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 6th 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

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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Copyright and literary rights for Oaks’s published and unpublished works were retained by Robert Oaks.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 17th and 18th 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 19th 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
Burg, B.R. –See Publications series
Committee on Homosexuality in History (January 27, 1979; May 18, 1979; Nov. 1979)
   Sprague, Gregory A.
   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.
   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)
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
17th and 18th 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.


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]


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 17th Century England article)


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].

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


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


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


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