

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Donald Whittaker Collection of Gay and Lesbian Ephemera

GEN MSS 2134



Alison Fulmer

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 2134

CREATOR: Whittaker, Donald

TITLE: Donald Whittaker collection of gay and lesbian ephemera

DATES: 1984–2004

BULK DATES: 1997–2004

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Primarily in English with some material in Italian, French, German, and Dutch.

SUMMARY: This collection of ephemera contains postcard and handbill advertisements for events, products, services, and sexual health campaigns catering to the LGBT community.

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

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.whittakerephem>.

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

Gift of Donald Whittaker, circa 2012.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Donald Whittaker collection of gay and lesbian ephemera 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.

Preferred Citation

Donald Whittaker collection of gay and lesbian ephemera. 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.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards.

A note on collection description: advertisements in the collection almost exclusively use the terms "gay" or "lesbian", though many venues, events, and sexual health campaigns catered to more than those discrete groups and identities. The terms "LGBT" and "queer" are therefore used in the collection description, along with the linked subject heading "LGBTQ resource", to reflect this broader audience and to increase discoverability of the collection. The use of broader terms allows users to discover related records regardless of the terminology used in the records.

Content Description

This collection of ephemera contains postcard and handbill advertisements for events, products, services, and sexual health campaigns catering to the LGBT community. While many advertisements explicitly target a gay and lesbian audience, such as ads for clubs and bars, some advertisements are not specifically created by LGBT businesses or for an LGBT audience but are of interest to the queer community nonetheless, such as ads for Broadway musicals and certain products and brands.

Most advertisements are associated with events and organizations in New York City, but there are some advertisements for events, venues, products, services, and organizations in Europe and other U.S. locations, which is noted throughout the collection.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in three series: I. Event advertising, II. Product and service advertising, III. Sexual health campaign advertising.

Collection Contents

Series I. Event advertising, 1984, 1997–2004

This series includes postcard and handbill advertisements for events featuring LGBT artists and performers or catering to the LGBT community. There are also two booklet publications featuring information about events and culture in New York City.

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 1, f. 1	Art exhibitions Includes advertisements for gallery exhibitions of photography, painting, and other visual arts as well as museum exhibitions. Some material is in German.	1998–2004
b. 1, f. 2	Auctions Includes advertisements for Swann Auction Galleries.	2001
	Clubs and bars These folders include postcard and handbill advertisements for LGBT and non-LGBT events at clubs and bars, the majority of which are New York City venues. Events include dances, themed parties, fetish events, drag shows, and concerts. Arranged alphabetically.	1984, 1997–2001
b. 1, f. 3	Europe Includes advertisements for events at venues in London (The Astoria, Substation Soho), Paris, Berlin, and Italy (After Line, Metropolis). Some material is in French, Italian, and German.	1998–2000
b. 1, f. 4-6	New York City Includes advertisement for events at LGBT bars and clubs including The Cock, Escuelita, HerShe Bar, Meow Mix, J's Hangout, The LURE leather bar, MOTHER, Pegasus, Pyramid, Pieces, Rebar, Roxy, and The Sound Factory Bar. Other venues include Cheetah, Don Hill's, Fez, Gemini Lounge, Kit Kat Club, Limelight, NV, Tunnel, TWILO, and Vanity. There are a number of advertisements for Pride events as well as charity and fundraising events for programs or organizations including the Lesbian Outreach Project of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation, TWEED Theatreworks, Positive Health Project, and Women with AIDS and AIDS Awareness.	1984, 1997–2000
b. 1, f. 7	United States - other Includes advertisements for events at venues in Florida, California, and Illinois.	1999–2001
b. 1, f. 8	Cruises	1998
b. 1, f. 9	<i>Flyer</i> - New York City events and culture guide <i>Flyer</i> is a small booklet publication containing listings of events at clubs and other venues in New York City, reviews of music album releases, and short articles on arts and culture.	May 1999

b. 1, f. 10-11	<p>Performances</p> <p>Includes advertisements for dance and choral performances, musicals, plays, drag shows, and music festivals primarily at New York City venues. A few performances were benefit or charity fundraising events for programs such as Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project. A selection of venues include Collective:Unconscious, Duplex Cabaret Theatre, HERE Arts Center, Present Company Theatorium, Rattlestick Theatre, Roseland Ballroom, Teatro LATEA, Theatre for the New City, and WOW Cafe Theatre. There are a few advertisements for German events including music and arts festivals.</p> <p>See "Clubs and bars" in this series for additional advertisements of music, drag, and dance performances.</p>	1998-2001
b. 1, f. 12	<p><i>Simon Says</i> - New York City arts and culture guide</p> <p><i>Simon Says</i> is a small booklet publication containing information about visual arts exhibitions and events, dance and performance, music, and film.</p>	April 1998

Series II. Product and service advertising, circa 1995-2004

This series includes postcard advertisements for products and services. Some advertisements are created by LGBT brands or companies, while most material advertises products or services that cater to the LGBT community. Most advertisements are for products and services available either online or at locations in New York City. Advertisements in languages other than English are noted in the Scope and Contents note for each category.

Arranged alphabetically by category.

b. 2, f. 1	Apparel	1999–2001
b. 2, f. 2	Beauty, health, and hygiene Includes advertisements for fragrances, beauty and hygiene products, and health supplements. Also includes a postcard promoting informational services on stress and drug abuse by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Some material is in Italian.	1999
b. 2, f. 3	Fetish Includes advertisements for latex and leather toys and apparel including stores in New York City, the Netherlands, and online. Some material is in Dutch.	circa 1995
b. 2, f. 4	Finance Includes an advertisement for the online Gay Financial Network.	1999
b. 2, f. 5	Fitness and sports Includes advertisements for gyms, fitness videos, and boxing matches. Of note is an advertisement for The Circle Club, an intimate gym for men in New York City. Some material is in Italian and German.	1998–2001
b. 2, f. 6	Food and drink Includes advertisements in Italian.	1997–2003
b. 2, f. 7	Hotels Of note are several postcard advertisements for Inn Exile, a gay resort in Palm Springs.	undated
b. 2, f. 8	Internet services Includes advertisements for gay and lesbian online dating websites and a community forum as well as general chat sites, online branding services, and internet service providers.	1999
b. 2, f. 9	Miscellaneous This folder includes categories for which there are no more than two advertisements and which have no obvious connection to the LGBT community. Includes miscellaneous postcards advertising art and antiques dealers, artist services, cars, CAT machinery, Kodak, toys, travel, the United States military, and video games. Some material is in Italian.	1999–2002
b. 2, f. 10	Movies and television Includes advertisements for the New York Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (1999) and LGBT films such as <i>Punks</i> , <i>Broadway Damage</i> , <i>High Art</i> , the Spanish film <i>Nico and Dani</i> , and the German fetish film <i>Sneaker Sex</i> . Includes advertisements in Spanish and German. Also includes advertisements for mainstream Hollywood films and television programs.	1997–2001

b. 2, f. 11	Music albums Includes advertisements for music album releases and music producers based in New York City and San Francisco.	1998–2004
b. 2, f. 12	Publications Includes advertisements for books and book signings, comics, magazines, and online publications featuring writings on politics, business, music, fashion, sex, and art. Includes advertisements for LGBT publications such as the <i>Chelsea Boys</i> comic strip, <i>Next</i> magazine, <i>Spartacus International Gay Guide</i> , and <i>Gai Pied</i> . Some material is in Italian and French.	1999–2004

Series III. Sexual health campaign advertising, 1999–2004

Includes postcard advertisements for sexual health campaigns promoting HIV, AIDS, and STD awareness, prevention, and care in the Tri-state area, England, and France. Many advertisements focus on connecting gay and bisexual men with information and resources concerning HIV/AIDS and include information about phone hotlines, websites, and publications.

Arranged alphabetically by location.

b. 2, f. 13	England Includes advertisements from organizations including the NHS, Big Up, Metrothrust, Terrence Higgins Trust, CHAPS (Community HIV and AIDS Prevention Strategy), and Gay Men Fighting AIDS.	1999
b. 2, f. 14	France Contains government advertisements about AIDS (SIDA) information and resources. Material is in French.	undated
b. 2, f. 15	United States Includes advertisements from organizations in the Tri-state area and national organizations including the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Philadelphia Community Health Alternative, Planned Parenthood of New York City, Project ACHIEVE (New York City), the Boston to New York AIDS Ride, and Jersey City State College.	1999–2004

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) -- Prevention
Art exhibitions -- New York (State) -- New York
Drag performance
Gay bars
Gay community -- United States
HIV infections -- Prevention
Lesbian bars
LGBTQ events
LGBTQ resource
Nightclubs -- New York (State) -- New York
Performing arts -- New York (State) -- New York
Sexual health

Genres / Formats

Advertisements
Handbills
Postcards