Title: Robert Oaks Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1908-2001
Date (bulk): 1976-1990
Collection Identifier: GLC 56
Creator: Oaks, Robert F., 1942-
Physical Description: 2.0 boxes (1 cubic ft.)
Contributing Institution: James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4567
info@sfpl.org

Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English, with one article in French.

Abstract: Robert F. Oaks is a historian with a primary interest in Colonial America and the American Revolution. In the late 1970s he developed an interest in gay history, too. The collection contains letters from gay historians, research notes for articles on homosexuality in 17th and 18th century America, photocopies of relevant articles by other historians, and some general material related to gay causes in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Physical Location: The collection is stored onsite.

Languages represented: Collections materials are in English, with one article in French.

Access
The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Copyright and literary rights for Oaks's published and unpublished works are retained by Robert Oaks.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Roberts Oaks Papers (GLC 56), Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Provenance

Biographical note
Robert Francis Oaks is a fifth generation Californian, born in Escondido in 1942. After receiving a B.A. from Stanford and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California, he taught for a few years, primarily in Texas. With a specialty in Colonial America and the American Revolution, in the late 1970s he developed an interest in gay history.

He published several articles in professional historical journals and was a weekly cast member of a gay radio show in Dallas. He had frequent correspondence with prominent gay historians around the country and interviewed prominent gay activists.

A depressed job market prevented Oaks from achieving a tenured faculty position, so in 1978, he moved to San Francisco and soon changed careers to data processing and banking. At the beginning of 1992, he retired and now devotes much of his time to historical research and writing, though his interests now are primarily the histories of San Francisco and Hawai‘i. Since retirement he has published articles on 19th century San Francisco in historical journals and a book on the history of the Big Island of Hawai‘i.

Scope and Contents
The collection contains letters from gay historians, research notes for articles on homosexuality in 17th and 18th century America, photocopies of relevant articles by other historians, and some general material related to gay causes in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Correspondents include Jonathan Katz, Lou Crompton, and Sal Licata.

Arrangement note
The collection is arranged into three series: Series 1. Correspondence; Series 2. Subject Files and Ephemera; and Series 3. Publications.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Crompton, Louis, 1925-2009
Katz, Jonathan, 1938-
Licata, Salvatore J.
Oaks, Robert F., 1942- -- Archives
Series 1 Correspondence, 1977-1990

Physical Description: 18.0 folders

Scope and Contents
The series includes letters from gay historians, such as Jonathan Katz, Lou Crompton, and Sal Licata. Subjects primarily focus on legal aspects of gay history and on locating source materials.

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 1
Bentsen, Lloyd (U.S. Senator), August 1, 1977

Box 1, Folder 2
Boston Lesbian and Gay History Project, January 26, 1980
   Interrante, Joe
   Kelly, Beth

Box 1, Folder 3
   Huggins, Lewis H., [U.S.] Department of the Army
   Burg, B. R.—See: Box 2 / Folder 9 Publications series

Box 1, Folder 4
Committee on Homosexuality in History, 1979
   Sprague, Gregory

Box 1, Folder 5
Crompton, Louis, 1978-1979
   Monahan, James
   DeCecco, John P.—See: Box 1 / Folder 10 Journal of Homosexuality

Box 1, Folder 6
D’Emilio, John, 1978-1979
   General note
   Re: the Mattachine Society.

Box 1, Folder 7
Duberman, Martin, 1978

Box 1, Folder 8
Gilbert, Arthur N., March 9, 1979
   Journal of Sex Research

Box 1, Folder 9
Hansen, Bert, 1980-1981
   Huggins, Lewis H.—See: Box 1 / Folder 3 Brown, Harold
   Interrante, Joe—See: Box 1 / Folder 2 Boston Lesbian and Gay History Project
   Journal of Homosexuality, 1979-1980
   DeCecco, John P.
   Kellogg, Stuart
   Journal of Sex Research—See: Box 1 / Folder 8 Gilbert, Arthur N.
   Just Before Dawn (radio show)—See: Box 1 / Folder 17 Whitley, J. B.

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11
Kelly, Beth—See: Box 1 / Folder 2 Boston Lesbian and Gay History Project

Box 1, Folder 12
Licata, Sal (Salvatore J.), 1977-1990

Box 1, Folder 13
Monahan, James—See: Box 1 / Folder 5 Crompton, Louis

Box 1, Folder 14
Monter, William, March 10, 1979

Box 1, Folder 15
Rossiter, Frank, November 14, 1978
   General note
   Re: Gay Academic Union.
Box 1, Folder 16  
Sprague, Gregory A.--See: Box 1 / Folder 4 Committee on Homosexuality in History
Thompson, Doug, December 16, 1979
See also:
Box 1 / Folder 11 Katz, Jonathan

Box 1, Folder 17  
U.S. Department of the Army--See: Box 1 / Folder 3 Brown, Harold
Whitley, J. B., September 4, 1977
General note
Re: Robert Oaks.

Box 1, Folder 18  
*Just Before Dawn* (radio show)
Williams, Walter, June 1979


Physical Description: 24.0 folders

Scope and Contents
The series contains materials on the legal and social attitude towards homosexuals through history. Of note is the research on colonial laws in the United States as they pertain to sexuality and sexual acts.

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 19  
Bryant, Anita, 1977-1978
General note
Protect America's Children.

Box 1, Folder 20  
Clippings, 1977, 1992
Colonial Laws
General Note
Research files with photocopies of laws published in the late 1600s, 1700s, and early 1800s on sexual conduct such as buggery and sodomy. The folders also often include notes on when specific aspects of the laws were changed.

Box 1, Folder 21  
Connecticut and New Haven,
Delaware
Georgia
Maryland
New Jersey
New York
North Carolina
Pennsylvania
Katz, Jonathan
Rhode Island and New Hampshire
South Carolina
Virginia
Dallas Gay Political Caucus, 1978
Gay Academic Union, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, 1978-1980
Kepner, James (Jim), 1975-1976
Kinsey, undated
Los Angeles, 1977-1978
General note

Box 1, Folder 37  
Mattachine Society--See: Box 1 / Folder 6 D'Emilio, John
McCarthyism, excerpts from *Congressional Record*, 1950
Box 1, Folder 38
Miscellaneous history, 1975-1995

Box 1, Folder 39
Miscellaneous news and flyers, 1977-1990

General note
Includes material on John Briggs and the Briggs Initiative / Proposition 6; and Gay Rights: a Libertarian Approach by Ralph Raico.

Box 2, Folder 1
National Gay Archives, undated

Box 2, Folder 2
ONE (Dorr Legg), 1962-1977

General note

Box 2, Folder 3
Protect America's Children--See: Box 1 Folder 19 Bryant, Anita

Box 2, Folder 4
17th and 18th Century Sexuality—Miscellaneous, undated

Series 3 Reprints and Photocopies of Printed Articles, 1908-2001 Bulk, 1976-1978

Physical Description: 28.0 folders

Scope and Contents
The series contains reprints and photocopies of articles on social attitudes toward homosexuality from the 17th century to the present in the United States and Europe. There are three articles by Robert Oaks. The earliest material is Edward Westermarck's 1908 chapter on "Homosexual Love." Other authors include Jeremy Bentham, B. R. Burg, and Louis Crompton.

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically.

Box 2, Folder 5
Allison, Peter B. "The Secret Sharer: the Significance of Homosexuality in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Britain," August 19, 1978

General note
Prepared for presentation to Annual Meeting, Pacific Coast Branch, American Historical Association, San Francisco, California.

Box 2, Folder 6
Bentham, Jeremy, 1978


Box 2, Folder 7

Box 2, Folder 8
Bullough, Vern L. "Challenges to Societal Attitudes Toward Homosexuality in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries" (Social Science Quarterly, vol.58, no.1, pp.29-44), June 1977

Box 2, Folder 9
Bullough, Vern L. "Sex Education in Medieval Christianity" (The Journal of Sex Research, vol.13, no.3, pp.185-196), August 1977


"Pirate Communities in the Seventeenth Century: A Case Study of Homosexual Society" [by B. R. Burg], [1977?]

"Ho Hum, Another Work of the Devil: Buggery and Sodomy in Early Stuart England" [Presentation paper by B. R. Burg], [1978]

Box 2, Folder 10
Burnham, John. "Early References to Homosexual Communities in American Medical Writings" (Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality, August 1973, pp.34-49), 1973
Committee on Lesbian and Gay History Newsletter, 1980-2001

General note
Includes issues: no.1 (Fall 1980); Summer 1983; new series vol.1, no.1 (1987); new series vol.1, no.2 (December 1987); vol.15, no.2 (Winter 2001).

Box 2, Folder 11
Crompton, Louis,
See also:
Box 2 / Folder 5 Bentham, Jeremy

"The Death Penalty in Colonial America" [1625-1873, one-page chronology /photocopy of typescript], undated
"Homosexuals and The Death Penalty in Colonial America" (Journal of Homosexuality, vol. 1, no.3, pp.277-293), 1976
"Lesbianism and the Law" [342-1950, one-page chronology / photocopy of typescript], undated

Box 2, Folder 12

Box 2, Folder 13

Box 2, Folder 14

Box 2, Folder 15
Gilbert, Arthur N. "Buggery and the British Navy, 1700-1861" (Journal of Social History, vol.10, no.1, pp.72-99), Fall 1976
Gilbert, Arthur N. "Sexual Deviance and Disaster During the Napoleonic Wars" (Albion, vol.9, no.1, pp.98-113) Spring 1977

Box 2, Folder 16
Hansen, Bert. "The Historical Construction of Homosexuality" (The Radical History Review, no.20), pp.66-73, Spring/Summer 1979
Hindus, Michael S.—See: Box 2 / Folder 28 Smith, David Scott

Box 2, Folder 17

Box 2, Folder 18

General note
Includes "Defining Sodomy in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts" by Robert F. Oaks, pp.79-83.

Box 2, Folder 19

Box 2, Folder 20
McIntosh, Mary. "The Homosexual Role" (Social Problems, vol.16, no.2, pp.182-192), 1968

Box 2, Folder 21
May, Geoffrey. "In Pre-Revolutionary America" (Social Control of Sex Expression (New York: William Morrow and Co., 1931), Chapter 12, pp.229-255), 1931

Box 2, Folder 22

Languages represented: In French.

Box 2, Folder 23
Oaks, Robert F. "Perceptions of Homosexuality by Justices of the Peace in Colonial Virginia"—See Box 2 / Folder 27 Sexual Law Reporter, vol.4, no.2

Box 2, Folder 24
Oaks, Robert F. "'Things Fearful to Name': Sodomy and Buggery in Seventeenth-Century New England" (Journal of Social History, vol.12, no.2, pp.268-281), undated
Box 2, Folder 27  

*Sexual Law Reporter*, vol. 4, no. 2, April/June 1978

General note
Includes "Perceptions of Homosexuality by Justices of the Peace in Colonial Virginia" by Robert F. Oakes [sic]. 3 copies.

Box 2, Folder 28  


Smith, Richard W.—See Box 2 / Folder 15

Garner, Brian

Box 2, Folder 29  

Stark, Gary D. "Pornography and the Police in Imperial Germany, 1870-1914," undated

Box 2, Folder 30  


Box 2, Folder 31  