Guide to the Lisbet Tellefsen Papers

GEN MSS 1431

by Beinecke staff; encoded by Leigh Golden and Rebbeca Smith

2013

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/
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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1431

**CREATOR:** Tellefsen, Lisbet, 1961-

**TITLE:** Lisbet Tellefsen papers

**DATES:** 1980–2008

**BULK DATES:** 1988–1994

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7.67 linear feet (8 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of material created and collected by Lisbet Tellefsen. Many of the materials center around the creation of Aché, which was first issued in 1989 as a journal and existed as a collective in the Bay Area until 1994. The rest of the materials generally relate to allied groups and other events that Tellefsen participated in and helped to organize, such as the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference’s Video Project.

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

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.tellefsen.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

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

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Purchased from Bolerium Books in 2012.
Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Box 8 (floppy disks): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies of electronic files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use
The Lisbet Tellefsen Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation
Lisbet Tellefsen Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information
Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Separated Materials
An additional two boxes of printed materials arrived with the collection and have been cataloged separately. Those materials can be found by searching ORBIS for the phrase: “From the Lisbet Tellefsen papers”.

Lisbet Tellefsen
Lisbet Tellefsen, political activist, feminist, and community organizer, is a Bay Area native. Tellefsen co-founded the journal Aché, along with Pippa Fleming, and she has worked as an editor, recording engineer, and producer, receiving a number of awards for her service to the lesbian and gay community.

Aché: a free publication for black lesbians.
The journal Aché was co-founded by Lisbet Tellefsen and Pippa Fleming in 1989. The organization was originally headquartered in Albany, California. The publication utilized a few variant subtitles throughout its lifetime (1989-1993), including “A journal for lesbians of African descent,” and it was distributed to subscribers in eight different countries.
In addition to Tellefsen and Fleming, there were many other collaborators who helped to run Aché until the time that it was dissolved officially, in 1994, as a non-profit organization. In 1990, the Aché leadership was listed as:

- DeeAnne Davis
- Reatha Fowler
- Winn Gilmore
- Rebecca Hall
- Amana Johnson
- Teri Lethridge
- Lisbet Tellefsen
- Janet Wallace
- Skye Ward
- Jean Wesinger
- Erica Wilson

See Aché material (box 3, folder 143) for a full narrative overview of the group.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of material created and collected by Lisbet Tellefsen. Many of the materials center around the creation of Aché, which was first issued in 1989 as a journal and existed as a collective in the Bay Area until 1994. The rest of the materials generally relate to allied groups and other events that Tellefsen participated in and helped to organize, such as the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference’s Video Project.

Arrangement

Arranged roughly in the order received.
# Collection Contents

May 2012 Acquisition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1-2</td>
<td>Aché correspondence received</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3-4</td>
<td>Artwork for Aché and event leaflets</td>
<td>circa 1990–1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>Personal artwork and artwork for Aché</td>
<td>circa 1990–1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6</td>
<td>Correspondence - Barbara Smith - Kitchen Table Press</td>
<td>circa 1992–1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 7</td>
<td>Correspondence - Essex Hemphill</td>
<td>circa 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 8</td>
<td>Correspondence - Audre Lorde</td>
<td>circa 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 9</td>
<td>Aché miscellaneous correspondence</td>
<td>1990–1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 12</td>
<td>The first black lesbian conference</td>
<td>circa 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 16</td>
<td>National Coalition of Black Gays</td>
<td>circa 1985–1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 17</td>
<td>National Association of Black and White Men Together</td>
<td>1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 18</td>
<td>Shango Project: National Archives for Black Lesbians and Gay Men, Bloomington, Indiana 1 printed email</td>
<td>1994 June 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 20</td>
<td>Lesbian Herstory Archives</td>
<td>circa 1996–1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 22</td>
<td>Gay Out Productions</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 23</td>
<td>GMAD: Gay Men of African Descent</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 24</td>
<td>Black Women’s Health Project</td>
<td>1988–1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 25</td>
<td>Bayblag: Bay Area Black Lesbians + Gays</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 28</td>
<td>Kitchen Table Press</td>
<td>circa 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 30</td>
<td>LAGADU/HABARI - Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United</td>
<td>1993</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 31</td>
<td>Latina Lesbian organizations</td>
<td>1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 32</td>
<td>Black Lesbian Gay Weekend (D.C.)</td>
<td>1994</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 33</td>
<td>Film - miscellaneous files</td>
<td>circa 1993–1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 34</td>
<td>Film - Michelle Parkerson</td>
<td>circa 1983–1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 35</td>
<td>Film - Pratibha Parmar [A Place of Rage]</td>
<td>1991–1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 36</td>
<td>Film - Sweet Sugar Rage</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 37</td>
<td>Film - Tiny Ruby, international sweethearts of rhythm</td>
<td>circa 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 40</td>
<td>Film - Alice Walker</td>
<td>circa 1993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| b. 2, f. 44 | Audre’s Memorial  
Includes a flyer for a memorial held in honor of Audre Lorde on November 29, 1992, at Modern Times Bookstore in San Francisco. | circa 1992          |
| b. 2, f. 45 | 4 Big Girls  
Performance troupe from Seattle  
Includes a script for “Bigger than a Bread Box” | 1993               |
<p>| b. 2, f. 46 | Artists (performers) press/packets - ASE Drumming Circle | undated            |
| b. 2, f. 47 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Gwen Avery | undated            |
| b. 2, f. 48 | Artists (performers) press/packets - BOA/Brat Pack | undated            |
| b. 2, f. 49 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Casselberry Dupré | undated            |
| b. 2, f. 50 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Rachel Bagby [removed from red folder] | undated            |
| b. 2, f. 51 | Artists (performers) press/packets - India Cooke | circa 1991          |
| b. 2, f. 52 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Blackberri | undated            |
| b. 2, f. 53 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Wayne Corbitt | 1992               |
| b. 2, f. 54 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Melanie DeMore | circa 1993          |
| b. 2, f. 55 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Laura Love | 1993               |
| b. 2, f. 56 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Deidre McCalla | undated            |
| b. 2, f. 57 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Rashida Oji | undated            |
| b. 2, f. 58 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Randle, Vicki | circa 1993          |
| b. 2, f. 59 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Toshi Reagon | 1992               |
| b. 2, f. 60 | Artists (performers) press/packets - Redwood | circa 1993–1994    |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Submissions - Erotica submissions</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions - Book/film reviews/art critique</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions - Health, spirituality</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submissions - Poetry submissions</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submissions - Miscellaneous</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>Submissions - Artist statements</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submissions - Bulletin board</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submissions - Other publications calls for submissions</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submissions - Contributions by Black Gay Men</td>
<td>circa 1990</td>
</tr>
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<td>Submissions - Terri L. Jewell</td>
<td>1990–1995</td>
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<td>Film resources</td>
<td>circa 1993–1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film resources - film/video</td>
<td>1991–1994</td>
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<td>Film resources - Daughters of the Dust</td>
<td>1992</td>
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<td>Film resources - Shari Frilot/mix</td>
<td>1994</td>
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<td>Film resources - Miscellaneous press packet materials [empty]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Film resources - Third World newsreel</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Resources - LOC/WOC film resources</td>
<td>1991–1996</td>
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<td>Film resources - Margaret Daniel</td>
<td>circa 1991–1994</td>
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<td>Karen Williams, comedian</td>
<td>circa 1994</td>
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<td>Photographic prints</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assorted photos, some with ID [identification], of Aché staff</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photos of board retreat</td>
<td>circa 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aché staff at Lisbet's house</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Photographic prints**

- **b. 2, f. 83**
  - "THING" T-shirt and postcard
  - The text “THING / she knows who she is” is printed on the front of the T-shirt. The postcard is by THING publishing, titled “bubblehead por.trit” by Lee Kay, and it features a drawing of RuPaul on the front.
  - undated

- **b. 2, f. 84**
  - Assorted photos, some with ID [identification], of Aché staff
  - undated

- **b. 2, f. 85**
  - Photos of board retreat
  - circa 1990

- **b. 2, f. 86**
  - Aché staff at Lisbet’s house
  - 1 photographic print
  - 1990
<table>
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<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 87</td>
<td>Aché journal committee</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 88</td>
<td>Photos for Aché’s 1st anniversary event poster Four photographic prints of Rachel Bagby and Diane Ferlatte.</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 89</td>
<td>Audre Lorde Memorial - @ Modern Times Bookstore, S.F.</td>
<td>1992 November 29</td>
</tr>
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<td>b. 2, f. 90</td>
<td>Essex Hemphill @ The Woman’s Bldg, SF</td>
<td>1992 June 13</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 91</td>
<td>Women’s Institute</td>
<td>1992 February</td>
</tr>
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<td>b. 2, f. 92</td>
<td>A Drag King Thang @ La Pena, Berkeley</td>
<td>1992 October 28</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 93</td>
<td>Aché buttons 5 items</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 94</td>
<td>Pippa Anne Fleming</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 95</td>
<td>Lisbet Tellefsen</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 96-97</td>
<td>Origins of Aché - early notes</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 98-100</td>
<td>Subscription forms/mailing lists</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 101-105</td>
<td>Aché financial records, including receipts and bills</td>
<td>circa 1989–1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 106-110</td>
<td>Aché financial records, including receipts</td>
<td>circa 1989–1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 112</td>
<td>Checkbooks, receipts, notebook, etc.</td>
<td>circa 1989–1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 113</td>
<td>Event income</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 114</td>
<td>Merchandise/T-shirt sales</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 115</td>
<td>Aché subscriptions</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>b. 3, f. 116</td>
<td>Aché receipts</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 117</td>
<td>Aché files</td>
<td>1991–1992</td>
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<td>b. 3, f. 118</td>
<td>Bookstore sales</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>b. 3, f. 119</td>
<td>Aché office</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 120</td>
<td>Ad package</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 121</td>
<td>Mailing lists / subscribers</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 122</td>
<td>Office phone logs</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 123</td>
<td>Office insurance package</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 124</td>
<td>Aché events / flyers [removed from binder]</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 125</td>
<td>Luna Institute: National Black Lesbian Conference</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 126</td>
<td>Kenya Briggs</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 127</td>
<td>Andrea Canaan</td>
<td>1993 June 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 128</td>
<td>Tobe Melora Correal</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 129</td>
<td>Shari Harris</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 130</td>
<td>Women of Color Organizations Projects: A National Directory</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 131</td>
<td>Miscellaneous clippings, research info</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 132</td>
<td>Aché rubber stamps</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 items</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 133</td>
<td>Earthlyn Manuel - Board of Directors</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 134</td>
<td>Loose papers on incorporation</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 135</td>
<td>Promo material</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 136</td>
<td>Aché Press / Articles / Mentions</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 137</td>
<td>Aché - IRS 501(c)3</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 139</td>
<td>Aché material</td>
<td>1989, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 140</td>
<td>Aché press / articles</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 141</td>
<td>Stationery</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 142</td>
<td>Aché website notes</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 143</td>
<td>Aché material</td>
<td>1990, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains two items: a narrative overview of Aché, prepared to seek funding from the Vanguard Foundation, which includes background history, goals and objectives, structure of the organization, as well as funding and financial information; and a “A Guide to Black Gay &amp; Lesbian Video/Film” from the 1993 Sixth Annual National Black Gay &amp; Lesbian Conference.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 144</td>
<td>Skye Ward / outreach coordinator - Resources / organization development</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 145</td>
<td>Skye Ward</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 146</td>
<td>Dissolution papers</td>
<td>1994 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 147</td>
<td>Federal tax exempt status</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 148</td>
<td>Proposals - Office improvement project - Aché</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 149</td>
<td>Proposals - Subscription improvement project</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 150</td>
<td>Proposals - Individual donors project</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 151</td>
<td>Proposals - Volunteers projects</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 152</td>
<td>Grant info</td>
<td>undated</td>
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</table>
b. 3, f. 153  Grant info - Women’s foundation  undated
b. 3, f. 154-155  Aché organization development, grants, board / meeting notes [removed from binder]  undated
b. 4, f. 156  International outreach/networking - South Africa - Glow letter  undated
b. 4, f. 157  International outreach/networking - Lanvola - LOC [Lesbians of Color] group from New Zealand  undated
b. 4, f. 158  International outreach / networking - Afro-German materials  undated
Photographs, postcards, and letters, including a typewritten letter to Tellefsen from Audre Lorde, written in Berlin and dated 5/13/90.

b. 4, f. 159  International outreach / networking  undated
b. 4, f. 161  UK / England, WOC / LOC - Black Lesbian Gay Centre (London)  undated
b. 4, f. 162  UK / England, WOC / LOC - England Black ♂♀’s ♂  undated
b. 4, f. 163  UK / England, WOC / LOC - Black Women’s Network (London)  undated
b. 4, f. 164  Aché files  undated
b. 4, f. 165  Aché files from Jul/Aug. ’90, vol. 2, no. 4  1990
b. 4, f. 166  Aché files from Oct/Nov. ’91, vol. 3, no. 5  1991
b. 4, f. 167  Aché journal photos  undated
Three photographs: two duplicate prints feature photographer Jean Weisinger and musician Joy Gamble; the other photograph is of Rev. Afua Chineue Ifama.

b. 4, f. 168  Aché editors / journal committee members - Skye Ward  undated
b. 4, f. 169  Aché editors / journal committee members - Winn Gilmore  undated
Including a computer printout copy of “The Dinner Guest.”

b. 4, f. 170  Aché editors / journal committee members - Debra K. Floyd  undated
b. 4, f. 171  Aché editors / journal committee members - DeeAnne Davis, editor  undated
Including three photographs of Davis.

b. 4, f. 172  Aché editors / journal committee members - Blake C. Aarons, clippings  undated
b. 4, f. 173  Aché Puzzle Page by Lisbet  undated
1 page
“See if you can find the last name of these 22 authors.”

b. 4, f. 174  Aché editors / journal committee members - Storme Webber  undated
b. 4, f. 175  Aché journal / income notes - Octavia Butler, clippings  undated
b. 4, f. 176  Aché journal committee / notes - Submissions / writings  undated
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<td><strong>Aché layouts</strong></td>
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<td>Though this layout cover lists the date as “April 1989,” these materials are actually the layouts for the June issue.</td>
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Aché layouts (continued)

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<td>b. 7, f. 203</td>
<td>Poster (for “Sisters of the Night,” 1995 Halloween party) and cover art from Aché vol. 1, no. 1 cover (2 copies)</td>
<td>1989, 1995, undated</td>
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<td>b. 7, f. 204</td>
<td>“Tribal Expressions” A Celebration of 2 Years of Aché, mock-ups</td>
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<td>“The Party” posters (3)</td>
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<td>“An evening with filmmaker Aarin Busch” posters (3)</td>
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<td>“Tribal Connexions” poster</td>
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<td>b. 7, f. 208</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Includes artwork for Aché layouts; photographs (two photographs of Rev. Afua Chinue Ifama, and one photograph of Imani Harrington); and additional manuscript pages.</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floppy disks</td>
<td>Original computer disks are restricted and may only be seen with approval from the appropriate curator until the files have been imaged and reviewed. Contact Access Services for further information.</td>
<td>1989–1994</td>
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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.

Preferred Titles
Aché

Subjects
African American lesbians -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area
Editors
LGBTQ resource
Lesbian activists -- United States
Periodicals -- Publishing -- United States

Genres / Formats
Born digital

Names
Fleming, Pippa
Lorde, Audre
Tellefsen, Lisbet, 1961-

Corporate Body
National Black Gay & Lesbian Conference