



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Typescripts and Questionnaires for The Gay Report

Approximately 1979

MssCol 1128

Summary

Creator: Jay, Karla

Title: Typescripts and Questionnaires for The Gay Report

Date: Approximately 1979

Size: 4.17 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Gift of International Gay Information Center, Inc., 1988.

Abstract: Karla Jay, author and historian, co-authored with Allen Young, free-lance writer, journalist and publisher, a comprehensive survey and documentary of gay and lesbian sexuality entitled THE GAY REPORT: LESBIANS AND GAY MEN SPEAK OUT ABOUT SEXUAL EXPERIENCES AND LIFESTYLES (New York, Summit Books, c. 1979). The papers consist of typescript drafts of the text of THE GAY REPORT arranged by chapter title; and original copies of the gay male section of the questionnaire returned by respondents. The lesbian section of the questionnaire can be found in the Karla Jay Papers (MssCol 1554). The typescript contains numerous editorial corrections and emendations. The questionnaires are arranged in serial order (4001-9,452). Many of them contain, in addition to the short answers in the hands of the respondents, additional marginal annotations; and several contain hand or typewritten narrative responses to the essay questions. There are also several samples of tabulations used in preparing the results of the survey.

Preferred citation: Typescripts and Questionnaires for The Gay Report, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Separated Materials:

The lesbian section of the questionnaire can be found in the Karla Jay Papers (a separate collection also held by the Manuscripts and Archives Division of The New York Public Library).

Creator History

Karla Jay (1947-), author and historian of the gay experience, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. and educated

at Barnard College and at New York University where she received her doctorate. Having regretted a lack of good books written by gays about gays when she was growing up she resolved as an adult to devote a part of her life to recording and documenting the gay experience. With her collaborator, Allen Young, she has published several anthologies of writings by gays and lesbians including *Out of the Closets: Voices of Gay Liberation* (Douglas Books, 1972); *After You're Out: Personal Experiences of Gay Men and Lesbian Women* (Links Books, 1976); and *Lavender Culture* (Harcourt, 1979).

In the late 1970's Jay and Young compiled a comprehensive survey and documentary of gay and lesbian sexuality entitled *The Gay Report: Lesbians and Gay Men Speak Out about Sexual Experiences and Lifestyles* (N.Y., Summit Books, 1979). The work was based upon a sixteen page questionnaire divided into two sections, one for lesbians and one for gay men which was widely distributed in the gay community and also reprinted in the gay and lesbian press. Most of the 100 questions on the survey were of the multiple choice or short-answer type although there were several essay questions designed to be answered separately. All of the respondents were anonymous. By compiling and publishing the responses the authors hoped to lessen the aura of mystery surrounding gay and lesbian sexuality and diminish some of the enmity directed towards gays and lesbians by the heterosexual community.

Allen Young (1941-), free lance writer, editor, journalist and publisher has written *Gays under the Cuban Revolution* (Grey Fox Press, 1981). He has worked as a reporter for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and from 1979 for the *Athol Daily News*, Athol, Mass. In 1983 he founded the Millers River Publishing Co.

Scope and Content Note

The papers consist of typescript drafts of the text of the *Gay Report* arranged by chapter title; and original copies of the gay male section of the questionnaire returned by respondents. The typescript contains numerous editorial corrections and emendations. The questionnaires are arranged in serial order (4001 - 9,452). Many of them contain, in addition to the short answers in the hands of the respondents, additional marginal annotations; and several contain hand- or typewritten narrative responses to the essay questions. There are also several samples of tabulations used in preparing the results of the survey.

The lesbian section of the questionnaire can be found in the Karla Jay Papers (MssCol 1554).

Key Terms

Subjects

Gays -- United States

Lesbians -- United States

Sexual behavior surveys -- United States

Names

Jay, Karla

Young, Allen, 1941-

Container List

- b. 100 Typescripts drafts
- b. 101-103 Surveys