



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Lockett Ford Ballard, Jr. papers

1944-2000 [bulk 1967-2000]

MssCol 189

Summary

Creator: Ballard, Lockett Ford

Title: Lockett Ford Ballard, Jr. papers

Date: 1944-2000 [bulk 1967-2000]

Size: 12.81 linear feet (34 boxes)

Source: International Gay Information Center, 1988; Lockett Ford Ballard, Jr., 1991-2000

Revision History: Additions processed by Susan M. Kline.

Abstract: Collection consists mainly of correspondence and professional papers reflecting Ballard's life as a gay man, both in military and civilian life, and his work as a museum curator. Correspondents include Ballard's friends, family, classmates, and colleagues. Also included is correspondence (1944-1945) from Lockett Ford Ballard, Sr. to his sister, Margaret, and to his mother while he was convalescing from wounds received while serving with the U.S. 3rd Army in France. Professional papers relate to his graduate school work, and to his work at the Litchfield Historical Society and the Old State Capitol Restoration Project. A small quantity of personal miscellany.

Preferred citation: Lockett Ford Ballard, Jr. papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: John D. Stinson, Revised by Leslie Reyman, October 2010 These papers were formerly described as boxes 77-89, 127-138, and 153-156 in the guide to the International Gay Information Center Collection.

Creator History

Lockett Ford Ballard, Jr., museum administrator, was born to Canon Lockett Ford Ballard (1912-1979), Rector of the Trinity Church at Newport, Rhode Island, and Charlotte Carr Morrison Ballard (1921-1985). He graduated (class of 1964) from St. George's School, Newport, Rhode Island, and Hamilton College (class of 1968), Clinton, New York. In 1968 he enlisted for a four-year term in the U.S. Navy.

During his final year he held the rank of petty officer (2nd class) in the Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (One Three Five, Detachment One) on the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk which was on tour in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam War. Upon his discharge he entered the graduate program in museum administration at Cooperstown Graduate Programs in Cooperstown, New York. While completing his master's thesis he was employed for several months in 1973 as assistant to the curator of the Old State Capitol Restoration project in Frankfort, Kentucky.

In 1974 he was appointed director of the Litchfield Historical Society and Museum in Litchfield, Connecticut. Following his resignation from that position in the summer of 1979, he was briefly employed as a data processor in a law firm in Los Angeles. In February of 1980 he was reinstated as director of the Litchfield Historical Society but two years later he resigned once again to accept a position as director of the Rosemount Victorian House Museum, Pueblo, Colorado. He held this position until mid-1985 when he was reappointed for the third time to the directorship of the Litchfield Historical Society. Following his resignation from the Society in 1987, Ballard held posts in Cincinnati, Ohio and in Madison, Indiana. In 1990 he settled in Nanuet, New York, with his lover, Charles Richard Burns, a former Jesuit priest. The same year the two entered into a bond of permanent commitment at the Grace Episcopal Church in Nanuet. They subsequently settled in Lancaster, Pennsylvania where Ballard became executive director of the Rock Ford Foundation, Inc.

During the 1990s he worked in Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa. As of 2001, Ballard was the development director of KRWG 90.7 FM in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Scope and Content Note

The papers (1944-2000) which are contained in 34 boxes are arranged into five series: Correspondence; Professional papers; Miscellaneous papers; Additional papers, 1991-1994; and Additional papers 1978 and 1998-2000.

The bulk of the early correspondence which is arranged alphabetically by name and by subject (i. e., "Family", "Gay friends", "Guam friends", "Lexington friends", "Litchfield friends") is from gay and non-gay friends and acquaintances, professional colleagues, college classmates, lovers, and family members. The bulk of the correspondence dates from 1968 to 1981. Included is a file of typed carbon copies of outgoing correspondence arranged chronologically. The correspondence richly documents Ballard's personal, social, family, and professional life, including his last year of military service on the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk, his job searches, his relationships with gay friends and lovers, his graduate studies in museum administration, his work as assistant curator of the project to restore the Kentucky State Capitol building, and his directorship of the Litchfield Historical Society. The bulk of the family correspondence consists of letters received from his father, his mother, and from his aunt, Margaret Ballard. Included is correspondence (1944-1945) from Lockett Ford Ballard, Sr. to his sister, Margaret, and to his mother while he was convalescing from wounds received while serving with the U.S. 3rd Army in France. Included are a few original letters sent by Lockett Ford Ballard, Jr. to his aunt.

The Professional Papers (1972-1980) consist of papers relative to Ballard's graduate studies at Cooperstown Graduate Programs; his directorship of the Litchfield Historical Society, and his work as assistant curator of the Old State Capitol Restoration project at Frankfort, Kentucky. The Cooperstown Graduate Programs papers consist of course notes, term papers, syllabi, and papers relative to the preparation of his thesis topic ("The Williams Family Carriage House"). Included are a few photographs taken by Ballard of classmates and of museum artifacts. The Litchfield Historical Society papers, which are arranged chronologically, reflect Ballard's directorship. Included are correspondence with the president of the Society and members of its board of directors; memoranda and reports related to

restoration projects (including its costume and textile collection), accreditation, exhibitions, grants, finances, staffing, and other matters relative to the daily operation of the Society. There is also a file of minutes of the board of directors and annual reports of the director.

The Miscellaneous Papers (1968-1981) consist of income tax and financial papers, appointment calendars, a diploma from St. George's School, and other personal miscellany.

The bulk of the Additional papers (1980-1991) [91 M 39] of Lockett Ford Ballard, Jr., consists of a file of incoming correspondence arranged alphabetically, and a file of outgoing letters arranged chronologically. The correspondence, mostly from 1986-1990, is with Ballard's friends, acquaintances and professional colleagues and associates in the field of museum administration. There is also correspondence with his aunt, Margaret Ballard, with his sister, Margaret Stokes Ballard, and with his lover, Charles Richard Burns. Some of the correspondence relates to Kirkridge, a retreat for gays in Pennsylvania, and Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA).

The miscellaneous papers consist of printed ephemera, memorabilia, and lists of names and addresses of friends, acquaintances, and correspondents. There are also a few snapshots and contact prints.

The additional papers [94 M 32] consist of incoming and copies of outgoing correspondence (1991-1994) of Lockett Ford Ballard; miscellaneous files and ephemeral material.

The additional papers [97 M 29] of Lockett Ford Ballard, Jr., consist of his incoming (1979-1997) and outgoing (1993-1997) correspondence mainly with friends and acquaintances arranged chronologically; a few miscellaneous papers; and ephemera including copies of gay newsletters.

The bulk of the outgoing correspondence reflects Ballard's professional work and social activities as director (April 1994-June 1996) of the Geneva Historical Society in Geneva, Illinois; and as director (June 1996-) of the Brown County Historical Society in New Ulm, Minnesota.

The last addition to the papers [2000 M 19] is correspondence, 1998-2000. Nearly all of it is printed emails and chats, with a few letters and cards. The emails concern questions, answers and discussions about body piercing. One box of correspondence contains emails from the LGBT-related listservs Ballard was subscribed to while living in Iowa. The chats, from the website gay.com, are with other members of special interest groups, including "Music Arts and Books" and body piercing.

Also included with this addition is a copy of Ballard's master's thesis with ancillary material.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence
Electronic mailing lists

Subjects

Gay men -- United States
Gay military personnel -- United States
Museum techniques -- United States
Museums -- United States -- Management

Occupations

museologists
Sailors

Names

Ballard, Lockett Ford
Iowa Coalition for Human Rights
Litchfield Historical and Antiquarian Society (Litchfield, Conn.)
United States. Navy

Container List

Correspondence

- b. 1 B-G
- b. 2 H-L
- b. 3 M-W
- b. 4-7 Gay friends
- b. 8 Family
- b. 9
- b. 10 Outgoing

Professional Papers

- b. 11 Cooperstown Graduate Programs
- b. 12 Litchfield Historical Society and Old State Capitol Restoration
- b. 13 Miscellaneous papers

Additional Papers 1991-1994

Correspondence

- b. 14 A-B
- b. 15 C-G
- b. 16 H-M
- b. 17 M-S
- b. 18 T-W and unsorted
- b. 19 Outgoing 1987-1989
- b. 20 Outgoing 1990
- b. 21 Miscellaneous papers
- b. 22 Correspondence 1991-1994
- b. 23
- b. 24 Miscellaneous papers
- b. 25 Ephemera

Additional Papers 1997

Correspondence

- b. 26 Incoming 1979-1997
- b. 27 Outgoing 1993-1997
- b. 28
- b. 29 Miscellaneous papers
- b. 29 Ephemera

Additional Papers 1978, 1998-2000

- b. 30-33 Correspondence 1998-2000
- b. 34 f. 1-6 Correspondence 2000
 - Emails sent to Ballard while living in Iowa. Local, national and international LGBT issues; social events and PRIDE; and grassroots organizing and politics are discussed in the emails. Many were exchanged on the Iowa Coalition for Human Rights (ICHR) listserv.
- b. 33 Master's thesis 1978