
Finding aid of The James White Review Association Records

Michael C. Oliveira

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

909 West Adams Boulevard

Los Angeles, California 90007

Phone: (213) 741-0094

Fax: (213) 741-0220

Email: askone@onearchives.org

URL: <http://www.onearchives.org>

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Collection number: Coll2006-004

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:

Michael C. Oliveira

Date Completed:

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Encoded by:

Michael C. Oliveira

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Descriptive Summary

Title: James White Review Association records

Dates: 1980-1999

Collection number: Coll2006-004

Creator: Willkie, Phil, 1952-

Collection Size: 2 archive boxes0.7 linear feet

Repository: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives.

Los Angeles, California 90007

Abstract: Correspondence, manuscripts, illustrations, photographs, press releases, newspaper clippings, event posters, and financial records documenting the activities of the James White Review Association, (JWRA) from 1983 to 1999.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open to researchers when ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives is open, and at other times by appointment. Access to the Lists and addresses file is restricted, but may be granted at the discretion of archives staff.

Publication Rights

Researchers wishing to publish materials must obtain permission in writing from ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives as the physical owner. Researchers must also obtain clearance from the holder(s) of any copyrights in the materials. Note that ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives can grant copyright clearance only for those materials for which we hold the copyright. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance for all other materials directly from the copyright holder(s).

Preferred Citation

Box #, folder # The James White Review Association Records, Coll2006-004, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

Acquisition Information

Gift, together with the James White Papers, the Tom Young Papers, and the David M. Lindahl Papers, of Philip H. Willkie, March 21, 2004.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Michael C. Oliveira, November 10, 2006.

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Administrative History

In March 1983, a group of gay male writers began meeting weekly at the Minneapolis writing center, the Loft, for the purpose of improving their skills and publishing their work. In October 1983, the first issue of *The James White Review* (*TJWR*) was published by the James White Review Association (JWRA), under the editorship of Phil Willkie, Greg Baysans, and Paul Edmond. Willkie was instrumental in the choice of name for the publication, which commemorated his friend, the local poet James L. White, and was also intended to obtain regional name recognition for the publication. The name had the desired effect and gained *TJWR* recognition from the local literary establishment. Six thousand copies of the first issue were distributed nationally, free of charge, to gay bookstores, newspapers, and writers. Although the first issue contained only regional materials, *TJWR*'s wide distribution attracted over 170 submissions from throughout the U.S. and Canada.

TJWR's reputation grew throughout the 1980s, and it became recognized as one of the leading examples of the second wave of gay journals, following publications such as *Fag Rag*, *Gay Sunshine*, and *Mouth of the Dragon*. By 1985, *TJWR* was receiving submissions of 200 to 250 poems and 25 to 40 prose pieces for each issue, and was publishing an average of 25 poems and seven prose pieces. The issues were distributed to over 270 subscribers and were available at more than 70 retail locations. During the summer of 1986, *TJWR* conducted workshops on writing for gay men in northwestern Wisconsin. By January 1987, the subscription base had more than doubled to 600, including 25 foreign subscribers. As AIDS impacted the Gay community, *TJWR* provided an outlet for literary expression. In 1990, the Lambda Literary Awards recognized Willkie and Baysans with the Publisher's Service Award for *TJWR*'s contribution to the community. In 1991, Willkie and Baysans edited and published *The Gay Nineties: An Anthology of Contemporary Gay Fiction*.

By 1998, its 15th year of publication, *TJWR* had published the works of an estimated 500 writers and artists, and had a subscription list of 1,700. On July 1, 1998, Willkie transferred publication rights for *TJWR* to the Lambda Literary Foundation, Washington, D.C., which suspended publication in 2004.

Sources:

Beard, William Randall. "Gay Literary Journal Celebrates 10th Anniversary." *Equal Time*, March 17-24, 1994, Q-2.

Bittmann, Joe. "Gambling for a 'New Generation.'" *The Washington Blade*, January 30, 1987, 2, 13.

Hutera, Donald J. "Changing Perceptions of Gender: Gentlemen's Quarterly." *Minnesota Daily*, October 14, 1985, 14-15.

_____. "Anything From Anyone." *The James White Review* Aims to be a Comprehensive Gay Men's Quarterly." *New York Native*, January 19, 1987, 27-28.

_____. "Leading Gay Lit Mag Moves to Washington." *Pulse*, June 17, 1998, 6.

Kasel, Mark. "The James White Review Discovers New Directions." *Equal Time*, February 20, 1985, 6,10.

"Lambda Literary Foundation: LL Awards Recipients: 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991." Lambda Literary Foundation, 2006. Available from http://www.lambdaliterary.org/awards/previous_winners/paw_1988_1991.html (accessed October 12, 2006.)

Peck, Claude. "Inventing New Forms: A Gay Literary Quarterly Named for Poet James White Reflects a Range of Styles and Substances." *City Pages*, 1983, 21.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection comprises correspondence, manuscripts, illustrations, photographs, press releases, newspaper clippings, event posters, and financial records documenting the activities of the JWRA from 1983 to 1999. The bulk of the materials consists of correspondence, documenting the relationship between authors and editors, as well as sponsored events and fund-raising projects; these materials are arranged chronologically. The collection also includes a small number of submissions, some with accompanying correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the name of the correspondent. The newspaper clippings, event posters, and press releases, arranged chronologically, relate to the activities of JWRA staff, from fund-raises to readings across the country. Records for two writers' programs sponsored by *TJWR* survive: those for the Jim Holmes a.k.a. Jacob Lowland writers' program and those for the Jim White School Summer Writers' Program. The address lists include lists of subscribers, authors, and invitees to special events and readings. The remaining materials consist largely of fragmentary financial and legal records.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Gays in literature

Gays' writings

Holmes, Jim (James S.), 1924-1986

James White Review Association

Lowland, Jacob (pseudonym for Jim Holmes)

Poetry--Collections

Poetry--Publishing

Poets, American--20th century

Queries (Authorship)

White, James L., 1936-1981

Willkie, Phil, 1952-

Related Material

James L. White Papers, Coll2006-003, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

Tom Young Papers, Coll2006-005, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

David M. Lindahl Papers, Coll2006-006 ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

Box : Folder 1 : 1	Event posters 1983-1996
Box : Folder 1 : 2	Newspaper Clippings 1981-1998
Box : Folder 1 : 3	Press Releases 1985-1986, 1992
Box : Folder 1 : 4 - 2 : 4	Correspondence 1980-1998
Box : Folder 1 : 4	1980-1984
Box : Folder 1 : 5	1985
Box : Folder 2 : 1	1986
Box : Folder 2 : 2	1987-1991
Box : Folder 2 : 3	1992-1998
Box : Folder 2 : 4	undated
Box : Folder 2 : 5	Jim Holmes a.k.a. Jacob Lowland 1985-1986
Box : Folder 2 : 6	Jim White School 1985
Box : Folder 2 : 7	Submissions 1981, circa 1990
Box : Folder 2 : 8	Financial 1985-1999
Box : Folder 2 : 9	<i>AIDS Annotated Bibliography 1982-1991</i>
Box : Folder 2 : 10	Lists and Addresses 1985-2000
Box : Folder 2 : 11	Photographs - published 1986-1989
Box : Folder 2 : 12	Photographs - Willkie 1998