



LAUD HUMPHREYS PAPERS

Coll2007-012

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Date Completed

September 10, 2007



Processing this collection has been funded by a generous grant from the
National Historical Publications and Records Commission

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Descriptive Summary

Title

Laud Humphreys Papers

Creator

(Robert Allan) Laud Humphreys (1930-1988)

Extent

Number of containers: 12 archive boxes
Linear feet: 4.8 linear feet

Dates

1951-1988

Repository

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Abstract

Drafts, correspondence, journal articles, notes, newspaper clippings, surveys, legal documents, memoranda, transcripts, speeches, course curricula, subject files, ephemera, photos, and an audiocassette tape created or collected by sociologist and Episcopalian priest, Laud Humphreys, who is best known for his book, *Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places*—the first publication to examine the social and sexual behaviors of men who perform sex acts with other men in public restrooms. The majority of the collection consists of manuscripts, correspondence, lecture material, surveys, journal articles and newspaper clippings relating to Humphreys' career—from his doctoral work in 1968 until his death in 1988—and research in the field of sociology and, more specifically, homosexuality and criminology. The collection also contains personal papers including correspondence, documents and clippings related to his experience as an Episcopalian priest from 1955 to 1965, an altercation with a professor at Washington University in 1968, and his trial and subsequent imprisonment for an antiwar demonstration in Illinois in 1970.



Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Box #, folder #, Laud Humphreys Papers, Coll2007-012, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Indexing Terms

This collection is indexed under the following terms:

Gay activists—Los Angeles
Gay liberation movement—United States—History
Homosexuality and education
Homosexuality—Psychological aspects
Homosexuality—Religious aspects
Homosexuality—Research
Homosexuality—Social Aspects
Hooker, Evelyn Caldwell
Humphreys, Laud
Miller, Brian
Sociology
Sociology Methodology
Tearoom Trade



Laud Humphreys Papers, Coll2007-012

Acquisitions Information

Donor and date of gift unknown.

Processing Information

Formerly boxes 103-146 and 103-097; ONE subject files. Collection processed by Loni Shibuyama, September 10, 2007.

Biography

Born on October 16, 1930 in Oklahoma, Robert Allan (Laud) Humphreys is a pioneer researcher in the study of homosexual behavior, combining academic study with political activism.

Humphreys graduated from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois in 1955. He took the name of "Laud" from William Laud, a seventeenth-century Archbishop of Canterbury, and as "Laud" was ordained an Episcopalian priest. In 1960, Humphreys married Nancy Wallace.

In 1965, Humphreys undertook graduate work in sociology at Washington University in St. Louis. His doctoral dissertation on male-male sex in St. Louis-area public restrooms—known in gay slang as "tearooms"—was published as *Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places* to much controversy in 1970. The book won the C. Wright Mills Award of the Society for the Study of Social Problems but was frequently denounced as covert research and condemned for its invasion of the privacy of those having sex in a public place.

Humphreys moved on to teach at Southern Illinois University. On May 5, 1970, he led an antiwar demonstration that invaded a draft board office, where he destroyed a picture of President Richard Nixon. He was subsequently convicted of destroying government property. He served three months of a one-year prison sentence in the summer of 1972. While in jail, he was hired by Pitzer College, one of the Claremont Colleges in Southern California, where he became a full professor of sociology in 1975.

In 1972, Humphreys published *Out of the Closets: The Sociology of Homosexual Liberation*, one of the first scholarly accounts of the emerging gay liberation movement. In 1980 Humphreys left his wife and two children to live with his protégé, Brian Miller. Also in 1980, Humphreys earned California certification as a psychotherapist and established a private counseling practice. In his final years, he served as a consultant to police forces and frequently provided expert testimony in court cases. He also retained his position at Pitzer College.

Humphreys died from complications of lung cancer on August 23, 1988 in Sherman Oaks, California.

Source: Stephen O. Murray, "Humphreys, Laud (1930-1988)," *An Encyclopedia of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Culture*. Accessed on September 6, 2007 at http://www.glbtc.com/social-sciences/humphreys_1.html.

Scope and Content

Drafts, correspondence, journal articles, notes, newspaper clippings, surveys, legal documents, memoranda, transcripts, speeches, course curricula, subject files, ephemera, photos, and an audiocassette tape created or collected by sociologist and Episcopalian priest, Laud Humphreys, who is best known for his book, *Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places*—the first publication to examine the social and sexual behaviors of men who perform sex acts with other men in public restrooms. The majority of the collection consists of manuscripts, correspondence, lecture material, surveys, journal articles and newspaper clippings relating to Humphreys' career—from his doctoral work in 1968 until his death in 1988—and research in the field of sociology and, more specifically, homosexuality and criminology. The collection is divided into four series: (1) Research, (2) Teaching and Administration, (3) Professional Activities, and (4) Personal.

The first series, Research, compiles material related to research that Humphreys has conducted throughout his career. This series is divided into (1) Writings, (2) Subject Files, and (3) Reference Materials. The bulk of the Writings subseries contains manuscripts and notes for Humphreys' published and unpublished material. This includes manuscripts for *Tearoom Trade*, *Sex & Righteousness* and other articles, which includes an interview with Evelyn Hooker. The Subject Files comprise mostly newspaper clippings and journal articles related to homosexuality. The Reference Materials include surveys, interview transcripts and legal papers used in Humphreys' research.

The second series, Teaching and Administration, consists of student papers, lectures, notes, memoranda and course administration documents related to Humphreys' work teaching sociology courses at Southern Illinois University (1968 – 1970), State University of New York at Albany (1970 – 1972) and Pitzer College (1972 – 1986).

The third series, Professional Activities, includes peer reviews, speeches, memoranda, minutes, flyers, newsletters and clippings related to Humphreys' activities outside of the university. This includes consultations and presentations at professional conferences, such as the Society for the Study of Social Problems. This series also includes documents related to his professional involvement in such organizations as Alternative Lifestyles and the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties.

The fourth and final series, Personal, contains personal papers, including correspondence, documents and clippings related to his experience as an Episcopalian priest from 1955 to 1965, an altercation with a professor at Washington University in 1968, and his trial and subsequent imprisonment for an antiwar demonstration in Illinois in 1970.

Series Description and Container List

Series 1: Research.

Dates: 1966-1988

Extent: 2.2 linear feet

This series contains publications, typescripts, correspondence, notes, surveys, transcripts, legal papers, subject files, news clippings, and an audiocassette tape compiled throughout Humphreys' career and related to research he has conducted in sociology, criminology, homosexuality and health-related issues. The series is divided into three subseries: (1) Writings, (2) Subject Files and (3) Reference Materials.

Subseries 1.1. Writings

Dates: 1966-1988

Extent: 0.8 linear feet

This subseries consists of typescripts, notes, publications, and newspaper clippings related to Humphreys' published and unpublished works. This includes the manuscripts and notes to his published book, *Tearoom Trade*, as well as his unpublished third book, *Sex and Righteousness*, (which has also been referred to as *Immoral Crusaders*.) Also included are several newspaper and journal articles written by and about Humphreys, such as Humphreys' interview with Evelyn Hooker (see "Journal Articles" folder).

Box Folder

		<i>Sex & Righteousness</i>
1	1-2	Manuscript (2 folders).
1	3	General Notes.
1	4-9	
2	1-2	Chapters.
1	4	Introduction: Moral Crusaders.
1	5	Crusaders with Clay Feet.
1	6	Sex, Celibacy and Right-Wing Politics.
1	7	The Impersonality of Public Sex.
1	8	The Bible on the Table... And Footsie Under It.
1	9	Secrets in the Sacristy.
2	1	Righteous Killers.
2	2	Ayatollahs on the Left and Right.
12	1	Moral Crusaders Clippings [OS].
		<i>Tearoom Trade</i>
11	6-7	Manuscript, 1968 (2 folders).
2	3	General Notes, 1967-1970,
		Publications by Laud Humphreys.
2	4	Journal Articles. 1970-1979.
2	5	Book Reviews. 1970-1980.
2	6	Letters to the Editor. 1978-1979.

- 2 7 Co-authored Articles. 1980-1982.
- 2 8 Miscellaneous Manuscripts. 1966-1967.
- 2 9-10 Reviews and Articles about Laud Humphreys (2 folders).

Subseries 1.2. Subject Files

Dates: 1966-1987

Extent: 0.7 linear feet

This subseries includes newspaper and journal articles compiled by Humphreys and related to topics that include AIDS, gay victimization and violence, and male prostitution.

Box Folder

- 2 11 AIDS.
- 2 12 Ethics of Research Dispute. 1979-1980.
- 3 1-5 Gay Victimization and Violence.
- 3 6-7 Homophobia.
- 12 2-3 Male Prostitution. 1966-1987 (2 folders) [OS].
- 3 8 The Vatican and Homosexuality.
- 4 1-2 Miscellaneous Journal Articles & Newspaper Clippings (2 folders).

Subseries 1.3. Reference Materials

Dates: 1966-1987

Extent: 0.7 linear feet

This subseries consists of correspondence as well as surveys and studies related to health, crime, and homosexuality. It also includes interview transcripts and court case documents.

Box Folder

- Studies & Surveys.
- 4 3 Criminal Population. Hopper. 1966-1969.
- 4 4 Forensic Psychologists. 1980-1987.
- 4 5 Gay Relationships Survey. 1979-1980.
- 4 6 Hepatitis B Gay Male Vaccine Study. 1984.
- 4 7 Homicide Study Sampling. 1968-1980.
- 4 8-9 Study of Lesbians & Gay Men in Pre-Professional Training. 1979-1980 (2 folders).
- 5 1 Systematic Observation Sheet 1967.
- Court Cases
- 5 2-5 Preliminary Hearing Transcripts. 1982 (4 folders).
- 5 6 California v. Michael Miller. Discovery Motion. 1986.
- 5 7 Interviews. August 1967.

Series 2: Teaching and Administration.

Dates: 1968-1988

Extent: 0.6 linear feet

This series consists of student papers, lectures, notes, memoranda and course administration documents related to Humphreys' work teaching sociology courses at Southern Illinois University (1968 – 1970), State University of New York at Albany (1970 – 1972) and Pitzer College (1972 – 1986).

Box Folder

		Course Administration.
6	1	Southern Illinois University. Employment. 1968-1970.
6	2	Credit Union Managers Course. 1976-1980.
6	3	Claremont Graduate School. Criminal Justice Program. 1979-1983.
6	4	Dr. Joseph Harry Faculty Appointment Papers. 1974-1979.
6	5	Graduate School Recommendations. 1984-1985.
6	6	Pitzer College. Course Schedule. 1987-1988.
6	7-11	Individual Courses.
6	7	Crime in Mass Society. 1966-1986.
6	8	Occupations & Subcultures. 1976-1988.
6	9	Crime and Criminal Justice. 1985-1986.
6	10-11	Sociology of Sexual Interaction. 1987 (2 folders).
6	12	Miscellaneous Course Administration and Memoranda. 1985-1987.
		Student Papers
6	13	
7	1-2	Occupations and Subcultures Student Papers. 1976-1988 (3 folders).
7	3	Chris Macauley's Dissertation.
7	4	Mason Sommers' Dissertation. 1982.
7	5	Miscellaneous Student Papers. 1969-1978.

Series 3: Professional Activities.

Dates: 1967-1987

Extent: 0.7 linear feet

This series consists of peer reviews, speeches, memoranda, minutes, flyers, newsletters and clippings related to Humphreys' professional activities. Included in this series are presentations and consultations he conducted as well as his involvement on committees and boards of directors for such professional associations as the International Academy of Sex Research and the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties.

Box Folder

		Peer Reviews
7	6	Patrick Biernacki: Addicts & Snowball Sampling. 1979.

7	7	Brian Casey Study.
12	4	Gerald P. Jones Papers. 1978-1981 [OS].
7	8	Mary R. Laner Papers. 1979.
7	9	J. Robert Lilly Papers. 1977-1980.
7	10	Charles H. McCaghy Papers. 1979-1983.
8	1	David P. McWhirter & Andrew M. Mattison Papers. 1978.
12	5-6	Stephen O. Murray Papers. 1978-1984 (2 folders) [OS].
8	2	Ken Plummer Paper. 1978.
8	3	Richard P. Smith Paper.
8	4-5	Miscellaneous Peer Reviews. 1973-1987 (2 folders).
		Conference Presentations, Speeches & Consultation.
12	7	Predicting the Unpredictable Presentation. 1974 [OS].
8	6	University of Oklahoma Speech. 1980-1981.
8	7	Psychological Rape Film Consultation. 1983.
8	8	Miscellaneous Academic Presentations. 1969-1984.
		Committees, Boards & Professional Associations.
8	9	Alternative Lifestyles. 1977-1983.
8	10	Gay Academic Union. 1978-1983.
8	11	International Academy of Sex Research. 1981-1987.
12	8	National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties. 1979-1980 [OS].
8	12	P.L.E.A. Incest Survivors. 1987.
8	13	Society for the Study of Social Problems. 1967-1982.

Series 4: Personal.

Dates: 1951-1988

Extent: 1.3 linear feet

This series consists of correspondence, ephemera, legal papers, newspaper clippings, vitae, manuscripts and photographs from Humphreys' personal files. Material in this series relates to his political activism, experience as an Episcopalian priest, altercation with a Washington University professor, trial and subsequent imprisonment for leading an antiwar demonstration. Also included are biographical material and miscellaneous personal papers.

Box Folder

		Correspondence.
8	14	1951-1959.
8	15	1960-1969.
9	1-4	1970-1979 (4 folders).
9	5-6	1980-1988 (2 folders).
10	1	1980-1988.
10	2	No Date.
		Political Activism.
10	3	"CBS Reports: Gay Power, Gay Politics". 1980.
10	4	Los Angeles Black & White Men Together. 1981-1984.

10	5	Newsletters. 1978-1985.
10	6	Ephemera.
10	7	Newspaper Clippings. 1975-1983.
10	8	Biographical Material and Vitae.
10	9	Trinity Episcopal Church. 1955-1965.
11	1-2	Washington University Incident. 1968 (2 folders).
12	9	U.S. v. Robert Allan Laud Humphreys. Trial & Appeal. 1970-1972 [OS].
11	3	Advocate Experience. June 1981.
11	4	Burglary. 1984-1985.
11	5	Personal Papers. 1952-1987.