 10	"Charles Ives and his America" annotated English	1975
b. 2, f. 11	Christianity and homosexuality	Circa 1981
b. 2, f. 12	Christopher Street Festival Committee for Gay Pride in New York City pin, "Expose, Replace, Take Back the Day"	undated
b. 2, f. 13	Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario, research notes	Circa 1974
b. 2, f. 14	The Committee on Lesbian and Gay History of the American Historical Association (CLGH-AHA)	1974
b. 2, f. 15	"Constructing a History of Power and Sexuality" annotated conference papers and correspondence, New York University English Contains correspondence about the success of the conference and the continued professional relationships among presenters and attendees.	1978
b. 2, f. 16	Disabilities and the gay community	Circa 1982-circa 1983
b. 2, f. 17	Early gay liberation leaders	1972
b. 2, f. 18	"Fag Rag," history English	Circa 1991
b. 2, f. 19	The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and gay surveillance	Circa 1979-circa 1987
b. 2, f. 20	The Gay Academic Union (GAU), annotated newsletters and conference programs	1976-1979
b. 3, f. 1-2	Gay bibliographies	Circa 1969-circa 1980
b. 3, f. 3	Gay community, current issues	Circa 1977-circa 1978

b. 3, f. 4-5	<i>Gay Community News</i> English	1982, 1995-1996
b. 3, f. 6	<i>Gay Community News</i> book reviews English	1983
b. 3, f. 7	<i>Gay Community News</i> , the first ten years English	1983
b. 3, f. 8	<i>Gay Comix</i> , issue 1 English	1980 September
b. 3, f. 9	Gay health	1979
b. 3, f. 10-12	Gay history Folders contain letters from Hansen to fellow academics discussing their research on aspects of gay and lesbian history. Folder twelve includes a letter from Hansen to Artemis March in 1979 regarding her research on Renaissance lesbianism and its similarities to Hansen's own research in medieval and Renaissance science.	Circa 1930, 1969-1980
b. 4, f. 1-3	Gay history Folders contain letters from Hansen to fellow academics discussing their research on aspects of gay and lesbian history. Folder one includes correspondence between Hansen and Rictor Norton, contributing editor to the <i>Gay News</i> , about edits and omissions to an article published by the <i>Advocate</i> and how it perpetuated legal bias against marginalized groups, including the LGBT community and women.	Circa 1979-circa 1983
b. 4, f. 4	Gay history, Boston	1984
b. 4, f. 5	Gay history, eighteenth century	1981
b. 4, f. 6	Gay history, meeting notes, articles, and correspondence Contains correspondence, which includes transcriptions, of original manuscript sources utilized by researchers for their publications on differing aspects of gay history, specifically, in the early twentieth century and during the medieval period.	1978-1979
b. 4, f. 7-8	Gay history, social and medical Folder seven contains a letter from Hansen to K.F. Huck, in which Hansen asks for more information on an article Huck's father wrote concerning lesbian marriage during the 1940s in the United States.	Circa 1984
b. 4, f. 9	Gay history, United States after 1910	Circa 1982-circa 1990
b. 4, f. 10	Gay history, United States, 1940s and 1950s, newspaper articles	Circa 1983-circa 1984
b. 4, f. 11	Gay language	1983
b. 4, f. 12	The "gay left" materials	Circa 1976-circa 1987
b. 4, f. 13	The Gay Library and Archive Center Contains a letter from Hansen to Howard Brown regarding the prospectus for the Gay Library and Archive Center. He discusses issues such as funding, collection management, and the development of an executive council.	Circa 1974-circa 1977

b. 4, f. 14-15	Gay movements	1952, 1983
b. 4, f. 16	Gay occult in the nineteenth century	1977-1981
b. 4, f. 17	Gay organizations, management struggles	Circa 1988-circa 1993
b. 4, f. 18	Gay, Peter, reviews	1984
b. 4, f. 19	Gay pride booklets	1974
b. 5, f. 1	Gay scandals in the media, correspondence and testimonials Hansen published "Assistance, Please," a call for evidence of discrimination against the gay community, in issue number 246 of the <i>Advocate</i> dated July 26, 1978, as well as a follow-up article on September 20 of the same year. This folder contains news clippings sent to Hansen which document such instances. It also includes letters sent to Hansen by readers recounting their stories as victims of oppression and discriminatory practices, such as raids on gay night clubs, questionable arrests, and harassment in the workplace.	Circa 1978-circa 1980
b. 5, f. 2-4	Gays in the media, clippings Folder two contains a letter from Hansen to the editors of <i>Family Circle</i> about an article published in 1974 titled "My Daughter is Different," which positively portrayed the family's experience as "humane, thought-provoking, and relevant."  Folder three contains two copies of <i>Awake!</i> , a magazine created by Jehovah's Witnesses via the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, published on June 8, 1976, which contained an investigative article entitled "Looking into the World of the Homosexual."	Circa 1971-circa 1992
b. 5, f. 5	Gays in the Third Reich, annotated clippings	Circa 1981
b. 5, f. 6	Gernreich, Rudi (1923(?)-1985) and fashion	1985
b. 5, f. 7	Hirschfeld, Magnus	1979-1980
b. 5, f. 8	"Homosexualities" reviews English	Circa 1974-circa 1978
b. 5, f. 9	"Homosexuality: A Select Bibliography" English	1970
b. 5, f. 10	Homosexuality, history, and evolution	1975
b. 5, f. 11	Human sexuality, annotated articles	1940-1980
b. 5, f. 12	Ives, George, news clippings	Circa 1980
b. 5, f. 13	Kepner, Jim	1953-1996
b. 5, f. 14	Kiwanis Club, Endicott College	Circa 1977
b. 5, f. 15	Lesbian and gay history projects, New York City, Boston, Los Angeles, and Chicago	1989-1990
b. 6, f. 1	The Lesbian and Gay History Project, research notes and correspondence Contains correspondence regarding the development of the historical project, including letters discussing collection management and the acquisition of relevant materials from repositories around the United States.	Circa 1970-circa 1981

b. 6, f. 2	Lesbian Herstory Archives, Radclyffe Hall	1994
b. 6, f. 3	Lesbian history at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, letter to Liz Kennedy	1981
b. 6, f. 4	The lesbian movement, "Is the Spirit Willing?" annotated article	1983
b. 6, f. 5	Lesbianism, Renaissance, annotated articles	Circa 1970-circa 1981
b. 6, f. 6	Lesbians and sadomasochism	Circa 1982-circa 1983
b. 6, f. 7	Marxism and gay liberation	1984
b. 6, f. 8	Marxism, study group notes	Circa 1974
b. 6, f. 9	The NAMES Project AIDS memorial quilt	Circa 1988-circa 1996
b. 6, f. 10-11	National Gay Task Force	Circa 1974-circa 1976
b. 6, f. 12	"A Note on an Overlooked Word-Play in the Akkadian Gilgamesh" annotated article English	1983
b. 6, f. 13	"Radical Historians" newsletters English	1982-1984
b. 6, f. 14-17	<i>RFD</i> magazine, Radical Faeries movement English	1975 Spring-1978 Fall
b. 6, f. 18	Rule, Jane, news articles	1984
b. 6, f. 19	Sarton, May	1983
b. 6, f. 20	Sears, Homer, letter to Master Franklin with transcription and correspondence	1838-1992
b. 6, f. 21	Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE) and aging	Circa 1983
b. 6, f. 22	Sex Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), literature and mailings	1973-1974
b. 6, f. 23	Sexism in contemporary society	1989
b. 6, f. 24	Shilts, Randy	Circa 1987
b. 7, f. 1-2	Sociobiology and homosexuality	Circa 1970-circa 1985
b. 7, f. 3	Sociology and the politics of the social scene	Circa 1975-circa 1979
b. 7, f. 4	Survey of counseling centers by the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany	1982
b. 7, f. 5	Venereal diseases in the military, pamphlets	1982-1983

## **Accession 2021-M-0010: Additional material**

Bert Hansen interview about gay activism on Binghamton, New York TV station 1978  
Digital copy of 1978 interview.

Original computer files may not be accessed due to their fragility. Researchers must consult access copies.

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

AIDS (Disease) -- Canada  
AIDS (Disease) -- Prevention  
AIDS (Disease) -- United States  
AIDS activists  
Gay men  
Lesbians  
LGBTQ resource

### **Names**

Hansen, Bert, 1944-

### **Corporate Bodies**

AIDS Committee of Toronto  
Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc