

**Finding Aid to the Will Roscoe Papers and Gay American Indian Records, 1970-2007  
(#1987-04)**

**Extent:**

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

**Acquisition Information:**

Gift of Will Roscoe and the Gay American Indian History Project in June 1987 and Will Roscoe in April 2002, April 2006, February 2009 and January 2014.

**Access:**

Collection is open for research.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], [Name of Series], Will Roscoe papers and Gay American Indian records, 1987-04, The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

**Publication Rights:**

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

**Processed by:**

GLBT Historical Society staff; Finding Aid written by Marjorie Bryer, November 2011 and updated in January 2014. Funding for processing this collection was provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

**Creator:**

Gay American Indians (Organization),  
Roscoe, Will

**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 the berdache, or two spirit tradition 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.

Roscoe's papers span the years 1970 to 2007. They contain a berdache bibliography; photocopies of berdache 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.

### Container List

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|-------------------------|--|
| Carton 1/Folder 1:      | Bibliography and Index of <i>Berdache and Gay Roles among North American Indians</i> (GAI, edited by Will Roscoe), 1985 and Berdache Bibliography database, 1986   |
| Carton 1/Folders 2-12:  | Berdache source materials  |
| Carton 1/Folders 13:    | Fairy Land Trust materials, including correspondence, articles of incorporation, explanation of needing land trust (A Call for a Gay Community Land Trust), 1979-1983  |
| Carton 1/Folders 14-22: | Nomenus materials, including applications for tax exemption, rejection by IRS and response/protest; by-laws and procedural controversies; San Juan Ridge site summary (all 1985-1996); miscellaneous, including Blossom of Bone (official chapbook of Fairy Ravings), <i>Circle of Loving Companions</i> newsletter; “Towards the New Frontiers of Fairy Vision” by Harry Hay, flyers; 1979-1996 |
| Carton 1/Folders 23-24: | American Anthropological Association (AAA) and Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists (SOLGA) materials, 1989-1998, includes clippings, correspondence, proposal to AAA for creation of a task force on discrimination against l/g men in anthropology. Subjects include AIDS, controversy over decision not to award Roscoe the SOLGA award in 1989   |
| Carton 1/Folder 25:     | <i>Making History: The Challenge of Gay Studies</i> , by Roscoe, 1984  |
| Carton 1/Folder 26:     | <i>Passages from Sex Feeling and Compulsion (Posters)</i> , by Roscoe, 1978  |

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<http://www.glbthistory.org/research/index.html>

- Carton 1/Folder 27: *Desert Circle: A Tape Program of Sound and Image*, by Roscoe, 1980
- Carton 1/Folder 28: "Gay American Indians," 1985, by Roscoe; letter to editor, 1989
- Carton 1/Folder 29: "The Faerie Directory Addendum," vol. 2 and other materials re: Faeries, including newsletters/mass mailings; "Fairy Poems," ed. by Rick Lipinski, 1979; "Rounds for Radical Fairies"; "The Fairies Gather: An Oral History of the Spiritual Gathering for Radical Fairies," *Faerie Directory*, 1980
- Carton 1/Folder 30: SF Queer Club & Circuit Party Outreach Project materials, including photos (some cool graffiti), 2002; misc. club cards, literature produced with DanceSafe, club tickets, wristband from Club Universe closing night, circa 2000-2004; CD-ROM with all project docs, flyers, graphics, etc.; flyer. It's a joint project of the SF Bay Area DanceSafe chapter and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. Their goal is to distribute health, safety and drug information and provide safety services to patrons of dance clubs and their friends
- Carton 1/Folder 31: Newspapers and newsclippings, subjects include Gay American Indians, Radical Fairies, protests against the film, "Cruising."
- Carton 1/Folder 32-33: Zines, Miscellaneous Journals (including *Dumb Fucker*, *Water Drinkers*, *Processed World*, *Reclaiming: Political Feminist Pagan Rag*, *Androzine*), 1978-2005
- Carton 1/Folder 34: Ginger Coyote T-Shirt Info, Dirk Fest, 2007
- Carton 1/Folder 35: Miscellaneous (legal size)

## **Carton 2:**

- Buttons, circa 1970-1985
- Native American American Flag from American Indian Gays and Lesbians, [1987]
- Assorted T-Shirts
- Audiotapes (6), including *Kosmic Lady*, "Harry's Tape," Music by Gay Composers, 1978, undated
- Assorted Poetry and Fiction Chapbooks and Journals, including works by Peter Plate, Michael Lassell, Laurel Speer, Barbara Noda, Dennis Sinclair Mills, James Broughton, Julia Vinograd, Linda Thomas, Paul Mariah, Franklin Abbott, Jim Kepner, Jim Sparkle Pants, 1971-1999.
- Assorted Non-Fiction Publications, including *With Downcast Gays: Aspects of Homosexual Self-Oppression*. Topics include gay rights, music, socialism, anarchy, feminism, 1974-1997

- Carton 3/Folder 1: Rochelle Ratner email, 2003
- Carton 3/Folder 2: KQED Celebrates Native American Heritage, 2002
- Carton 3/Folder 3-4: *In the Wind* (American Indian/Alaska Native/Hawaiian Native Community AIDS Network Newsletter), 1995-1998

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- Carton 3/Folder 5-6: *Seasons* (The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center Quarterly), 1990-2000
- Carton 3/Folder 7: Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits, 1999-2000
- Carton 3/Folder 8: *Positively Native* newsletter, 1993-1996
- Carton 3/Folder 9: Contemporary Gay American Indians', 1985-1997
- Carton 3/Folder 10: AIDS Media Consortium, 1990-1994
- Carton 3/Folder 11: Two Spirit Gatherings, 1991-1992
- Carton 3/Folder 12: Gay American Indians – Articles, circa 1988-1998
- Carton 3/Folder 13: Indian Center of All Nations, American Indian Community Centers, 1987-1993
- Carton 3/Folder 14: American Indian Gays & Lesbians—Minneapolis, 1990
- Carton 3/Folder 15: Two Spirit of First Nation, 1990-1993
- Carton 3/Folder 16: New York—WeWah & BarCheeAmpe and AIDS Project, 1996, undated
- Carton 3/Folder 17: American Indian AIDS Institute/Native American AIDS Project, circa 1994-1997
- Carton 3/Folder 18: Gay American Indians, 1985-1998
- Carton 3/Folder 19: Native HIV Info, 1988-1996
- Carton 3/Folder 20: National Native American AIDS Prevention Center, circa 1992-1997

*Living the Spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology*

- Carton 3/Folder 21: Native Lesbian/Gay Writers—General
- Carton 3/Folder 22: GAI Anthology—Rejected, 1985
- Carton 3/Folder 23: Joseph Agonito, 1985
- Carton 3/Folder 24; Dr. Walter Williams
- Carton 3/Folder 25: Janice Gould
- Carton 3/Folder 26: Hulleae Tsinhnahjinnie
- Carton 3/Folder 27: Patrick Mulvey
- Carton 3/Folder 28: Clare Dineen
- Carton 3/Folder 29: Richard La Fortune
- Carton 3/Folder 30: Chrystos, 1987, undated
- Carton 3/Folder 31: Randy Burns
- Carton 3/Folder 32: Beth Brant
- Carton 3/Folder 33: Paula Allen
- Carton 3/Folder 34: *Living the Spirit* Revised Edition, 1999
- Carton 3/Folder 35: Judith Volberth
- Carton 3/Folder 36: Vickie Sears
- Carton 3/Folder 37: Maurice Kenney
- Carton 3/Folder 38: Clyde Hall
- Carton 3/Folder 39: *Living the Spirit* Manuscript--“Foul Matter”(Galley)

Box 1/Folder 1: Gay American Indians History Project—1985 Interviews with leaders: Beth Brant, Paula Gunn Allen, Randy Burns, Erna Pahe, Salyoqah Channey, Maurice Kenny—two audiotapes and transcripts, with a copy of “Two Spirit People,” 1991

Box 1/Folders 2-4: GAI correspondence, 1984-1989

Box 1/Folder 5: GAI Bibliography correspondence and update forms, circa 1988

Box 1/Folder 6: GAI Publicity, includes articles/interviews/ads/notices in zines, publications, newsletters; clippings; International Gay Assoc. conference report; memos, 1985-1988

Box 1/Folder 7: GAI Chicago Resource Center grant proposal, 1983-1985

Box 1/Folder 8: GAI Business reports to the Board, circa 1985-1988

**OS Box 1:**

T-shirts, circa 1979-1985 (mostly GAI)

Ticket Box from Club Universe