

**ROBERT OAKS PAPERS**

**1977-1987**

Collection number: GLC 56

The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center

San Francisco Public Library

2008

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Provenance**

The Robert Oaks Papers were donated to The San Francisco Public Library by Robert Oaks in August 2004.

### **Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

### **Access**

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 56

### **Size**

1 cu. ft. (in 2 boxes).

### **Processed by**

Timothy T. Wilson

### **Date Completed**

June 2008

### **Preferred Citation**

[*Identification of item*], Roberts Oaks Papers (GLC 56), The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library.

### **Copyright and Literary Rights**

Copyright and literary rights for Oaks's published and unpublished works were retained by Robert Oaks.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Robert Francis Oaks is a fifth generation Californian, born in Escondido in 1942. After receiving a B.A. from Stanford and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California, he taught for a few years, primarily in Texas. With a specialty in Colonial America and the American Revolution, in the late 1970s he developed an interest in gay history.

He published several articles in professional historical journals and was a weekly cast member of a gay radio show in Dallas. He had frequent correspondence with prominent gay historians around the country and interviewed prominent gay activists.

These papers include letters from other gay historians, research notes for articles on homosexuality in 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century America, photocopies of relevant articles of other historians, and some general material related to gay causes in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Correspondence includes letters from Jonathan Katz, Lou Crompton, Sal Licata, and others.

A depressed job market prevented Oaks from achieving a tenured faculty position, so in 1978, he moved to San Francisco and soon changed careers to data processing and banking. At the beginning of 1992, he retired and now devotes much of his time to historical research and writing, though his interests now are primarily the histories of San Francisco and Hawai'i. Since retirement he has published articles on 19<sup>th</sup> century San Francisco in historical journals and a book on the history of the Big Island of Hawai'i.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The collection contains correspondence, subject files and ephemera, and publications.

## **ARRANGEMENT NOTE**

The material is arranged into three series: Correspondence, Subject Files and Ephemera, and Publications.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**BOX 1**

**Correspondence**

Bentsen, Lloyd, U.S. Senator (August 1, 1977)  
Boston Lesbian and Gay History Project (Jan. 26, 1980)  
    Interrante, Joe  
    Kelly, Beth  
Brown, Harold, [U.S.] Secretary of Defense (April 4, 1977)  
    Huggins, Lewis H., [U.S.] Department of the Army (April 27, 1977; May 16, 1977)  
Burg, B.R. –See Publications series  
Committee on Homosexuality in History (January 27, 1979; May 18, 1979; Nov. 1979)  
    Sprague, Gregory A.  
Crompton, Louis (January 2, 1978; February 7, 1978; March 23, 1978; April 6, 1978; January 29, 1979;  
    October 13, 1979)  
    Monaghan, James (encl. in February 7, 1978)  
    DeCecco, John P. –See *Journal of Homosexuality*  
D'Emilio, John (Jan. 5, 1979 & *Body Politic* clippings from November 1978, February 1979) re:  
    Mattachine Society,  
Duberman, Martin (January 13, 1978; April 2, 1978)  
Gilbert, Arthur N. (March 9, 1979)  
    *Journal of Sex Research*  
Hansen, Bert (Jan. 12, 1980; Apr. 11, 1981)  
Huggins, Lewis H. –See Brown, Harold  
Interrante, Joe. –See Boston Lesbian and Gay History Project  
*Journal of Homosexuality* (January 25, 1979; Feb. 6, 1980)  
    DeCecco, John P. (1979)  
    Kellogg, Stuart (1980)  
*Journal of Sex Research*. –See Gilbert, Arthur N.  
Just Before Dawn [radio show]. –See Whitley, J.B.  
Katz, Jonathan (Sept. 26, 1977; Oct. 17, 1977; Dec. 7, 1977; Dec. 1977/Jan. 1978; Mar. 20,  
    1978; Dec. 12, 1978; Jan. 4, 1979; Jan. 12, 1979; Jan. 26, 1979; Jan. 31, 1979; Mar. 16,  
    1979; Jan. 25, 1979; July 5, 1979; Dec. 19, 1979; Nov. 1, 1979 from Doug Thompson to  
    Katz; May 7, 1980; June 13, 1980; includes newspaper articles on Katz, 1979, 1983).  
Kelly, Beth. –See Boston Lesbian and Gay History Project  
Licata, Sal (Salvatore J.), 1977-1990  
Monaghan, James. –See Crompton, Louis  
Monter, William (March 10, 1979)  
Ron (Dec. 24, 1986; Dec. 24, 1987) [Pergamon Press]  
Rossiter, Frank (November 14, 1978) re: Gay Academic Union  
Sprague, Gregory A. –See Committee on Homosexuality in History

Thompson, Doug (Dec. 16, 1979). —See also Katz, Jonathan  
U.S. Department of the Army. —See Brown, Harold  
Whitley, J.B. (September 4, 1977) to Just Before Dawn re: Bob Oaks  
Williams, Walter (June 1979)

**SUBJECT FILES**

Bryant, Anita, 1977-1978

    Protect America's Children

Clippings

Colonial Laws—Connecticut and New Haven

Colonial Laws—Delaware

Colonial Laws—Georgia

Colonial Laws—Maryland

Colonial Laws—New Jersey

Colonial Laws—New York

Colonial Laws—North Carolina

Colonial Laws—Pennsylvania

Colonial Laws—Rhode Island and New Hampshire

Colonial Laws—South Carolina

Colonial Laws—Virginia

Dallas Gay Political Caucus, 1978

Gay Academic Union, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, 1978-1980

Kepner, Jim

Kinsey, n.d.

Los Angeles

Mattachine Society. —See Corr. D'Emilio, John

McCarthyism, excerpts from *Congressional Record*, 1950

Miscellaneous history

Miscellaneous news

**BOX 2**

National Gay Archives, n.d.

ONE (Dorr Legg)

Protect America's Children. —See Subject. Bryant, Anita

17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Sexuality—Miscellaneous

**REPRINTS and PHOTOCOPIES OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES**

Allison, Peter B. "The Secret Sharer: the Significance of Homosexuality in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Britain." Prepared for presentation to Annual Meeting, Pacific Coast Branch, American Historical Association, San Francisco, 19 August 1978.  
[photocopy]

Bentham, Jeremy.

"Jeremy Bentham's Essay on 'Paederasty': an introduction" by Louis Crompton. (*Journal of Homosexuality*, vol. 3, no. 4 (Summer 1978), pp.383-387). [reprint]

"Offences Against One's Self: Paederasty. Part 1" by Jeremy Bentham, edited by Louis Crompton. (*Journal of Homosexuality*, vol. 3, no. 4 (Summer 1978), pp.389-405).  
[reprint]

"Jeremy Bentham's Essay on 'Paederasty.'Part 2" by Jeremy Bentham, edited by Louis Crompton. (*Journal of Homosexuality*, vol. 4, no.14 (Fall 1978), pp.91-110). [reprint]

Bingham, Caroline. "Seventeenth-Century Attitudes Toward Deviant Sex" by Caroline Bingham. (*Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, vol. 1, no.3 (Spring 1971), pp.447-472).  
[photocopy]

Bullough, Vern L. "Challenges to Societal Attitudes Toward Homosexuality in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries" (*Social Science Quarterly*, vol.58, no.1 (June 1977), pp.29-44). [photocopy]

Bullough, Vern L. "Sex Education in Medieval Christianity" (*The Journal of Sex Research*, vol.13, no.3 (August 1977), pp.185-196). [photocopy]

Burg, B.R.

2 letters from B.R. Burg to Robert Oaks:

- 1) March 1, 1977 (enclosure: Pirates article)
- 2) September 1, 1978 (enclosure: Chapter I Sodomy in 17<sup>th</sup> Century England article)

"Pirate Communities in the Seventeenth Century: A Case Study of Homosexual Society"  
[by B.R. Burg, 1977?] [photocopy]

"Ho Hum, Another Work of the Devil: Buggery and Sodomy in Early Stuart England"  
[by B.R. Burg. Presentation paper, 1978] [photocopy]

"Chapter I. Sodomy and Public Perception: Seventeenth-Century England" [by B.R. Burg], 1978. [photocopy]

Burnham, John. "Early References to Homosexual Communities in American Medical Writings" (*Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality*, (August 1973), pp.34-49). [photocopy]  
*Committee on Lesbian and Gay History Newsletter*, no.1 (Fall 1980)

Crompton, Louis. –See also Bentham, Jeremy.

"The Death Penalty in Colonial America" [1625-1873, one-page chronology] [photocopy of typescript].

“Homosexuals and The Death Penalty in Colonial America” (*Journal of Homosexuality*, vol. 1, no.3 (1976), pp.277-293). [photocopy]

“Lesbianism and the Law” [342-1950, one-page chronology] [photocopy of typescript].

Flaherty, David H. “Law and the Enforcement of Morals in Early America” (*Perspectives in American History*, vol.5 (1971): “Law in American History”, pp.203-253, edited by Donald Fleming and Bernard Bailyn). [photocopy]

Forgey, Donald G. “The Institution of Berdache Among the North American Plains Indians” (*The Journal of Sex Research*, vol. 11, no.1 (February 1975), pp.1-15). [photocopy]

Garner, Brian and Richard W. Smith. “Are There Really Any Gay Male Athletes? An Empirical Survey” (*The Journal of Sex Research*, vol. 13, no. 1 (February 1977), pp. 22-34). [photocopy]

Gilbert, Arthur N. “Buggery and the British Navy, 1700-1861” (*Journal of Social History*, vol. 10, no.1 (Fall 1976), pp.72-99). [photocopy]

Gilbert, Arthur N. “Sexual Deviance and Disaster During the Napoleonic Wars” (*Albion*, vol. 9, no.1 (Spring 1977), pp.98-113). [photocopy]

Hansen, Bert. “The Historical Construction of Homosexuality” (*The Radical History Review*, no. 20, Spring/Summer 1979), pp.66-73. [photocopy]

Hindus, Michael S. –See Smith, David Scott.

Hooker, Evelyn. “The Adjustment of the Male Overt Homosexual” (*Journal of Projective Techniques*, vol.21, (1957), pp.18-31). [photocopy]

Hooker, Evelyn. “A Preliminary Analysis of Group Behavior in Homosexuals” (*Journal of Psychology*, vol.42, (1956), pp.217-225). [photocopy]

*Journal of Homosexuality*, vol.6, nos.1/2 (Fall/Winter 1980/81). Special issue: “Historical Perspectives on Homosexuality.” Includes “Defining Sodomy in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts” by Robert F. Oaks, pp.79-83.

MacDonald, Robert H. “The Frightful Consequences of Onanism: Notes on the History of a Delusion” (*Journal of the History of Ideas*, vol. 28 (1967), pp.423-431). [photocopy]

McIntosh, Mary. “The Homosexual Role” (*Social Problems*, vol.16, no. 2 (1968), pp.182-192). [photocopy]

May, Geoffrey. “In Pre-Revolutionary America” (*Social Control of Sex Expression* (New York: William Morrow and Co., 1931), Chapter 12, pp.229-255). [photocopy]

Monter, E. William. “La sodomie à l'époque moderne en Suisse romande” (*Annales, Économies, Sociétés, Civilisations*, vol.29, (1974), pp.1023-1033). [in French] [photocopy]

Oaks, Robert F. “Perceptions of Homosexuality by Justices of the Peace in Colonial Virginia” (*Sexual Law Reporter*, vol.4, no. 2, pp.35-37). –See *Sexual Law Reporter*

Oaks, Robert F. “‘Things Fearful to Name’ : Sodomy and Buggery in Seventeenth-Century New England” (*Journal of Social History*, vol.12, no. 2, pp.268-281). [reprint]

*Sexual Law Reporter* vol.4, no.2 (April/June 1978). Includes “Perceptions of Homosexuality by Justices of the Peace in Colonial Virginia” by Robert F. Oakes [sic]. [3 copies]

Smith, David Scott & Michael S. Hindus. “Premarital Pregnancy in America 1640-1971: An Overview and Interpretation” (*Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, vol.4, (Spring 1975), pp.537-570). [photocopy]

Smith, Richard W. –See Publications. Garner, Brian.

Stark, Gary. D, “Pornography and the Police in Imperial Germany, 1870-1914” [photocopy]

Trumbach, Randolph. “London’s Sodomites: Homosexual Behavior and Western Culture in the 18th Century” (*Journal of Social History*, vol.11 (1977), pp.1-33.) [photocopy]

Westermarck, Edward. “Homosexual Love” from *The Origin and Development of the Moral Ideas* (London: Macmillian and Co., 1908), vol. 2, Chapter 43, pp.456-489. [photocopy]