Inventory

Acc.12766

Bob Orr

National Library of Scotland
Manuscripts Division
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1EW
Tel: 0131-466 2812
Fax: 0131-466 2811
E-mail: manuscripts@nls.uk

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Correspondence, publications and papers of Robert W. Orr (Bob Orr)
1974 – 1994
Fonds
5 boxes containing 32 folders

The collection consists of correspondence and pamphlets, 1980s, relating to
the setting up of the bookshops Lavender Menace, West & Wilde and Open
Gaze and the personal papers of Bob Orr who co-owned and ran Lavender
Menace on Forth Street (1982-1987) which changed premises and became
West and Wilde on Dundas Street (1987-c.1994). Bob Orr while still working
at ‘First of May’ on Candlemaker Row – a politically left wing bookshop which
stocked LGBT materials - began trading under ‘Lavender Books’ with
business partner and co-owner of ‘Lavender Menace’ Sigrid Nielson and later
through ‘Open Gaze’ (which closed in 1981) – a Gay and Feminist books
collective (5-8) which was housed in the SHRG Edinburgh Centre on
Broughton Street.

The collection contains a large volume of business papers, in particular
promotional materials – posters, flyers, book listings, drafts and originals of
promotional materials (7-8), (11), (14-18), (21-26) – which were likely used in
both bookshops and bookselling ventures. The collection also includes
incomplete and infrequent financial records for the company – cash flow
charts, invoices, sales charts, minutes of meetings, business plans and
projects (5-6), (9-10), (12-13), (19-20).

Also included in the collection are ‘Scottish Homosexual Right Group papers’
(1-2) previously ‘Scottish Minorities Group’ (1) which includes general meeting
minutes, campaign publications and promotional materials and drafts for sub-
group committees for which Bob Orr was heavily involved.

The collection also contains a small series of personal papers relating to a fire
at Raymond Rose and Bob Orr’s home at 77 Cumberland (31), Margaret Orr’s
Estate papers (32) and miscellaneous personal papers. Also contained is an
offer of engagement from BBC Scotland to appear on the programme ‘The
Usual Suspects’ to “…discuss feminist magazines.” (32).

Further materials relating to SHRG and SMG papers can be found at London
University: London School of Economics Library, Archives Division (Hall-
Carpenter Archives) as well as the Ian Dunn Archive (Files GD467) housed at
the National Archives of Scotland as well as the National Library of Scotland
as part of the Ian Dunn Papers Acc. 11905.

The collection has been arranged into three series which reflect Bob Orr’s
political engagement with SMG which became SHRG (1-4) and his business
engagements such as his co-ownership of the trading company ‘Lavender
Books’ and the bookshops ‘Lavender Menace’ and ‘West and Wilde’, and his
Personal Papers, which include personal financial papers relating to Margaret
Orr’s Estate and a fire on 17 July 1992 at their home at 77 Cumberland
Street. Also included in personal papers are correspondence addressed to
Raymond Rose. The arrangement of which is outlined below:
5-8 Open Gaze and First of May Papers, 1979-1982.
12-18 Lavender Menace, 1974-c.1990s
19-26 West and Wilde, 1983-1994

No further accruals to this series are expected.

Duplicates have been weeded.

Collection mainly containing papers in good condition.

Restricted access to Files 18 and 26 due to Data Protection Act.

An inventory with descriptions of each file’s content is available.

Description based on ISAD (G). Finding aid created – February 2011.

Presented April - June 2007


1. ‘Scottish Minorities Group’ Edinburgh Branch papers: Constitution 1977, Sub-Group statements and proposals with amendments also included are SHRG working party reports and papers n.d., correspondence and notes relating to Bob Orr involvement in both SMG and SHRG 1979, reports and questionnaires relating to LGBT issues 1979.


4. Campaign and political materials relating to LGBT issues with drafts and notes; including stickers, publications, posters and an outsized poster c. 1980 (part placed outsized at 10/82 (7) Shelf 2).


Financial Papers


Publications and Promotional Materials


8. ‘Open Gaze’ promotional publications: draft copies and originals of promotional publication materials, c.1980, including an outsized poster for ‘First of May’ (part placed outsized at 10/82 (7) Shelf 2)

Financial Papers


Promotional Materials


Financial Papers


Promotional Materials and Listings


18. Correspondence and non-‘Lavender Menace’ publications relating to LGBT organisations and events 1974-c.1990’s, with a large volume of materials dating 1983, outsized Poster “4 International Gay Camp” (part placed outsized at 10/82 (7) Shelf 2). \textit{DPA principles apply}.


Financial Papers


Promotional Materials and Listings


27-29 **Research and Publications relating to Bookselling and LGBT issues, 1977-1993.**


30–32 **Personal Papers, 1992-1994.**
