



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Michael Horowitz collection on Timothy Leary**

1932-2015 [bulk 1961-1996]

MssCol 23962

Compiled by Susan M. Kline, 2016.

## Summary

**Creator:** Horowitz, Michael, 1938-

**Title:** Michael Horowitz collection on Timothy Leary

**Date:** 1932-2015 [bulk 1961-1996]

**Size:** 9.28 linear feet (24 boxes)

**Source:** Purchased from Michael Horowitz, 2016.

**Abstract:** Michael Horowitz (1938- ), an archivist, author, and publisher, was Timothy Leary's archivist and safeguarded Leary's papers following his 1970 escape from prison. The Michael Horowitz collection on Timothy Leary reveals Horowitz's role as archivist, the history of the archive (most notably its seizure by the FBI in 1975), and his relationship with Leary. Horowitz's position on the role of archivists and archival neutrality is well documented. Much of the correspondence and other writings are attributed to Leary.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** Michael Horowitz collection on Timothy Leary, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Compiled by Susan M. Kline, 2016.

## Creator History

Michael Horowitz (1938- ) is an archivist, author, publisher, and was Timothy Leary's archivist. He was born in Brooklyn, New York and involved in New York's counterculture before moving to San Francisco in 1967.

Horowitz, who has a background in rare books, and Robert Barker, a fellow book collector, first met at the Altamont Speedway Free Festival in 1969. Horowitz and Barker founded the Fitz Hugh Ludlow Memorial Library in 1970, in San Francisco, by merging their collections of drug-related materials. The

library was a rich resource for studying psychoactive drug use, the largest library of its kind.

Following Timothy Leary's 1970 imprisonment in California, Leary's wife Rosemary Woodruff contacted Horowitz and Barker about her husband's archive, which was in filing cabinets in the couple's garage. Woodruff, aware that Leary would likely try to escape prison, wanted to ensure the archive's safety (due to the government's surveillance of Leary's activities), met with Horowitz and Barker in May 1970 and the two agreed to take custody of Leary's papers.

After Leary's escape from prison, Horowitz communicated with Leary through a post office box, receiving letters under the name "Bodhisattva." Although the United States government was very interested in investigating Leary and his associates, it was not until 1975 that the FBI seized the archive when Leary's wife Joanna Harcourt Smith and FBI agents arrived at Horowitz's home to remove the archives. Horowitz, in his grand jury testimony, declared the neutrality of archivists and importance of archival work. In response to the seizure, he formed the Archival Reality Committee Advocating the Neutrality of Archivists (ARCANA) and circulated the Archivist's Bill of Rights. After the government returned the archives, Horowitz remained Leary's archivist. His annotated bibliography of Timothy Leary was published in 1988.

## Scope and Content Note

The Michael Horowitz collection on Timothy Leary was created and maintained by Horowitz. Much of the correspondence and other writings are attributed to Leary. The collection documents Leary's relationship with his archivist and Horowitz's role as archivist, especially after the Leary archives were seized by the FBI. Overall, the files demonstrate Horowitz's care in maintaining the collection.

The majority of the correspondence is with Horowitz, Rosemary Woodruff, Allen Ginsberg, Robert Barker, Robert Anton Wilson, B.H. Friedman, and Wayne Benner.

Writings include those by Leary (many are original typescripts with annotations by Leary) and reflections by Horowitz on how he got involved with the archives, the events surrounding the seizure, the history of the archives, and notes on his interactions with Leary including visits to prison and Switzerland. Horowitz's Archivist's Bill of Rights and ARCANA (Archival Reality Conference Advocating Neutrality of Archivists) reflect his opinion on the professional ethics of archivists.

One of Leary's earliest writings, written in 1932 at age twelve, is a list of his ambitions located in box 1; in 1983 Leary checked off the items he had accomplished. His other writings include "Neurologic," "7 Liberations," "7 Oppressions," and "The Periodic Table of Energy" and various published and unpublished drafts from the 1980s. Horowitz's Timothy Leary bibliography project and Leary's *Chaos and Cyberculture* are well-represented with multiple drafts, notes, and correspondence.

A grouping of materials pertains to Leary's ideas on futuristic migration to space, specifically files on Starseed, Terra II, and the CHIP project. Two small silicon chips imprinted with a binary code message from higher intelligence, "The Starseed Transmission" are located in box 1.

There is one photo album in box 8 containing mostly personal photos of Leary, Horowitz, and their families. Boxes 14 to 16 contain clippings about Leary from mainstream and underground publications; Horowitz arranged these in chronological order by year. Other materials compiled by Horowitz include posters, flyers, and ephemera.

A detailed listing of items included in the collection can be found as an Additional Resource.

**Arrangement:** The collection is loosely organized into four sections based on Horowitz's description of the materials.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Archives -- Administration  
Archives -- Political aspects  
Freedom of information -- United States

### **Occupations**

Archivists  
Bibliographers

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Bibliographies  
Clippings (information artifacts)  
Correspondence  
Photographs  
Printed ephemera  
Writings

### **Names**

Horowitz, Michael, 1938-  
Leary, Timothy, 1920-1996 -- Archives  
Leary, Timothy, 1920-1996  
Archival Reality Committee Advocating the Neutrality of Archivists (ARCANA)

## Container List

### Manuscripts and Typescripts

#### Writings by Leary

Arranged in chronological order.

- b. 1 f. 1 1932, 1960s, 1983
- b. 1 f. 2 *The Psychedelic Experience* 1964-1989  
Legal.
- b. 1 f. 3 "Psychedelic Experience" LP Liner Notes circa 1966
- b. 1 f. 4 Magical Mystery Tour circa 1968
- b. 1 f. 5 "Turning Off: Silence and Void" circa 1968-1969
- b. 1 f. 6 "How Young White America Regained Its Soul" 1969-1970
- b. 1 f. 7 Four Humors Chart circa 1970s
- b. 1 f. 8 "Live and Let Live" circa 1970  
From *You Can Be Anyone* LP.
- b. 1 f. 9 "Joujouka" circa 1970  
Part 2 of the "Four Thousand Year Old Rock and Roll Band."
- b. 1 f. 10 "Willie Madden" circa 1970
- b. 1 f. 11 Leary's Prison Writings 1970
- b. 1 f. 12-13 7 Liberations / Oppressions 1971
- b. 1 f. 14-15 Terra II / Starseed Transmission / CHIP 1973-1976  
Two silicon chips. One is an imperfect prototype in gold leaf; the second is printed in black and white, on a thicker chip.
- b. 1 f. 16 "Kidnapped From Afghanistan" 1974
- b. 1 f. 17 *Neurologic* circa 1974-1975  
Drafts. One is in German.
- b. 2 f. 1-2 Periodic Table of Energy 1974-1975  
Photocopy of edited draft. Original hand-drawn chart.
- b. 2 f. 3-4 *Flashbacks* 1979-1983  
Research, correspondence, outline.
- b. 2 f. 5 "After the Sober, Serious, Safe and Sane '70's, Let Us Welcome the Return of LSD" 1980
- b. 2 f. 6 "The Unreported Rape of Irving Katz" 1981  
Three versions.
- b. 2 f. 7 "Tambimuttu Shines On" 1983
- b. 2 f. 8 "The Joy of Pornography" 1983-1984
- b. 2 f. 9 "The Fundamentalist Christian Version of the Bible According to Dr. Spock"  
circa 1984
- b. 2 f. 10 "Mary Pinchot Meyer Was a Run-Away CIA Wife and the Last Love of Jack Kennedy's Life; Why Was She Murdered?" circa 1984
- b. 2 f. 11 "Personal Computers Personal Freedom" 1984
- b. 2 f. 12 "Superbooks" Interactive Software 1984
- b. 2 f. 13 "For Allen Ginsberg" 1984
- b. 2 f. 14 Authors/Designers of Personalized Books / "The Interactive Book" 1984  
Regarding very highly interactive software.

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Writings by Leary (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 15 "Humanist Computers: Psychoactive Software for Self-Development" 1984
- b. 2 f. 16 "Interplay" 1984
- b. 2 f. 17 "Amazing Event at CBS Evening News" 1985
- b. 2 f. 18 "Happy Holidays to Stacy Keach" 1985
- b. 2 f. 19 "Cyber-Sex: The Electronic Interface" 1985  
Early draft of "Digital Activation of the Erotic Brain."
- b. 2 f. 20 "The Drug of the 80's" 1985  
MDMA.
- b. 2 f. 21 "The Place of Dead Roads" 1985  
Leary's review.
- b. 3 f. 1 "Hippies Then, Yuppies Now -- What Will These Darn Kids Do Next" 1985
- b. 3 f. 2 "Psy-Phy" circa 1986
- b. 3 f. 3 "Herman Hesse: Prophet of the Information Age" circa 1986
- b. 3 f. 4 "Operation Sex Change" circa 1986
- b. 3 f. 5 "Pornography Is Good, Scornography Is Bad" 1986
- b. 3 f. 6 "Twenty-Two Common-Sense Alternatives to Involuntary Death" 1988  
Inscribed by Leary to Horowitz.
- b. 3 f. 7 "The Eternal Antidote to Fascism" 1989  
Inscribed by Leary to Horowitz.
- b. 3 f. 8 "Men We Love," "Hardliners," "Buy American" 1989  
Inscribed by Leary to Horowitz.
- b. 3 f. 9 "Criminalizing the Natural" [1980s]  
Inscribed by Leary to Horowitz.
- b. 3 f. 10 "Battle of the Generations" [1980s]  
Originally titled "Battle of the Teenagers."  
*Chaos and Cyberculture*
- b. 3 f. 11-16 Drafts, Outlines, Notes 1994-1995
- b. 4 f. 1-11 Proofs, Reviews, Notes, Correspondence, Rejected Material, Schedule,  
Outline 1993-1995
- b. 5 f. 1-15 Drafts, Interviews
- b. 5 f. 16-19 *Psychedelic Prayers* 1996-1997  
Proofs, drafts, and correspondence.
- b. 6 f. 1-2 *Psychedelic Prayers* 1996-1997  
Proofs, drafts, and correspondence.
- b. 6 f. 3 *Design for Dying* 1997
- b. 6 f. 4 "The Hashish Club"  
Annotated by Leary.
- b. 6 f. 5 Manuscripts Added
- b. 6 f. 6 John Lennon and Yoko Ono circa 1969  
"Heroes of the Sixties" transcript of conversation between Leary, Rosemary Woodruff Leary,  
John Lennon, and Yoko Ono.
- b. 6 f. 7 Letters to the Editor 1970s-1990s  
Edited typescripts written by Leary.
- b. 6 f. 8 Leary Book Proposals
- b. 6 f. 9 TV Show -- "Leary Alive" 1983

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 10 Speech Before Boston Ad Club 1984  
Transcript.
- b. 6 f. 11 Interview -- LSD Symposium 1977
- b. 6 f. 12 *Interview with Gnostica* 1979
- b. 6 f. 13 Unpublished Interview 1970s  
Note made by Horowitz "Probably with Peter Stafford."
- b. 6 f. 14-16 Miscellaneous 1968-1972  
Includes astrology and Millbrook-related items.

Correspondence written by, to, or about Leary

- b. 7 f. 1-2 Letters between Horowitz and Leary 1970-1975
- b. 8 f. 1-5 Letters between Horowitz and Leary 1971-1995
  - b. 8 f. 6 Rosemary Woodruff Leary 1970-2002
  - b. 8 f. 7 Letters to Willy (Bill Scanlon?)  
Mostly photocopies of letters written by Leary from 1936 to 1941.
- b. 8 f. 8-9 Letters to Leary / Letters from Leary 1945-1996
- b. 9 f. 1-4 Ginsberg, Allen 1962-1991

Photographs and Ephemera

- b. 9 f. 5-6 Photo Album 1964-1996  
Photographs of Leary, Horowitz, and family. Some ephemera.
- b. 9 f. 7 Photographs 1978  
University of California Irvine talk.
- b. 9 f. 8-10 Flyers and Ephemera 1960s-1990s
  - b. 24 Ephemera and Miscellaneous 1960s-1990s
- b. 9 f. 11 Publishing Matters 1970-1974
- b. 9 f. 12 College Note and Texts 1970-1971
- b. 9 f. 13 Douglas Book Corporation 1969-1971
- b. 10 f. 1-2 Auction Catalogs 1997-1998  
Christie's and Sotheby's.

*An Annotated Bibliography of Timothy Leary*

- b. 10 f. 3 Book Catalogs
- b. 10 f. 4 Bibliography Styles
- b. 10 f. 5 Publishers' Addresses
- b. 10 f. 6 Correspondence 1980-1985
- b. 10 f. 7 Films, Records, Tapes
- b. 10 f. 8-10 Notes and Correspondence circa 1984
- b. 10 f. 11 Requests for Bibliography 1983-1987
- b. 10 f. 12 Introduction  
Drafts.
- b. 10 f. 13 Clippings and Correspondence 1970-1986
  - b. 11 f. 1 Draft of Last Additions 1987
- b. 11 f. 2-3 Publisher Replies 1981-1987  
Queries sent to publishers who had published works by Leary.
- b. 11 f. 4-5 Related Items 1970s-1980s

Photographs and Ephemera (cont.)  
An Annotated Bibliography of Timothy Leary (cont.)

- b. 11 f. 6-8 Illustrations
- b. 11 f. 9 Incomplete Entries and Notes 1980s
- b. 12 f. 1 Published Copy of the Book 1988
- b. 12 f. 2 Miscellaneous Notes, Correspondence, and Fragments of Drafts 1970s-1980s
- b. 12 f. 3-4 Notecards
- b. 12 f. 5-7 Drafts [1980s]  
Drafts contain many edits and annotations.
- b. 13 f. 1-6 Drafts 1983, 1987  
Drafts contain many edits and annotations.
- b. 13 f. 7 Lists
- b. 13 f. 8 Book Catalog Descriptions of Leary's Works
- b. 13 f. 9 Queries  
Queries sent to publishers who had published works by Leary.
- b. 13 f. 10 Additions  
Notes.
- b. 14 f. 1 Publishers and Proposals 1983-1984
- b. 14 f. 2-3 Miscellaneous 1970s-1980s
- b. 14 f. 4 Robert Greenfield -- Leary Biography 1996-1997  
Clippings
- b. 14 f. 5 Metzner, Ralph 1967-2005
- b. 14 f. 6 West Point
- b. 15 f. 1-13 1961-1974
- b. 16 f. 1-8 1975-1980
- b. 17 f. 1-9 1981-1999
- Miscellaneous
- b. 18 f. 1-2 Bay Area Prose Poets Phalanx 1971  
Includes Declaration of Independence for Dr. Timothy Leary.
- b. 18 f. 3 "Festschrift for Timothy Leary" 1974
- b. 18 f. 4-7 "Apologia for Timothy Leary" 1973-1974  
Includes a version of Leary's CV written by Horowitz.
- b. 19 f. 1-2 "Prison and Exile" 1969-1971  
Book project about Leary's history compiled by Horowitz and Barker.
- b. 19 f. 3 Friedman, B.H 1961-1965  
Correspondence.
- b. 19 f. 4 Leary Archives Seizure 1974-1975
- b. 19 f. 5-6 Grand Jury 1975-1976  
Includes draft of Horowitz's testimony.
- b. 19 f. 7 Leary and the FBI 1973-1975  
Clippings.
- b. 19 f. 8 Robert Barker's Notes 1970s?
- b. 19 f. 9-11 ARCANA (Archival Reality Committee Advocating the Neutrality of Archivists) 1974-1976  
An Archivist's Bill of Rights.

Miscellaneous (cont.)

- b. 19 f. 12 Wesley Hiler/Leary Controversy 1974-1976  
Vacaville.
- b. 20 f. 1 FBI Copies of Letters  
Most have FBI annotations (looking for clues re: Leary's prison escape Sept. 1970).
- b. 20 f. 2 Legal Issues 1966-1976
- b. 20 f. 3 Harvard Research 1961-1963
- b. 20 f. 4 IFIF (International Federation for Internal Freedom) 1962-1963
- b. 20 f. 5 Castalia 1965
- b. 20 f. 6 League for Spiritual Discovery 1969
- b. 20 f. 7 Stanley, Owsley 1967-1972  
Clippings.
- b. 20 f. 8 Weather Underground 1970s, 2000
- b. 20 f. 9 BEL (Brotherhood of Eternal Love) 1969-1970s
- b. 20 f. 10 P.I.L.L. (People Investigating Leary's Lies) 1974
- b. 20 f. 11-12 Leary and the FBI 1974-1975
- b. 20 f. 13 CIA 1950s, 1970s
- b. 20 f. 14-15 Wake-Up for Timothy Leary 1975
- b. 20 f. 16 Starseed -- Office 1973-1974
- b. 20 f. 17-18 Joanna Harcourt Smith 1973-2000
- b. 20 f. 19 DNA Society 1973-1975
- b. 20 f. 20 Friends of Leary 1999
- b. 21 f. 1 Leary Memorial Volume 1996-1998
- b. 21 f. 2-3 Monographs on Leary 1970s-2000
- b. 21 f. 4-5 On Timothy Leary 1970s-2014  
Clippings.
- b. 21 f. 6-7 Wilson, Robert Anton 1964-1996
- b. 22 f. 1 Wilson, Robert Anton 1974  
Manuscript written by Wilson.
- b. 22 f. 2 Play About Leary 1970-2008
- b. 22 f. 3 "Start Your Own Religion, Timothy Leary, and the League for Spiritual  
Discovery" 2008  
Reed College thesis.
- b. 22 f. 4-7 Horowitz's Notebooks 1970-1975  
Notes about Leary projects; visits to prisons and Switzerland; Apologia; escape trial; and grand  
jury testimony.
- b. 23 f. 1-4 Horowitz's Writings on Leary 1970s-1990s
- b. 23 f. 5 Timothy Leary Archives Description 1977