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## Skip Aiken papers

Finding aid created by GLBT Historical Society staff using RecordEXPRESS

GLBT Historical Society

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2020

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**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Skip Aiken papers

**Dates:** circa 1976-1987

**Collection Number:** 1994-29

**Creator/Collector:**

**Extent:** 1 carton

**Repository:** GLBT Historical Society

San Francisco, California 94103

**Abstract:** Skip Aiken was a computer programmer who was very active in San Francisco's leather and uniform fetish scenes; he was also a recovering alcoholic and American Sign Language interpreter who often volunteered his services at his Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Aiken's collection contains extensive and deeply personal correspondence with family, friends, and lovers, as well as other materials relating to sobriety, kink, and AIDS.

**Language of Material:** English

**Access**

Collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights**

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**Preferred Citation**

Skip Aiken papers . GLBT Historical Society

**Acquisition Information**

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Kenneth Teise in 1994.

**Biography/Administrative History**

Skip Aiken was a computer programmer who was very active in San Francisco's kink scene, as both a leatherman and a uniform fetishist (with particular interest in police and Nazi uniforms). He was also a recovering alcoholic and American Sign Language interpreter who often volunteered his services at his Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. In the 1980s, Aiken lost a lover to AIDS. He also had a significant relationship with a Deaf man who was apparently the impetus for his learning to sign. Aiken was a founding member of Gay Fathers and the Society of Janus. In 1990, he died during surgery following a heart attack.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

Aiken's collection contains extensive and deeply personal correspondence with family, friends, and lovers, as well as other materials relating to sobriety, kink, and AIDS. The latter include clippings, personal notes and writings, professional papers, newsletters, erotica, the script for a musical drama to be performed at a queer AA conference, and genealogical research. Of particular note is a lengthy glossary with American Sign Language translation notes for AA jargon. Coverage of the death of Aiken's lover is also significant, and includes journal entries, a typed chronology, and correspondence.

**Indexing Terms**

Gay men

Leather

[Guide to the Skip Aiken papers](#)

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