

Acc.12766
Revised 30 April 2020



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:

- 1-4 Papers relating to LGBT organisations and political issues, 1977-1993.**
- 5-29 Business Papers, 1974-1994.**
 - 5-8 Open Gaze and First of May Papers, 1979-1982.**
 - 9-11 Lavender Books, 1980-1986**
 - 12-18 Lavender Menace, 1974-c.1990s**
 - 19-26 West and Wilde, 1983-1994**
 - 27-29 Research and Publications relating to Bookselling and LGBT issues, 1977-1993.**

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

1–4 Papers relating to LGBT organisations and political issues, 1977-1993.

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.
2. SHRG papers: general meetings minutes and notices 1978 – 1980, membership forms, financial records 1977 – 1980, loose SHRG headed paper.

3. Correspondence concerning Bob Orr's political engagement 1979 – 1993.
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 outsized at 10/82 (7) Shelf 2).

5–29 Business Papers, 1974-1994.

5–8 Open Gaze and First of May Papers, 1979-1982.

Financial Papers

5. Notebook titled "Open Gaze * Minutes *" June 1980 – August 1980, Shop Diary (30 April 1980 - 30 November [1980]), "British Orders" financial records - March 1980 – March 1982.
6. 'First of May' sales invoices 1980-1982, 'Open Gaze' cash flow records - November 1980, 'Open Gaze' stock-list December 1980, financial notes and calculations n.d., 'Open Gaze' bookshop sales charts n.d., correspondence c.1980-1982.

Publications and Promotional Materials

7. 'Open Gaze' promotional publications: book lists 1979-1980, press releases and 'Open Gaze' blank paper n.d., blank sales invoices, 'The Radical Bookseller' November 1979.
8. 'Open Gaze' promotional publications: draft copies and originals of promotional publication materials, c.1980, including an outsized poster for 'First of May' (part placed outsized at 10/82 (7) Shelf 2)

9–11 Lavender Books, 1980-1986.

Financial Papers

9. Legal documents and photocopies of publications relating to the business partnership between Ms Nielsen and Mr Orr, 1981 – April 1982.
10. 'Lavender Books' prospectus c.1980, notes on budget projections n.d., invoices and correspondence 1980-1982.

Promotional Materials

11. Business prospectus, blank invoice, bookmarks, posters, writing paper, press releases and originals and drafts of promotional materials c.1982-c.1986.

12–18 Lavender Menace, 1974–c.1990s.

Financial Papers

12. Invoices, business projection chart 1982 – 1984, trading accounts 1983-1987, business prospectus July 1982, publication and correspondence relating to building work and prices 1982, also contained is a birth chart – for 'Lavender Menace', n.d.
13. 'Lavender Menace' Co-operative minutes booklet 1981-1982.

Promotional Materials and Listings

14. Marketing materials: signs and bookmarks, advertisements, promotional publications 1985, outsized Posters "...First annual sale...", "Lavender Disco" 1984 (part placed outsized at 10/82 (7) Shelf 2), publication including article promoting 'Lavender Menace' 1986.
15. Promotional materials: drafts and originals c.1982-1986.
16. Listings for 'Books for Men' 1985 and 'Lavender Lesbian List' 1985-1987.
17. Bestseller listings 1983-1985, price listing n.d., miscellaneous promotional materials containing notes and correspondence c. 1986, press releases 1986, loose blank 'Lavender Menace' writing paper.
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]*.

19–26 West and Wilde, 1983-1994.

Financial Papers

19. Business plans containing correspondence and notes, profit and loss budget projections 1986-1987, business accounts for 'The Book House' – trading profit and loss accounts March 1983, publications relating to Scottish bookselling 1983-1985.
20. Miscellaneous financial papers 1992-1994.

Promotional Materials and Listings

21. Miscellaneous papers and promotional materials c.1987-c.1993.
22. Listings for 'Reading Aids' February 1989 – December 1993, wholesale book lists n.d.
23. Listings for 'Lavender Lesbian List' Spring 1987 – Autumn 1991.
24. Listings for 'Books for Men' Winter 1987 – Winter 1993.
25. Listings for 'Independent Women' and "Books for Women" August 1987 – March 1994.
26. Correspondences, publications and notes concerning the 'Development Fund' and relating 'Gala Evening' 1994. *[DPA principles apply]*

27–29 Research and Publications relating to Bookselling and LGBT issues, 1977-1993.

27. Press Cuttings and photocopies of publications referring to LGBT issues and Scottish bookselling 1983-1984.
28. Publications concerning bookselling and the setting up of a business 1977-1992.
29. LGBT publications: 'Gay's the Word' 1980-1981, 'The Radical Bookseller (Lesbian and Gay Special Issue)' June 1982, 'Pulse' Issue 19 and 'Gay Scotland' May/June – July/August 1982.