
Guide to the Scott Bishop Papers, 1989-1990

Processed by Everett Erlandson; machine-readable finding aid created by Gabriela A. Montoya

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Accession number: 1990-11

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San Francisco, California

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Date Completed:

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Encoded by:

Gabriela A. Montoya

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Scott Bishop Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1989-1990

Accession number: 1990-11

Creator: Bishop, Scott

Extent: .5 Liner feet in one half-box

Repository: The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.
San Francisco, California.

Shelf location: Housed at the GLBT Historical Society.

Language: English.

Acquisition

The papers of Scott Bishop (#1990-11) were given to GLHS by the manager of the Ambassador Hotel when Bishop's room was being cleaned following his death in 1990. It was Bishop's intention that his research materials be donated to GLHS.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright to unpublished manuscript materials is not held by the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California.

Audio-Visual Materials

Audio cassette-tapes of oral histories.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Scott Bishop Papers, 90-11, The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of Northern California.

Biography

Scott T. Bishop was born in Rochester, NY, December 28th, 1945, and moved to the San Francisco area in the early 1970's. Bishop worked in the Oakland shipyards for many years and later as an office temporary worker until 1989, when he became disabled with AIDS. Bishop was also active in the Metropolitan Community Church and various 12 step recovery groups. Because of his illness, and because he "wanted to make a difference," Bishop returned to San Francisco State

University (SFSU) and began graduate level studies focusing on the history of the San Francisco lesbian and gay communities. Scott Bishop died of AIDS related complications September 12th, 1990 at the age of 45. An obituary appeared in the Bay Area Reporter (BAR) September 27th, 1990.

Scope and Content

The Scott Bishop papers (.5 linear feet) are the result of Bishop's school work at SFSU from the fall of 1989 through June of 1990. The records are composed of two series, oral history interviews and class papers.

The interviews were part of an oral history project for a SFSU graduate history class (history 899), Spring 1990 semester. Conducted between February and May, 1990, they are arranged by interview date. Bishop was researching the emergence of the lesbian and gay rights movement as a political force in San Francisco from the late 1950's up to the early 1970's, focusing mostly on events in the early 1960's. Questions about the 1959 Wolden/Christopher mayoral race, the 1960 "Gayola" police bribery scandal, the 1960 Daughters of Bilitis National Convention and the 1965 California Hall incident appear in every interview. Bishop interviewed both straight political and civic leaders of that era as well as lesbian and gay activists involved in these incidents. The specific questions asked and the variety of answers received provide a unique look at the difference in people's memories. Cassette tapes and complete transcriptions exist for seven of the nine interviews conducted; for two of the interviews, Lyon and Martin and George Mendenhall, only a transcription, presumed to be complete, exists.

Papers consist of Bishop's work for three history classes at SFSU, a paper delivered at a California State University (CSU) research conference, and a series of articles written by Bishop that were published in the BAR. *Organizing the Lesbian in San Francisco to Obtain Political Power - A Case Study* was written for History 300 at SFSU in the Fall of 1989. It traces the development of the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) and efforts by DOB to effect social change. This paper became the bases for the CSU conference paper and for the series published in the BAR in 1990. The second paper is an untitled history of the lesbian and gay communities in San Francisco from 1950 to 1960, written for History 699, also in the fall of 1989. For this paper Bishop has integrated gay history and gay theory with local newspaper articles, U.S. government publications and various non-gay publications. The last paper in this series is a final for History 899, written in the Spring of 1990. Titled *The Oppression of Gay Men and Women in San Francisco and Their Efforts to Empower Themselves, 1960-1964* this paper looks at the formation of gay organizations in S.F. and how these groups worked to fight political oppression.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Oral history

Homophile movement

Related Collections

Title: Bois Burke Papers

Identifier/Call Number: 1989-07

Title: Len Evens Papers

Identifier/Call Number: 1993-08

Title: Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon Papers

Identifier/Call Number: 1993-13

Title: Jose Sarria Papers

Identifier/Call Number: 1996-01

Each of the above collections document aspects of the late 1950's and early 1960's in San Francisco.

Seven cassette tapes are also cross-referenced under the Oral History project with the following accession numbers:

Interviews with:

Title: Thomas Cahill

Identifier/Call Number: O.H. Accession #: 1995-96

Title: George Christopher

Identifier/Call Number: O.H. Accession #: 1995-97

Title: Robert Cromey

Identifier/Call Number: O.H. Accession #: 1995-98

Title: Herb Donaldson

Identifier/Call Number: O.H. Accession #: 1995-99

Title: Richard Hongisto

Identifier/Call Number: O.H. Accession #: 1995-100

Title: Agar Jaicks

Identifier/Call Number: O.H. Accession #: 1995-101

Title: Larry Littlejohn

Identifier/Call Number: O.H. Accession #: 1995-102

Oral History Interviews

Note

Personal Information on Scott Bishop

Box Box 1

Oral History Project Proposal

Interview: George Christopher Feb 6, 1990

Interview: Thomas Cahill Feb 8, 1990

Interview: Herb Donaldson Feb 14, 1990

Interview: Agar Jaicks Feb 20, 1990

Interview: George Mendenhall Apr 23, 1990

Interview: Robert Cromey Apr 25, 1990

Interview: Larry Littlejohn Apr 27, 1990

Interview: Lyon & Martin May 1, 1990

Interview: Richard Hongisto May 2, 1990

Class Papers

Box Box 1

***Organizing the Lesbian in San Francisco to Obtain Political Power - A Case Study, 1950-1960* History 300 Dec 21, 1989**

***History of the S.F. Lesbian and Gay Community 1950-1960* History 699 Fall 1989**

C.S.U. Research Conference Paper May 10, 1990

***Oppression of Gay Men and Women in San Francisco and Their Efforts to Empower Themselves, 1960-1964* History 899 May 25, 1990**

Articles Published in the B.A.R., Jul 19, 26 and Aug 2, 1990

Computer Disks