

**SFPL**

**NANCY STOCKWELL PAPERS**

**[1956?]-2006 (bulk 1975-1998)**

Collection number: GLC 47

The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center

San Francisco Public Library

2010

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Provenance**

The Nancy Stockwell Papers were donated to The San Francisco Public Library by Deanna L. Nikodym for the Estate of Nancy Stockwell in May 2000. 11 additional items were donated by Nikodym in April 2010.

### **Restrictions**

The diaries are closed to research until 2060 per Nancy Stockwell.

### **Access**

The bulk of the collection is open for research and available in the San Francisco History Center on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Main Library. The hours are: Tues.-Thurs. 10a.m.-6 p.m., Fri. 12 noon-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun. 12 noon-5 p.m.

### **Collection Number**

GLC 47

### **Size**

2.5 cu. ft. (in 4 boxes). Box 3 contains items larger than 8-1/2 by 14 inches.

### **Processed by**

Timothy T. Wilson

### **Date Completed**

February 2007; additions incorporated June 2010.

### **Preferred Citation**

[*Identification of item*], Nancy Stockwell Papers (GLC 47), The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library.

### **Copyright and Literary Rights**

Copyright and literary rights for Stockwell's published and unpublished works were bequeathed to the Kansas University Endowment Association, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044-0928.

### Conservation Note

During processing, the entire collection was refoldered and re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes. All metal fasteners were removed and replaced with plastic clips where necessary.

### BIOGRAPHY

Nancy Stockwell was born in Paola, Kansas on September 8, 1940. She was diagnosed with bronchiectasis, a congenital pulmonary disorder in 1951. In 1966 she graduated from the University of Kansas with a Master's degree in Speech/Theatre. That same year she moved to Boston, Massachusetts and began her career as a writer. The unpublished novella "Lucky Girls" chronicles her early days in Boston. She taught high school, was an editor at Arthur D. Little, Inc. from 1970-1973, and was a grant writer and administrator at the Girls' Club in Lynn, Massachusetts from 1972-1973.

In 1973 Stockwell moved to Berkeley, California where she became one of the founding mothers of the journals *PLEXUS* (1974-1977) and *The Bright Medusa*. It is at this time that she made the acquaintance of members of the early lesbian-feminist movement. In 1977 she returned to the east coast. In 1978 *Out Somewhere and Back Again: the Kansas Stories* was published. In 1979 she attended the first gay and lesbian March in Washington, DC where she was living. In 1980 she began managing the Lambda Rising Bookstore in Washington, DC and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. A piece of hers was published in *A True Likeness* edited by Felice Picano, Seahorse Press. In 1981 she founded The Good Earth, a landscaping and construction business (1981-1985). In 1985 she was admitted into the Ladies Professional Golf Association and returns to the west coast.

In 1987 Stockwell became the first female golf club professional in San Francisco at Harding/Lincoln Parks. Later that year, she was hired as head teaching professional at the Stony Run Sports Center in Denver, Pennsylvania, and opened the PRO shop in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. In 1990 she was hired as the manager and teaching professional at Blue Skies Country Club in Yucca Valley, California.

In 1992 Stockwell moved from the desert to Paola, Kansas due to failing health. She founded the Old Faithful Trading Company and taught college-level sociology. In 1996 she purchased a home and moved to Kansas City, Kansas to be near KU Medical Center. A piece of hers was published in *Best Lesbian Erotica 1996* edited by Tristan Taormino, Cleis Press. She read from "The Telling Kind" at OUTWRITE on February 25, 1996 in Boston.

In 1998 Stockwell arrived in San Diego, California in January to await a double lung transplant at UCSD Medical Center. On September 18, 1998 she underwent successful double lung transplant surgery and was discharged from the hospital in 10 days. In December she returned to Kansas to assist with the care of her mother who had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Nancy Stockwell died at the Kansas University Medical Center on March 13, 1999 due to complications from the lung transplants and immuno-suppression.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection contains correspondence, subject files, diaries, and draft and printed copies of Stockwell's writings. Most of the material covers the years 1975 through 1998.

## ARRANGEMENT NOTE

The material is arranged into five series: Correspondence, Subject Files, Works, Audiovisual Materials, and Diaries/Journals.

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

**SERIES 1: CORRESPONDENCE, 1963-1999 (bulk 1975-1998).**  
111 folders (1.5 cubic feet)

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent. This series contains correspondence with many significant women in the lesbian and feminist publishing communities, among them: Nancy Bereano, Sandy Boucher, Sandra Dasmann, Cynthia Gair, Barbara Grier, Bertha Harris, Helaine Harris, Ann Meredith, Ann Stokes. There is a small amount of correspondence with such notables as: Jane Rule, Adrienne Rich, Eudora Welty, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Felice Picano, Kate Millett, Susan Griffin, Peg Cruikshank, Tee Corinne, Charlotte Bunch, and Margie Adam. There is also some correspondence with family. Subjects are often specific to pieces of writing by Stockwell or the correspondent, or a community publishing project such as *Plexus* or *The Bright Medusa*. Occasionally the subjects include various writing workshops, such as Women in Print, other community gatherings, and common friends and acquaintances. In later correspondence, Stockwell's health issues become increasingly important.

**SERIES 2: SUBJECT FILES, 1978-2006.**  
9 folders (items larger than 8-1/2 by 14 inches filed in Box 3)

Arranged alphabetically by folder title. Of particular interest are the interview of Stockwell which appeared in *The Hill Rag* and the article by Susan Brownmiller. The biographical outline and list of published works are a helpful synopsis of Stockwell's life and work. The collected memories of Stockwell's life are touching and really illustrate the impact of her work and her personality. The official ballot for the Democratic National Committee includes Stockwell as a candidate.

**SERIES 3: WORKS, 1974-1998**  
33 folders (items larger than 8-1/2 by 14 inches filed in Box 3)

Arranged alphabetically by title. There are several short stories, and drafts and proofs of a number of printed pieces including *Out somewhere and back again*. A few of the pieces are autobiographical. Of interest are the paste-ups of *The Bright Medusa* and the printed copies of *Plexus*; both titles document early publishing by the San Francisco Bay Area's feminist community.

**SERIES 4: AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS, [1956?]-1998, n.d.**

2 audiotapes, 1 videotape, 8 photographs, 4 clippings of photographs

Arranged alphabetically by title. This series contains an audiotape of Stockwell's talk at the Outwrite conference in 1996 and a videotape of "The Challenge of Nancy Stockwell" produced by Ann P. Meredith in 1997. The photographs include a small oval high school era photo of Stockwell, a snapshot of Cynthia Gair and a snapshot of Stockwell and Gair, an 8x10 photo of Stockwell at the October 1979 national gay rights march on Washington, D.C., two 1998 Polaroid shots of Stockwell post-lung transplant, and two 8x10 photographs of Margaret Winslow. The clippings are of Stockwell as an adult: one on the steps of her Washington, D.C. home, two in golf attire, and one playing fiddle.

**SERIES 5: DIARIES / JOURNALS, 1986-1998**

8 journals

Arranged chronologically. This series contains journals and diaries that document Stockwell's activities, thoughts and feelings in the 12 years prior to her death. Unfortunately, her early journals from the 1960s through the 1980s were destroyed by the family in the years between her death and when her other papers were donated to the library. **The diaries are closed to research until 2060 per Nancy Stockwell.**

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Bx/Fdr Series 1: Correspondence.**

- 1/1 \_\_\_\_\_, Sidney, 1981
- 1/2 Adam, Margie, 1978
- 1/3 Allison, Dorothy, 1995
- 1/4 Arnold, June, 1976-1977, n.d. –See also Boucher, Sandy  
Bowman, Parke  
Daughters, Inc.
- 1/5 Assiter, Nyla, 1977-1978, n.d.
- 1/6 Barry, Marion, Jr., Mayor of Washington, D.C., 1980-1981.  
–See also Hockenberry, Clint. –See also Chorlton, Tom
- 1/7 Beaton, Susan, 1974-1988  
Girls Club of Lynn (Mass.), Inc.  
Hellman, Daryl
- 1/8 Bereano, Nancy, 1992-1998  
Firebrand Books
- 1/9 Bolsterli, Margaret, 1977
- 1/10 Boucher, Sandy, 1977-1998  
Arnold, June (1977)  
Bowman, Parke (1977)  
Daughters, Inc. (1977)  
Harris, Bertha (1977)  
Bowman, Parke. –See Arnold, June. –See Boucher, Sandy
- 1/11 Breathitt, Mary Fran, 1980. House of Reps. Committee on Education and Labor, 1980
- 1/12 Brownmiller, Susan, n.d.
- 1/13 Brueske, Judy, 1977  
*Hard Labor*
- 1/14 Bunch, Charlotte, 1976. –See also Gair, Cynthia  
FEN [Feminist Economic Network]  
Parrent, Joanne
- 1/15 Chatelle, Bob, 1977, 1983
- 1/16 Chorlton, Tom, 1980  
Barry, Marion, Jr., Mayor of the District of Columbia  
Commission on Arts and Humanities  
Gay Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C.  
Commission on Arts and Humanities. –See Chorlton, Tom
- 1/17 Conley, Sue, 1986-1996  
Haynes, Nan
- 1/18 Corinne, Tee, 1996
- 1/19 Costanza, Margaret “Midge”, 1978
- 1/20 Cruikshank, Margaret (Peg), 1977-1978
- 1/21 Dasmann, Lauren, 1989-1996  
[Tomb], Bronwyn

**Bx/Fdr Series 1: Correspondence.**

- 1/22 Dasmann, Sandra, 1983-1998  
*Plexus*  
Daughters, Inc. –See Arnold, June. –See Boucher, Sandy  
Diana Press. –See Reid, Coletta
- 1/23 Dickens, Hazel J., 1974
- 1/24 DuBois, Jan Marie, 1976-1996
- 1/25 Duff, Diana, 1983-1998, n.d.
- 1/26 Fauntroy, Walter E., 1981 [congressman]  
FEN [Feminist Economic Network]. –See Bunch, Charlotte
- 1/27 Ficklen, Martha, 1980  
Firebrand Books. –See Bereano, Nancy
- 1/28 Gair, Cynthia, 1976-1980. –See also Harris, Helaine. –See also photographs in 2/74  
[Bunch], Charlotte  
Women in Distribution
- 1/29 Galton, Pat, 1995-1998
- 1/30 Gámez, Rocky, 1992-1997  
Gay Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C. –See Chorlton, Tom
- 1/31 Gerrard, Alice, n.d.  
Girls Club of Lynn (Mass.) Inc. –See Beaton, Susan
- 1/32 Grier, Barbara, 1976-1983  
Naiad Press
- 1/33 Griffin, Susan, 1975-1979  
Levy, Becky
- 1/34-35 Gugino, Jeanne E., 1974-1999 (2 folders)  
*Hard Labor*. –See Brueske, Judy
- 1/36 Harris, Bertha, 1976-1997. –See also Boucher, Sandy
- 1/37 Harris, Helaine, 1976-1995, n.d.  
Gair, Cynthia  
Women in Distribution  
Haynes, Nan. –See Conley, Sue  
Hellman, Daryl. –See Beaton, Susan
- 1/38 Hershey, Annie, [1979]-1998
- 1/39 Hess, Leah, 1983, n.d.
- 1/40 Hockenberry, Clint, 1980  
International Gay Association  
Barry, Marion  
International Gay Association. –See Hockenberry, Clint
- 1/41 Inwood, Mid, 1976
- 1/42 Jones, Sparky, 1996  
Yeats, Leighton
- 1/43 Keller, Marcia Lynn, 1978-1979  
Kempley, Rita. –See Schneider, Ed



**Bx/Fdr Series 1: Correspondence.**

- 1/44 King, Betty, 1981-1983
- 1/45 Knight, Judy, 1980  
Dressner, Zita
- 1/46 Kruger, Deborah, 1993
- 1/47 Lay, Elizabeth, 1977
- 1/48 Layton, Elizabeth, 1980-1992, n.d.
- 1/49 Leonardi, Susan, 1994
- 1/50-52 Lester, Marianne, 1978-1998, n.d. (3 folders)
- 1/53 Letalien, Jackie, 1976  
Levy, Becky. –See Griffin, Susan
- 1/54 Lindstedt, Marcia, 1977
- 1/55 J.B. Lippincott Company, 1963
- 1/56 Long, Donna, 1977  
The Orielle, Inc.
- 1/57 *Majority Report*, 1975
- 1/58 McCusker, John W., 1999
- 1/59 Meredith, Ann, 1978-1998, n.d.
- 1/60 [Messinger], Lynne, n.d.
- 1/61 Meyer, Maxie, 1983-1996
- 1/62 Meyers, Joan C., 1978
- 1/63 [Millett], Kate 1976
- 1/64 Moskin, Julia, 1993 [re: *Lucky Girls*]  
E.P. Dutton & Co.  
De Santi, Carole
- 1/65 *Ms. Magazine*, 1975-1980  
Naiad Press. –See Grier, Barbara
- 1/66 Norton, Camille, 1992-1993
- 1/67 O'Connell, Jeanette, 1975-1989
- 1/68 Olsen, Tillie, 1975-1976
- 1/69 Ostrow, Joanne, 1983-1999, n.d.  
Parrent, Joanne. –See Bunch, Charlotte
- 1/70 Picano, Felice, 1980-1995
- 1/71 *Plexus*, 1976-1996. –See also Dasmann, Sandra
- 1/72 Poole, Eva, 1976
- 1/73 Pratt, Minnie Bruce, 1995-1996
- 1/74 [Puima], Chesca, n.d.  
*Quindaro*. –See Whitehead, Fred
- 2/1 Reid, Coletta, 1977  
Diana Press
- 2/2 Reynolds, Malvina, [1977?]
- 2/3 Rich, Adrienne, 1975
- 2/4 Richtman, Ann, 1976

**Bx/Fdr Series 1: Correspondence.**

- 2/5 Rothaizer, Susan ("Tequila", "Shoshana"), 1975-1998, n.d.
- 2/6 Rule, Jane, 1978
- 2/7 Rusnak, Diane, 1978-1998
- 2/8 Samuelson, Brooke, 1976-1977, n.d.
- 2/9 Schneider, Ed, 1984-1998
  - Kempley, Rita
- 2/10 Shackelton, Polly (Council of the District of Columbia), 1980
- 2/11 Shelepsky, Nancy, 1976
- 2/12 Shelley, Martha, 1996, n.d.
- 2/13 Smith, Peggy, 1996
- 2/14 Sorrels, Rosalie, 1975-1976
- 2/15 Sproul, Meryl S., 1991
- 2/16 Stanley, Julia, 1976
- 2/17 Staten, Pat, 1983-1984, n.d.
- 2/18 Stewart, Sue, 1978-1984, n.d.
- 2/19 Stockwell, Herbert (grandfather), 1977, n.d.
- 2/20 Stockwell, Melvin and Sara (parents), 1976-98
- 2/21 Stokes, Ann, 1984-1993
- 2/22 Stone, Jane, 1970-1984
- 2/23 Taber, Becky, 1978-1997
- 2/24 Taormino, Tristan, 1995, 1998
- 2/25 Thomas, Sherry, 1976
- 2/26 Tilchen, Maida, 1996-1998
- 2/27 Tomb, Aaron and Bronwyn, 1990-1993
  - [Tomb], Bronwyn. --See Dasmann, Lauren
- 2/28 Wallack, Cena, 1976
- 2/29 Welty, Eudora, 1978
- 2/30 Werthimer, Jerold, 1976
- 2/31 White, Kate ("de Kansas"), 1996-1998, n.d.
- 2/32 Whitehead, Fred, 1980
  - Quindaro*
- 2/33 Williamson, Mary, 1976-1998
  - Women in Print Conference
- 2/34 Winslow, Margaret, 1979. --See also photographs in 2/74
- 2/35 Winter, Nadine (Council of the District of Columbia), 1981
  - Women in Distribution. --See Gair, Cynthia. --See Harris, Helaine.
  - Women in Print Conference. --See Williamson, Mary
  - Yeats, Leighton. --See Jones, Sparky.
- 2/36 Young, Evelyn, (aunt) 1977
- 2/37 Zachai, Donna, 1993

**Bx/Fdr Series 2: Subject Files**

- 2/38 Biographical outline, n.d.
- 2/39 An Exceptional Gift: remembrances of Nancy Stockwell, 2000
- 3/1 "From Kansas to Capitol Hill: A feminist writer's views" by Celeste McCall in *The Hill Rag*, vol. 2 (7), June 10-July 8, 1978 (Washington, DC) [Interview of Stockwell].
- 2/40 List of correspondents, n.d.
- 2/41 Nancy Stockwell Scholarship announcement, Kansas University, 2006
- 2/42 Official ballot...Election of Delegates to the Democratic National Committee, May 6, 1980. District of Columbia, Congressional District II.
- 2/43 Old Faithful Trading Co. business card, n.d.
- 2/44 Publications list, n.d.
- 2/45 References to Stockwell in Susan Brownmiller's *In Our Time: memoir of a revolution* (Dial Press, 1999)

**Series 3: Works**

- 3/2 "Beaver Dams" in *Washington Review*, vol. 6 (2), August-September 1980 (Washington, DC)
- 2/46 *The Bright Medusa*, v. 1 (1), Fall 1976 [paste-up]
- 2/47 *The Bright Medusa*, v. 1 (2), Spring 1977 [paste-up]
- 2/48 Chameleon Cages, [1995]
- 2/49 Deadman's Curve, 1983, [1995]
- 3/3 "The Diva" in *Washington Review*, vol. 10 (2), August-September 1984 (Washington, DC)
- 2/50 Divorce, n.d.
- 3/4 "The Economics of Art / Myths and Rituals" in *Amazon: a Midwest journal for women*, vol. 5 (4), October/November 1976 (Milwaukee, WI)
- 2/51 The Egg Hunt, n.d.
- 2/52 Grace (*Quest* editorial), n.d.
- 2/53 How Virginia Bought-it in California, n.d.
- 2/54 [Letter to friends], October 1996
- 2/55 Lucky Girls: a novel, 1993
- 2/56 Lucky Girls [excerpt] in *Best Lesbian Erotica 1996*, selected and introduced by Heather Lewis, edited by Tristan Taormino (Pittsburgh, Pa.: Cleis Press, 1996)
- 2/57 Our Queer Future: a new species emerges, or, who are we and when will we know? n.d.
- 2/58 *Out Somewhere and Back Again*. Page proofs, n.d.  
For correspondence, see Meyers, Joan C.
- 2/59 *Out Somewhere and Back Again*. #1 proof copy, n.d.
- 2/60 *Out Somewhere and Back Again*. Reviews and promotional postcard, 1978-1979
- 2/61 *Out Somewhere and Back Again*. [button], n.d.
- 3/5 *Plexus*, vol.1 (4-10, 12-13), May-November 1974, January-February 1975
- 3/6 *Plexus*, vol.2 (1-11), March-December 1975, January-February 1976
- 3/7 *Plexus*, vol.3 (1-2, 4-5, 7-9), March-April, June-July, September-November 1976 [article clipped from page 5-6 of November 1976 issue]
- 3/8 *Plexus*, vol.4 (1), March 1977 [piece clipped from back cover]

**Series 3: Works**

- 2/62 Plot Outline, n.d. [Katherine Jenkins, vice-president elect, murdered by husband]
- 2/63 Prairie Fairies at Gay Games (in *Freedom Coalition Bulletin*, v. 3 (2), Aug. 1994)
- 2/64 The Ruby Shoe Rebellion, [1992]
- 2/65 Saturday Night, n.d.
- 2/66 Seven Hours from the Border, [1998]
- 2/67 Tell Your Mother, n.d.
- 2/68 The Telling Kind, [1996]
- 2/69 "An Uphill Lie" in *A True Likeness: lesbian and gay writing today*, edited by Felice Picano (New York: Sea Horse Press, 1980)
- 2/70 "We are the pot-of-gold theory of like kind of family," n.d.
- 2/71 Xmas in July, [1992]

**Series 4: Audiovisual Materials**

- 2/72 "The Challenge of Nancy Stockwell" ©Ann P Meredith, October 1997, Kansas City, Kansas. Producer: Ann P Meredith. Distributor: Dyke TV. [VHS videotape]
- 2/73 *OutSpoken Reading Series*. OutWrite '96 (Boston, Massachusetts: 1996). The 6th National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Writers' Conference. Sunday, February 25, 1996. Features: Laura Koplewitz, Mona de Vestal, Alan Brown, Michael Thomas Ford, Rochelle Schwab, Charlene Allen, Jackie Lapidus, Alvia Golden, David Stein, Ellen Farmer, Nancy Stockwell, Alan Helms. [2 audiotapes]
- 2/74 Photographs, [1956?], 1979, 1998, n.d. [8 photographs]  
Gair, Cynthia  
Winslow, Margaret
- 2/75 Photographs clipped from newspapers, n.d. [4 items]

**Box 4 Series 5: Diaries**

**RESTRICTED:** this series is closed to research until 2060

- Journal #17 (January 1986, July 1986-January 1992)
- Journal #18 (January 1992-July 1992)
- Journal #19 (July 1992-February 1993)
- Journal #20 (February 1993-May 1994)
- Journal #21 (May 1994-May 1995)
- Journal #22 (May 1995-December 1996)
- Journal #23 (January 1997-June 1998)
- Spiral Bound notebook, September 1998