



# The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

## **C. A. Tripp papers**

1940s-2013

MssCol 23206

Compiled by Susan M. Kline, 2015

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Tripp, C. A.

**Title:** C. A. Tripp papers

**Date:** 1940s-2013

**Size:** 28.71 linear feet (49 boxes); 1.16 mb (37 computer files)

**Source:** Donated by Norman Shaifer, C. A. Tripp Literary Trust, 2015.

**Abstract:** The C. A. Tripp papers date from the 1940s to 2013 and document Tripp's writings and research on human sexuality (with an emphasis on homosexuality) and his collaboration with Alfred Kinsey. The majority of the collection is comprised of correspondence, drafts, and research files.

**Preferred citation:** C. A. Tripp papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Processing note:** Compiled by Susan M. Kline, 2015

### **Creator History**

Clarence Arthur "C. A." Tripp (1919-2003) was a psychologist and sex researcher closely affiliated with Alfred Kinsey. Tripp was born in Denton, Texas in 1919 and studied photography at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He was a staff member in the Eastman Kodak Company's research department before working on propaganda films for 20th Century Fox during World War II.

Tripp's interests began to shift to psychology and after the war, he traveled to Alfred Kinsey's Institute for Sex Research. Kinsey would serve as a mentor, collaborator, and friend until Kinsey's death. Tripp provided his photography skills to several of Kinsey's research studies on sexual behavior and other Kinsey Institute projects.

Tripp pursued formal education in psychology and received an undergraduate degree from the New School for Social Research in 1953 and a doctorate in clinical psychology from New York University in 1957. Tripp's dissertation and early professional work focused on graphology. He was affiliated with entrepreneur Huntington Hartford's Handwriting Institute in New York City from 1954 to 1964 (serving

as its director) and he wrote and published on handwriting analysis. At the same time, Tripp opened a private practice and from 1955 to 1964 taught at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center. Interested in researching a number of psychological and physiological aspects of sexuality, Tripp formed Psychological Research Associates, Inc., in 1972 and served as its director.

Tripp's observations as a practicing psychologist and his analysis of data and research conducted by Kinsey and others informed his influential book *The Homosexual Matrix* (1975). This scholarly work sold half a million copies and provided a new research-based perspective on same sex attraction. He worked on revising the book and used his research to respond to and refute the claims of other researchers, most notably the work of Alan P. Bell, Martin S. Weinberg, and Sue Kiefer Hammersmith.

Much of Tripp's own research was predicated by Kinsey's groundbreaking work and Tripp repeatedly circled back to Kinsey's research. When James H. Jones published a biography of Kinsey in 1997, Tripp took issue with Jones' characterization of Kinsey and Kinsey's research and in response drafted a manuscript entitled *Doors Behind Doors, Wheels Within Wheels*.

Before his death in 2003, Tripp conducted extensive research into theories and speculations about Abraham Lincoln's sexuality and had finished an unpublished book-length manuscript. The research and Tripp's manuscript were published posthumously as *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln* in 2005.

## Scope and Content Note

The C. A. Tripp papers date from the 1940s to 2013 and primarily contain correspondence, writings, and research files that document his professional career. Some material relates to Tripp's estate and the publication of *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln* after Tripp's death.

## Key Terms

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence  
Data (information)  
Drafts (documents)  
Research (document genres)  
Writings (document genre)

### Subjects

Graphology  
Homosexuality -- Research  
Men -- Sexual behavior  
Sexology -- Research

### Occupations

Psychologists  
Sexologists

### Names

Fluckiger, Fritz A.  
Gebhard, Paul H.

Hartford, Huntington, 1911-2008  
Kapff, Sixt  
Kinsey, Alfred C. (Alfred Charles), 1894-1956  
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 -- Psychology  
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 -- Relations with women  
Row Kavi, Ashok  
Alfred C. Kinsey Institute for Sex Research

## Container List

### Series I: Correspondence 1940s-2003 (3 boxes)

The correspondence provides insight into Tripp's working relationships with other psychologists, sex researchers, and professional acquaintances. The majority of the correspondence is between Tripp and Sixt Kapff (an Italian associate of both Tripp and Kinsey), Tripp and Kinsey, and Kapff and Kinsey. The letters between Tripp and Kinsey discuss details of their research collaborations and Kinsey's visits to New York City. In 1951 Kapff wrote to Kinsey expressing an interest in his sex research and Kapff began to provide Kinsey with data and information about his own sexual activities. Kapff provided Tripp with copies of this correspondence with Kinsey. Tripp and Kapff's own letters discuss Tripp's research and Kapff's observations about sexual practices and mores in Italy and India.

Other frequent correspondents include Professors David Gwyn Jeffreys and Wayne Dynes and Kinsey Institute director Paul Gebhard. There is also one file of correspondence with Theodore Reik. Tripp's early professional work at the Handwriting Institute is documented through correspondence, much of it with Huntington Hartford, founder of the Handwriting Institute.

- b. 1 f. 1-2 1940s-1960s
- b. 29 f. 1-3 1970s-2003
- b. 2 f. 1-7 1970s-2003
- b. 29 f. 4 Undated/Unidentified
- b. 29 f. 18 Undated/Unidentified 1960s-1970s
- b. 29 f. 5 Blue Boy 1978
- b. 34 f. 5-7 Gebhard, Paul 1956-2001
- b. 29 f. 7 Grinder, Reverend Richard 1975-1976
- Kapff, Sixt
- b. 3 f. 1-7 1951-1955  
Correspondence between Kapff and Kinsey.
- b. 4 f. 1-4 1971-2003, undated
- b. 4 f. 5 Kinsey Quotes 1950s
- b. 4 f. 6-9 Philip Nobile Interview Transcript 1982
- b. 34 f. 8 Kinsey, Alfred 1948-1955  
Correspondence between Tripp and Kinsey.
- b. 29 f. 8 Personal 1960-2001
- b. 1 f. 3 Publishing 1975-1985
- b. 29 f. 9 Reik, Theodore 1945-1961
- b. 29 f. 10 Rockefeller Foundation 1969
- b. 29 f. 11 Row Kavi, Ashok 1976-1981

### Series II: Alfred Kinsey 1920s-1998 (2 boxes)

Series II: Kinsey consists of general material about Kinsey and Tripp's contact with the Kinsey Institute. More detailed and substantial Kinsey and Kinsey Institute items can be found in Series I.

- b. 35 f. 3 BBC Transcript 1996
- b. 35 f. 4 Bell, Alan 1976
- b. 35 f. 5 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request 1984
- b. 35 f. 6 Homosexuality/Heterosexuality Conference (Second Kinsey Symposium) 1986
- b. 35 f. 7 Kinsey Dream 1975

Series II: Alfred Kinsey (cont.)

- b. 34 f. 1-4 Kinsey Institute 1948-1998
- b. 34 f. 9 Published Writings by Kinsey 1920s-1950s

Series III: Writing and Research 1952-2013 (33 boxes; 37 computer files (1.16 Megabytes))

Tripp's wide-ranging research interests are reflected in the Writing and Research series which contains material on the psychological and physiological aspects of human sexuality, with an emphasis on homosexuality; pedophilia; child abuse; and early sexual experiences among other topics. Tripp's research files primarily consist of printouts of typed notes and transcripts, summaries of secondary sources, and some data printouts; some are highlighted and annotated.

The bulk of the research subsection contains files that could not be associated with any particular research or writing project. The writings subsection pertains to Tripp's book length projects, research articles, and unpublished writings. For *The Homosexual Matrix*, *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln*, and Tripp's joint research with Fritz Fluckiger on the sexual substrate there are drafts, correspondence, and research files related to these discreet projects. The Lincoln-related files include drafts and correspondence generated after Tripp's death. A copy of Tripp's dissertation is also available (b. 24 f.2). There is also considerable material documenting Tripp's criticism of the Kinsey biography written by James H. Jones.

Research Files

- b. 37 f. 1-15 1960s-2000s
- b. 49 f. 2-4 1960s-1990s
- b. 32 f. 1-17 1970s-1990s
- b. 25 f. 1-15 1980s-2000s
- b. 26 f. 1-14 1980s-2000s
- b. 36 f. 10 Anthropology 1977-1979
- b. 26 f. 15-18 Child Sexual Abuse 1990s
- b. 26 f. 19 Freud
- b. 49 f. 1 Homosexuality Bibliography and Research [1950s-1960s]
- James. H. Jones Biography of Kinsey  
See also Tripp's manuscript "Doors Behind Doors, Wheels Within Wheels."
- b. 38 f. 1-7 1998-1999
- b. 39 f. 1-5 1998-1999
- b. 40 f. 3-6 1998-1999

Kinsey Data

Appears to have been used for the Substrate paper.

- b. 22 f. 1-6 1980s
- b. 36 f. 1 1980s

Writings

- b. 33 f. 1 *Alfred C. Kinsey* 2002
- b. 33 f. 9-10 Atheneum Book Contract and Notes 1969-1974
- b. 33 f. 2 Book Reviews
- b. 24 f. 2 Dissertation 1957
- b. 28 f. 1-4 *Doors Behind Doors, Wheels Within Wheels* 1998-1999  
In response to James H. Jones' biography of Kinsey.
- b. 35 f. 1 *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality* 1994
- b. 33 f. 11 *Forum International Journal of Human Relations* 1982-1983
- b. 33 f. 12 *Forum Magazine* 1984

Series III: Writing and Research (cont.)

Writings (cont.)

*Homosexual Matrix*

- b. 23 f. 1 1974-1979
- b. 23 f. 8 1974-1999
- b. 23 f. 2 Bibliographic Double Checks 1974
- b. 23 f. 3-4 Correspondence and Book Tour 1975-1982
- b. 23 f. 5 Gebhard, Paul  
Research
- b. 30 f. 1-6 1970s-1980s
- b. 40 f. 1-2 1970s-1980s
- b. 23 f. 6-7 Reviews 1975-1978

*The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln*

- b. 15 f. 10 Ann Rutledge Romance 2006-2008
- b. 15 f. 16 Appendix Items (Swett)
- b. 15 f. 17 Correction Copies 2013
- b. 16 f. 1-3 Correspondence and Notes 1995-2002
- b. 21 f. 2 Cover Design  
Drafts
- er. 1 1995, 2002  
(1.16 Megabytes (37 computer files))
- b. 5 f. 1 Introduction, Preface, Author's Note 1996
- b. 15 f. 3 Preface 2004
- b. 5 f. 2-7 Chapters 1-4 1996-2004
- b. 6 f. 1-8 Chapters 4-9 1996-2004
- b. 6 f. 9 Various circa 1996-2004
- b. 17 f. 1-3 Version A 2004
- b. 18 f. 6 Version A 2004
- b. 17 f. 4-6 Version A (Bill Vourvoulis) 2003
- b. 18 f. 1-5 Version A (Lewis Gannett) 2003
- b. 19 f. 1-3 Version B 2003
- b. 19 f. 4-7 Version C [2003-2004]
- b. 7 f. 3 Version E 2004
- b. 20 f. 1 Version E 2004
- b. 21 f. 1 Version E 2004
- b. 20 f. 5 Version F (Bill Vourvoulis) 2004
- b. 20 f. 2-4 Bill Vourvoulis Edit 2003
- b. 15 f. 9 Ebay 2008
- b. 15 f. 15 Editing 2004
- b. 15 f. 5 Free Press (Bruce Nichols) 2005
- b. 16 f. 6 *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* 2002  
Lewis Gannett
- b. 16 f. 4 2001-2002

Series III: Writing and Research (cont.)

Writings (cont.)

The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln (cont.)

Lewis Gannett (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 1            2001-2002
- b. 7 f. 2            "Lincoln's Private Life" by C. A. Tripp 2003
- b. 15 f. 8           Lincoln Library 2008
- Manuscript Letters 2003-2004
- Notes
- b. 14 f. 1            [1990s-2000s]
- b. 15 f. 2            2003-2004
- b. 15 f. 7            Plagiarism Issue 2006
- b. 15 f. 11-13       Proofs 2004
- Publicity
- b. 21 f. 8-13        2003-2004
- b. 15 f. 14           2005-2008
- Research
- b. 7 f. 4-6           1990s-2000s
- b. 8 f. 1-6           1990s-2000s
- b. 9 f. 1-5           1990s-2000s
- b. 10 f. 1-7          1990s-2000s
- b. 11 f. 1-4          1990s-2000s
- b. 12 f. 1-6          1990s-2000s
- b. 13 f. 1-6          1990s-2000s
- b. 14 f. 2-6          1990s-2000s
- b. 16 f. 5            1990s-2000s
- b. 16 f. 7-9          1990s-2000s
- b. 8 f. 7            Abraham Lincoln Association Newsletter 1999-2001
- b. 21 f. 6            Book List 2004
- b. 21 f. 3-5          Joshua Fry Speed
- b. 15 f. 4            Schwartz, Tom 2013
- b. 15 f. 6            Springfield Trip 2005
- b. 21 f. 7            Vourvoulas, Bill 2004
- b. 40 f. 7-8          *Kinsey in Life and in Bed* 1998
- In response to James H. Jones' biography of Kinsey.
- On the Sexual Substrate: A Kinsey-Based Contribution to the Origins of Homosexuality*
- By Tripp and Fritz A. Fluckiger. Includes drafts, research materials, notes, correspondence, criticisms of the research, and data.
- b. 27 f. 1-9          1980s-1995
- b. 28 f. 5-6          1980s-1995
- b. 36 f. 2-9          1981-1996
- b. 33 f. 5            Other 1952, 1962, 1982
- b. 33 f. 13          Outlines
- b. 36 f. 11          Screening and Fetishism 1988
- b. 33 f. 3            *Sexuality and Homosexuality: A Kinsey-Based Contribution to the Origins of Homosexuality* 1966

Series III: Writing and Research (cont.)

Writings (cont.)

- b. 33 f. 4 *Who is a Homosexual?* 1965  
Royalties
- b. 33 f. 6 Caedmon Publishers/Caedmon Records 1956-1987
- b. 33 f. 7 Harper & Row/Harper Collins 1987-1998
- b. 33 f. 8 Miscellaneous 1977, 1981-1985

Series IV: Subject Files 1947-2002 (3 boxes)

Series IV: Subject Files largely document Tripp's time as director of the Handwriting Institute and lectures he delivered from 1968 through the 1990s. Tripp's early professional work at the Handwriting Institute is documented through correspondence, much of it with Huntington Hartford, founder of the Handwriting Institute. There are also several files pertaining to Tripp's associate Fritz Fluckiger.

Clippings

- b. 35 f. 11-12 1947-2002
- b. 31 f. 1-6 1950s-1990s  
Mostly related to Kinsey.

Fluckiger, Fritz

Includes coursework at the New School for Social Research.

- b. 36 f. 14 Binswanger Draft for Sullivan 1950s
- b. 29 f. 6 Correspondence 1966-1977, 1983
- b. 36 f. 15 Nathanson Course 1958
- b. 36 f. 16 Research Through a Glass, Darkly: An Evaluation of the Bieber Study on Homosexuality 1966?
- b. 35 f. 2 Handwriting Analysis [1950s-1960s]
- b. 1 f. 4-8 The Handwriting Institute 1954-1964
- b. 24 f. 5 Interviews 1976-1998
- b. 35 f. 8 Kostock, Oliver J 1940s  
Military records.
- b. 24 f. 6 Larry Kramer Note 1990s?
- Lectures
- b. 29 f. 13 1970s-1990s
- b. 29 f. 14 GAU Speech on Aging 1970s-1980s?
- b. 29 f. 16 GAU and Washington State "Sexuality, Morality, and the Matrix of Homosexuality" 1970s?
- b. 29 f. 17 Mattachine Society Panel 1968
- b. 29 f. 12 Mariposa Education and Research Foundation 1979-1994
- b. 35 f. 9 New York City Police Entrapment 1966
- b. 33 f. 14-16 Notes 1970s-1990s
- b. 29 f. 15 Pomeroy Seminar
- b. 36 f. 13 Psychological Research Associates 1977-1979

Series V: Personal 1950s-1990s (1 box)

Series V: Personal contains photographs; two curriculum vitae; and Tripp's diplomas and professional licenses. The photographs are primarily of Tripp with his family and friends, but there are portraits of Kinsey and Theodore Reik.

- b. 24 f. 1 Curriculum Vitae 1966, 1985
- b. 35 f. 10 Diplomas, Professional Licenses, and Transcript 1953-1961



Series V: Personal (cont.)

- b. 24 f. 3 Drawings
- b. 24 f. 4 Film Strip of Letter O
- Photographs and Negatives
  - b. 24 f. 7-12 [1950s-1990s]  
Primarily photos of Tripp and his family and friends. Also photos of Theodore Reik (included one inscribed to Tripp); and Tripp at the Kinsey Institute in 1951.
  - b. 47 [1950s-1980s]  
Alfred Kinsey and personal photos.
  - b. 36 f. 12 Travel 1980, 1986
  - b. 24 f. 13-14 Wills 1977-1983  
R.M. Evers, A.F. Evers, Lulu Tripp.

Series VI: Estate Files 1950s-2013 (7 boxes)

The estate files pertain to the administration of Tripp's property and literary assets.

- b. 48 1950s-2005
- b. 43 1980s-2002
- b. 45 1980-1996
- b. 46 1987-2001
- b. 44 2003-2009
- b. 42 2003-2012
- b. 41 2011-2013