



Transgender Archives

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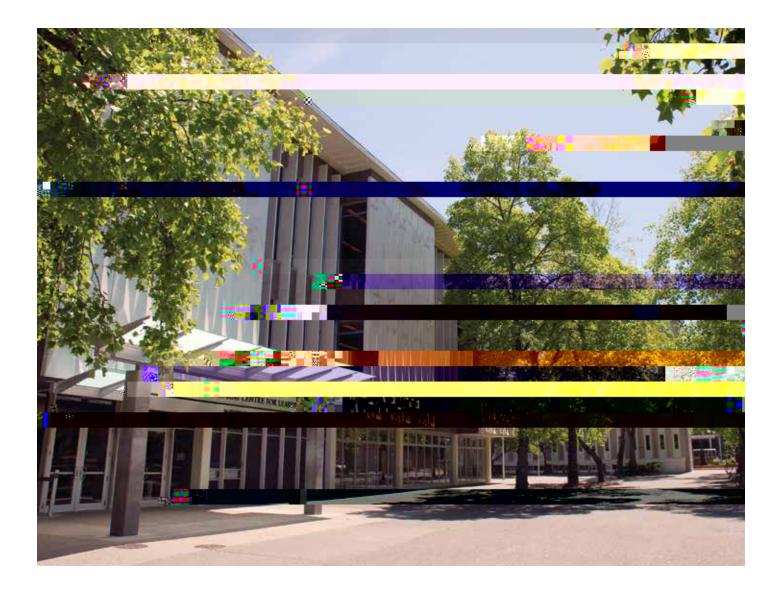
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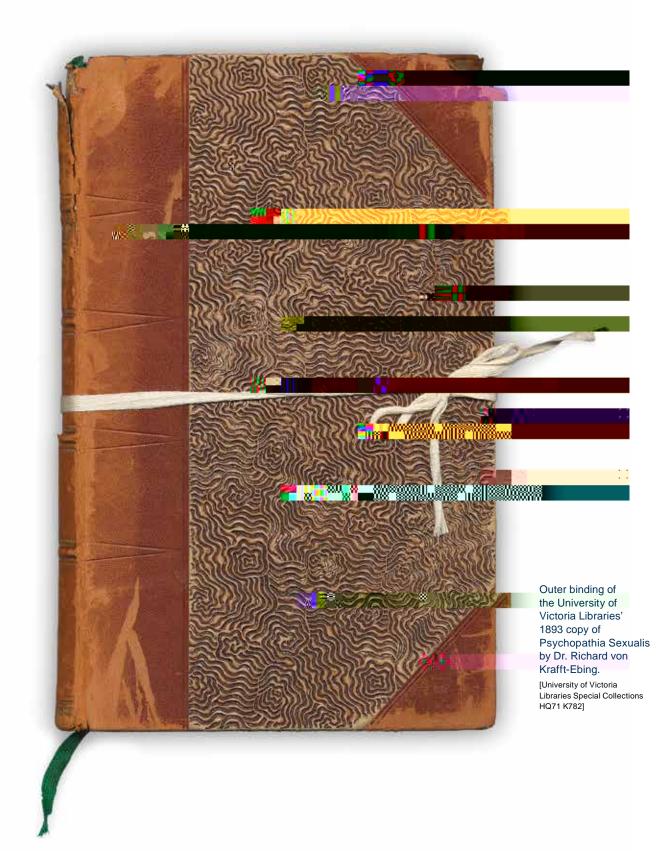
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 Jonathan Bengtson
 University Librarian, University of Victoria Libraries
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Within this context there are opportunities to rethink what makes a great library "great." One way of doing so is to highlight the value of the collections, such as the Transgender Archives, that differentiate individual institutions. Collections of unique materials have always been of intense interest, as they are essential animating forces in the life cycle of teaching, research and learning within universities. Yet, not every library approaches their collections in a similar manner. In the following pages, Lara Wilson notes that our archives "would be nothing without people to use them." This is the approach that we take to heart at the University of Victoria Libraries. We want our a



Introduction Lara Wilson

trans-, prefix

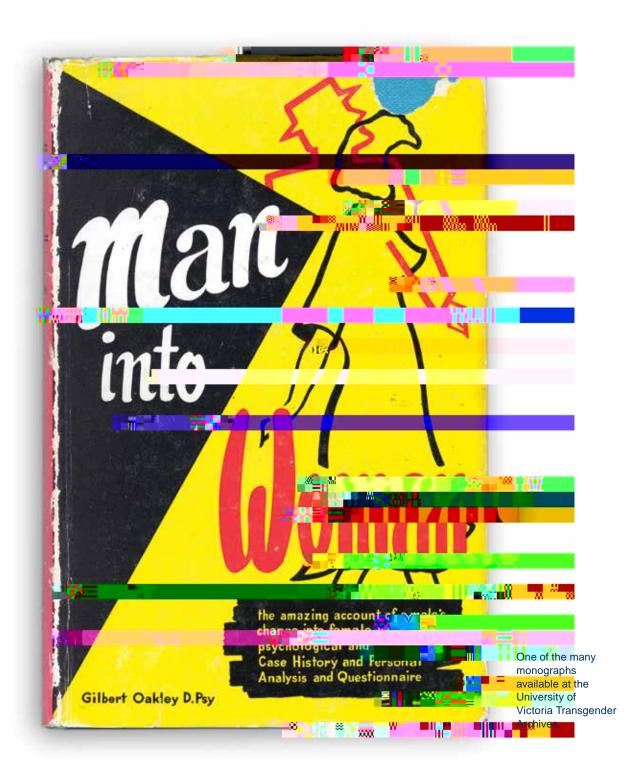
With the sense 'across, through, over, to or on the other side of, beyond, outside of, from one place, person, thing, or state to another'

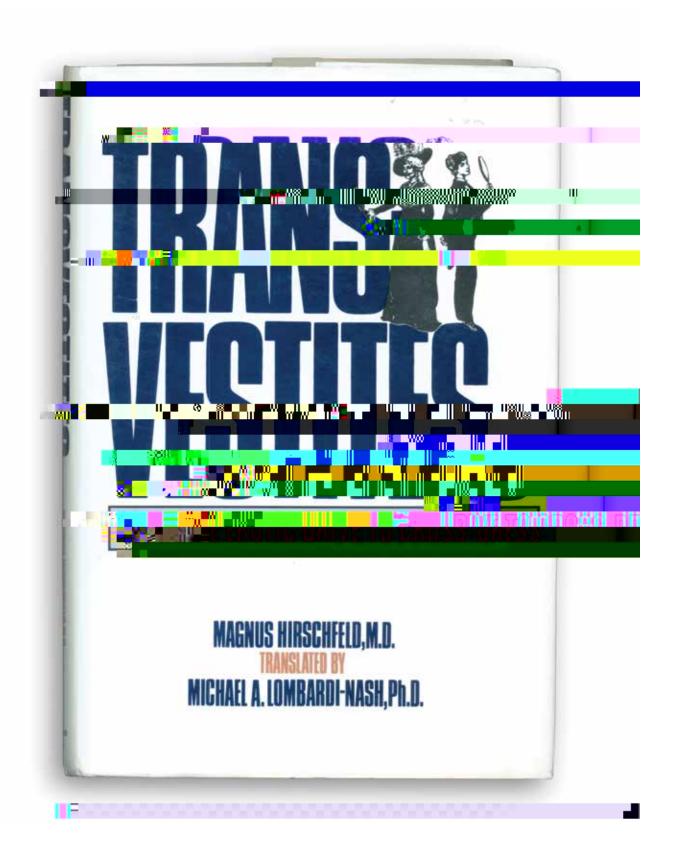
- The Oxford English Dictionary

the founding of the transgender archives

has been transformative for the University of Victoria, its students and researchers and, hopefully, for trans* communities and their allies. As the Director of Special Collections and the University Archivist, the addition of this important resource to the University of Victoria Libraries has also been a transform ative experience for me, since I have not only been entrusted with its safe-keeping, but in making the material available to the world. I am honoured and feel fortunate to be involved in this work, and in the estab lishment of the world's largest archives of materials documenting the lives and actions of individuals and

as archivists are about their calling, sometimes we need to do a better job about explaining what we do, and why. As we engage with community members about the Transgender Archives, it is wise to remember that archives mean different things to different people: personal information and collective identity, documents and old books, memories and evidence,





TRANSGENDER?

hroughout the globalized world, the word transgender has been increasingly linguistically shortened, and conceptually expanded, into the term trans*. While we at the University of Victoria Trans gender Archives recognize that diverse cultures have their own ways and words for understanding gender, we needed a way to describe what we do that would be widely intelligible. The word transgender means a lot of things to a lot of people. To some people, it is a core identity that gives meaning to who they are-a kind of life line that gives them a feeling of reality, that allows them to feel that they can be seen. For some people, transgender is a vague and meaningless category that, in trying to include so many people under its umbrella, really says nothing at all. For some, transgender implies erasure because it homogenizes identities. For others, it is a colonialist imposition. For still others, it is already an archaic concept that painfully confines and restricts. These different approaches reflecting 1, opposite and above: Originally important ongoing debates within a vibrant and healthy community, and ublished in German as Die Transvestiten they are unlikely to be resolved any time soon.

Wishing to be inclusive, we have used a broad definition of transgender when deciding what historical records belong in our archives. We started with materials from North America and Europe, and aspire to expand outwards to other parts of the world only to the degree that people feel comfortable entrusting their historical records to our safekeeping.

Our archival collections include records of people and organizations who have worked for the betterment of those people whose gender expression, or gender identity, falls outside of stereotypically binary-gen der expectations. Thus, we include in our purview records pertaining to people with transsexual identities or histories, transgender-identified

in 1910, the Transgender Archives' copy of Magnus Hirschfield's Transvestitesanslated

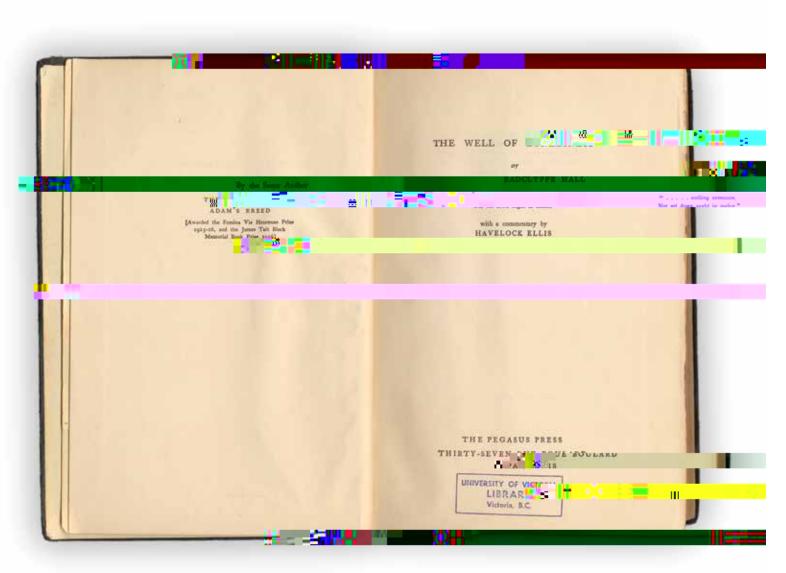
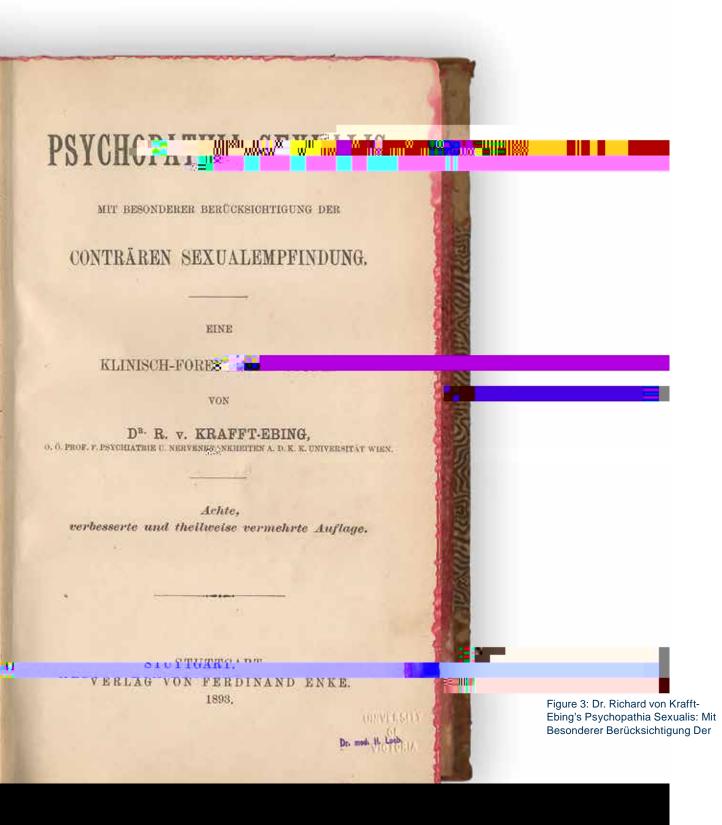


Figure 2: The University of Victoria Libraries owns several copies of The Well of Loneliness by Radclyffe Hall. This first edition from 1928 is housed in Special Collections.

[University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections PR6015 A33W4]







MAN INTO WOMAN

An Authentic Record of a Change of Sex

The true story of the Danish painter kaculous transformation of the Danish painter Einar Wegener (Andreas Sparre)

Edited by NIELS HOYER

Translated from the German by H. J. STENNING

Introduction by NORMAN HAIRE, Ch.M., M.B.

With 25 Illustrations

JARROLDS Publishers LONDON Limited 34 Paternoster Row E.C.4 MCMEXEXIII

> Figure 4: Title page of Man Into Woman: An Authentic Record of a Change of Sex by Niels Hoyer, 1933. [University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections RC883 E4313]

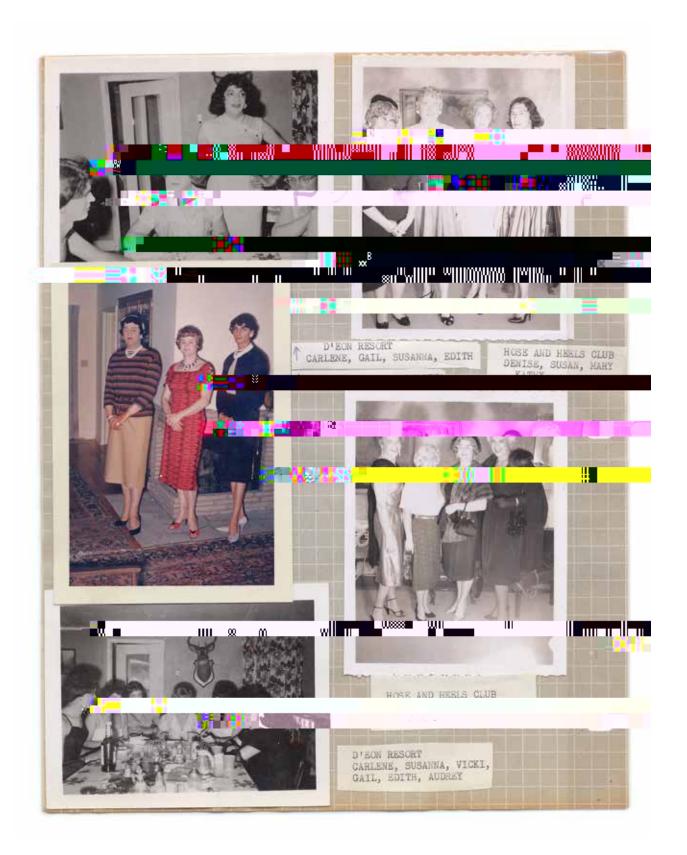
Figure 5: A photocopied page from the 1968 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association, showing the definition of transvestism. This page has been high -18.5((u)-4.5(al)1r1(t)-8.1(10()9gu)]T(h)-rgs b)-8.1ye Aaron eoae iparf Sexology in Berlin, where the first genital sex realignments were attempt ed during the 1920s. The first complete transformation was on a trans

to be obscene. For trans* people, locating others of similar minds was fraught with possibilities for public disgrace and punishment.

The overwhelming reality for trans* people during most of the 20th century was profound isolation, secrecy, silence, and shame. Almost uni versally, trans* individuals felt that they were the only ones in the whole



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under the Chevalier imprint [ig. 9, page 1]3 as well as an extensive array of her personal papers, correspondence, and memorabilia.

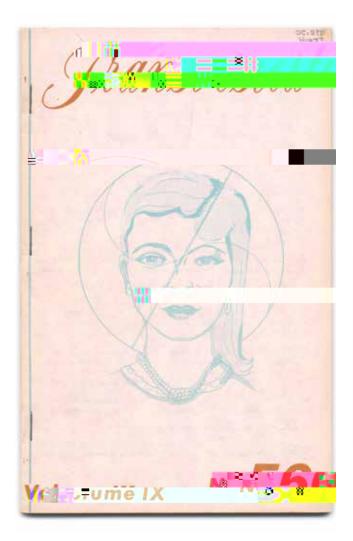










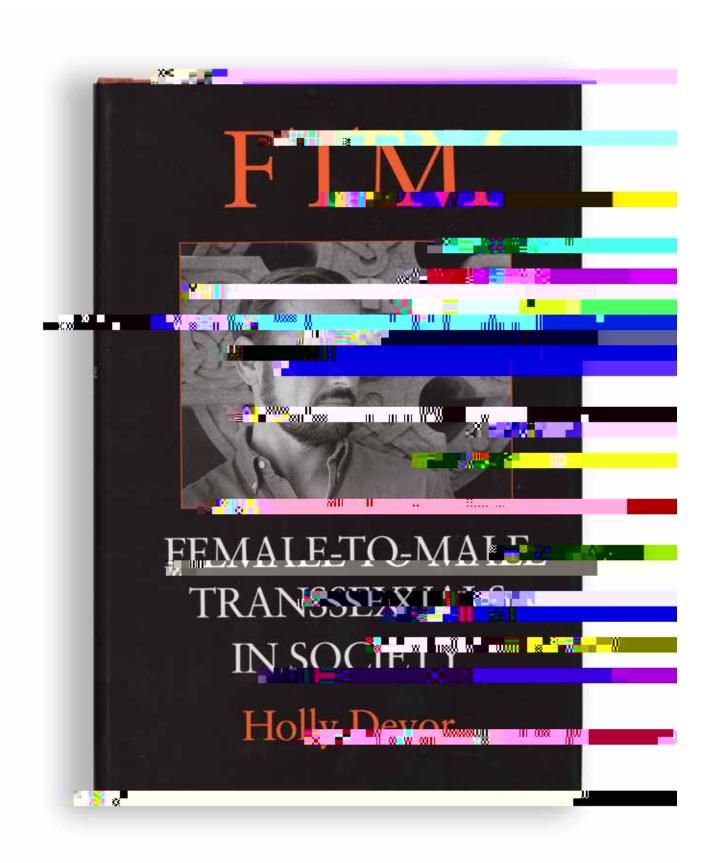
Figure 10: The University of Victoria Transgender Archives holds a full run of Transvestjårom 1960 to 1986, including the first issue, pictured on the facing page. [University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections HQ77 T73]





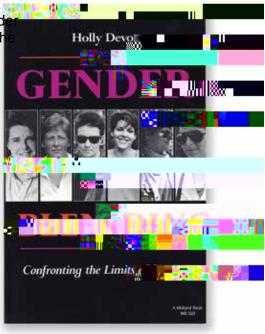






III. THE ORIGINS OF THE TRANSGENDER ARCHIVES

In some ways, I have been laying the groundwork for the Transgend Archives at the University of Victoria for thirty years. In other ways, th



When Rikki came to the west coast in early 2003, considering a relo cation to Victoria, she contacted me for a visit. When she moved to Vic toria later that year, we began a friendship. During the summer of 2005, chatting amiably over lunch, I asked Rikki what was the status of the rsi. She told me she was contemplating relocating it to Victoria and was looking at possible real estate locations to purchase or rent. I asked her if she might consider donafn5(he)-.5(o3-2.2(n s)1)13.9(i)0.6(e fo)3.7(r a 3)10.y(u)10.3(mt)4.8(i)5.9(o)3.7(n t)11.3(

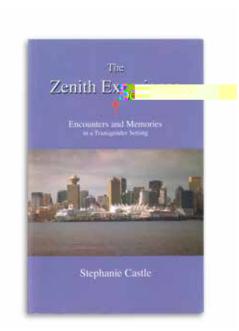
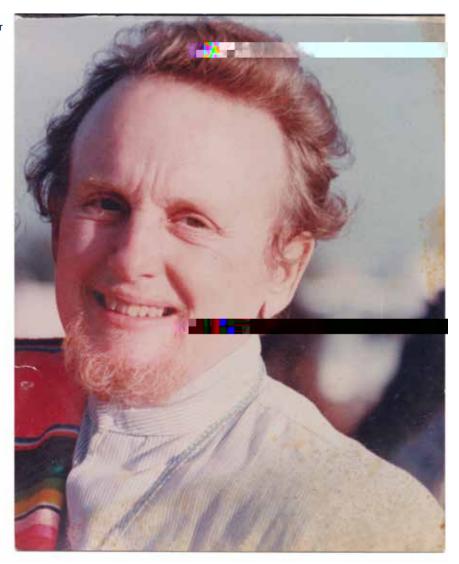


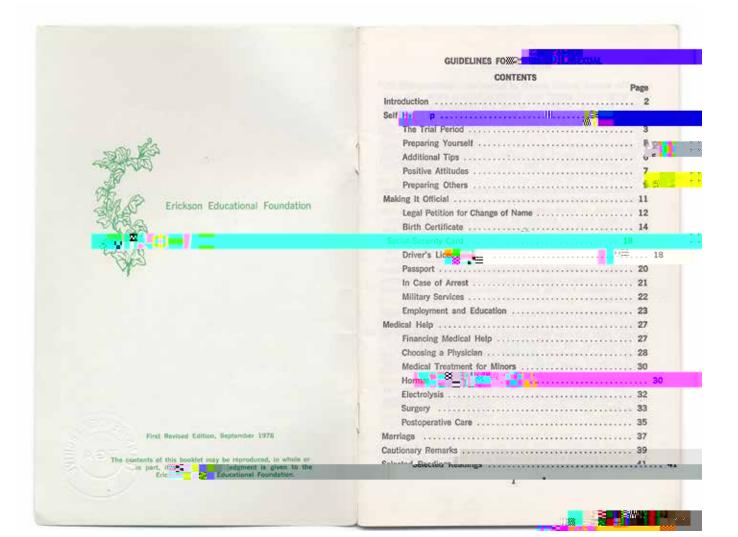


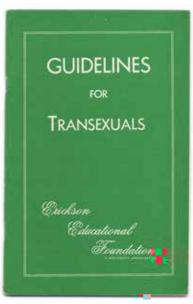


Figure 14, this page: Reed Erickson, founder of the Erickson Educational foundation. In the photograph on the top right, Erickson is seen dancing with his second wife, Evangelina Trujillo Armendez Erickson.

Opposite page: A publication from the Erickson Educational Foundation from 1976, Guidelines for Transexuals [University of Victoria Transgender Archives]









past two years I've watched him build a longstanding interest in visual expression into a serious career as a professional photographic artist.

Loren was born in Pasadena, California in 1959. He spent his adolescence in rural Arkansas. When he was 12, just at the start of that adolescence, he wrote to the Janus Information Facility (whose resources now Loren works to reside with AEGIS in Atlant ... A) to obtain composer himself, information on how to change use sets room in subjects oy giving female to male. "The onset of puberty was excruciating to me," Loren says. "It was torture." The information he received from Janus, then in San Francisco, was enough to tell him that he had to wait until he was older. I asked

him how he surveyed the intervenies years and Loren and the surveyed the surveyed to be added, "And a botch swagger, which I'm happy to say has diminished."

He was in his late 20's when he stopped using nicotine and marijuana and started bodybuilding. "That put me in my body and forced me to acknowledge the persistent body discomfort I'd been experiencing all my life," Loren says. He was 27 when he committed himself to transitioning. Through a friend of a friend he was able to contact Steve Dain, one of our community's pioneers who has counseled and helped so many of us, and Steve pointed Loren toward Lou, who was just getting the FTM group off the ground in 1987. Loren started hormones at age 28; he's now 36.

What motivated him to begin photographing transsexuals, including himself, was the frustration he felt at seeing us photographed by nontranssexuals who turned us into objects. His need to be understood and accepted as a fellow human being compelled him to use photography to educate people about what the transsexual experience means, about what we as individuals have to go through.

Loren's first exhibit, "Our Vision, Our

Artweek mugazines, and his photos have appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers (and this newsletterf). Using images and text, A) to obtain empower himself.god

voice to affirm our experiences, both our unique experience as transsexuals and our common experience

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of essence the strength and courage it takes for us, through an act of will, to reconstruct ourselves to become our real identities," Loren BAYS.

Loren's newest

NAME OF COMPANY

solo exhibition, "Body Alchemy" opens Monday, May 1, 1995 at 848 Community Space, 848 Divisidero (near Fulton)in San Francisco. An opening reception will be held that evening from 7 to 10 p.m., admission \$5.00. Readings by David Harrison, Susan Stryker 22 James Green will be performed and 2,200 an further information

Two other exhibits opening soon in the San Francisco area will feature Loren Cameron's work: "Our Lives: Negotiating Male Identity opened April 14 at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art and contains Loren's "New Man Series." Phone (408) 283-8155 for gallery

"Gods Will" a self-portrait by Loren Cameron, is part of his Body Alchemy photo exhibit.

> hours, location, and further information. The "Our Vision, Our Voices" series will be part of a group exhibit entitled "Reframing Exposure: Photo Technology and Body Memory" opening May 10 at the Richmond Art Center. An opening reception will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. 1 23

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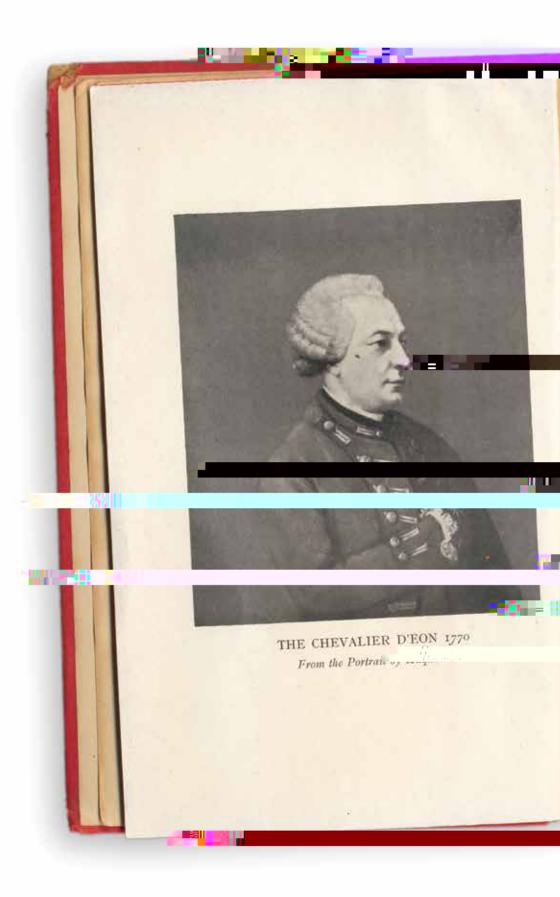
show slides of his work at the FTM Conference on Friday evening, August 18, during the opening session. As one reviewer said, "Loren's work literally stakes out new territory." Loren's powerful visual statements present us with a dignity and strength the public has never seen before. Let's hope they see more of it.

Over the next few years, I worked with University Archivist Lara Wil son and others, including historian Cameron Duder and library staff,



Figure 16, above and opposite: This first edition of Roberta Cowell's Story by Roberta Cowell (1954) was donated to the Transgender Archives by Richard Ekins. A duplicate circulating copy is also available through UVic Libraries. [University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections RC883 C6] When Ekins retired from the University of Ulster in 2010, he moved the collection to a climate-controlled mobile storage unit on his prop erty, where it remained until early 2013 when he approached me about donating it to the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria. After some negotiations, the collection was packed up at the end of May and five months later, in early November 2013, fifty-eight large boxes (130 cubic feet, 3.8 cubic meters) finally arrived at our doorstep.

IV. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COLLECTIONS



D'EON TREAD RELATIONUN HICALIER BY OCTAVE HOMBERG

PAPERS AND LETTERS BY OCTAVE HOMBERG AND FERNAND JOUSSELIN AND NOW TRANS LATED INTO ENGLISH BY ALTRED RIED

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RICHARD G. BADGER THE GORHAM PRESS BOSTON

> Figure 17: The University of Victoria Libraries holds multiple copies of D'eon de Beaumont, his life and timescluding this 1911 copy, donated by Richard Ekins. A duplicate circulating copy is also available.

> [University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections DC135 E6H6]

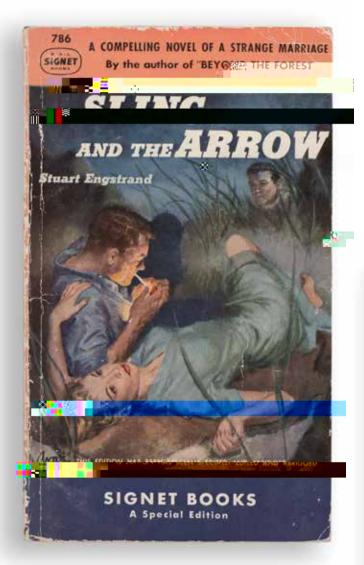


Figure 18: Two examples of the mass-produced pulp crossdresser fantasy fiction donated to the Transgender Archives by Richard Ekins. [University of Victoria Transgender Archives]



Ekins' typewritten annotations affixed to the inside covers, specifying their position in the Ulster archives cataloguing schema, and describing the nature of the transgender content.

Our book collection also includes many examples of male heterosexu al crossdresser fantasy fiction, spanning several decades and illustrating a range of publishing production values from low-budget "vanity press" books, to mass-produced pulp fiction, and high-quality limited editions [Fig. 18, page 28]

The Transgender Archives also includes a wide range of book-length publications from every decade of the 20th and 21st centuries reflecting almost every aspect of transgender life: history; psychology and counsel ling; literature, film, and the visual arts; law and politics; biography and autobiography; how-to manuals; health and medicine; sexuality; social services; education; and more. Many contemporary authors have provid ed us with autographed copies of their books. These are held in Special Coll-g8 he3.5(e)0.6heds,5(s)56e held 11.6(ml)]09d71mr pO3-9.Sp71.8(i)Me h0.5(a9)0.6(6 o)8.7(f t)0.2(he)6.e held



Figure 19, above and right: Through the



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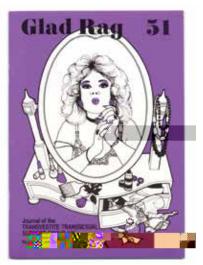
ducationa A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION VOL. 5 NO. 3 1973 INTERNATION The Third International Symposium on Gender A long-needed interdisciplinance meeting.co Identity spectared by the Erickson Educat Foundation will be held September 8-10, 1973, at usern scheduled for February 2-4, 1973, at Stanford the Hotel Libertas, Subrovnik, Yugoslavia. University Medical Center. In view of the importance The theme of the symposium will concern tran-sexualism and related problems of gender orientaof interchange of information and ideas as well as diagnostic and treatment coordination between medical practitioners and researchers in the field of this tion. Professionals who are interested in attending this meeting to a surgice and turner intor-office for preliminary measuration and turner intor-mation at an early date. Those who wish to present and be We wish 🛞 before M Re-U1 197 to submit abstracts in English Team for spearheading this co to the medical, psychiatric and 60 there will be workshoos to DESTINATION DUBROVNIK lems of the ______ wal-social, vocational, and psychological During his current trip sailing down the Adriatic Dr. Colin Markland of the University of Minnesota Transexual Research Project team is personally checking on the fact state Gender Identity Symposium. namoro oniversity school of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. 94305. The Hotel Libertas was opened in September 1971, located on the quiet Miramare slope, facing **IN JAPAN** the open sea, the old walled city of Dubrovnik and the island of Lokrum. The brochure illustrations and text are alluring. All accommodations have private Translation into Japanese of the information pamphlets on transexualism published by the Frick sunbathing terraces and has outdoor and independent vate beach as well as a sauna and a massage The city of Dubrovnik is a beautiful old historical Tokyo University Medical College. city. Its medieval fortresses, building so still intact and it is the most population International Symposium on Gender Witte BUDDING. on the southern Adriatic. enhagen, September, 1971, when he reported on HARRY BENJAMIN, M.D. ANNOUNCES the complete lack of understanding and the formation of Harry Benjamin P.C. (a Profession, Profession, Included Intenfeld, M.D., in Charge, IN CANADA Dr. Benjamin, pioneer researcher, practitioner and The establishment of a new organization, the Association for Canadian Transex us to the test of te author of TI Transexual Phenomenon (Julian Press. ve cess. EEF was invited to napticit a separate ber meeting in Toronto. Further information about know it is gratifying to him to observe the professional and public progress that his efforts have the group will appear in the next issue of this Newsgenerated, and in San Francisco this past summer as in New York, he has been continuing his const and coor wards and coor an letter. and conversite taking place. "CETers 33 Cecil Street, Toronto, Ontario. 20

Figure 21: One of the many newsletters from the EEF held at the University of Victoria Transgender Archives. This one is dated from 1972.

[University of Victoria Transgender Archives]

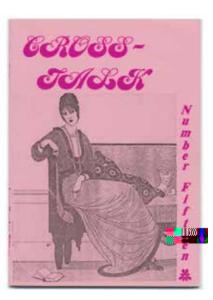
participation as an intervener in a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case

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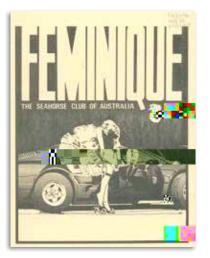


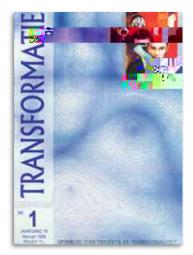












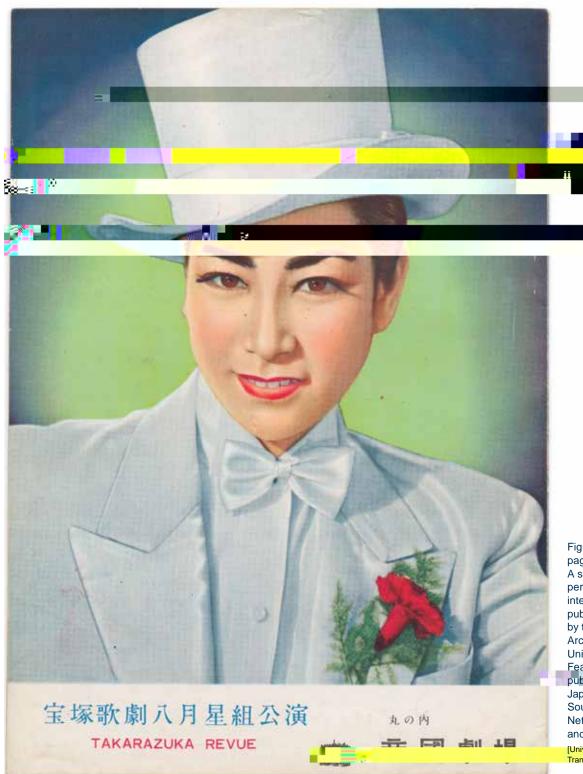


Figure 23, this page and opposite: A selection of periodicals and international publications held by the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria. Featured here are publications from Japan, Australia, South Africa, the Netherlands, and England. [University of Victoria

Transgender Archives]

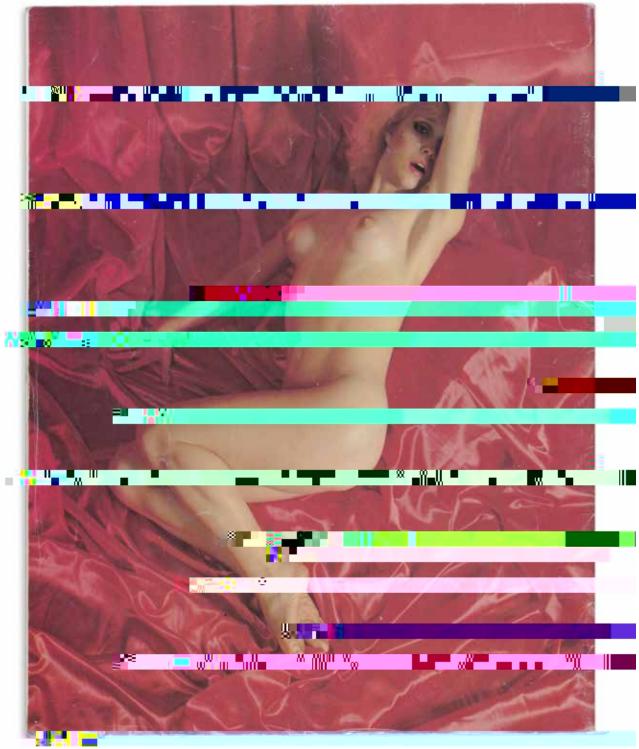


Figure 24: One example of the extensive collection of erotica held by the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria. [University of Victoria Transgender Archives] sexually explicit photographs for the purpose of sexual stimulation. The Transgender Archives holds an extensive collection of materials of this nature.

Multimedia

In addition to print media, the Transgender Archives holds a varied col lection of media representing and recording trans* experience. We have vhs or dvd copies of most mainstream cinema with transgender charac ters or references to crossdressing. We also hold vorsdvd copies of a range of low-budget, limited-edition specialty movies made for transgen der audiences, and those who are interested in transgender pedFile [25, page 3]8 Many of these were intended for educational purposes, and many were intended to be used for personal entertainment. We also hold

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Figure 25: A selection of some of the dvahd vhs movies available from the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria.

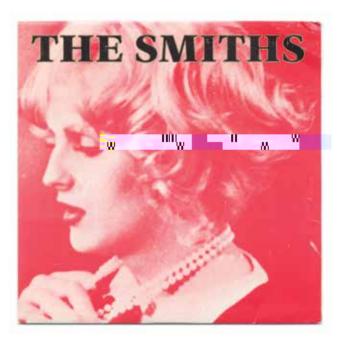
Picture Showrading cards, and several handfuls of thin gold-coloured pens sealed in cellophane and inscribed with the name of the Erickson Educational Foundation.

V. CONCLUSION

As the largest collection of transgender archival materials in the world, the Transgender Archives are a unique and invaluably rich resource from which to learn about the complexity of human gender variation. Our col lections bear witness to the courage, vision, and perseverance of our elders and forebears. They had the wisdom to see that there was much important work to be done to make the world a more just place for all. Each, in their own ways, took on a piece to the job of making the world safer and more hospitable for people who do not easily fit within pre vailing simplistic binary and hierarchical systems and structures of gen der. They all took risks in doing this. Some suffered significantly for their boldness. All contributed to advancing gender freedoms. We owe them more than we can know.

The Transgender Archives stands as a testament to those brave souls who risked so much to forge a pathway for today's advances. By keeping their names alive, and by preserving the records of the work they have done, we can repay some of our debt to our pioneers. Thus, those who have had the foresight to do the work of collecting and preserving, also do the work of advancing social justice. All people need to know their history; even more so for people who have been so abject that, through much of our history, our very survival has depended on our ability to keep our gender variance hidden.

We welcome community members, scholars and independent researchers, activists and allies, to come to the Transgender Archives to explore our diverse collections, and thereby to learn about who we are, and how we got to where we are today. Open to the public, free of charge, and accessible to all, the Transgender Archives safeguards a broad spectrum of trans* heritage so that the work that our pioneers have done will not be forgotten. We remember. We respect. We preserve. We persevere. And we invite you to join us.







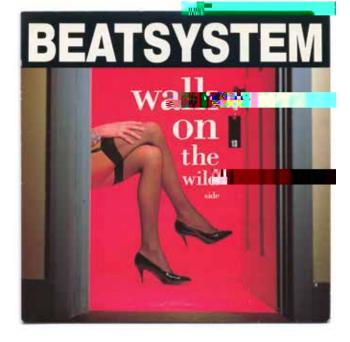
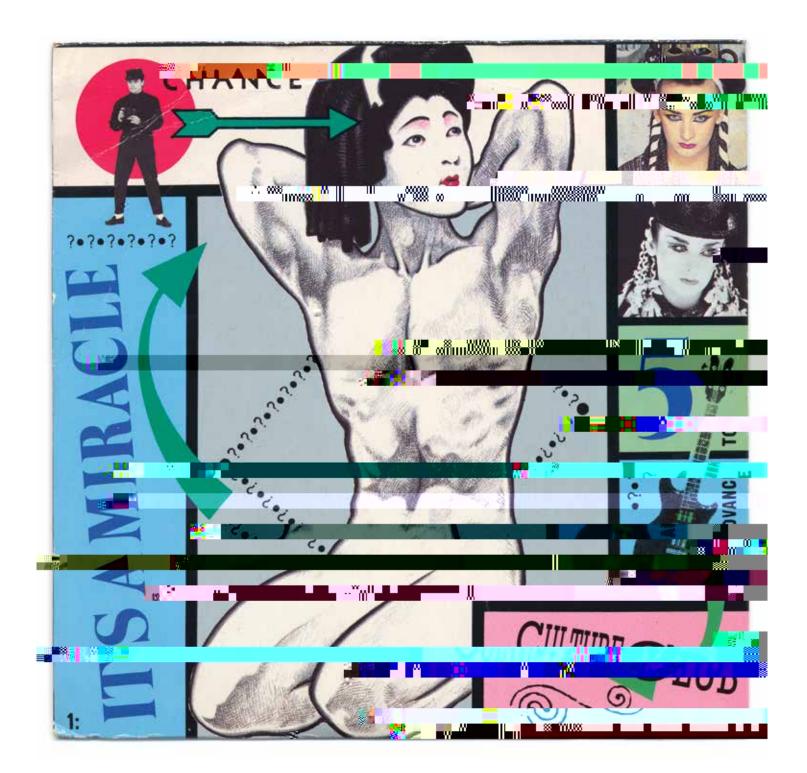


Figure 26: A selection of 45 rpm vinyl singles donated by Richard Ekins. [University of Victoria Transgender Archives]





Dr. Aaron Devor with materials from the Transgender Archives.

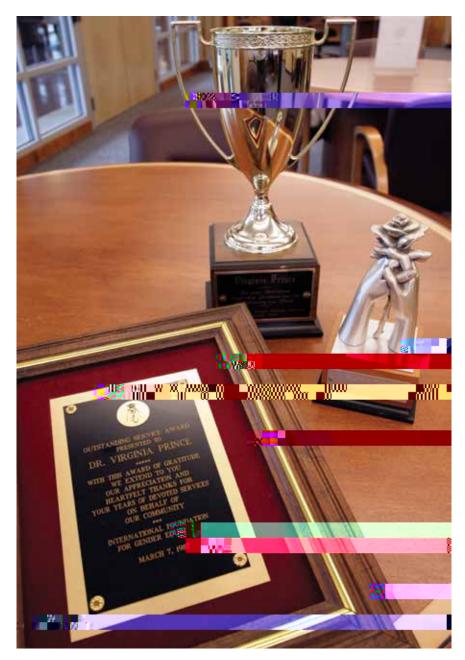
Appreciations

Finding and preserving the historical records of trans* people is, in itself, a brave and political act. Our collectors are also political pioneers in their own way. Particular thanks go to Rikki Swin who collected extensively and kick started the Transgender Archives when she gave us the entire Rikki Swin Institute collection. Monica Erickson advanced the trans* his torical record significantly by preserving her father's records from the Erickson Educational Foundation and donating them to the Transgender Archives where they now form a part of the public record. Special appre ciations also are due to Professor Richard Ekins for the meticulous and mammoth collection that he lovingly collected and preserved starting in the 1970s, and has now entrusted to the Transgender Archives for ongo ing public access. Many others have also made important contributions, and in the years to come, many more will. To all, I say thank you.

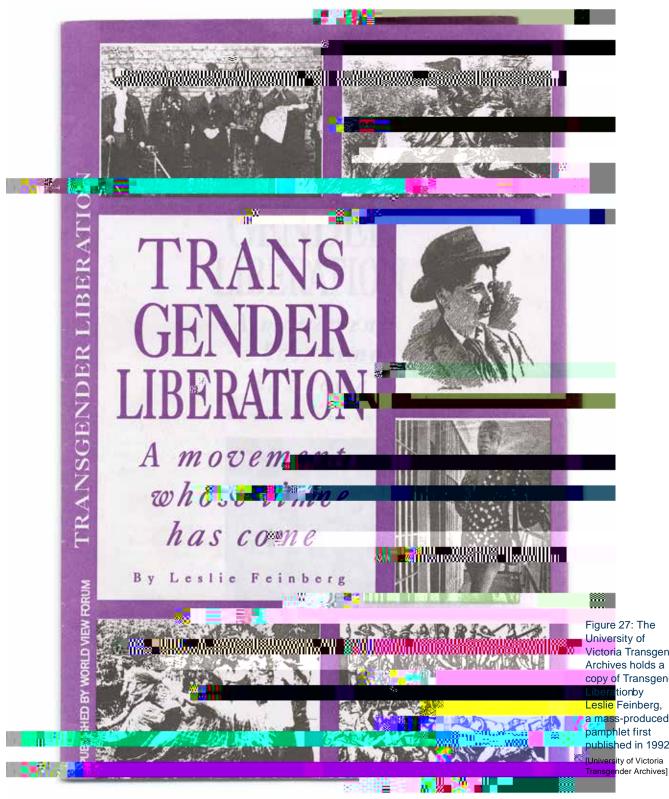
Finally, the University of Victoria also deserves thanks. It has also shown leadership in its unhesitating support of the Transgender Archives. Many people at UVic have had to put their weight behind the Transgender Archives in order for it to thrive: President and former Prov ost and Vice-President Academic, Jamie Cassels; Past-President David Turpin; Vice-President Carmen Charette and former Vice-Presidents Howard Brunt and Reeta Tremblay have all lent their support in various ways; University Librarians present and past, Jonathan Bengtson and Marnie Swanson, have been there for the Transgender Archives in every way; Director of Special Collections & University Archivist, Lara Wilson, and Grants and Awards Librarian, Christine Walde and other library staff have unfailingly worked in support of the Transgender Archives. Many others around the university have shown their support, each after their own fashion. The University of Victoria has shown itself as an unfailing



The Rikki Swin Collection in secure, temperature and humidity-controlled archival storage at the University of Victoria Transgender

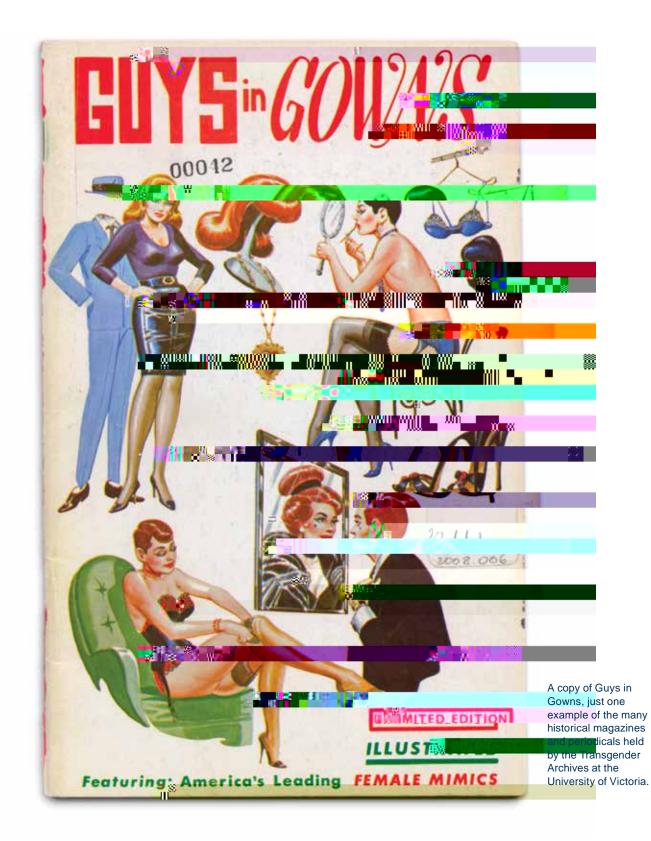


Awards given to Virginia Prince, held at the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria. [University of Victoria Transgender Archives]



Victoria Transgender Archives holds a copy of Transgender Leslie Feinberg, a mass-produced published in 1992. University of Victoria

- Krafft-Ebing, Richard von. 1893. Psychopathia Sexualis: Mit Besonderer Berücksichtigung der Conträren Sexualempfindung. Eine Klinisch-Forensische Studßtuttgart: Verlag Von Ferdinand Enke.
- Prince, Virginia. 1978. "The 'Transcendents' or 'Trans' People." Vol. XVI. no. #95. 81-92.
- Stekel, Wilhelm. 1925. Peculiarities of Behaviour.



About the University of Victoria Special Collections

For many years the University of Victoria Special Collections has been dedicated to preserving and providing public access to the valuable material in its care. Our collections span a wide range of subject-are as including: anarchist studies, arts and culture, environmental studies, literary history and criticism, political and historical affairs, transgender studies, and women's studies.

About the University of Victoria Libraries Transgender Archives

The University of Victoria Libraries believes that the history of pioneering transgender activists and the work they have done on behalf of their-com munities must be preserved. UVic Special Collections is actively acquiring documents, rare publications, and memorabilia of persons and organiza tions who have worked for the betterment of transgendered people.

Donors

UVic Special Collections have received some unique and valuable gifts that have greatly enhanced our collections. Some of our donors have built entire collections through multiple donations to the UVic Libraries or have donated collections they built through a lifetime.

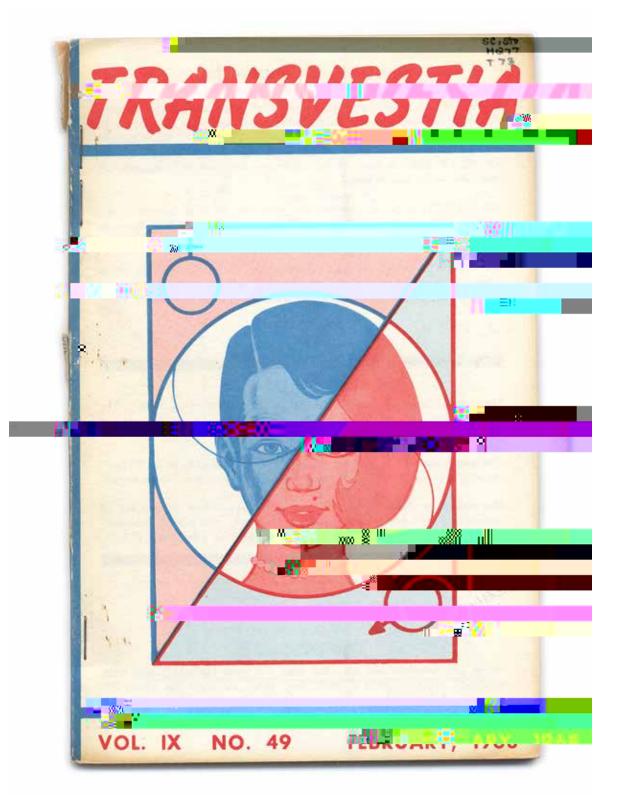
We are grateful to the following donors for their contributions to the Transgender Archives:

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