

Jeffrey Escoffier records of "The Gay Alternative"

SC.0009

**Finding aid prepared by staff of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's
Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories
using data provided by the John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia.**

Last updated on November 09, 2012.

John J. Wilcox Jr. GLBT Archives of Philadelphia

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Summary Information

Repository John J. Wilcox Jr. GLBT Archives of Philadelphia

Creator Escoffier, Jeffrey

Title Jeffrey Escoffier records of "The Gay Alternative"

Call number SC.0009

Date [inclusive] 1972-1976

Extent 1 linear feet

**General Physical
Description note** 1 record carton

Language English

Abstract *The Gay Alternative* was a literary forum for gay expression created by a collective of individuals during the early years of gay liberation. This magazine began as a newsletter of the Gay Activists Alliance of Philadelphia. The Jeffrey Escoffier records of *The Gay Alternative*, 1972-1976, include original manuscripts of essay submissions, administrative, correspondence, and financial records of the organization, and a small amount of Escoffier's personal papers.

Biography/History

The Gay Alternative was a literary forum for gay expression created by a collective of individuals during the early years of gay liberation. This magazine began as a newsletter of the Gay Activists Alliance of Philadelphia. They hoped to provide information, opinion, and discussion regarding the many aspects of gay life in Philadelphia. The magazine was published in Philadelphia from December 1972 through April 1976

Jeffrey Escoffier was a founder of *The Gay Alternative*. He has been involved in political and intellectual journalism for almost twenty-five years, has taught at the college level in New Jersey and California, and has been extensively involved in the formation and publication of many gay-specific endeavors including *OUT/LOOK: National Gay & Lesbian Quarterly* and *OutWrite: National Gay & Lesbians Writers' Conferences*.

Scope and Contents

Jeffrey Escoffier records of *The Gay Alternative* include records of the magazine and a small amount of Jeffrey Escoffier's personal papers. The collection includes original documents (many hand-written) that pertain to the activities of the magazine, such as administrative forms, financial statements, and internal as well as external correspondence. The bulk of the collection, however, is manuscripts, some with editors' corrections, which were subsequently published in the magazine (or not). Finally, it includes personal papers of Jeffrey Escoffier, including a paper he delivered to the Homosexual Community Counseling Center Conference on Vocational Guidance and Gay Lifestyles in 1974 in New York.

The collection may interest researchers who desire an understanding of one of Philadelphia's first gay literary magazines. It provides a thorough look at the operation of *The Gay Alternative* as well as provides a personal look at some of the work of Jeffrey Escoffier from 1972 to 1976. The papers reveal attitudes and beliefs of one segment of the gay community through essay, commentary, poetry, letters, etc.

The collection is organized in three series: "I. Original manuscripts" organized by author's last name; "II. 'The Gay Alternative' administrative records"; and "III. Jeffrey Escoffier papers." An inventory is provided below.

Administrative Information

John J. Wilcox Jr. GLBT Archives of Philadelphia

Finding aid prepared by staff of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories using data provided by the John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia.

Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created by staff of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) using data provided by the John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Access Restrictions

Any correspondence with private individuals is embargoed until 50 years after the creation date of the correspondence; correspondence with organizations, public figures, and businesses is unrestricted. Contact John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia for more information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

This collection was donated to Tommi Avicolti Mecca's Gay/Lesbian Archives in the early 1980s. Mecca transferred this and other collections to the William Way Community Center's Library/Archives in 1991.

Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2011-2012 as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR), using data provided by the John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia. The HCI-PSAR project was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was done in the HCI-PSAR project.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Gay Alternative Collective (Philadelphia, Pa.).

Geographic Name(s)

- Philadelphia (Pa.)

Personal Name(s)

- Escoffier, Jeffrey

Subject(s)

- Gay liberation movement
- Gays
- Periodicals--Publishing
- Sexual minorities

Jeffrey Escoffier's Vitae

Collection Inventory

Jeffrey Escoffier's Vitae, 1997.Folder

I. Original manuscripts (by author's last name).

	Folder
A.	1
B.	2
C.	3
E.	4
F.	5
G.	6
H.	7
I-K.	8
L.	9
M.	10
N.	11
O.	12
P-T.	13

II. "The Gay Alternative" administrative records

U-Z. 14

II. "The Gay Alternative" administrative records.

	Folder
Budgets and finances.	1
Conferences.	2
Copyright.	3
Correspondence - back issues.	4
Correspondence - organizational.	5
Correspondence - subscriber.	6
Office.	7
Printing (Philadelphia Resistance Print Shop).	8
Stationary and fliers.	9
Photographs (First Philadelphia Gay Pride Parade, 1973).	10
Biography.	11
Academia and gays.	12

III. Jeffrey Escoffier papers

	Folder
Untitled.	1
Untitled.	2
Sports revision.	3
A. Gide.	4
Jeffrey Escoffier's study.	5
Untitled.	6
Gay people in Civil Service jobs.	7
Economic testimony at Philadelphia Human Relations Commission.	8
Questionnaires.	9
Gays in professional associations or unions.	10
Men's Conference.	11
Cases - Job discrimination.	12
J. A. Symonds.	13
The homosexual as critic.	14
Socialist Caucus.	15
Walt Whitman.	16

III. Jeffrey Escoffier papers

Marx and sexual liberation.	17
Employment rights laws.	18
Stigma (original by Jeffrey Escoffier).	19