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## **Will Roscoe papers and Gay American Indians records**

Finding aid created by GLBT Historical Society staff using RecordEXPRESS

GLBT Historical Society

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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Will Roscoe papers and Gay American Indians records

**Dates:** 1970-2007

**Collection Number:** 1987-04

**Creator/Collector:** Roscoe, Will.Gay American Indians (Organization).

**Extent:** 3 cartons, 1 box, 1 oversize box, 1 artifact (5.5 linear feet)

**Repository:** GLBT Historical Society

San Francisco, California 94103

**Abstract:** This collection contains papers from scholar and activist Will Roscoe and records from Gay American Indians (GAI), the first gay American Indian liberation organization, founded in July 1975. The collection is divided into two Series: the Will Roscoe papers and the GAI records.

**Language of Material:** English

### **Access**

Collection is open for research. Funding for processing this collection was provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

### **Publication Rights**

Copyright has not been transferred to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

### **Preferred Citation**

Will Roscoe papers and Gay American Indians records. GLBT Historical Society

### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of Will Roscoe/GAI History Project in 1987, 2002, 2006, 2009 and 2014.

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

This collection contains papers from scholar and activist Will Roscoe and records from Gay American Indians (GAI), the first gay American Indian liberation organization, founded in July 1975. Roscoe was project coordinator of the GAI History Project and his research on Two-Spirit people has been widely published. He was also involved in efforts that led to the founding of Nomenus, a non-profit religious group that operates a retreat center for Radical Faeries and their friends in Oregon. The collection is divided into two Series: the Will Roscoe papers and the GAI records. Roscoe's papers span the years 1970 to 2007. They contain a Two-Spirit bibliography; photocopies of Two-Spirit source materials; some of Roscoe's writings, including his 1984 essay, "Making History: The Challenge of Gay Studies"; and correspondence, clippings and proposals related to the American Anthropological Association and the Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists, and the creation of a task force on discrimination against lesbians and gay men in anthropology. There are also materials related to the Radical Faeries, including correspondence with Harry Hay and others, articles of incorporation and a mission statement from the Gay Vision Circle community land trust; Circle of Loving Companions newsletters; a "Blossom of Bone" chapbook; "Towards the New Frontiers of Fairy Vision" by Hay; and Faerie Directories. Documents related to Nomenus include organizational records; and records related to procedural controversies and concerning the organization's tax-exempt status. The collection includes zines, poetry chapbooks and pamphlets about radical politics collected by Roscoe. There are also materials related to Roscoe's work with San Francisco Queer Club & Circuit Party Outreach Project, a joint project of the San Francisco Bay Area DanceSafe chapter and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, which promoted harm reduction at dance clubs and circuit parties. The Gay American Indians records span the years 1983 to 1998 and include correspondence; materials related to the GAI Bibliography; audiotapes and transcripts of interviews with GAI leaders from the GAI History Project; publicity materials; grant materials; business reports to the Board of Directors; t-shirts; and buttons. There are also materials related to Living the Spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology compiled by Gay American Indians and edited by Roscoe. These include contributor files, publisher information, and galleys. The collection also includes newsletters, flyers and AIDS outreach materials produced by and for the American Indian community. GSSO Linked Terms: [http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO\\_000374](http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO_000374); [http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO\\_008285](http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO_008285); [http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO\\_007398](http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO_007398); [http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO\\_006371](http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO_006371)

### **Indexing Terms**

Gay men

American Indians

Two-Spirit people

People of color

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Native Americans  
Indigenous people  
Oral history --United States.

[Will Roscoe Papers and Gay American Indians Records Container List](#)

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