

# **Finding Aid to the National Transgender Library collection**

## **(#2001-15)**

**Repository:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

**Collection Title:** National Transgender Library collection

**Collection Number:** 2001-15

**Physical Description:** 8 linear feet (10 manuscript boxes, 1 half-size manuscript box, one medium oversized box, and one custom box)

**Creator:** Dallas Denny

**Date (inclusive):** 1963-1999 (bulk 1988-1999)

**Language of Material:** English

**Abstract:** The National Transgender Library and Archive was the project of Dallas Denny, an Atlanta-based activist, writer, and organizer in the transgender community. This collection contains a wide range of transgender material, from popular representations of transgender people, to medical reports, to advertisements for conferences and events.

### **Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of item], National Transgender Library collection (2001-15), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

### **Conditions Governing Access:**

Collection is open for research. Mailing lists and other records holding the names, addresses and/or phone numbers of individuals are restricted until March 2021.

### **Publication Rights:**

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### **Acquisition Information:**

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Julie Herrada in 2001, with further accessions in 2002 and 2003.

**Processing Information:**

Finding Aid created by Jenny George in or after 2001, with updating and reformatting by Isaac Fellman in 2019.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its latest update. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

**Biographical/Organizational History Note:** The National Transgender Library and Archive was the project of Dallas Denny, an Atlanta-based activist, writer, and organizer in the transgender community. She began compiling materials for the library in the early eighties, adding to her personal files. In September of 1990, Denny founded the American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), a not-for-profit organization for disseminating information on gender dysphoria, and providing referrals to physicians, gender clinics, attorneys, ministers, and support groups. The organization promoted the Standards of Care set up by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc., and made referrals based on these standards. The National Transgender Library & Archive became an integral part of AEGIS and tripled in size over the next eight years, as AEGIS used membership funds and sales from its journal *Chrysalis: The Journal of Transgressive Gender Identities* to actively acquire new materials.

While executive director of AEGIS, Denny compiled a bibliography of transgender and transsexual-related texts titled *Gender Dysphoria: A Guide to Research*, which was published in 1994 by Garland Press with an introduction by Vern L. Bullough. A copy of the original 900-page manuscript is held in this GLBTHS collection, along with correspondence between Denny and Bullough relating to the manuscript.

In 1998, AEGIS became part of Gender Education and Advocacy (GEA), a Georgia-based non-profit organization addressing the needs of gender-variant people; a history of AEGIS and its relationship with GEA can be found at [www.gender.org](http://www.gender.org), the official GEA website. In 2000, the NTL&A became too extensive to house locally, and the GEA board donated the entire collection to the University of Michigan (UM). Archivists at UM gave duplicates and materials not suited to their archive to the GLBT Historical Society.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains a wide range of transgender material, from popular representations of transgender people, to medical reports, to advertisements for conferences and events. The bulk of the material relates specifically to the practice of cross-dressing and the cross-dressing community. This collection has six parts.

The first series, and the largest, consists of periodicals specifically related to transgender issues and cross-dressing. Most are small, Atlanta-based journals that deal with some topic (such as performance technique, acceptance, spirituality) in the cross-dressing community. A few are larger-circulation medical journals or popular culture magazines with a cover story on transgender issues. These periodicals are not in complete series; in fact, most folders contain less than five issues of any one periodical. The periodicals are organized alphabetically. The Periodicals/Media series also contains a folder of articles clipped from mass-circulation journals (such as *Esquire* and *Good Housekeeping*) on transgender issues.

The second series consists of conference and workshop materials, some of which Dallas Denny attended or presented at, and others which she did not appear to attend. Each folder contains the materials from one conference, including lists of speakers, events, and brochures. The folders are organized chronologically, by the date of the conference, from 1987-1997.

The third series consists of AEGIS materials, taken in original order from two large binders. These folders contain hundreds of articles on cross-dressing, gender-affirming surgery, and events in the transgender community. Many articles relate specifically to AEGIS; some are written by AEGIS members. This series also contains a small collection of photographs taken at an award ceremony for entertainer Carolyn “Tula” Cossey, and a folder of Ms. Denny’s business correspondence.

The Shopping series contains catalogues, order forms, and directories for large-sized women’s shoes, wigs, lingerie, sex toys, cosmetics, and erotic novels. The material is broken down into mass-circulation catalogues, and catalogues marketed specifically to cross-dressers or transgender people.

The Medical series is comprised of pamphlets and brochures on electrolysis, breast prosthetics, and hormones. Also included are descriptions of gender-affirming surgery, medical advisories, and a document on Standards of Care for transsexuals.

The Index series is comprised solely of Denny’s original 900-page research index, later published in a reduced form; the index lists books on transgender issues alphabetically by author.

The remainder of the collection consists of miscellaneous flyers and announcements from Atlanta, guides to transgender organizations, some anonymous erotic fiction with cross-dressing themes, and one folder marked “other,” which contains a few unrelated items such as a drag queen paper doll set, a book of Wigstock memorabilia, an autographed book on sexual behavior, and a comic book.

Some periodicals were filed into our Periodical Collection (such as ETVC, Out Magazine, and Girlfriend), several boxes of *Allure* magazine with no transgender content were discarded, and some geographically out-of-scope material was forwarded to the Stonewall Archives in Florida.

### **Indexing Terms:**

Transgender people

### **Container Listing**

1/0 Descriptive guide

#### **\*\*PERIODICALS/MEDIA**

1/1	Newsletters, various	1994-1997
1/2	AEGIS News	1994-1996
1/3	Beyond Oppression	1987
1/4	Bluegrass Belleview	1997
1/5	Butterflies	1994
1/6	The Cactus Flower	1994
1/7	The Chatter	1996
1/8	Confidential	1962
1/9	Crossroads	1996
1/10	Cruise Weekly	1981
1/11	Crude (cover story)	1995
1/12	Crysalis	1993-1997
1/13	The Delta Chatter	1994,1995
1/14	Devil Woman	1996
1/15	EDENews	1992-1994
1/16	Electrology World	1995,1996
1/17	Emerald City News	1996-1998
1/18	E.T.C.	1991
1/19	Femanine	n.d.
2/1	The Femme Forum	1995
2/2	The Fifth Side	1995, 1997
2/3	F.I. News	n.d.
2/4	GCTC Transmission Line	1996, 1997
2/5	Gender and Psychoanalysis	1997
2/6	Gender Dysphoria	1991-1992
2/7	Gender Euphoria	1992, 1994
2/8	GenderQuest	1995-1997
2/9	Grace and Lace	1995

- 2/10 Help Me... Accept Me 1996-1997
- 2/11 Hotspots 1990
- 2/12 HX 1996
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- 3/1 Illusions n.d.
- 3/2 Ingersoll Message 1996-1997
- 3/3 Journal of Electrology 1990-1991, 1997
- 3/4 The Journal of Homosexuality 1992
- 3/5 The Journal of Gender Studies 1991-1995
- 3/6 LadyLike n.d.
- 3/7 Love Letter 1997
- 3/8 Magical Blend 1992
- 3/9 New York (cover story) 1995
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- 4/1 The News 1991-1992
- 4/2 The Pink Slip 1997
- 4/3 Pinnacle 1996,1997
- 4/4 Popcorn n.d.
- 4/5 Renaissance News and Views 1991, 1996-1997
- 4/6 Rosebuds 1991, 1992, 1995
- 4/7 San Antonio Marquis 1995
- 4/8 Sex Weekly 1995
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- 5/1 The Southern Bell 1995-1996
- 5/2 The Sweetheart Connection 1993, 1997
- 5/3 Tennessee Vals 1994-1997
- 5/4 TMT 1992
- 5/5 Transcript 1992
- 5/6 TV-TS Confidential 1994
- 5/7 Two Spirit News 1995, 1996
- 5/8 Virginia's Secrets 1995, 1996
- 5/9 Whatever n.d.
- 5/10 XX Twenty 1994-1997
- 5/11 Articles from mass circulation periodicals  
relating to transgender issues 1991-1997
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- \*\*CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP MATERIALS**
- 5/12 International Foundation for Gender Education:  
1st Annual Conference 1987
- 5/13 12th Annual Conference on Gender Dysphoria 1989

- 5/14 The Society for the Scientific Study of Sex:  
Eastern Region and Joint Annual Conferences 1991-1998
- 6/1 S.S.S.S Membership Handbooks 1991, 1994-1997
- 6/2 2nd Annual New Woman Conference 1992
- 6/3 Coming Together, Working Together 1992
- 6/4 Gender Identity Conference 1992
- 6/5 Counseling Gender Dysphoria 1992
- 6/6 American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors,  
and Therapists: Conferences and Membership Directory 1992-1996
- 6/7 Mid America Gender Group Fall Harvest 1993
- 6/8 International Symposium on Gender Dysphoria 1993
- 6/9 Eurofantasia 1993
- 6/10 The European Network of Professionals on Transsexualism 1994
- 6/11 A Union of Spirits 1994
- 6/12 Splendor of Gender Workshop Series 1994
- 6/13 Texas 'T' Party 1994
- 6/14 International Foundation of Gender Education: Atlanta Action 1995
- 7/1 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force:  
8th Annual 'Creating Change' Meeting 1995
- 7/2 17th Annual Guelph Conference and Training on Sexuality 1995
- 7/3 Transgen'95 1995
- 7/4 International Congress on Gender, Cross-Dressing  
and Sex Issues 1995
- 7/5 Southern Comfort 1995-1998
- 7/6 17th-20th Annual National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference 1995-1998
- 7/7 American Board of Sexology: Registry 1996
- 7/8 Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria  
Association Symposium 1997
- 7/9 2nd International Congress on Sex and Gender Issues 1997
- \*\*AEGIS MATERIALS**
- 7/10 AEGIS Documents I 1991-1992
- 7/11 AEGIS Documents II 1992-1994
- 7/12 Correspondence 1991-1994
- 7/13 Photos n.d.
- \*\*SHOPPING**
- 8/1 Mass Circulation catalogues: shoes, wigs, lingerie n.d.

- 8/2 Advertisements and order forms:  
transgender and cross-dressing materials n.d.
- 8/3 Shopping guides/catalogues: sex toys, clothes, accoutrements 1983, 1992
- 8/4 Ivan Stormgart Books: General Catalogues:12, 14-15, 17, 28-65 n.d.

#### **\*\*MEDICAL**

- 9/1 Brochures 1989-1996
- 9/2 Electrolysis and Prosthetics n.d.
- 9/3 Hormones n.d.
- 9/4 Surgery and Standards of Care n.d.

#### **\*\*MISCELLANEOUS**

- 9/5 Flyers and Announcements n.d.
- 9/6 Guides and Directories 1994, 1996-1997

- 10/1 Erotic Fiction n.d.
- 10/2 OTHER n.d.

#### **\*\*DENNY'S INDEX**

- 10/3 A-D n.d.
- 10/4 D-I n.d.
- 10/5 I-N n.d.

- 11/1 N-S n.d.
- 11/2 S-Z n.d.
- 11/3 Uncataloged

#### **\*\*OVERSIZE PERIODICALS**

- 12/1 City Paper 1994
- 12/2 Frontiers Magazine 1996, 1998
- 12/3 Interview 1998
- 12/4 Just Out 1996
- 12/5 San Francisco Bay Times 1995
- 12/6 Worcester Phoenix 1999

#### **\*\*CASSETTE TAPES**

- 13 Cassette tapes and floppy discs