Inventory

Acc.12766

Bob Orr

National Library of Scotland
Manuscripts Division
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1EW
Tel: 0131-623-3876
Fax: 0131-623-3866
E-mail: manuscripts@nls.uk

© National Library of Scotland
GB 233 Acc.12766

Correspondence, publications and papers of Robert W. Orr (Bob Orr)
1974 – 1994
Fonds
5 boxes containing 29 folders

The collection consists of correspondence and pamphlets relating to the setting up of the bookshops Lavender Menace, West & Wilde and Open Gaze and the personal papers of Bob Orr who co-owned and ran Lavender Menace on Forth Street (1982-1987) which changed premises and became West and Wilde on Dundas Street (1987-c.1994). Bob Orr, while still working at ‘First of May’ on Candlemaker Row – a politically left wing bookshop which stocked LGBT materials – began trading under ‘Lavender Books’ with business partner and co-owner of ‘Lavender Menace’ Sigrid Nielson and later through ‘Open Gaze’ (which closed in 1981) – a Gay and Feminist books collective (5-8) which was housed in the SHRG Edinburgh Centre on Broughton Street.

The collection contains a large volume of business papers, in particular promotional materials – posters, flyers, book listings, drafts and originals of promotional materials (7-8), (11), (14-18), (21-26) – which were likely used in both bookshops and bookselling ventures. The collection also includes incomplete and infrequent financial records for the company – cash flow charts, invoices, sales charts, minutes of meetings, business plans and projects (5-6), (9-10), (12-13), (19-20).

Also included in the collection are ‘Scottish Homosexual Right Group papers’ (1-2) previously ‘Scottish Minorities Group’ (1) which includes general meeting minutes, campaign publications and promotional materials and drafts for sub-group committees for which Bob Orr was heavily involved.

Further information relating to SHRG and SMG can be found in: the Hall-Carpenter Archives (HCA), Archives and Special Collections, London School of Economics Library; the Records of Outright Scotland (GD467), National Records of Scotland; the Ian Dunn Papers (Acc.11905), National Library of Scotland.

The collection has been arranged into two series which reflect Bob Orr’s engagement with LGBT organisations and political issues, and his business engagements including his co-ownership of the trading company ‘Lavender Books’ and the bookshops ‘Lavender Menace’ and ‘West and Wilde’. The arrangement is outlined below:


  5-8 Open Gaze and First of May Papers, 1979-1982.
  12-18 Lavender Menace, 1974-c.1990s
  19-26 West and Wilde, 1983-1994

No further accruals to this series are expected.

Duplicates have been weeded. A series of personal papers was returned to Bob Orr.

Collection mainly containing papers in good condition.

Restricted access to Files 18 and 26 due to Data Protection Act.

An inventory with descriptions of each file’s content is available.

Description based on ISAD (G). Finding aid created – February 2011.

*Presented April - June 2007*


1. ‘Scottish Minorities Group’ Edinburgh Branch papers: Constitution 1977, Sub-Group statements and proposals with amendments also included are SHRG working party reports and papers n.d., correspondence and notes relating to Bob Orr involvement in both SMG and SHRG 1979, reports and questionnaires relating to LGBT issues 1979.


4. Campaign and political materials relating to LGBT issues with drafts and notes; including stickers, publications, posters and an outsized poster c. 1980 (part placed oversized at 10/82 (7) Shelf 2).


Financial Papers


Publications and Promotional Materials


8. ‘Open Gaze’ promotional publications: draft copies and originals of promotional publication materials, c.1980, including an oversized poster for ‘First of May’ (part placed oversized at 10/82 (7) Shelf 2)

Financial Papers


Promotional Materials


Financial Papers


Promotional Materials and Listings


18. Correspondence and non-‘Lavender Menace’ publications relating to LGBT organisations and events 1974-c.1990’s, with a large volume of materials dating 1983, outsized Poster “4 International Gay Camp” (part placed outsized at 10/82 (7) Shelf 2). [DPA principles apply].


Financial Papers


Promotional Materials and Listings


