

**The New York Public Library - Stephen A. Schwarzman Building  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Guide to the

**International Gay Information Center records**

1974-1989 (bulk 1979-1983)

MssCol 3695

Compiled by Lee Spilberg, February 2011

## **Summary**

**Creator:** International Gay Information Center

**Title:** International Gay Information Center records, 1974-1989 (bulk 1979-1983)

**Size:** 13.89 linear feet (17 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by International Gay Information Center, 1989; John Hammond and Bruce Eves, 2001.

**Abstract:** The International Gay Information Center (IGIC), founded in 1979 as the International Gay History Archive, had a mission to document the entire history of gay culture. Initially a committee of the Gay Activists Alliance, the IGIC collected books, periodicals, pamphlets, newsletters, press releases, and ephemera related in any way to gay rights, history, or culture. The IGIC records, spanning 1974-1989 (bulk dates 1979-1983), include correspondence, minutes, financial and office material, checklists of periodicals, and card files enumerating the published books collected by the IGIC.

**Access:** Advance notice required. Apply at <http://www.nypl.org/mssref>

**Preferred citation:** International Gay Information Center records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

## **Processing note**

1989 donation processed by John Stinson. 2001 additions processed and integrated into the existing collection by Lee Spilberg.

## **Related collections**

International Gay Information Center (IGIC) Collection. .Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

John Hammond and Bruce Eves papers. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

## **Creator history**

The International Gay Information Center (IGIC) began as a project of the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), intended to document the entire history of gay culture. Aware that the discipline of gay studies was controversial, the Gay Activists Alliance noted the absence of a comprehensive collection of gay-themed material for academic and general use. Earlier attempts to build a similar archive, including one that the

National Gay Archive and Library Committee intended to be housed in the New York Public Library, had been unsuccessful. In 1979, GAA board members John Hammond and Bruce Eves were charged with collecting everything they could find on the subject, with the project initially titled the International Gay History Archive (IGHA).

The IGHA included books, periodicals, pamphlets, newsletters, press releases, and ephemera related in any way to gay rights, history, or culture. The Archive collected historical material as well as contemporary items. From the beginning, the IGHA fulfilled its dual mandate as an academic repository and a public resource. Duplicates and copies of parts of the collection were provided to libraries and other archives for research purposes, while pamphlets and other widely available items were sent, free of charge, to interested members of the public.

The GAA disbanded in 1981, but the IGHA continued independently of its parent organization with Hammond and Eves, assisted by volunteers, maintaining the Archive. In 1982, the International Gay History Archive became a subsidiary of the newly incorporated International Gay Information Center, but continued its mission unabated. In 1989, the IGIC donated its entire holdings to the New York Public Library.

### **Scope and content note**

The International Gay Information Center organizational records include correspondence, minutes, financial and office material, checklists of periodicals, and card files enumerating the published books collected by the IGIC. The records span 1974-1989, but the bulk of the records date from the early years of the organization, when it was known as the International Gay History Archive.

The correspondence is arranged chronologically in some cases, and by subject in others. There are several folders of requests for the pamphlet entitled "20 Questions About Homosexuality," with many of the requests detailing the life circumstances of the person making the request.

The card files comprise a catalog of published books collected by the IGIC, with author and title cards interfiled. The last two boxes include an additional set of subject cards.

### **Key terms**

#### **Subjects**

Gays -- Archives

Gays -- History

Homosexuality -- History

#### **Names**

Eves, Bruce

Gay Activists Alliance

Hammond, John, 1937-2004

International Gay History Archive

International Gay Information Center

## Container list

- b.1 f.1 Board of Trustees minutes; by-laws
  - Correspondence
- b.1 f.2 1974-1983
- b.1 f.3 1981
- b.1 f.4-5 1982
- b.1 f.6 1983
- b.1 f.7 1984
- b.2 f.1 1985
- b.2 f.2 Archive exchanges
- b.2 f.3 Thanks from researchers
- b.2 f.4-8 "20 Questions About Homosexuality" requests, 1982-1983
- b.3 f.1-2 Eves, Bruce
  - b.3 f.3 Financial records
  - b.3 f.4 Grants / Fundraising
  - b.3 f.5 Memoranda
  - b.3 f.6 Network Party project
  - b.3 f.7 Oral History project
- Periodicals
- b.4 f.1-4 Checklists
- b.4 f.5 Lists
- b.5 f.1 Stationery
- b.5 f.2 Tax exempt status
- b.5 f.3 Video
- b.5 f.4 Volunteers
- b.5 f.5 Miscellany
- b.6-17 Card File