

Guide to the Jeanne C. Barney Papers

WA MSS S-4483



Stephanie Bredbenner

2021 September

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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: WA MSS S-4483

CREATOR: Barney, Jeanne C.

TITLE: Jeanne C. Barney papers

DATES: 1968–1982

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.17 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection includes correspondence, writings, legal documents, photographs, ephemera, and artwork concerning Jeanne C. Barney, leather culture, and gay rights activism in California, circa 1968-1982. Present are original letters and typescript drafts for Barney's advice columns, subscription forms and correspondence for the Leather Fraternity, and legal documents concerning Barney's arrest and trial after the Mark IV raid. Also included are letters from Robert A. Sullivan, who was convicted of the 1973 murder of Donald Schmidt; John Wojtowicz, who was convicted of robbing a bank in 1972; and other gay prisoners, which Barney used for her "Prison Rap" column and to coordinate pen pal programs for gay prisoners. The collection also includes photographs, artwork, and paste-ups for Leather Fraternity publications and H.E.L.P. events, including drawings and prints by Sean, one of the pseudonyms of artist John Klamik.

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

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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.jbarney>.

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 William Reese Co. (Swann Galleries Pride sale, New York, 2019 June 20, lot 137-138) on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2019. Purchased from Langdon Manor Books, LLC on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2019. Purchased from Daniel Oliver LLC on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana and Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2021.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Jeanne C. Barney 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

Jeanne C. Barney Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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 as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below, titled according to the month and year of acquisition.

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

Processing Information

Many folder titles have been transcribed directly from Jeanne C. Barney's original folders. Devised folder titles and additions to existing folder titles have been enclosed in brackets.

Related Materials

Associated material: Leather Fraternity Records (WA MSS S-4490), Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Separated Materials

Printed material received with the collection was removed for separate cataloging and can be accessed by searching the library's online catalog.

Biographical / Historical

Jeanne C. Barney was a writer and gay rights activist involved with leather culture, particularly in California. In 1975, Barney and John H. Embry founded *Drummer* magazine, and Barney served as editor-in-chief for the first eleven issues. Barney was also involved with the Leather Fraternity, which used personal ads in *Drummer* and a correspondence network to connect members of the leather community. She also wrote advice columns for *The Advocate*, *Drummer*, and *NewsWest*. Barney was arrested in 1976 when the Los Angeles Police Department raided a Leather Fraternity "slave auction" themed charity event at the Mark IV bathhouse. Barney, Embry, and two others pled guilty to felony charges and were sentenced to community service.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes correspondence, writings, legal documents, photographs, ephemera, and artwork concerning Jeanne C. Barney, leather culture, and gay rights activism in California, circa 1968-1982. Present are original letters and typescript drafts for Barney's advice columns, subscription forms and correspondence for the Leather Fraternity, and legal documents concerning Barney's arrest and trial after the Mark IV raid. Also included are letters from Robert A. Sullivan, who was convicted of the 1973 murder of Donald Schmidt; John Wojtowicz, who was convicted of robbing a bank in 1972; and other gay prisoners, which Barney used for her "Prison Rap" column and to coordinate pen pal programs for gay prisoners. The collection also includes photographs, artwork, and paste-ups for Leather Fraternity publications and H.E.L.P. events, including drawings and prints by Sean, one of the pseudonyms of artist John Klamik.

Arrangement

Organized into three groupings: May 2021 Acquisition; October 2019 Acquisition; July 2019 Acquisition.

Collection Contents

May 2021 Acquisition, 1968–1978

2.42 linear feet (2 boxes)

b. 1, f. 1	Politics [photographs]	circa 1968-1978
b. 1, f. 2	The Ramrod [photographs]	circa 1968-1978
b. 1, f. 3	Theater/performance [photographs]	circa 1968-1978
b. 1, f. 4	Buddy and Matthew of Glendale [photographs]	circa 1968-1978
b. 1, f. 5	Kathy Esselstyn 1976 Gay Freedom Day [photographs]	1976
b. 1, f. 6	Misc. photos	circa 1968-1978
b. 1, f. 7	[Leather Fraternity newsletter and catalogs]	circa 1978
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 8	[Leather Fraternity paste-up]	circa 1973-1978
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 9	[Leather Fraternity logos]	circa 1973-1978
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 10-11	[Leather Fraternity paste-up and copy]	circa 1973-1978
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 12	[Sean art for Leather Fraternity]	circa 1973-1978
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 13	[H.E.L.P. country fair paste-up and posters]	circa 1977
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 14	[H.E.L.P. collage]	circa 1977
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 15-16	[Other art and ephemera]	circa 1968-1978

October 2019 Acquisition, 1968–1979*1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)*

b. 3, f. 17-20	Leather Fraternity subscription forms and correspondence	1968–1978
b. 3, f. 21	Leather Fraternity personal ads	1974–1977
b. 3, f. 22	Leather Fraternity explicit and hilites	1975–1978
b. 3, f. 23	Leather Fraternity unidentified and scraps	1972–1977
b. 3, f. 24-29	Smoke from Jeanne's Lamp [advice column]	1973–1978
b. 3, f. 30	[Advice column letters]	1973–1978
b. 4, f. 31-33	[Advice column letters]	1973–1978
b. 4, f. 34-36	Prison rap [column]	1974–1977
b. 4, f. 37-38	Calendar [section]	circa 1975-1979
b. 5, f. 39-46	Calendar [section]	circa 1975-1979
b. 5, f. 47	[Professional correspondence]	1975–1976
b. 5, f. 48	Barney - stuff to photocopy	1976
b. 5, f. 49	[Clippings and photocopies]	circa 1976-1978

July 2019 Acquisition, 1973–1982*0.42 linear feet (2 boxes)*

b. 6, f. 50	John Wojtowicz letters	1973–1977
b. 6, f. 51	John Wojtowicz printed correspondence and documents (copies)	1974–1978
b. 6, f. 52	John Wojtowicz <i>New York Times</i> article (copies)	1975–1976
b. 6, f. 53	John Wojtowicz clippings (copies)	1977–1978
b. 6, f. 54	John Wojtowicz court documents (copies)	1976–1978
b. 6, f. 55	Envelopes	circa 1973-1978
b. 6, f. 56	Robert Sullivan case	1977–1982
b. 7, f. 57	[Articles, columns and correspondence]	1970–1974
b. 7, f. 58	Slave auction [legal documents and correspondence]	circa 1976
b. 7, f. 59	Slave auction [clippings]	circa 1976
b. 7, f. 60	Newspapers and clippings	1974–1975
b. 7, f. 61	Photographs	circa 1974-1976
b. 7, f. 62	[Fliers, programs, brochures, and other ephemera]	circa 1972-1976

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.

Sullivan, Robert A., 1947-1983
Wojtowicz, John, 1945-2006

Preferred Titles

Advocate (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Drummer (San Francisco, Calif.)
Newsweek (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Corporate Bodies

H.E.L.P., Incorporated
Leather Fraternity

Subjects

Advice columnists -- United States
Advice columns -- United States
Authors, American -- 20th Century
Editors -- United States -- 20th Century
Gay community -- California
Gay community -- United States
Gay erotica -- United States
Gay liberation movement -- California
Gay men -- Sexual behavior
Gay prisoners -- United States
Leather lifestyle -- California
Leather lifestyle -- United States
LGBTQ resource
Prisoners -- United States
Women authors, American -- 20th Century
Women editors -- United States
Women -- West (U.S.)

Geographic Names

California -- Social life and customs -- 20th Century

Genres / Formats

Collages (visual works)
Drawings (visual works)
Photographs

Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century
Editors -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Embry, John H.
Klamik, John