

**The New York Public Library  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Lawrence Mass Papers**  
1966-1995  
MssCol 1893

**Melanie A. Yolles**  
October 1996

**This version produced January 2009**

## Table of Contents

<b>Summary</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>Related materials note</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Biographical note</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Scope and content note</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>Arrangement note</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>Series descriptions and container list</b> .....	<b>1</b>
SERIES I. CORRESPONDENCE .....	1
SERIES II. SUBJECT FILES .....	3
SERIES III. PERSONAL PAPERS .....	5
SERIES IV. WRITINGS .....	6
AIDS .....	6
Essays and reviews .....	6
Screenplay: "Confessions of a Mask" .....	7
Books .....	7
SERIES V. WRITINGS BY OTHERS .....	8
SERIES VI. ARTIFACTS AND AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS .....	9
Artifacts .....	9
Sound recordings .....	9
Video recordings .....	10

## Summary

<b>Main entry:</b>	Mass, Lawrence, 1946-
<b>Title:</b>	Lawrence Mass papers, 1966-1995
<b>Size:</b>	14 linear feet (28 boxes)
<b>Source:</b>	Gift of Lawrence Mass, 1996
<b>Abstract:</b>	Lawrence David Mass, a co-founder of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, is a physician and writer living in New York City. The collection contains personal and professional correspondence, 1966-1995, notes, drafts, outlines, and published copies of his books, essays, and reviews, topical files, personal press clippings, photographs, audio and videotapes, and ephemera reflecting Mass's work as a writer and gay activist.
<b>Access:</b>	Advance notice required. Apply at <a href="http://www.nypl.org/mssref">http://www.nypl.org/mssref</a>
<b>Preferred citation:</b>	Lawrence Mass Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
<b>Special formats</b>	Artifacts, Buttons, Photographs, Sound recordings, Video recordings

**Related materials note**

Arnie Kantrowitz Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

## Biographical note

Lawrence David Mass, physician and writer, was born in Macon, Georgia in 1946. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1969 and received his M.D. from the University of Illinois in 1973. Following his residency in anesthesiology at the Massachusetts General Hospital, he moved to New York City in 1979. That same year saw the publication of "Coming To Grips With Sado-masochism," in the *Advocate*. This became the first of many articles, effectively making Mass the first physician to write regularly for the gay press.

When the first reports began to circulate about a rare cancer striking gay men he began regular coverage of what became the AIDS epidemic in the *New York Native*. Beyond writing, Mass helped organize New York Physicians for Human Rights and co-founded Gay Men's Health Crisis. A grant to GMHC from the NYC Department of Health enabled him to write *Medical Answers About AIDS*, an informational booklet that has been regularly revised and distributed internationally. He is currently (1996) a medical director of substance abuse treatment programs at Greenwich House in New York City.

Aside from his career as a physician, Mass maintains an active vocation as a writer on topics relating to gay men, sexuality, music, opera, and anti-Semitism. In addition to numerous articles, reviews, and essays he is the author of *Confessions of a Mask*, based on the confessional memoir of Yukio Mishima, *Dialogues of the Sexual Revolution*, a collection of interviews with writers, artists, and scientists on many aspects of homosexuality, and the autobiographical work *Confessions of a Jewish Wagnerite*.

## Scope and content note

The collection reflects Mass's activities as a gay physician, writer, and activist, chiefly in New York City during the 1980s. Nearly all of the materials in the collection have some connection to Mass's interest in gay men's health and sexuality, their treatment by health professionals, the depiction of homosexuality in the media and the oppression and/or invisibility of gays in the music world and American society in general. The papers include personal, professional, and family correspondence, 1966-1995; subject files; copies of his published and unpublished writings in the form of notes, typescripts, proofs and published copies; audio tapes of interviews, videotapes of public affairs television programming and documentaries; and some personal materials, including clippings of articles about Mass and his work, photographs, and ephemera and from gay pride celebrations and fund-raising activities.

The collection contains little material documenting his career as a physician (other than medical writing), and little of his writing on music.

His correspondents include fellow gay writers and critics, with members of the public writing to comment on his work, medical colleagues, psychiatrists, and friends. Correspondence re publication of his writing. His letters to the editor. Family correspondence chiefly cards and letters from his family along with a handful of letters to his parents written during his college years.

## Arrangement note

The Lawrence Mass Papers are organized in the following series:

- Series I. Correspondence
- Series II. Subject files
- Series III. Personal papers
- Series IV. Writings
- Series V. Writings by others
- Series VI. Artifacts and audio-visual materials

## Series descriptions and container list

### Series I. Correspondence

The correspondence contains letters to and from gay writers, editors and publishers, physicians, psychologists, personal friends and family. The chiefly incoming letters are filed alphabetically for those correspondents represented by more than one letter, or to whose letter was attached additional materials. The remainder of the letters, as well as Mass's letters written for publication are filed by year.

The correspondence is not extensive and there are rarely more than a few letters from any single correspondent. The exceptions are the letters from Nathan Fain, his close friend and co-founder of the GMHC, who wrote to Mass frequently from Texas in 1982 about his research and investigative writing on the AIDS crisis. Smaller number of personal letters from 1983-87 including three snapshots of Fain performing in a drag show. Other correspondents include Dennis Altman, Robert Chesley, Martin Duberman, John Cavendish (Mass's first lover), and single letters from Randy Shilts, Virginia Apuzzo, Ed Koch, Quentin Crisp, Terrence McNally, and Ned Rorem. Complete list can be found in the container list. Along with the correspondence are filed typescripts, clippings, reprints, and other printed material by and about the correspondent.

The family correspondence contains several letters from Mass written while an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, 1966-68, and two written during the 1980s. The remainder are letters and greeting cards from his mother, step-father, sister, and nephew during the 80s and 90s.

#### Box

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <i>Advocate</i><br>Alexander, David<br>Altman, Dennis<br>Asman, Paul<br>Averill, Brett<br>Caserio, Robert and Julio<br>Cavendish, John<br>Chesley, Robert<br>Duberman, Martin<br>Fain, Nathan<br>Fairchild, Brad<br>Fitzgerald, Frances   |
| 2 | Grady, Paul<br>Heymont, George<br>Horrigan, Patrick<br>Humphreys, Laud<br>Isay, Richard<br>Kamel, G.W. Levi<br>Kleinberg, Seymour<br>Lambert, Léon<br>Luczak, Raymond<br>Martin, Demian<br>Money, John<br>Osborne, Conrad L.<br>Pearce, Richard<br>Rofes, Eric<br>Roos, Erik<br>Rorem, Ned<br>Rowland, Craig<br>Russo, Vito |

Box

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2 | Sakovsky, Harvey (re)<br>Schorenstein, Herman<br>Shilts, Randy<br>Silverstein, Charles<br>Stambolian, George<br>Szasz, Thomas<br><i>Village Voice</i><br>Weinrich, James<br>Wurlitzer Fund |
| 3 | Letters to the editor, 1985-1996<br>Chronological correspondence, 1968-1990  |
| 4 | Chronological correspondence, 1991-1995  |
| 5 | Family correspondence, 1966-1995   |

## Series II. Subject files

Subject files material collected while researching various topics, most connected with gay men's sexuality and health. The subject files contain Clippings and typescripts, journal articles printed materials collected by Mass on topics that interested him and/or on which he planned to write. There are files on homosexuality as it relates to issues of health, psychiatry, and sexual practices as well as writings by and about prominent figures in the gay community and their opponents. In addition, there are files for newsletters and other mailings from human rights and medical organizations such as Gay Caucus of the American Psychiatric Association, Gay Psychiatrists of New York, East End Gay Organization for Human Rights, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and New York Physicians for Human Rights. Also present are two files related to a planned study of singers' health to be undertaken by Mass and Conrad L. Osborne.

Box

6

Attention Deficit Disorder  
Aesthetic Realism  
AIDS: Profile of an Epidemic  
Amebiasis  
American Association of Physicians for Human Rights  
Amsterdam  
Arcos Blancos  
Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists  
Atlanta (re Wayne Williams case)  
Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights  
Bell, Arthur  
Berkowitz, Richard  
Berman, Paul  
Bieber, Irving  
Bush, Larry  
Callen, Michael  
Cameron, Paul  
Cancer  
Carter, Jimmy  
Chanukah  
Chemical and Biological Warfare  
Christopher Street/New York Native  
COMPA (N.Y. State Committee of Methadone Program Administrators)

7

Divorce  
Drag  
Drescher, Jack  
eego (East End Gay Organization for Human Rights)  
Endorphins  
Fallaci, Oriana  
Family  
Flynt, Larry  
Forgery  
Foundation for Research on Sexually Transmitted Diseases  
Gay and Lesbian Press Association  
Gay Caucus of the American Psychiatric Association  
Gay Health  
Gay-Male S/M Activists  
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)  
Gay Psychiatrists of New York  
Gould, Robert E.

Box

- 7 Homophobia  
Homosexual Health Report  
Homosexuality
- 8 Homosexuality and Medicine  
Hooker, Evelyn  
International Gay History Archives/International Gay Information Center  
Kaplan, Helen Singer  
Koch, Edward  
Lasch, Christopher  
Lawrence, T.E.  
Levy, Norman J.  
Lorenz, Konrad  
Marmor, Judd  
Martin, Damien  
Masturbation  
Meridian  
Monette, Paul  
Money, John  
National Gay Task Force  
NS Kampfruf  
Neo-conservatism
- 9 New York Physicians for Human Rights  
Nijinsky, Vaslav  
Nitrites  
Ortleb, Chuck  
Owles, Jim  
Pedophilia  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Pornography  
Psychiatry  
Quackery  
Rist, Darrell Yates  
Rockwell, John  
Russell, Ken  
Russo, Vito
- 10 Sodomasochism  
Sennett, Richard  
Sexuality Today  
Sexually Transmitted Diseases  
Sherrill, Kenneth  
Shilts, Randy
- 11 Singers' Health  
Singers Questionnaire  
Smith, Liz  
Socarides, Charles  
Stone, Alan A.  
Sulloway, Frank  
Transsexualism  
Vachon, Ron  
Vance, Carole A.  
Walkowitz, Judith  
White, Dan

**Series III. Personal papers**

This series two boxes of personal miscellany including press clippings and other printed material mentioning Mass, poetry, essay fragments and other writing dating chiefly from his student years, as well as clippings, telephone messages, and business cards that he saved. In addition, these papers contain an address book and several snapshots of Mass, his life partner Arnie Kantrowitz, and their friends.

Box

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 12 | Personal press clippings, poetry, printed matter |
| 13 | Telephone messages, business cards, address book |

## Series IV. Writings

Mass's writings are arranged in three sections: Writings on AIDS, Essays and Reviews, and Books. The section on AIDS contains a copy of his first report on the epidemic, which appeared in the *New York Native* in 1981, and several editions of the booklet, *Medical Answers About AIDS*, and its predecessors, which he wrote for the GMHC in 1984 and regularly updated. There are also copies of other articles he wrote for the *Native*, a book manuscript "Chronicles of Violaceous Death" which was to contain his articles on AIDS and some other health-related topics, and printed matter and clippings which he collected about the epidemic.

The essays and reviews section contains drafts, typescripts, and published copies of his shorter writings, most of which appeared in the gay press. There is a typescript of his unproduced screenplay, "Confessions of a Mask," about author Yukio Mishima. Book related materials include notes, proposals, synopses, drafts, typescripts, author's proofs, and uncorrected book proofs of his autobiographical work *Confessions of a Jewish Wagnerite* (originally titled *Synchronicities*). Also present are drafts and published copies of the chapters as they appeared in *Christopher Street*.

Finally, the series contains materials about his two-volume collection of interviews conducted between 1979 and 1989, *Dialogues of the Sexual Revolution*. These include drafts of Mass's introduction to the book, comments about the manuscript by Martin Duberman and Jeffrey Escoffier, correspondence with the publisher, Haworth Press, copies of Haworth's catalogs, publicity materials and advertisements for the book, and clippings of the reviews and notices it received. Following these materials are files for sixteen of the interviews Mass conducted for the book, including one with Terry Stein that was not published. The files, which vary in size and completeness, include transcripts of the interview, correspondence with the interviewees, lists of the questions to be asked, responses by interviewees who received the questions in advance, copies of their publications or clippings about them, and Mass's notes on them and their work. Audiotapes of the interviews with Martin Duberman, John Boswell, Rosa von Praunheim, Paul Schrader, Richard Plant, John d'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, Ned Rorem, and George Heymont can be found in Series V.

### AIDS

Box

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 14 | Basic Questions and Answers About AIDS<br>Blood and Politics<br>Cancer in the Gay Community<br>The Case Against Medical Panic<br>Chronicles of Violaceous Death<br>Impact of AIDS on the Gay Community<br>Medical Answers About AIDS<br>First report on AIDS in the <i>New York Native</i> |
| 14 | Clippings<br>Printed Material  |

### Essays and reviews

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 15 | Anal Eroticism and Sexual Preference<br>Anality and Homosexuality<br>Cancer Signs<br>Chemical Castration<br>Circumcision<br>Coming to Grips With Sadomasochism<br>Cryptosporodiosis |
|----|---|

<u>Box</u>	
15	The Gacy Case Ganymede Gay Couples Homosexuality In Perspective The Impatient Inpatient The Insanity of the Insanity Defense Judaism, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality
16	Long Road To Freedom: 1981 Media on Gay Issues Miscellaneous articles Narcissism Nathan Fain The "New" Kinsey Study Preface to The Golden Boy by James Melton Psychiatry On Trial
17	Religion Sex and Drugs Sex and Danger In America The Sexual Brain Trial By Ordeal Where Does Psychiatry Stand On Homosexuality?
18	<b>Screenplay: "Confessions of a Mask"</b> <b>Books</b> <i>Confessions of a Jewish Wagnerite</i> Notes, uncorrected book proof
19	
20	Proposal, synopsis, drafts and published copies of chapters as they appeared in Christopher Street
21	Unedited Mss
22	Mss edited by Arnie Kantrowitz
23- 26	Typescript drafts
27	Author's proofs
	<i>Dialogues of the Sexual Revolution</i> Correspondence, publicity, reviews, announcements, intro drafts, Haworth Press catalogues
28	
	Interview files
29	Calderone, Mary De Cecco, John D'Emilio, John and Estelle Freedman
30	Duberman, Martin Green, Richard Handley, John Masters, William and Virginia Johnson Martin, Damien Pillard, Richard Plant, Richard

Box

- 30 Roscoe, Will
- 31 Schrader, Paul  
Sencer, David  
Stein, Terry  
von Praunheim, Rosa  
Weinrich, James

**Series V. Writings by others**

This series contains typescripts and page proofs of literary work sent to Mass for criticism, comment, or review. Of these items only Ned Rorem's *Knowing When To Stop*, Benjamin Britten by Humphrey Carpenter, and the poem "I Ate Borscht" by Michael Moshe Gans are annotated by Mass.

Box

- 32 *Apparition* by Lloyd Schwartz (Typescript )  
*Frankenstein* by Thomas M. Disch. (Typescript libretto)  
*Benjamin Britten* by Humphrey Carpenter (Page proofs)
- 33 *Knowing When To Stop* by Ned Rorem. (Uncorrected reader's proof.)  
*The Power To Become: A Gay Manifesto* by W. Scott Thompson (Typescript)  
I Ate Borscht.... " (Anonymous poem.)  
Shifting Relations  
Chapter One of [Passion and Duty?] by Daniel Margoloth. Typescript.  
*The Golden Boy* by James Melson (Rough pages)  
*What Rough Beast Slouches* by Brad Fairchild (Script)

## Series VI. Artifacts and audio-visual materials

Box  
34

### Artifacts

The artifacts in this series consist of buttons, a small flag and a matchbook with symbols or slogans promoting the gay liberation movement or advertising events and businesses associated with the gay community.

### Sound recordings

The audiotapes relate almost entirely to gay issues. The majority of the recordings are interviews Mass conducted for his book *Dialogues of the Sexual Revolution* during the middle to late 1980s (see series IV). There are three radio interviews with Mass about his books, and additional interviews he conducted, all relating to music, especially in relation to gays in the music world and anti-Semitism. The latter include interviews with John Corigliano and William Hoffman, creators of the opera, *The Ghosts of Versailles*, with Gottfried Wagner, great-grandson of composer Richard Wagner, with author Joseph Horowitz, producer Don Boyd, and with critics Tim Page and Bruce-Michael Gelbert.

Unit ID

- 03261 Gottfried Wagner lecture  
Gottfried Wagner, the great-grandson of composer Richard Wagner lectures on the topic "The Wagner Case--Israel and Germany". City University of New York, 2/25/92
- 03262 Gottfried Wagner interview  
Lawrence Mass interviews Gottfried Wagner, the great-grandson of composer Richard Wagner. 2/26/92.
- 03264 Joseph Horowitz  
Mass interviews author Joseph Horowitz about his book *Wagner Nights: A History of Wagnerism in America*, June 3, 1994.
- 03266 *Stonewall: Marketing of Gay History*  
Session from OutWrite National Gay and Lesbian Writer's Conference, October 8-10, 1993. Moderator: Cerullo; Presenters: Jonathan Ned Katz, Lawrence Mass, Lowie Hayes
- 03267 Brandon Judell interviews Lawrence Mass, 1994 Dec 11  
Brandon Judell interviews Lawrence Mass regarding his book *Confessions of a Jewish Wagnerite* for the program "Critic's Choice" on radio station WBAI, 12/11/94
- 03268- Martin Duberman, 1986 Oct 31  
03269 Mass interviews playwright, historian, and gay activist Martin Duberman. 10/31/86
- 03270 John Boswell, 1989 Apr 28  
Mass interviews historian John Boswell at Yale University. 4/28/89
- 03271- *Frankenstein* (The opera *Frankenstein* by Sadow/Disch)
- 03272
- 03273 Carl Gustav Jung  
Paper on Carl Gustav Jung by Henry Sauerwein, head of the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, New Mexico. "From the 1960s" (for the Aesthetics Institute, University of New Mexico, Dept. of Philosophy).
- 03274 Rosa von Praunheim, 1986 Nov 23  
Mass interviews filmmaker Rosa von Praunheim in New York City, 11/23/86
- 03275 *Defamation*  
*Defamation*. Narrated by Harvey Fierstein. Produced by/for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).
- 03276 Richard Green, M.D., 1987 Apr 15  
Lawrence Mass discusses the book *The Sissy Box Syndrome* by Richard Green, M.D. on radio station WBAI, New York. 4/15/87.
- 03278 Brandon Judell interviews Lawrence Mass, 1990 Dec 4  
Brandon Judell interviews Lawrence Mass about his book *Dialogues of the Sexual Revolution*. 12/4/90.

Unit ID

- 03285 The Impact of AIDS on Music, 1987 Jul 2  
The Impact of AIDS on Music." Music critics Tim Page and Bruce-Michael Gelbert discuss the impact of AIDS on music on radio station WNYC, New York. 7/2/87
- 03286- John Corigliano and William Hoffman, 1991 Jul 9  
03287 Lawrence Mass interviews composer John Corigliano and librettist William Hoffman about their opera, *The Ghosts of Versailles*. 7/9/91.
- 03288 John Boyd, 1988 Apr 1  
Interview with Don Boyd, producer of the film, *Aria*. 4/1/88.
- 03289 *Variations on Hyfrydol* (Musical composition by Stephen Houtz.)
- 03293 Paul Schrader, 1985 Aug 23  
Lawrence Mass interviews Paul Schrader about his film, *Mishima*. 8/23/85
- 03294 Lawrence Mass interview, 1995 Aug 20  
Mass is interviewed about his book *Confessions of a Jewish Wagnerite* on radio station WTSO, Madison, Wisconsin. 8/20/95
- 03296- Richard Plant, 1986 Sep 18, Nov 16  
03297 Mass interviews author Richard Plant about his book, *The Pink Triangle*. 9/18/86
- 03298- John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, 1988 Sep 9  
03299 Lawrence Mass interviews authors John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman about their book, *Intimate Matters: History of Sexuality in America*. 9/9/88
- 03300- Ned Rorem  
03301 Lawrence Mass interviews composer Ned Rorem. 2/15/88.
- 03302- George Heymont  
03303 Lawrence Mass interviews George Heymont, the first gay columnist to regularly cover opera in the gay press. 10/27/87

**Video recordings**

*Videotapes are unavailable until dubbed. Consult archivist for current status.*