

THE
TRANSGENDER
ARCHIVES

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

AARON DEVOR

A large, stylized, black letter 'E' that serves as a background for the text. It has a thick, solid black body. The top horizontal bar is a separate black rectangle. The middle horizontal bar is a dark blue rectangle. The bottom horizontal bar is a dark blue rectangle. The central negative space of the 'E' contains the title and author information.

THE
TRANSGENDER
ARCHIVES

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

AARON DEVOR

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in association with the University of Victoria Libraries

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Chair in
Transgender Studies

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University Librarian, University of Victoria Libraries

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Foreword

Jonathan Bengtson

University Librarian
University of Victoria Libraries

IT HAS BEEN SAID MANY TIMES that there can be no great university without a great library. Such sentiment, for past generations, undoubtedly referenced the library as a storehouse of books, journals, manuscripts and archives, quietly providing the foundations for the work of students, faculty and researchers. This ancient and critical role in preserving and providing access to knowledge continues today, although with ever more complexity, as the interplay between analog and digital information rapidly evolves. Older methods of research dissemination are being subverted as new methods are increasingly bypassing traditional publication models.

At the same time, at least within the major universities, there is a growing equity of access to current published research. Libraries, in this dynamic environment, are microcosms of the creative tensions between new and long-established realities within higher education, opening up new and hitherto unimagined spaces for learning within disciplines, across disciplines, and beyond traditional boundaries.

Opposite: Mearns
Centre for Learning –
McPherson Library,
University of Victoria.



A button from the wide collection of ephemera held by the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria.

Within this context there are opportunities to rethink what makes a great library “great.” One way of doing so is to highlight the value of the collections, such as the Transgender Archives, that differentiate individual institutions. Collections of unique materials have always been of intense interest, as they are essential animating forces in the life cycle of teaching, research and learning within universities. Yet, not every library approaches their collections in a similar manner. In the following pages, Lara Wilson notes that our archives “would be nothing without people to use them.” This is the approach that we take to heart at the University of Victoria Libraries. We want our archives and special collections to be vibrant “living archives” — constantly challenging and informing our users’ perceptions of the world around them.

The University of Victoria values civic engagement, critical thinking, and the broad acquisition of knowledge as fundamental components of a liberal education. These principles enable our students, faculty, and the broader community to understand, to live and to thrive in a global and diverse society. The Transgender Archives are one of the defining collections of the University of Victoria Libraries, and a wonderful lens by which, through their use as a resource for study and research, individuals of all backgrounds can come to know and appreciate the many wonderful ways of knowing and being in this world.



Outer binding of
the University of
Victoria Libraries'
1893 copy of
Psychopathia Sexualis
by Dr. Richard von
Krafft-Ebing.

[University of Victoria
Libraries Special Collections
HQ71 K782]



Interior detail of
the Transgender
Archives, Special
Collections,
University of
Victoria Libraries.

Introduction

Lara Wilson

Director of Special Collections and University Archivist
University of Victoria Libraries

trans-, prefix

*With the sense ‘across, through, over, to or on
the other side of, beyond, outside of, from one
place, person, thing, or state to another’*

– The Oxford English Dictionary

THE FOUNDING OF THE TRANSGENDER ARCHIVES

has been transformative for the University of Victoria, its students and researchers and, hopefully, for trans* communities and their allies. As the Director of Special Collections and the University Archivist, the addition of this important resource to the University of Victoria Libraries has also been a transformative experience for me, since I have not only been entrusted with its safe-keeping, but in making the material available to the world. I am honoured and feel fortunate to be involved in this work, and in the establishment of the world’s largest archives of materials documenting the lives and actions of individuals and

GATE—Global Action for Trans* Equality
—defines Trans* as the following:

Trans* people includes those people who have a gender identity which is different to the gender assigned at birth and/or those people who feel they have to, prefer to or choose to—whether by clothing, accessories, cosmetics or body modification—present themselves differently to the expectations of the gender role assigned to them at birth. This includes, among many others, transsexual and transgender people, transvestites, travesti, cross dressers, no gender and genderqueer people.

The term trans* should be seen as a placeholder for many identities, most of which are specific to local cultures and times in history, describing people who broaden and expand a binary understanding of gender.

Source: transactivists.org

organizations devoted to trans* activism and research.

Through my collaboration with Dr. Aaron Devor, Founder and Academic Director of the Transgender Archives, I have learned about the formation of trans* identities and the history of trans* activism, and share this knowledge with my colleagues, friends and family.

Archives, and the rare publication collections that are often associated with them, would be nothing without people to use them. The Transgender Archives was founded to preserve trans* histories, for all who wish to know about them, and to also promote understanding about trans* people and their rights. In doing this, UVic Libraries moves beyond delimiting notions of rare collections as solely serving the research interests of the academy, or consisting only of materials created in privileged socio-economic contexts. Indeed, materials in our holdings act as evidence for the transgressive environments in which some trans* people have lived their lives, beyond or outside of the binary-based mainstream; and not uncommonly, risking their lives by choosing to express their true gender.

In raising awareness about the collection, we seek to demystify the archive's role in society and welcome new researchers who may have never set foot on a university campus. As a profession, archivists understand the essential characteristics of the discipline: archives as organizations acquire, preserve and provide access to material identified as having historical significance; archives are also those documents, and related materials, created or received, and selected for long-term preservation. As passionate

as archivists are about their calling, sometimes we need to do a better job about explaining what we do, and why. As we engage with community members about the Transgender Archives, it is wise to remember that archives mean different things to different people: personal information and collective identity, documents and old books, memories and evidence, physical buildings and non-circulating materials, all of these act as sites apart from—or a part of—one's life.

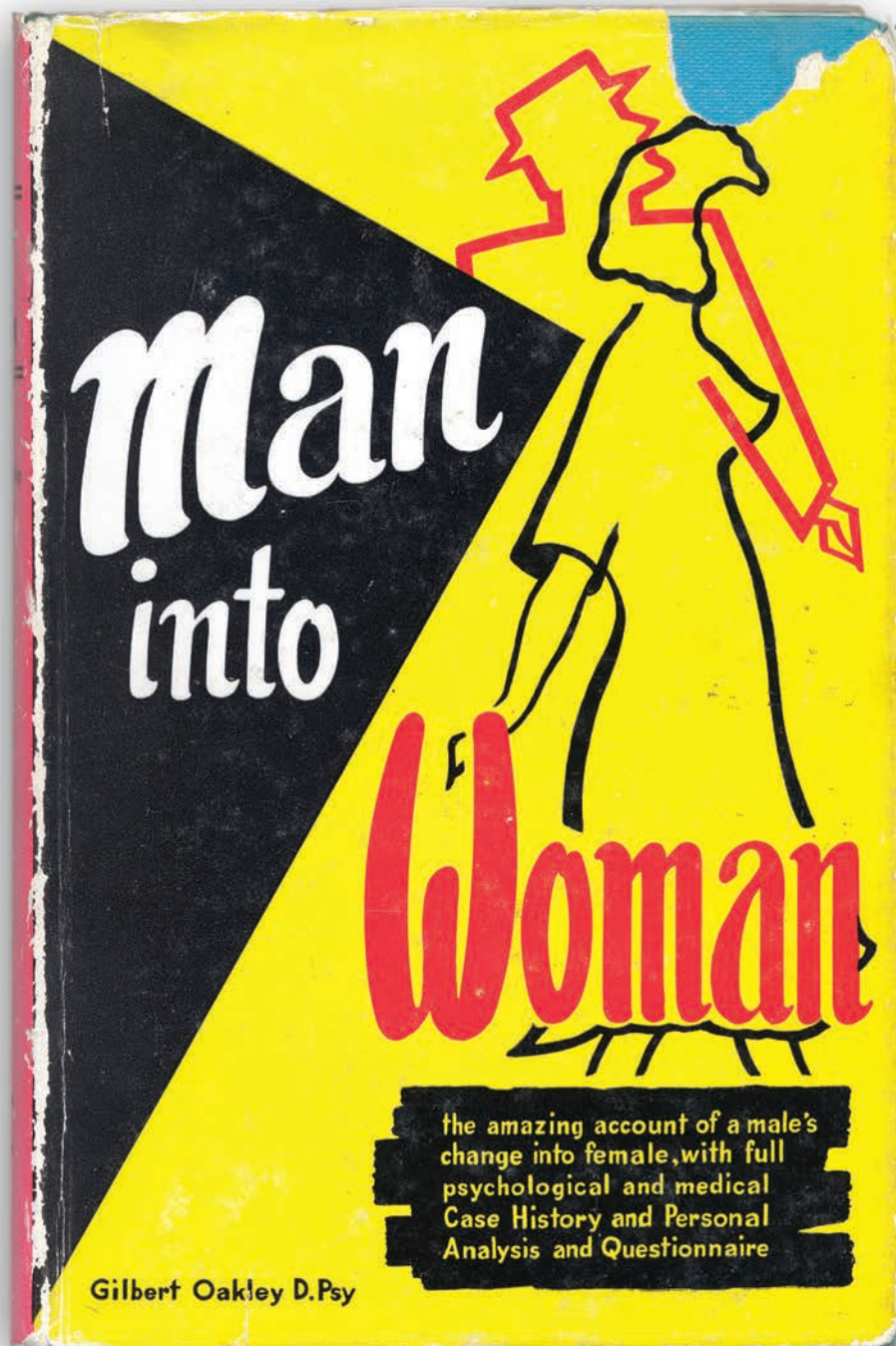
Through the generosity of our founding donors, the Transgender Archives encompasses a distinctive range of materials, from organizations' business records to audio histories, from conference programs to pornography, from medical textbooks to self-published newsletters. Some of our future donors are still using their materials, while other activists, advocates, and researchers are only now creating what will become future archival records. Today, the Transgender Archives welcomes the public to explore, to be challenged and transformed by the range of what they find.

I close with my thanks to our many donors, who have entrusted UVic Libraries with their irreplaceable archives and rare publications; to Dr. Aaron Devor, who started us on this journey; to University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson, and his predecessor Marnie Swanson, who have supported this initiative from its beginnings in 2005; to Grants and Awards Librarian Christine Walde for her multi-tasking abilities and tirelessness; to friend and former Libraries Development Officer Christie Roome for her faith in the rightness of this work; to my dear colleague Jane

Morrison for her support and insights; to UVic Special Collections and Archives assistants Nada Lora and John Frederick, as well as the librarians and staff in monograph and periodicals cataloguing. Finally, my sincere appreciation to Cameron Duder, Aysia Law, Caleb Horn and Zoe McCormack, whose processing and promotion of these archives and collections have been essential steps in sharing this material with the world.



Researchers in
the reading room,
Special Collections,
University of
Victoria Libraries.



One of the many monographs available at the University of Victoria Transgender Archives.

TRANS- VESTITES



THE EROTIC DRIVE TO CROSS-DESS

MAGNUS HIRSCHFELD, M.D.

TRANSLATED BY

MICHAEL A. LOMBARDI-NASH, Ph.D.

The Transgender Archives

Foundations for the Future

Aaron Devor

I. TRANSGENDER?

Throughout the globalized world, the word transgender has been increasingly linguistically shortened, and conceptually expanded, into the term trans*. While we at the University of Victoria Transgender Archives recognize that diverse cultures have their own ways and words for understanding gender, we needed a way to describe what we do that would be widely intelligible. The word transgender means a lot of things to a lot of people. To some people, it is a core identity that gives meaning to who they are—a kind of life line that gives them a feeling of reality, that allows them to feel that they can be seen. For some people, transgender is a vague and meaningless category that, in trying to include so many people under its umbrella, really says nothing at all. For some, transgender implies erasure because it homogenizes identities. For others, it is a colonialist imposition. For still others, it is already an archaic concept that painfully confines and restricts. These different approaches reflect important ongoing debates within a vibrant and healthy community, and they are unlikely to be resolved any time soon.

Wishing to be inclusive, we have used a broad definition of transgender when deciding what historical records belong in our archives. We started with materials from North America and Europe, and aspire to expand outwards to other parts of the world only to the degree that people feel comfortable entrusting their historical records to our safekeeping.

Our archival collections include records of people and organizations who have worked for the betterment of those people whose gender expression, or gender identity, falls outside of stereotypically binary gender expectations. Thus, we include in our purview records pertaining to people with transsexual identities or histories, transgender-identified

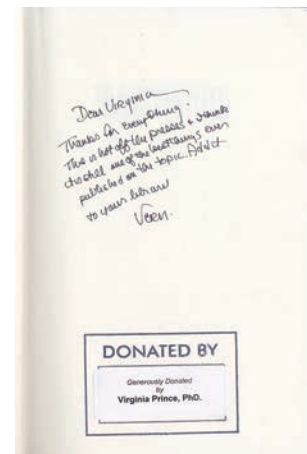


Figure 1, opposite and above: Originally published in German as *Die Transvestiten* in 1910, the Transgender Archives' copy of Magnus Hirschfeld's *Transvestites*, translated by Michael Lombardi-Nash and published by Prometheus Books in 1991, has a special provenance. The inscription is from Vern Bullough, a renowned sex researcher, and inscribed to Virginia Prince, founder of *Transvestia*. The item was then donated to the IFGE (International Foundation for Gender Education), before being further acquired by Rikki Swin of the Rikki Swin Institute, who donated the book to the University of Victoria Transgender Archives.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections HQ77 H5713]

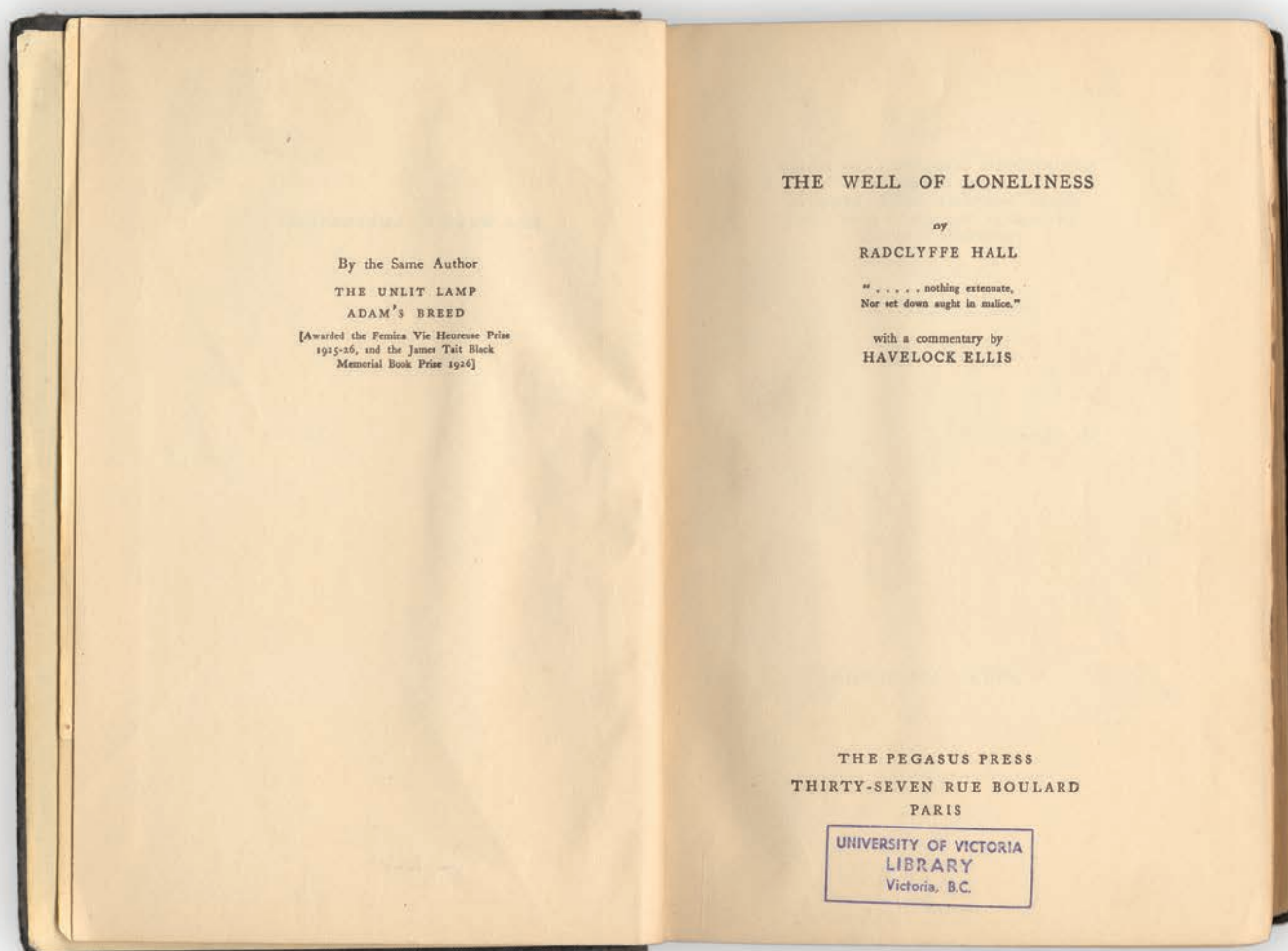


Figure 2: The University of Victoria Libraries owns several copies of *The Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall. This first edition from 1928 is housed in Special Collections.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections PR6015 A33W4]

people, people with gender non-conforming identities who may not express them, gender non-conforming people with other identities, drag performers, crossdressers, gender-fluid people, genderqueer people, and all others whose gender identities or expressions fall outside of normative gender binaries.

We remain agnostic about sexual orientations, recognizing that genders and sexualities are two separate aspects of people that may, or may not, influence one another. At the same time, we recognize that the interests and activities of transgender people and sexual minorities frequently come together; and that, in the minds of many people, gender variance remains synonymous with sexual variance. In practice, this means that, although we are a transgender archives, and not a LGBTQ+ archives, we will inevitably hold some content which reflects this kind of multiplicity in people's lives and political work.

II. PIONEERS AND OUTLAWS

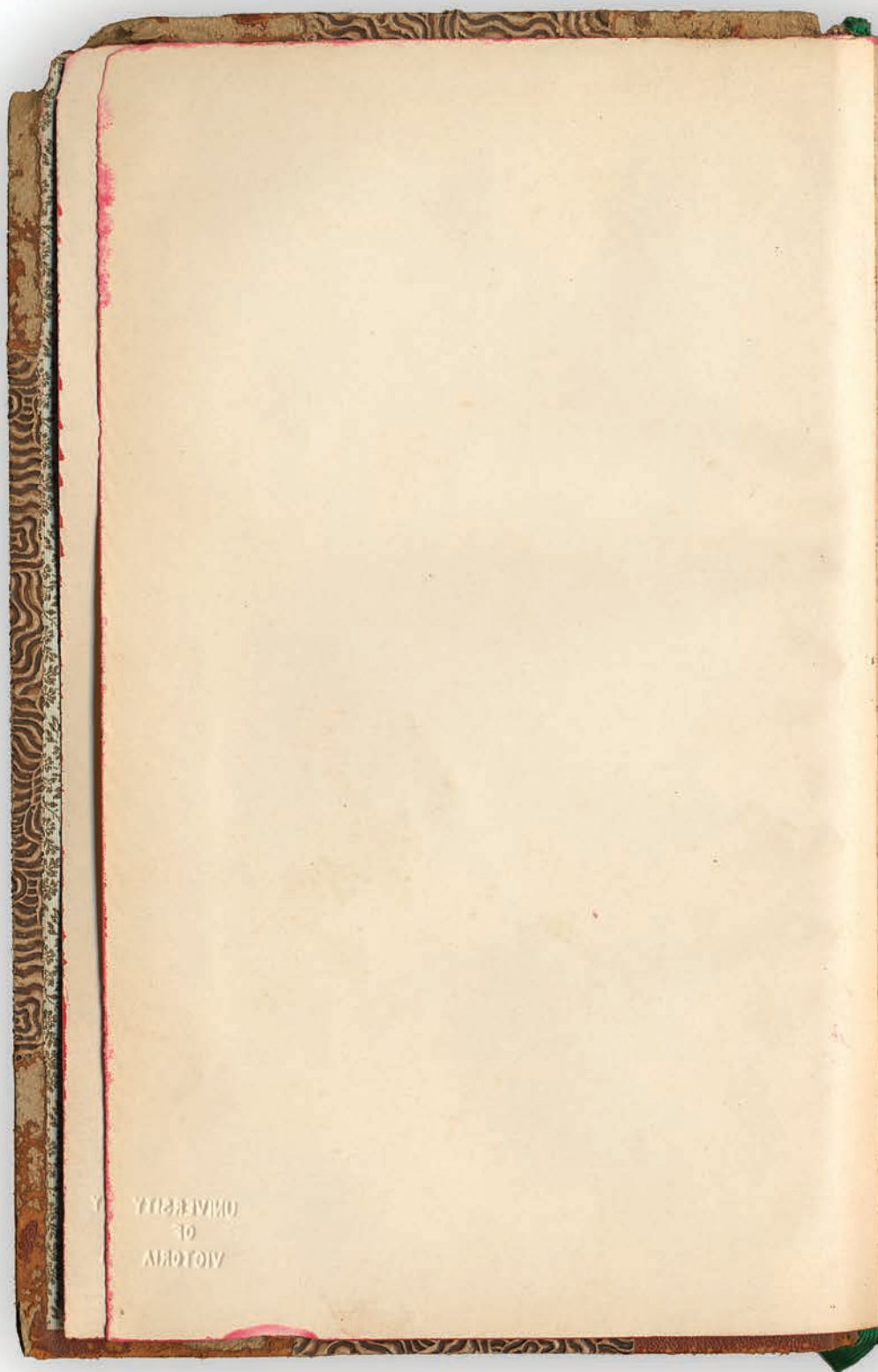
Providing Historical Context for our Collections

The focus of the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria is on the contributions of activists and researchers working for the betterment of transgender people, with an emphasis on archival collections from North America and Europe. We have chosen to mark the beginnings of this work with those who explicitly recognized and worked for the improvement of the lives of gender non-conforming people.

Near the start of the 20th century, pioneering sexologists such as Richard von Krafft-Ebing in *Psychopathia Sexualis* (1893) [Fig. 3, pages 4 – 5] and Havelock Ellis in *Studies in the Psychology of Sex* (1913), began to differentiate between those people who we would today see as sexual minorities, and those whom we would see as gender variant. The Transgender Archives holds original editions of both *Psychopathia Sexualis* (1893) and *Studies in the Psychology of Sex* (1913).

An infamous novel of the period, *The Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall (1928), was graced with an “appreciation” by Havelock Ellis. The book was considered obscene and banned by British courts—which, of course, made it wildly popular. For decades, the book's protagonist, Stephen Gordon, was thought of as the archetypical lesbian, giving rise to the widely-held misconception that lesbians are women who want to be men. More recently, lesbians have rejected this definition of lesbianism, and transmen have claimed Stephen Gordon as one of their own. The Transgender Archives holds an original 1928 edition of *The Well of Loneliness* [Fig. 2, page 2].

One of the earliest published examples of more-explicitly-trans* work was Magnus Hirschfeld's massive 1910 tome, *Die Transvestiten* [Fig. 1, pages xiv – 1], in which he was the first to define and provide a detailed view of heterosexual crossdressers as distinct from homosexuals. In 1919, Hirschfeld went on to establish the ground-breaking Institute for



PSYCHOPATHIA SEXUALIS

MIT BESONDERER BERÜCKSICHTIGUNG DER

CONTRÄREN SEXUALEMPFINDUNG.

EINE

KLINISCH-FORENSISCHE STUDIE

VON

DR. R. v. KRAFFT-EBING,

O. Ö. PROF. F. PSYCHIATRIE U. NERVENKRANKHEITEN A. D. K. K. UNIVERSITÄT WIEN.

Achte,

verbesserte und theilweise vermehrte Auflage.

STUTTGART.

VERLAG VON FERDINAND ENKE.

1893.

Dr. med. H. Loeb

UNIVERSITY
OF
VICTORIA

Figure 3: Dr. Richard von Krafft-Ebing's *Psychopathia Sexualis: Mit Besonderer Berücksichtigung Der Conträren Sexualempfindung. Eine Klinisch-Forensische Studie*, 1893.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections HQ71 K782]



EINAR WEGENER (ANDREAS SPARRE) ABOUT 1920

Frontispiece

MAN INTO WOMAN

An Authentic Record of a Change of Sex

*The true story of the miraculous
transformation of the Danish painter
Einar Wegener (Andreas Sparre)*

Edited by
NIELS HOYER

Translated from the German by H. J. STENNING

Introduction by
NORMAN HAIRE, Ch.M., M.B.

With 25 Illustrations

JARROLD'S *Publishers* LONDON
Limited 34 Paternoster Row E.C.4
MCMXXXIII

Figure 4: Title page of *Man Into Woman: An Authentic Record of a Change of Sex* by Niels Hoyer, 1933.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections RC883 E4313]

efficiency, or stubbornness. This behavior commonly reflects hostility which the individual feels he dare not express openly. Often the behavior is one expression of the patient's resentment at failing to find gratification in a relationship with an individual or institution upon which he is over-dependent.

301.82* Inadequate personality*

This behavior pattern is characterized by ineffectual responses to emotional, social, intellectual and physical demands. While the patient seems neither physically nor mentally deficient, he does manifest inadaptability, ineptness, poor judgment, social instability, and lack of physical and emotional stamina.

301.89* Other personality disorders of specified types (Immature personality, Passive-dependent personality, etc.)*

301.9 [Unspecified personality disorder]

302 Sexual deviations

This category is for individuals whose sexual interests are directed primarily toward objects other than people of the opposite sex, toward sexual acts not usually associated with coitus, or toward coitus performed under bizarre circumstances as in necrophilia, pedophilia, sexual sadism, and fetishism. Even though many find their practices distasteful, they remain unable to substitute normal sexual behavior for them. This diagnosis is not appropriate for individuals who perform deviant sexual acts because normal sexual objects are not available to them.

302.0 Homosexuality

302.1 Fetishism

302.2 Pedophilia

302.3 Transvestitism

302.4 Exhibitionism

302.5* Voyeurism*

302.6* Sadism*

302.7* Masochism*

302.8 Other sexual deviation

[302.9 Unspecified sexual deviation]

Figure 5: A photocopied page from the 1968 *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association*, showing the definition of transvestism. This page has been highlighted by Aaron Devor and is part of his personal archive.

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Sexology in Berlin, where the first genital sex realignments were attempted during the 1920s. The first complete transformation was on a transwoman, Dorchen Richter, who underwent a series of operations at the Institute between 1922 and 1931. Probably the most famous case was that of Danish artist Einar Wegener who became Lili Elbe, and whose story was publicized in *Man Into Woman: An Authentic Record of a Change of Sex* by Niels Hoyer (1933) [Fig. 4, pages 6 – 7]. The Transgender Archives holds an original edition of this book.

During the inter-war period, German middle-class crossdressers of both sexes came together in social clubs, developed their own print media, and built relationships with the police and public to assert their legitimacy and respectability. The rise of Nazism brought an end to this first blossoming of European transgender activism and research. In 1933, the Nazis closed the Institute for Sexology and, fearing the power and importance of its holdings to educate, inform, and enlighten others, held a massive public book burning of its library. Meanwhile, on the other side of the Atlantic, during the early decades of the 20th century, there were vibrant social drag cultures in several major North American cities, although they were well hidden from the general public, and were not overtly activist.

During the middle decades of the 20th century, the situation for transgender people in Western societies was often bleak. Drag clubs and crossdresser bars continued to exist, but they were driven further underground. Many jurisdictions explicitly outlawed crossdressing and same-sex sexuality, both of which were universally condemned through law and religion, and labelled as mental illnesses by medical authorities.

Crossdressing, then known as transvestism, was so unspoken that it did not appear in the *International Classification of Diseases (ICD)* of the World Health Organization, until 1965, nor in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)* of the American Psychiatric Association until 1968. [Fig. 5, page 8] Transsexualism was so unthinkable as to not appear in the *ICD* until a decade later in 1975, nor in the *DSM* until 1980. Being trans* was illegal, insane, and a sin.

The early and mid-20th century was a time when communications were much slower and more costly than they are today. Radio broadcasts, print newspapers and magazines, and film were the main forms of public media; television did not start to become widespread until the 1950s. Trans* people, when they were depicted at all in mass media, were likely to be portrayed in extremely derogatory ways. Scientific journals were no more hospitable, and were only accessible through elite institutions. Public libraries had little information to offer on trans* topics, and attempting to access such information was to court danger. Networking could only be done through face-to-face meetings, postal mail, or telephone communications. However, travel was extremely costly, as were telephone communications, which were rarely private because party lines were common, and families generally had only one handset, often situated in a communal location. In the United States, it was a crime to send trans* materials through the mail because they were legally considered

Virginia Prince 1955

4.713

007/01/022



Figure 6:
Transgender
pioneer Virginia
Prince, circa 1955.
[University of Victoria
Transgender Archives]

to be obscene. For trans* people, locating others of similar minds was fraught with possibilities for public disgrace and punishment.

The overwhelming reality for trans* people during most of the 20th century was profound isolation, secrecy, silence, and shame. Almost universally, trans* individuals felt that they were the only ones in the whole world who felt the way that they did; that they were unimaginable freaks and monstrosities. Few people were aware of the small slice of literature that did exist. Few people knew anyone else like them. When gender variant people were unable, or unwilling, to hide their differences, the consequences were often dire: rejection by family and friends; loss of employment; loss of housing; rejection by religious communities, social services, and medical providers; incarceration in jails and mental hospitals; forced medication; electroshock; rapes; beatings; murder. There were no social support networks to speak of. There were no legal protections. For most trans* people, being out usually meant the loss of respectability and socioeconomic stability. Substance abuse was often a problem. Self-harm and suicides were not infrequent. It was in this context that transgender activism and research were rekindled.

For a generation of trans* people, probably the first time that they knew that they were not alone was when they saw the December 1st, 1952 headlines about Christine Jorgensen's transition from male to female. Hundreds of lonely people, desperate for the alignment of their bodies with their gender identities, wrote to Christine Jorgensen begging for her help. Jorgensen's Danish doctor, Christian Hamburger, reported that in the ten months following the first publicity about Jorgensen's change, he received 1,117 letters from people asking for his help.¹ When Jorgensen's notoriety prevented her from finding "legitimate" employment, she developed a night club act using her story as "edutainment." Her motivation for this form of activism can be seen in the sentiments that she expressed in a 1950 letter: "I read *The Well of Loneliness* not long ago. It made me more determined than ever to fight for this victory. The answer to the problem must not lie in sleeping pills and suicides that look like accidents, or in jail sentences, but rather in life and the freedom to live it."² The Transgender Archives holds an autographed copy of Jorgensen's 1967 autobiography [Fig. 7, page 11].

Another pioneering trans* activist was American Virginia Prince (1912 – 2009) [Fig. 6, page 10]. Self-described as a transgenderist, she is widely attributed with being the founder of modern transgender activism and with having coined the term transgender.³ Prince began her career as a trans* activist in 1960 with the founding of a magazine for crossdressers, *Transvestia*, and with her 1961 initiation of one of the first crossdressers' support and advocacy organizations of this era, the Hose and Heels Club [Fig. 8, page 12]. A landmark voice in trans* literature, *Transvestia* would go on to run for over twenty years, publishing 111 issues under Prince's editorship. The Transgender Archives holds a full run of *Transvestia* [Fig. 10, pages 14 – 15], including many of Prince's publications

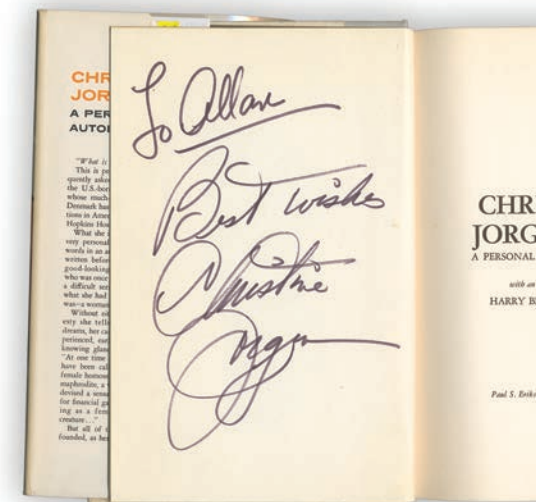
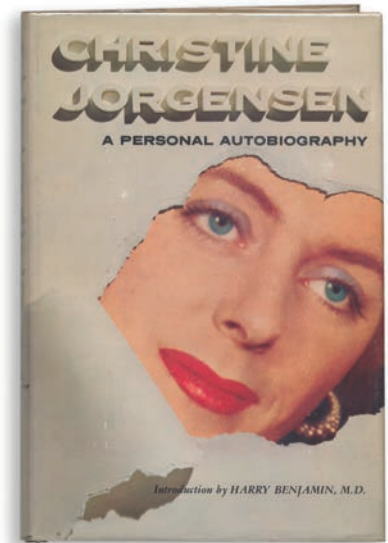


Figure 7: The Transgender Archives' copy of Christine Jorgensen's 1967 autobiography features a signed inscription by the author.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections HQ77.8 J67]



↑ D'EON RESORT
CARLENE, GAIL, SUSANNA, EDITH
← BETTY, VIRGINIA, LORETTA

HOSE AND HEELS CLUB
DENISE, SUSAN, MARY
KATHY



HOSE AND HEELS CLUB
CAROLYN, NANCY, CATHERINE
JOAN.



D'EON RESORT
CARLENE, SUSANNA, VICKI,
GAIL, EDITH, AUDREY

under the Chevalier imprint [Fig. 9, page 13], as well as an extensive array of her personal papers, correspondence, and memorabilia.

Another major beacon of light and hope for transgender people during the 1960s was the pioneering work of physician Dr. Harry Benjamin, who is generally considered to be the father of transsexual research and treatment. He is most well-known for his 1966 foundational book, *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, which was the first to take a sympathetic approach to transsexualism, arguing for adjusting bodies rather than minds. From 1981 to 2005, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) was named the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA) in recognition of Benjamin's pioneering efforts on behalf of trans* people. The Transgender Archives holds a first edition of Benjamin's groundbreaking book, which was a gift from Virginia Prince to the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), which was later purchased by Rikki Swin before making its way to the Transgender Archives.

Another individual who was hugely influential in improving the lives of trans* people was multi-millionaire transman Reed Erickson. In 1964, Erickson used his personal wealth to establish the Erickson Educational Foundation (EEF). The EEF was a lifeline for countless trans* people in myriad ways. In the 1960s and 1970s, the EEF had its main offices in New York City and Baton Rouge, Louisiana where trans* people could visit, phone, or write for referrals to sympathetic professionals. The EEF published a quarterly newsletter about the work of the EEF, and about advances made by and for transsexual people. The organization retained a small cadre of transsexual and professional expert speakers who spoke to university classes, lawyers and law schools, physicians and medical schools, law enforcement personnel, and clergy. In addition to these important outreach efforts, the EEF published educational pamphlets, made films, and produced programs for radio and television to educate the public about transsexual people. For decades thereafter, the educational pamphlets produced by the EEF in the 1970s continued to be among the most accurate and accessible source of information available on transsexualism.

In addition to this outreach, the EEF also gave seed grants to most of the early researchers supportive of trans* people. During the mid-1960s, Erickson provided financial backing to the Harry Benjamin Foundation, which brought together a small group of supportive researchers to discuss advances in research and treatment for transsexual people. These meetings led to the 1969 book co-edited by Richard Green and John Money, *Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment* and to the start of the first North American gender clinic at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Erickson's EEF also sponsored the first three international research conferences on transsexualism, which later morphed into HBIGDA, still later into WPATH. The EEF also supported the early homophile organization ONE Inc. and a number of "new age" researchers and organizations. An important cornerstone of our collection, the Transgender Archives holds almost all of Reed Erickson's known personal papers and the EEF's organizational records, totalling more than 50 linear feet (15.3 meters).

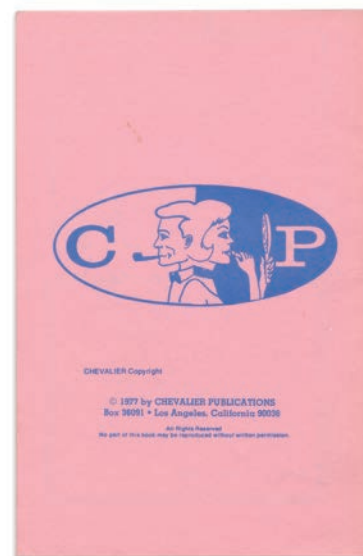


Figure 9: Back detail of *Transvestia* No. 45, 1977, an imprint of Chevalier Publications.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections HQ77 T73]

Figure 8, opposite: The Hose and Heels Club, started by Virginia Prince, pictured, was one of the first trans* activist organizations. The D'Eon Resort was more commonly known as Casa Susanna, and was named for Susanna who appears in two snapshots from this photograph album.

[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]

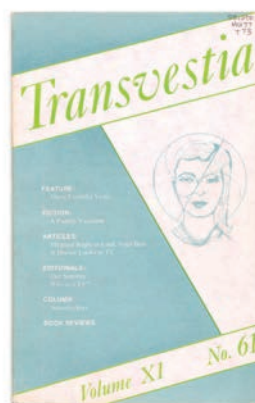
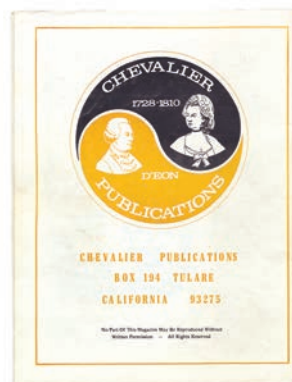
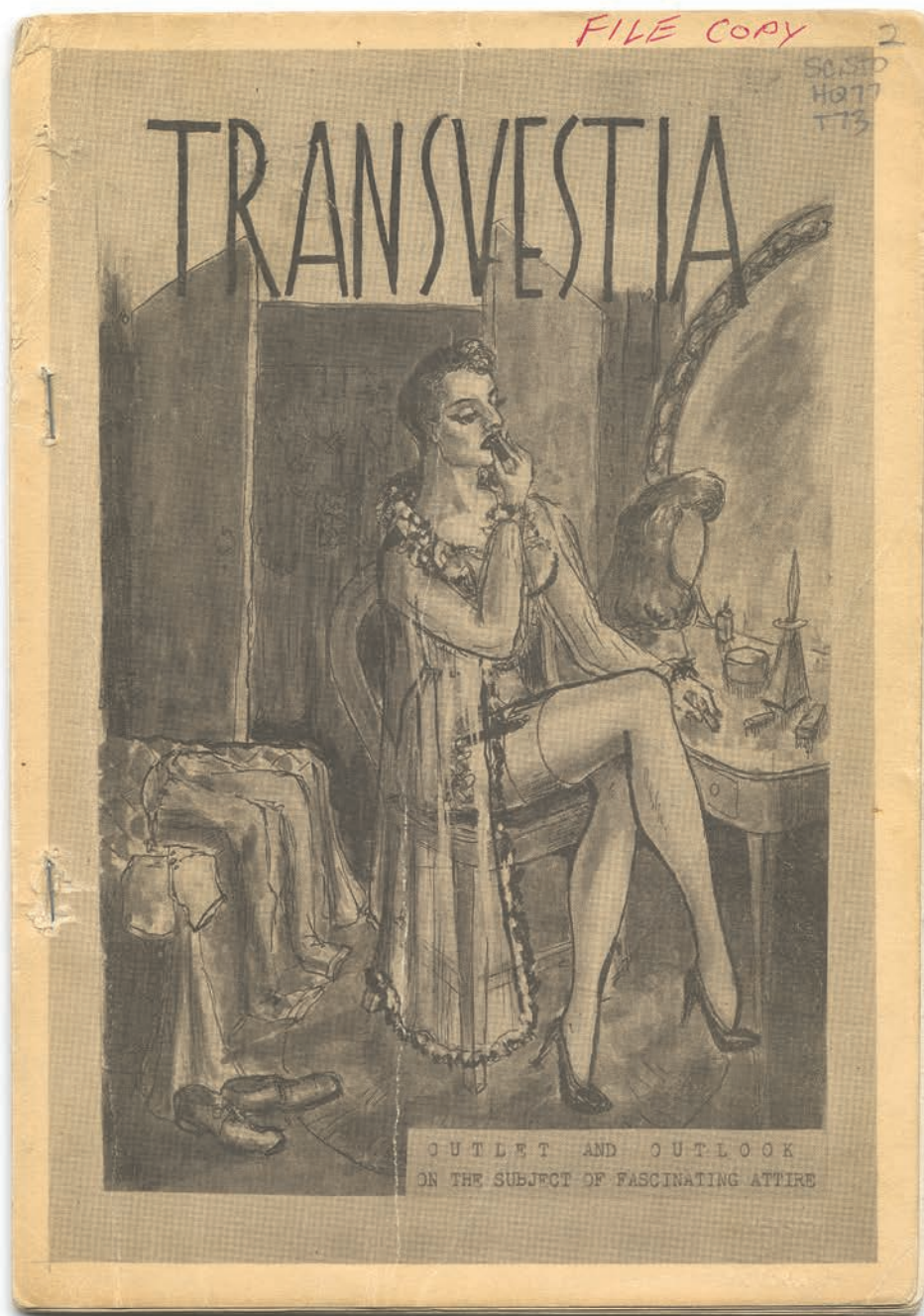


Figure 10: The University of Victoria Transgender Archives holds a full run of *Transvestia*, from 1960 to 1986, including the first issue, pictured on the facing page.
[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections HQ77 T73]



FTM



FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANSSEXUALS IN SOCIETY

Holly Devor

III. THE ORIGINS OF THE TRANSGENDER ARCHIVES

In some ways, I have been laying the groundwork for the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria for thirty years. In other ways, the Transgender Archives came about due to pure serendipity. In 1982, when I started my research career, the word transgender was only known and used by a few people. It certainly wasn't part of the general vocabulary, nor even part of the lexicon of sexual or gender minority communities. Back then, we talked about people as transvestites and transsexuals, drag queens, bull dykes and stone butches. The word queer had not yet been reclaimed, let alone expanded into genderqueer.

My first work in the field was to study people who were like me, as I was then. We had no words for us, and we remained largely unspoken. I called us "gender blenders." Today, such people would probably call themselves some kind of trans* or genderqueer. In 1986, when I went on to study self-identified transmen, I began to meet the larger community of trans* people, and the professionals who worked with trans* people [Fig. 11, pages 16 – 17]. Over the years since, I have had the privilege and pleasure of meeting, working with, and befriending, a huge swath of those two communities, while my writing has recommended me to still more people whom I've not yet had the opportunity to meet personally. That's a big part of the groundwork. I know a lot of people—and a lot of people know me, or know of me, through my work.

Another important piece of groundwork was in the relationships, and educational work, that I built at the University of Victoria over the years since 1989 when I first began to work there. For more than two decades, I taught thousands of students, delivered many lectures to public audiences both on and off campus, and spoke to the media innumerable times, while talking with anyone who showed the least bit of interest in gender and sexual diversity. When I made national news with my on-the-job gender transition while serving as Dean of Graduate Studies, the entire campus, as well as many people in the public beyond, took pause to consider the place of gender diversity in university life. UVic grew more enlightened about gender diversity, and more welcoming to trans* people and ideas, as a result.

The serendipity came, first and foremost, in the person of Rikki Swin, the founder of the Rikki Swin Institute (RSI) of Chicago (March 2001 – December 2004) [Fig. 12, pages 18 – 19]. I had met Rikki several years before, through her work with the RSI, which was conceived of as a centre for transgender research and education in the United States. Opened in 2001, to coincide with the 15th Annual Conference of the International Foundation for Gender Education, the RSI had four objectives: the housing of a library and archives; conference co-sponsorship; digital video education; and research. The RSI library included archival collections purchased from Ari Kane, Betty Ann Lind, the IFGE, and Virginia Prince.

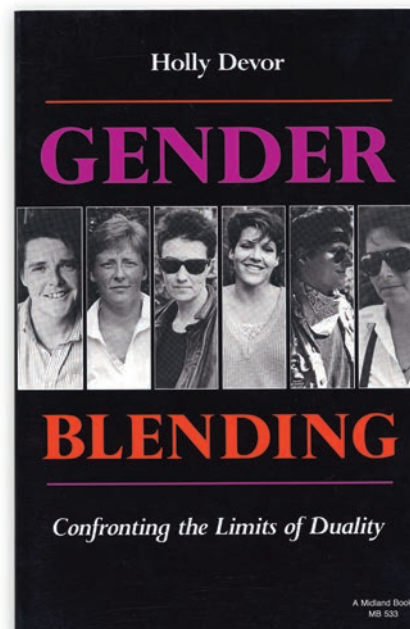


Figure 11, above and opposite: *Gender Blending: Confronting the Limits of Duality* (1989) and *FTM: Female-to-Male Transsexuals in Society* (1997) by Aaron Devor, writing as Holly Devor.

[University of Victoria Libraries HQ1075 D48 and HQ77.9 D49]

RSI

Rikki Swin Institute

Gender Education, Research, Library and Archives

Mission Statement

**"Stimulate changes in society and culture
to improve Transperson acceptance"**

R.S.I. Primary Activities

1. Anecdotal Research

Contra - Hormonal Observations:

Do natal males
drive differently?

Are differences in alcoholism
hormonally influenced?

Do hormones influence
smoking dependency?

Is software
gender - biased?



2. Conference Co-Sponsor

Gender - care professionals

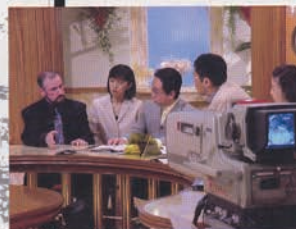
Invited to speak at
existing gender conferences

Exchange Ideas

- . Surgical
- . Legal
- . Cultural

Promotes Global Networking

Stimulates Caregiver Advancement



3. Library and Archives

Published works Books Newsletters Magazines

Film, Video & Audio . New releases . Interviews (dating back 30 years) Documentaries

Archives Personal diaries Letters



4. Digital Video Education (DVE)

Quarterly Productions

Planned Topics

- . Trans Youth Care
- . EMT training
- Understanding HBIGDA

Free to Professionals

Streaming Digital Video at www.RSInstitute.org

22 W. Ontario, Suite 400, Chicago, IL. 60610

www.RSInstitute.org

RSInstitute@aol.com

When Rikki came to the west coast in early 2003, considering a relocation to Victoria, she contacted me for a visit. When she moved to Victoria later that year, we began a friendship. During the summer of 2005, chatting amiably over lunch, I asked Rikki what was the status of the RSI. She told me she was contemplating relocating it to Victoria and was looking at possible real estate locations to purchase or rent. I asked her if she might consider donating it to the University of Victoria. To my great pleasure and astonishment, she agreed to consider the idea. I immediately contacted the University Librarian at that time, Marnie Swanson, to find out if UVic Libraries actually wanted the collection that I had already solicited. After learning more about the RSI and its archival collections, Marnie was completely in support, and discussions lasting months began in earnest. We were launched!

In 2007, I went to Chicago to see the Institute. It was a marvelous place, where the idea of scholars-in-residence was taken quite literally. There were shelves of books, audio and video recordings and playback equipment, organizational files, personal papers of key activists, photo albums, memorabilia and ephemera. There was also a complete residence: a bedroom and a washroom with towels and linens, fully-functional kitchen and dining areas, laundry facilities and supplies, a comfortable arrangement of desks, sofas, chairs, tables, and lamps. The next day, Rikki instructed the movers to pack the whole place up and send it to UVic. We got it all: a remarkable collection of trans* archival materials, and the fixings for a very nice apartment.

The next significant donation came about as a result of the research work I had been doing for over a decade on the life of activist, philanthropist, and transman Reed Erickson (1917 – 1992), founder and funder of the Erickson Educational Foundation (1964 – 1984) [Fig. 14, pages 20 – 21].

Over the years, I had become friends with his daughter, Monica, who had retained all of his papers except for 5.6 linear feet held by the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. When she had decided that it was time to donate them to an archives, she contacted me for advice. After some discussion about options, she chose UVic. Late in 2007, we took possession of more than 50 bankers' boxes of invaluable history of trans* activism and public education.

During the TransSomatechnics conference at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia in the summer of 2008, serendipity struck again. At that conference I ran into Stephanie Castle, who, in 1992, co-founded the Vancouver-based transsexual advocacy organization the Zenith Foundation [Fig. 13, page 19]. I told her about the Transgender Archives and asked her about her plans for her collected papers. Then 83 years old and thinking about both her future and her legacy, she readily agreed that the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria would be an excellent home for the records of her trans* activism. Another important collection was soon added to the Transgender Archives.

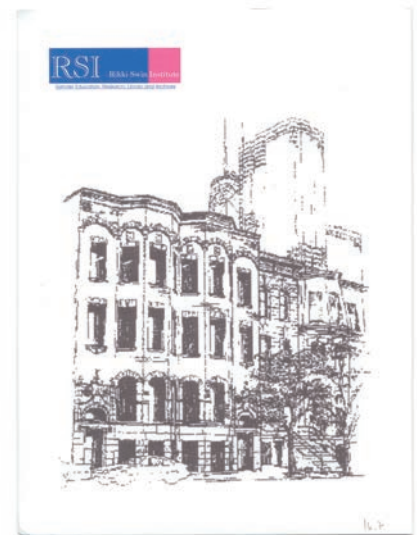


Figure 12, above and opposite: Sample materials from the Rikki Swin Institute.
[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]

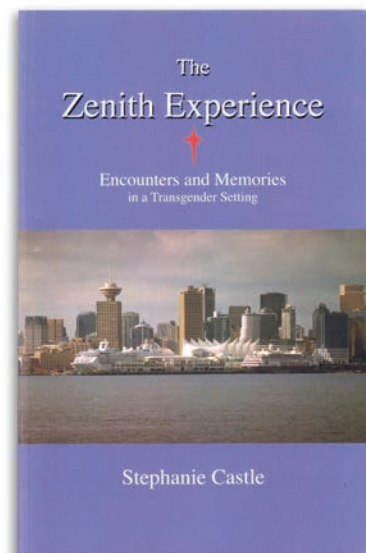


Figure 13: *The Zenith Experience* by Stephanie Castle, founder of the Vancouver trans* advocacy organization, The Zenith Foundation.
[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]



Figure 14, this page: Reed Erickson, founder of the Erickson Educational Foundation. In the photograph on the top left, Erickson is seen at his home in Baton Rouge with his wife, Aileen, and their baby daughter, Monica.

Opposite page: A publication from the Erickson Educational Foundation from 1976, *Guidelines for Transsexuals*.

[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]





Erickson Educational Foundation

First Revised Edition, September 1976

The contents of this booklet may be reproduced, in whole or in part, if acknowledgment is given to the Erickson Educational Foundation.

GUIDELINES FOR THE TRANSEXUAL

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GUIDELINES

FOR

TRANSEXUALS

Erickson
Educational
Foundation
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Issue 30



April '95

Exposing our Vision

Photographer Loren Cameron Finds His Voice

 RECEIVED
5/9/95

by James Green

I first met Loren Cameron on March 27, 1988. The occasion was the 5th quarterly meeting of the FTM group that Lou Sullivan started in San Francisco. It was my first FTM meeting; it was the third or fourth for Loren. We liked each other right off, and have remained friends ever since. Loren's primary interests back then were bodybuilding and animals, and over the past two years I've watched him build a long-standing interest in visual expression into a serious career as a professional photographic artist.

Loren was born in Pasadena, California in 1959. He spent his adolescence in rural Arkansas. When he was 12, just at the start of that adolescence, he wrote to the Janus Information Facility (whose resources now reside with AEGIS in Atlanta, GA) to obtain information on how to change his sex from female to male. "The onset of puberty was excruciating to me," Loren says. "It was torture." The information he received from Janus, then in San Francisco, was enough to tell him that he had to wait until he was older. I asked him how he survived the intervening years, and Loren answered, "Baggy shirts, lesbianism." He added, "And a butch swagger, which I'm happy to say has diminished."

He was in his late 20's when he stopped using nicotine and marijuana and started bodybuilding. "That put me in my body and forced me to acknowledge the persistent body discomfort I'd been experiencing all my life," Loren says. He was 27 when he committed himself to transitioning. Through a friend of a friend he was able to contact Steve Dain, one of our community's pioneers who has counseled and helped so many of us, and Steve pointed Loren toward Lou, who was just getting the FTM group off the ground in 1987. Loren started hormones at age 28; he's now 36.

What motivated him to begin photographing transsexuals, including himself, was the frustration he felt at seeing us photographed by non-transsexuals who turned us into objects. His need to be understood and accepted as a fellow human being compelled him to use photography to educate people about what the transsexual experience means, about what we as individuals have to go through.

Loren's first exhibit, "Our Vision, Our

Voices: Transsexual Portraits and Nudes," opened a year ago in San Francisco to instant critical acclaim, and since then Loren's work has been reviewed in *Camerawork* and *Artweek* magazines, and his photos have appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers (and this newsletter!). Using images and text, Loren works to empower himself and his subjects by giving voice to affirm our experiences, both our unique experience as transsexuals and our common experience as human beings. "I desire to capture the essence of the strength and courage it takes for us, through an act of will, to reconstruct ourselves to become our real identities," Loren says.

Loren's newest solo exhibition, "Body Alchemy" opens Monday, May 1, 1995 at 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero (near Fulton) in San Francisco. An opening reception will be held that evening from 7 to 10 p.m., admission \$5.00. Readings by David Harrison, Susan Stryker and James Green will be performed at 7:30 and 8:30 that evening. The gallery will be open Sundays in May from 1 to 5 p.m. Call (415) 765-7658 for further information.

Two other exhibits opening soon in the San Francisco area will feature Loren Cameron's work: "Our Lives: Negotiating Male Identity" opened April 14 at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art and contains Loren's "New Man Series." Phone (408) 283-8155 for gallery

hours, location, and further information. The "Our Vision, Our Voices" series will be part of a group exhibit entitled "Reframing Exposure: Photo Technology and Body Memory" opening May 10 at the Richmond Art Center. An opening reception will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Phone (510) 620-6772 for gallery hours, location, and further information. Loren will also show slides of his work at the FTM Conference on Friday evening, August 18, during the opening session. As one reviewer said, "Loren's work literally stakes out new territory." Loren's powerful visual statements present us with a dignity and strength the public has never seen before. Let's hope they see more of it.



"Gods Will" a self-portrait by Loren Cameron, is part of his *Body Alchemy* photo exhibit.

Over the next few years, I worked with University Archivist Lara Wilson and others, including historian Cameron Duder and library staff, to process and catalogue the large collection of materials that we had amassed. All of us had many other obligations. Lara and her staff had other collections and other university and library concerns to look after. I was Dean of Graduate Studies for a large research-intensive university. Things moved along slowly and quietly.

Finally, nearing the end of 2011 we felt that we were ready to officially launch the Transgender Archives. The collections we had acquired were historically important, and trans* activism was having an impact on social attitudes towards transgender people. It was an opportune time. We built a web page about our collections, and printed up brochures and business cards. We did a soft launch in Vancouver at the August 2011 Canadian LGBT History conference “We Demand!” We had our world debut at the 22nd Biennial International Symposium of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health in Atlanta, Georgia in September 2011, when version 7.0 of the *Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People* was also launched.

As the word got out through our publicity efforts and networking among interested people, more donations started to roll in. One of the earliest was from Vancouver activist lawyer Barbara Findlay [her preferred spelling] who acted as Kimberly Nixon’s lawyer when she challenged Vancouver Rape Relief’s trans-exclusionary policies all the way through the Canadian court system, before being denied a hearing at the Supreme Court of Canada. Thanks to Findlay’s donation, the Transgender Archives now holds the records of these historic court cases (1995 to 2007).

Many other smaller collections have come to us, including, among others, such gems as: a complete run of the *FTM Newsletter*, donated by Jeffrey Dickemann [Fig. 15, page 22]; a transcript of the case conference concerning the first transsexual surgery done at UCLA in 1968, donated by Richard Green; and a comprehensive textbook on transsexualism, *Ser Transexual: Dirigido al Paciente, a su Familia, y al Entorno Sanitario, Judicial y Social* with a handwritten dedication to the Transgender Archives by its Spanish authors Esther Gómez Gil and Isabel Esteva de Antonio.

The third major component of the Transgender Archives came by way of Richard Ekins, Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Cultural Studies at the University of Ulster at Coleraine in Northern Ireland. Professor Ekins began collecting trans-related materials in the late 1970s, and supplemented his collection with that of his colleagues at the UK Self Help Association for Transsexuals (SHAFT) in 1986, to form the Trans-Gender Archive at the University of Ulster. Until its donation to the Transgender Archives at UVic, it was one of the largest single collections of trans* historical documents anywhere in the world. Mainly focussed on male crossdressing, the University of Ulster Trans-Gender Archive collection includes background material on sex, sexuality, and gender and includes books, pamphlets, magazines, articles, press-cuttings, letters, photographs, personal histories, vinyl records, video and audio recordings.

Figure 15: A copy of the *FTM Newsletter* held by the University of Victoria Transgender Archives.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections HQ77.9]

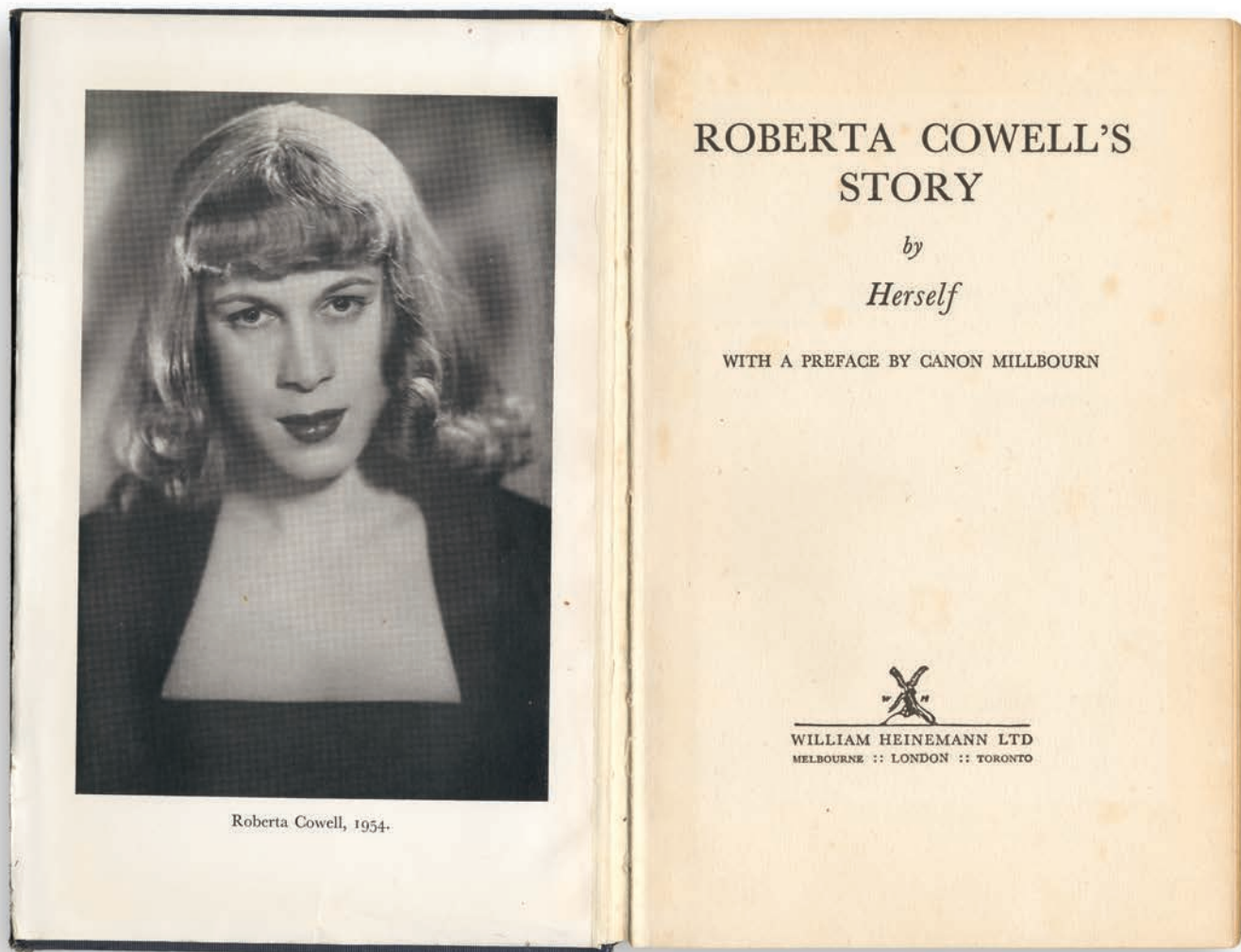


Figure 16, above and opposite: This first edition of *Roberta Cowell's Story* by Roberta Cowell (1954) was donated to the Transgender Archives by Richard Ekins. A duplicate circulating copy is also available through UVic Libraries.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections RC883 C6]

When Ekins retired from the University of Ulster in 2010, he moved the collection to a climate-controlled mobile storage unit on his property, where it remained until early 2013 when he approached me about donating it to the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria. After some negotiations, the collection was packed up at the end of May and five months later, in early November 2013, fifty-eight large boxes (130 cubic feet, 3.8 cubic meters) finally arrived at our doorstep.

IV. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COLLECTIONS

The Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria is a unique collection, unparalleled anywhere in the world. Being situated in North America, the records are weighted toward Canadian and us activism and research. However, the collections which came to us from us or Canadian sources also show an international reach, reflecting times before the Internet, when printed materials were a lifeline for isolated trans* people, and anything trans* related was of interest to collectors. As a result, the Transgender Archives holds small numbers of publications from many nations around the world, most of which, but not all, were published in English. With the arrival of the University of Ulster Trans-Gender Archive at the University of Victoria in fall 2013, we now boast an extensive collection of uk trans* history, and we have modestly boosted our international holdings. As of 2014, the Transgender Archives is comprised of approximately 320 linear feet (98 meters) of archival materials, books, and periodicals representing seventeen countries and spanning over a century of activism and research.

Books, Booklets, and Pamphlets

The Transgender Archives is an integral part of the University of Victoria Libraries which holds over 800 books concerned with transgender topics.

All rare and hard-to-find books relevant to transgender studies are non-circulating and held in Special Collections. These titles include many early 20th century works on sexuality and gender such as a 1911 edition on the life of the Chevalier D'Eon by Homberg and Jousselin [Fig. 17, pages 26 – 27], several works from the 1920s and 1930s by Wilhelm Stekel (e.g., *Peculiarities of Behaviour*, Vol 1 & 2, 1925; *Sadism and Masochism: The Psychology of Hatred and Cruelty*, 1935), a number of Magnus Hirschfeld books from the 1930s and 1940s (e.g., *Men and Women: The World Journey of a Sexologist*, 1935; *Sex in Human Relationships*, 1935; *Sexual Pathology: A Study of Derangements of the Sexual Instinct*, 1940) as well as the 1954 autobiography, *Roberta Cowell's Story* [Fig. 16, pages 24 – 25]. Many of these early volumes came to UVic courtesy of the University of Ulster Trans-Gender Archive which was carefully curated for over 25 years by Professor Richard Ekins. Several of these volumes have





THE CHEVALIER D'EON 1770
From the Portrait by Huquier

D'EON DE BEAUMONT HIS LIFE AND TIMES

COMPILED CHIEFLY FROM UNPUBLISHED
PAPERS AND LETTERS BY OCTAVE HOMBERG
AND FERNAND JOUSSELIN AND NOW TRANS-
LATED INTO ENGLISH BY ALFRED RIEU



RICHARD G. BADGER
THE GORHAM PRESS
BOSTON

Figure 17: The University of Victoria Libraries holds multiple copies of *D'eon de Beaumont, his life and times*, including this 1911 copy, donated by Richard Ekins. A duplicate circulating copy is also available.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections DC135 E6H6]



Figure 18: Two examples of the mass-produced pulp crossdresser fantasy fiction donated to the Transgender Archives by Richard Ekins.
[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]



Ekins' typewritten annotations affixed to the inside covers, specifying their position in the Ulster archives cataloguing schema, and describing the nature of the transgender content.

Our book collection also includes many examples of male heterosexual crossdresser fantasy fiction, spanning several decades and illustrating a range of publishing production values from low-budget “vanity press” books, to mass-produced pulp fiction, and high-quality limited editions [Fig. 18, page 28].

The Transgender Archives also includes a wide range of book-length publications from every decade of the 20th and 21st centuries reflecting almost every aspect of transgender life: history; psychology and counseling; literature, film, and the visual arts; law and politics; biography and autobiography; how-to manuals; health and medicine; sexuality; social services; education; and more. Many contemporary authors have provided us with autographed copies of their books. These are held in Special Collections, while other copies of contemporary editions are available for circulation. The University of Victoria Libraries continues to keep abreast of new publications, expanding both the circulating collection and the Transgender Archives' non-circulating Special Collections.

Prior to the Internet, one of the main sources of practical and educational information about transgender topics were pamphlets and booklets, generally produced by advocacy organizations for educational purposes. The Transgender Archives also holds an extensive collection of such publications. One of the more significant examples is a series of pamphlets produced during the 1970s by the Erickson Educational Foundation, and which were later reproduced by the southern California trans* advocacy organization J2CP.⁴ While many trans* publications of the day were typewritten and photocopied, the EEF series was exceptionally well done, both in terms of the accuracy and accessibility of content, and also in terms of production quality. The University of Victoria Transgender Archives holds a variety of EEF pamphlets, including one with an especially rare example of a typewritten erratum notice.

Organizational Records, Correspondence, and Personal Papers

In addition to its literature and non-fiction holdings, the Transgender Archives holds portions of the organizational records for several significant trans* activist groups, as well as portions of correspondence and personal papers from some of the leaders of those organizations. These records allow researchers to trace the development of trans* activism by providing a rare window into the behind-the-scenes activities underlying the public actions of leaders and organizations.

The most significant of these organizational papers include records from the EEF, which was one of the earliest trans* advocacy organizations



Organizational records and papers from Fantasia Fair.



Figure 19, above and right: Through the donation of the Rikki Swin collection, the University of Victoria Transgender Archives obtained the papers of Ari Kane (pictured bottom right), one of the founders of Fantasia Fair.

[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]

and one of the most influential of its time (active 1964 – 1984). True to its name, it provided extensive educational services in the form of lectures, publications, films, radio and television programming, newsletters, professional referrals, grants to researchers, conference sponsorships, a hotline, and personal advice through office visits and correspondence. Included in the collection are publications, correspondence, financial records, court records, records of grant applications and funding, artworks, photographs, and founder Reed Erickson's (1917 – 1992) personal musings.

The Transgender Archives also includes the organizational records of Fantasia Fair, which has taken place in Provincetown, Massachusetts every fall since 1975 [Fig. 19, page 30]. It began as a social gathering mainly for heterosexual male crossdressers and has since expanded to a week-long event which now welcomes the full spectrum of trans* and gender-variant people and includes considerable educational content as part of its programming. Records held by the Transgender Archives span twenty-seven years (1974 – 2001) and include correspondence, planning records, promotional materials, registration records, events programs, audio, video, and photographic records of events, financial records, exit surveys, and the papers of Ari(adne) Kane (b. 1936), one of the founders of Fantasia Fair.

FTM International (FTMI) (active 1986 to present) is an informational and networking organization providing public education and serving trans-masculine communities around the globe. FTMI chapters exist in eighteen countries and in many cities around the USA. Organizational records (1996-1999) include agendas and minutes of board meetings, board communications and reports, financial records, and bylaws. The Transgender Archives also holds copies of all print-issued *FTM Newsletters*.

The organizational papers of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) (active 1987 – 2012) and papers of Merissa Sherrill Lynn (b. 1942) and Betty Ann Lind (1931 – 1998) are also part of the Transgender Archives. During its lifetime, the IFGE was devoted to increasing understanding and acceptance of trans* people. Much of its communication was directed to trans* self-acceptance, pride, and community building. Its main activities were the publication of *Tapestry* magazine, later renamed as *Transgender Tapestry* [Fig. 20, page 31], and the sponsoring of an annual “Coming Together” conference. Organizational records in the Transgender Archives include administrative records, correspondence, collected articles and news clipping files, publications, and other resource materials.

The Zenith Foundation (active 1992 – 2003, re-launched in 2014) was started by Stephanie Castle (b. 1925) with its objectives being “to work toward improving the security and circumstances of people with gender dysphoria.”⁵ Its main aims were education and advocacy on behalf of Canadian transsexual communities or individuals. Holdings from the Zenith Foundation are comprised of the *Zenith Digest* [Fig. 22, page 33], several books authored by Stephanie Castle, material relating to the administration of the Zenith Foundation, and records of the Foundation’s



Figure 20: The University of Victoria Transgender Archives holds many issues of *Transgender Tapestry*, a popular lifestyle magazine for the transgender community.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections HQ77.9 T77]



Erickson Educational Foundation

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5 NO. 3

FALL, 1972

1973 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The Third International Symposium on Gender Identity sponsored by the Erickson Educational Foundation will be held September 8-10, 1973, at the Hotel Libertas, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia.

The theme of the symposium will concern transsexualism and related problems of gender orientation. Professionals who are interested in attending this meeting are invited to write our Baton Rouge office for preliminary registration and further information at an early date. Those who wish to present papers are requested to submit abstracts in English before March 15, 1973.

DESTINATION DUBROVNIK

During his current trip sailing down the Adriatic Dr. Colin Markland of the University of Minnesota Transexual Research Project team is personally checking on the facilities for the Third International Gender Identity Symposium.

The Hotel Libertas was opened in September 1971, located on the quiet Miramare slope, facing the open sea, the old walled city of Dubrovnik and the island of Lokrum. The brochure illustrations and text are alluring. All accommodations have private sunbathing terraces and flower gardens. The hotel has outdoor and indoor swimming pools and a private beach as well as a sauna and a massage room.

The city of Dubrovnik is a beautiful old historical city. Its medieval fortresses, buildings, etc., are still intact and it is the most popular tourist spot on the southern Adriatic.

HARRY BENJAMIN, M.D. ANNOUNCES

the formation of Harry Benjamin, M.D. Associates, P.C. (a Professional Corporation), with Charles L. Ihlenfeld, M.D., in charge.

Dr. Benjamin, pioneer researcher, practitioner and author of *The Transsexual Phenomenon* (Julian Press, N. Y.) is in retirement except for consultation. We know it is gratifying to him to observe the professional and public progress that his efforts have generated, and in San Francisco this past summer as in New York, he has been continuing his concern and cooperation in current forward steps that are taking place.

FIRST NATIONAL MEETING

A long-needed interdisciplinary meeting concerning work being done in the transsexual field, has been scheduled for February 2-4, 1973, at Stanford University Medical Center. In view of the importance of interchange of information and ideas as well as diagnostic and treatment coordination between medical practitioners and researchers in the field of this problem of gender identification, it is felt that an annual forum of this type might prove feasible.

We wish to commend the Stanford Gender Identity Team for spearheading this conference. In addition to the medical, psychiatric and surgical aspects, there will be workshops to discuss the allied problems of the transsexual—social, vocational, legal and psychological.

Professionals are invited to write for further information concerning attending the meeting to: Donald R. Laub, M.D., Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. 94305.

IN JAPAN

Translation into Japanese of the information pamphlets on transsexualism published by the Erickson Educational Foundation is nearing completion. This material will appear in a book to be distributed in Japan in the fall, reports Dr. Hideo Anada, professor at Tokyo University Medical College.

This information is all the more encouraging in view of Dr. Anada's presentation at the Second International Symposium on Gender Identity in Copenhagen, September, 1971, when he reported on the complete lack of understanding and professional research and treatment in the area of transsexualism in Japan.

IN CANADA

The establishment of a new organization, the Association for Canadian Transsexuals, is now in process. EEF was invited to participate in the September meeting in Toronto. Further information about the group will appear in the next issue of this Newsletter.

Membership details can be obtained by writing the Association at 58 Cecil Street, Toronto, Ontario.

Figure 21: One of the many newsletters from the EEF held at the University of Victoria Transgender Archives. This one is dated from 1972.

[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]

participation as an intervener in a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case regarding Synthia Kavanagh and the Correctional Service of Canada.

In addition to these diverse collections, the Transgender Archives also contains the organizational records of the Rikki Swin Institute (active 2001 – 2004) and papers of its founder, Rikki Swin (b. 1947).

Periodicals

Prior to the advancement of the Internet, the main way that trans* people found each other and communicated with one another was through small-circulation, largely home-made, newsletters and newspapers. Virginia Prince's *Transvestia* (1960 – 1986), which served the male heterosexual crossdressing community, was one of the earliest, longest running, and most widely-distributed periodical of its kind, with mailings approaching 1000 at its peak. The Transgender Archives holds a complete run of all 111 issues of *Transvestia*.

Other significant periodicals were the *EEF Newsletter* (1969 – 1976, 1983) [Fig. 21, page 32], which served as a central source of information for the entire trans* community, and for those who studied and served that community; and the *FTM Newsletter*, which has served the transmasculine community since 1987. The Transgender Archives holds a copies of all *EEF Newsletters*, and a complete set of those *FTM Newsletters* issued in printed format (1987 – 2004).

Newsletters from trans* communities around the world are well represented in the Transgender Archives. Among many others, some examples include: *Metamorphosis* (1982 – 1988) from Toronto, Canada; *Zenith Digest* (1994 – 2002) from Vancouver, Canada; *Chrysalis Quarterly* (1991 – 1995) from Decatur, GA, USA; *Cross Talk* (1988 – 1996) from Manchester, and *Beaumont Bulletin* (1970 – 1996) from London, UK; *Feminform* (1986 – 2000) from Stockholm and Oslo, Sweden; *Transformatie* (1993 – 1999) from Amsterdam, the Netherlands; *Transidentitas* (1989 – 1994) from Offenbach, Germany; *Fanfare* (1987 – 1992) from Parow, South Africa; *Seahorse* (1984 – 1990) from St. Kilda, Vic., *Nu-Scene International* (1987 – 1996) from Altona, Vic., and *Transceiver* (1992 – 1998) from Victoria Park, WA, Australia; *Street Scene* (1999) from Wellington, New Zealand; and *Queen* (1983 – 1998) from Tokyo, Japan. Our catalogue of periodicals includes a total of over 400 entries, some of which are single issues, most of which span several volumes, and some of which constitute complete runs [Fig. 23, pages 34 – 35].

Another form of periodicals which was used extensively by the crossdressing community, before the Internet rendered them largely obsolete, were newsprint and glossy pornographic magazines featuring crossdressing males, and trans* women with breasts and penises, in various forms of dress and undress [Fig. 24, page 36]. Sometimes there were fictional stories accompanying photographs. Occasionally there were “educational” articles complementing the central *raison d’être* of the publications:



Figure 22: A copy of *Zenith Digest*, the publication of the Canadian transsexual advocacy organization the Zenith Foundation, founded by Stephanie Castle.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections HQ77.9 Z4]

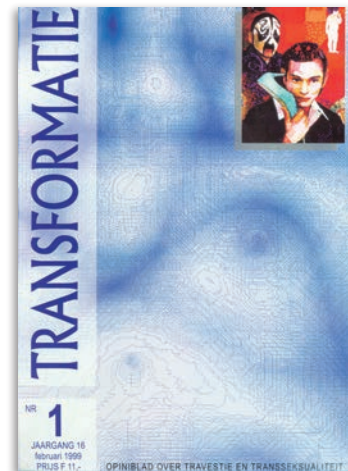
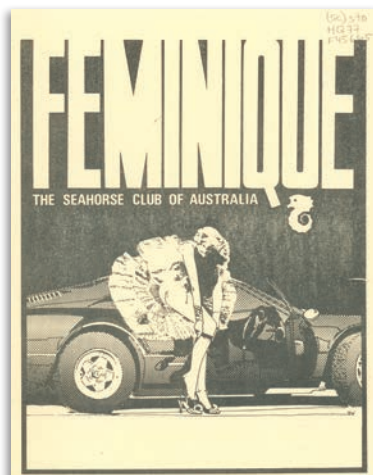
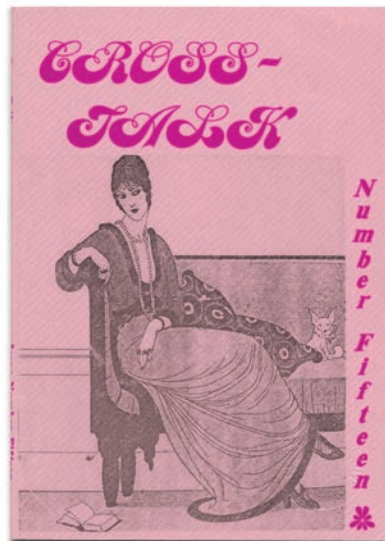
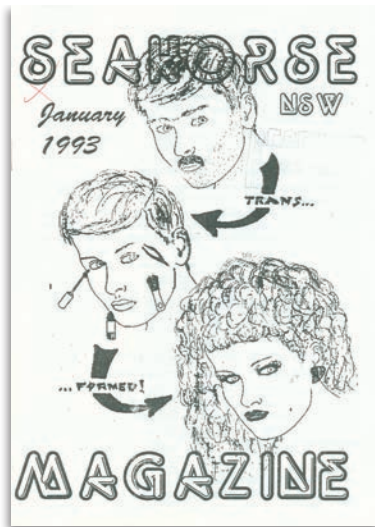




Figure 23, this page and opposite: A selection of periodicals and international publications held by the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria. Featured here are publications from Japan, Australia, South Africa, the Netherlands, and England.

[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]



Figure 24: One example of the extensive collection of erotica held by the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria.

[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]

sexually explicit photographs for the purpose of sexual stimulation. The Transgender Archives holds an extensive collection of materials of this nature.

Multimedia

In addition to print media, the Transgender Archives holds a varied collection of media representing and recording trans* experience. We have VHS or DVD copies of most mainstream cinema with transgender characters or references to crossdressing. We also hold VHS or DVD copies of a range of low-budget, limited-edition specialty movies made for transgender audiences, and those who are interested in transgender people [Fig. 25, page 38]. Many of these were intended for educational purposes, and many were intended to be used for personal entertainment. We also hold extensive recordings of television shows on trans* topics, some of which were commercially made, some of which were recorded for personal use. In addition, we have video recordings of lectures and performances at conferences and other large gatherings, such as Fantasia Fair.

Other visual materials include a large number of photographs taken at trans* events, or from the personal collections of key individuals represented in the Transgender Archives, such as Virginia Prince or Reed Erickson. We also hold some autographed fine photographic portraits of transgender celebrities including activist Kate Bornstein and superstar model Tula (Caroline Cossey).

Our audio collection includes tape recordings of lectures delivered at conferences and recordings of radio programming. We also hold a small collection of vinyl records featuring trans* performers or other kinds of content of interest to trans* people and their admirers [Fig. 26, pages 40 – 41].

Ephemera

As would be expected, our collection of ephemera is eclectic. The largest component consists of a series of news-clippings files created by various people over many years. The content of these files reflects the specific interests of their collectors, and the limitations on the abilities of individuals to comprehensively access newspapers and magazines in the days before the Internet and search engines. Other holdings include posters advertising miscellaneous trans* events; movie posters; greeting cards and postcards with humorous trans* innuendo, puns, or jokes. The collection also includes a smattering of original drawings and paintings, and reproductions of artworks, by trans* artists, or on trans* themes. Screen printing is represented in the form of a small clutch of T-shirts celebrating trans* activism. We also hold a variety of plaques and citations honouring Virginia Prince, a complete set of sixty *Rocky Horror*



A button from the wide collection of ephemera held by the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria.



A T-shirt from the wide collection of ephemera held by the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria.

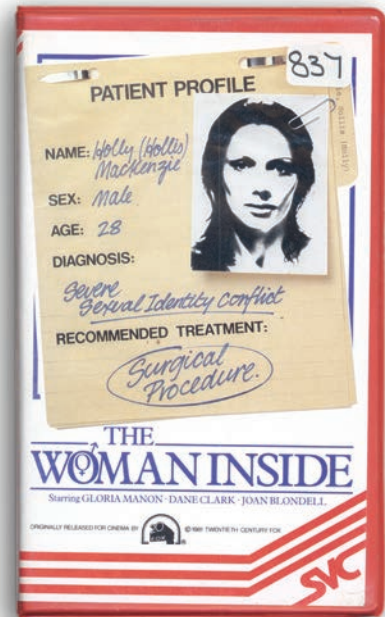
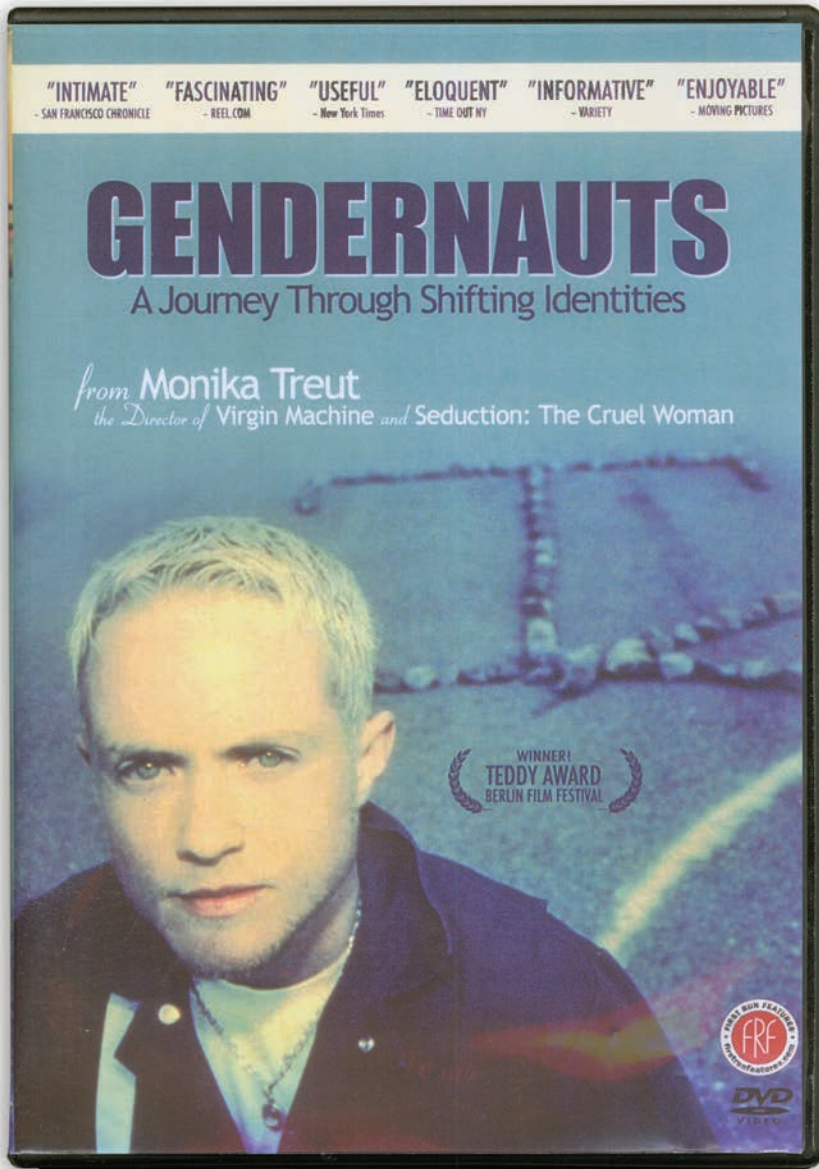


Figure 25: A selection of some of the DVD and VHS movies available from the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria.

Picture Show trading cards, and several handfuls of thin gold-coloured pens sealed in cellophane and inscribed with the name of the Erickson Educational Foundation.

V. CONCLUSION

As the largest collection of transgender archival materials in the world, the Transgender Archives are a unique and invaluable rich resource from which to learn about the complexity of human gender variation. Our collections bear witness to the courage, vision, and perseverance of our elders and forebears. They had the wisdom to see that there was much important work to be done to make the world a more just place for all. Each, in their own ways, took on a piece to the job of making the world safer and more hospitable for people who do not easily fit within prevailing simplistic binary and hierarchical systems and structures of gender. They all took risks in doing this. Some suffered significantly for their boldness. All contributed to advancing gender freedoms. We owe them more than we can know.

The Transgender Archives stands as a testament to those brave souls who risked so much to forge a pathway for today's advances. By keeping their names alive, and by preserving the records of the work they have done, we can repay some of our debt to our pioneers. Thus, those who have had the foresight to do the work of collecting and preserving, also do the work of advancing social justice. All people need to know their history; even more so for people who have been so abject that, through much of our history, our very survival has depended on our ability to keep our gender variance hidden.

We welcome community members, scholars and independent researchers, activists and allies, to come to the Transgender Archives to explore our diverse collections, and thereby to learn about who we are, and how we got to where we are today. Open to the public, free of charge, and accessible to all, the Transgender Archives safeguards a broad spectrum of trans* heritage so that the work that our pioneers have done will not be forgotten. We remember. We respect. We preserve. We persevere. And we invite you to join us.

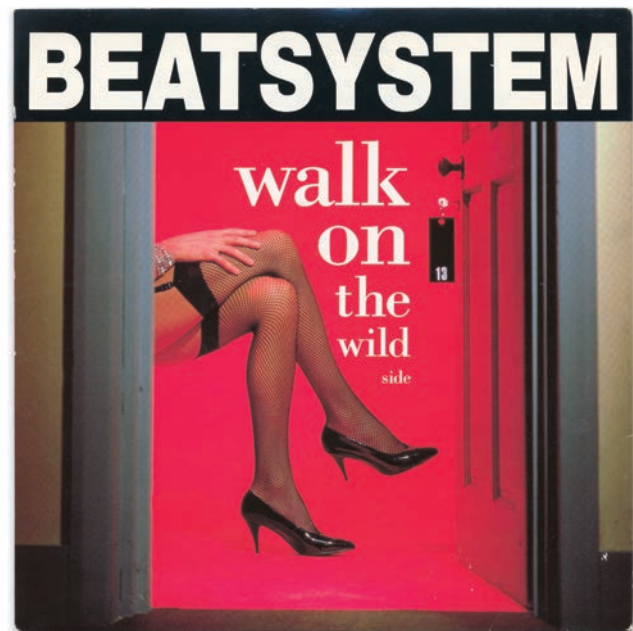
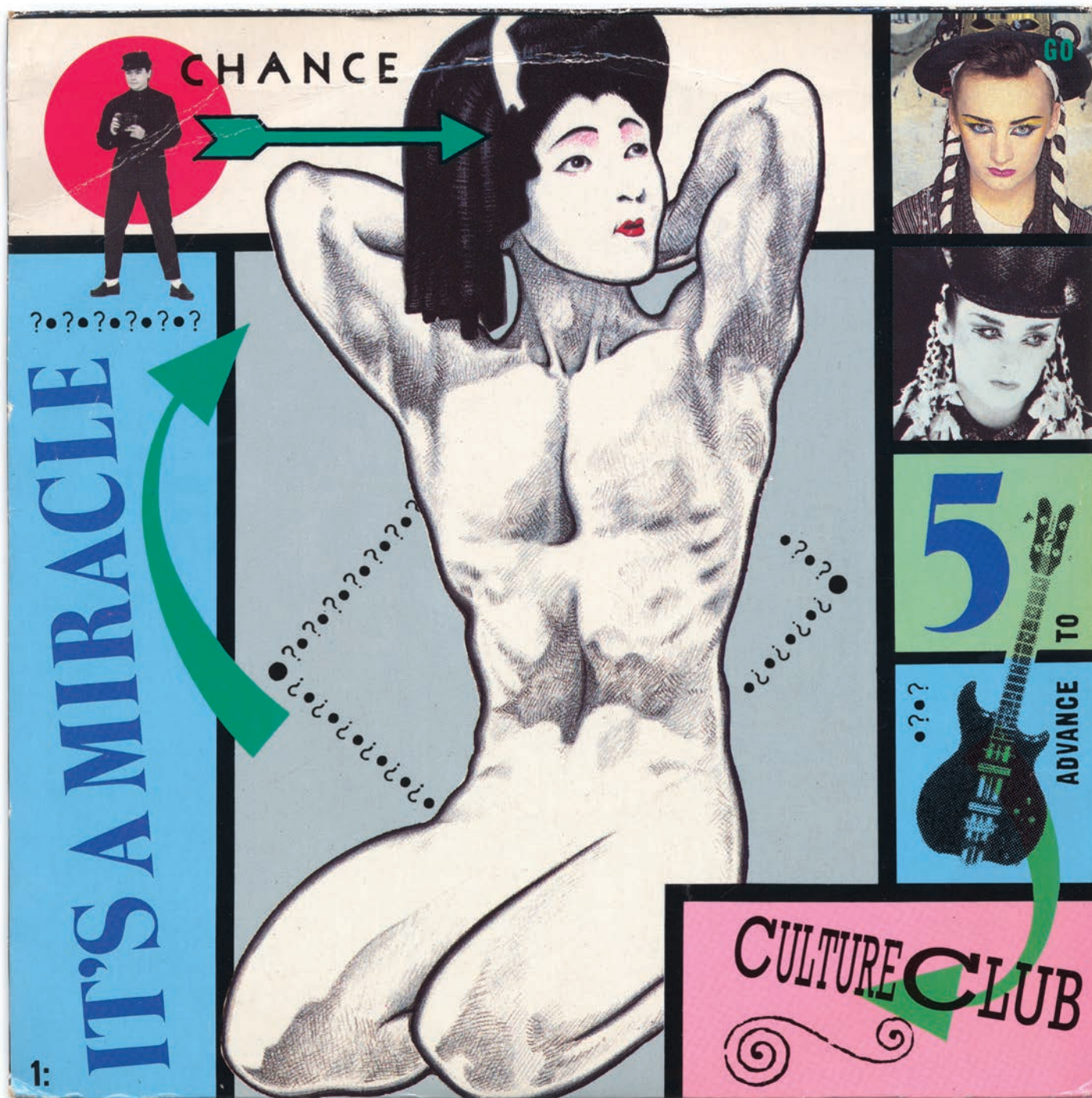


Figure 26: A selection of 45 rpm vinyl singles donated by Richard Ekins.
[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]





Dr. Aaron Devor with materials from the Transgender Archives.

Appreciations

Finding and preserving the historical records of trans* people is, in itself, a brave and political act. Our collectors are also political pioneers in their own way. Particular thanks go to Rikki Swin who collected extensively and kick started the Transgender Archives when she gave us the entire Rikki Swin Institute collection. Monica Erickson advanced the trans* historical record significantly by preserving her father's records from the Erickson Educational Foundation and donating them to the Transgender Archives where they now form a part of the public record. Special appreciations also are due to Professor Richard Ekins for the meticulous and mammoth collection that he lovingly collected and preserved starting in the 1970s, and has now entrusted to the Transgender Archives for ongoing public access. Many others have also made important contributions, and in the years to come, many more will. To all, I say thank you.

Finally, the University of Victoria also deserves thanks. It has also shown leadership in its unhesitating support of the Transgender Archives. Many people at UVic have had to put their weight behind the Transgender Archives in order for it to thrive: President and former Provost and Vice-President Academic, Jamie Cassels; Past-President David Turpin; Vice-President Carmen Charette and former Vice-Presidents Howard Brunt and Reeta Tremblay have all lent their support in various ways; University Librarians present and past, Jonathan Bengtson and Marnie Swanson, have been there for the Transgender Archives in every way; Director of Special Collections & University Archivist, Lara Wilson, and Grants and Awards Librarian, Christine Walde and other library staff have unfailingly worked in support of the Transgender Archives. Many others around the university have shown their support, each after their own fashion. The University of Victoria has shown itself as an unfailing ally of the Transgender Archives. We could not have found a better home for our history.

Endnotes

1. Christine Jorgensen, *Christine Jorgensen: A Personal Autobiography* (Toronto: Bantam, 1973), 135 – 136.
2. Jorgensen, *A Personal Autobiography*, 90.
3. Variations on the word transgender had been used sporadically by others in earlier years but did not find widespread usage until the 1990s. Virginia Prince used the word “transgenderist” in issue #95 of *Transvestia* to describe herself, a genetic male who lived full time as a woman without recourse to surgical transformations, and who did not identify either as a transvestite or as a transsexual (Prince, 1978). Ms. Prince objected to the way in which the term was later adopted as an umbrella term (personal communication). Leslie Feinberg is also frequently attributed with popularizing the contemporary usage of transgender. See Leslie Feinberg’s publication: *Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come*. NY: World View Forum, 1992 [See Fig. 27, page 46].
4. J2CP was named for its two founders: Joanna Clark (aka Sister Mary Elizabeth) and Jude Patton.
5. Stephanie Castle, *The Zenith Experience: Encounters and Memories in a Transgender Setting* (Vancouver: Perceptions Press, 2005), 223.

The Rikki Swin Collection in secure, temperature and humidity-controlled archival storage at the University of Victoria Transgender Archives.





Awards given to Virginia Prince, held at the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria.

[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]

TRANSGENDER LIBERATION

PUBLISHED BY WORLD VIEW FORUM



TRANS GENDER LIBERATION

*A movement
whose time
has come*

By Leslie Feinberg

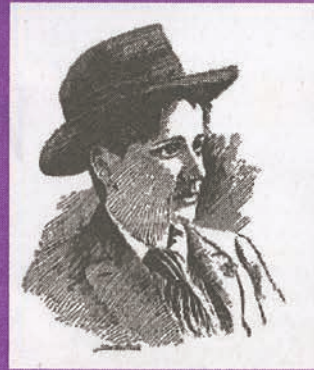


Figure 27: The University of Victoria Transgender Archives holds a copy of *Transgender Liberation* by Leslie Feinberg, a mass-produced pamphlet first published in 1992. [University of Victoria Transgender Archives]

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Detail of a box of pens from the Erickson Educational Foundation.

[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]



A copy of *Guys in Gowns*, just one example of the many historical magazines and periodicals held by the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria.

About the University of Victoria Special Collections



Above and opposite: Buttons from the large collection of ephemera by the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria.

For many years the University of Victoria Special Collections has been dedicated to preserving and providing public access to the valuable material in its care. Our collections span a wide range of subject areas including: anarchist studies, arts and culture, environmental studies, literary history and criticism, political and historical affairs, transgender studies, and women's studies.

About the University of Victoria Libraries Transgender Archives

The University of Victoria Libraries believes that the history of pioneering transgender activists and the work they have done on behalf of their communities must be preserved. UVic Special Collections is actively acquiring documents, rare publications, and memorabilia of persons and organizations who have worked for the betterment of transgendered people.

The Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria Libraries is accessible to the public free of charge, and available to faculty, students, and scholars for teaching and research.

Donors

UVic Special Collections have received some unique and valuable gifts that have greatly enhanced our collections. Some of our donors have built entire collections through multiple donations to the UVic Libraries or have donated collections they built through a lifetime.

We are grateful to the following donors for their contributions to the Transgender Archives:

Mariette Pathy Allen
Willow Arune
Rosalyne Blumenstein
Marsha Botzer
Christine Burns
Christopher Busa
Donna Cartwright
Stephanie Castle
Joanna Clark
Dallas Denny
Steve Desroches
Mickey Diamond
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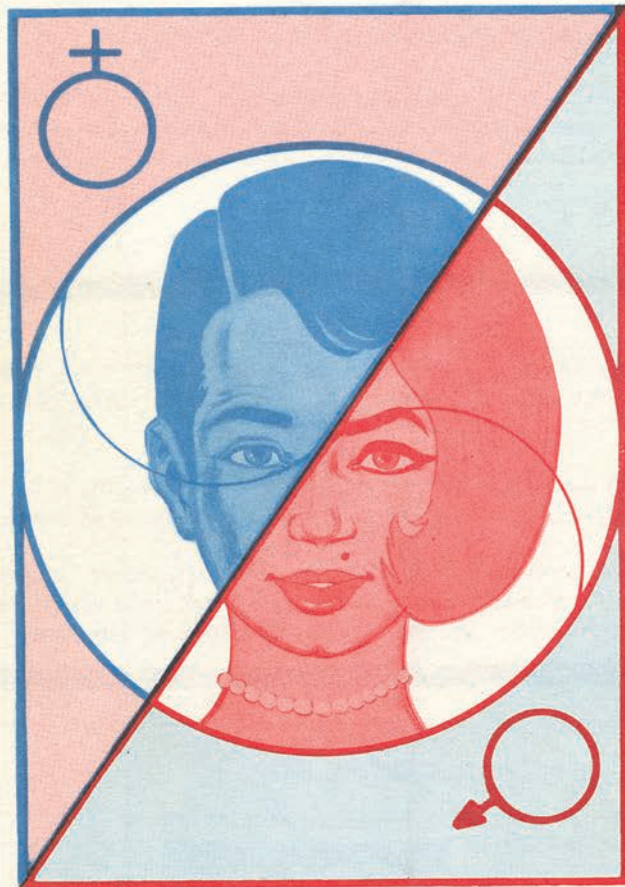
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TRANSVESTIA



VOL. IX NO. 49 FEBRUARY, 1968

A copy of *Transvestia* from the University of Victoria Transgender Archives.
[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections HQ77 T 73]



A button from the large collection of ephemera held by the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria.



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