

LGBT-015 John R. Barns Collection

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project
Archives and Special Collections
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COLLECTION REGISTER

Name:	Barns, John R.	LGBT-015
Material:	Papers and Artifacts (1946, 1970-2017)	
Volume:	0.75 linear feet (2 document boxes, 22 oversized folders, 6 artifacts)	
Donation:	Donated by John R. Barns, 2014-2017	
Usage:	These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.	
Processor:	Sarah Wakefield, December 2021	
Support:	Funding to process this collection was provided by a grant from the Schlegel Deibler Charitable Foundation.	

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Barns was born in Perry County, PA. He graduated from Greenwood High School in 1960 and then joined the Pennsylvania National Guard during the Vietnam War, where he was in the armored tank division. After discharging from the military, Barns worked for the State in the Department of Labor and Industry and The Department of Health. He was a state employee for 30 years. Barns was a member of Dignity/Central PA, a Roman Catholic based organization that was a place for LGBTQ+ community members of any religious background to be together in community; and a part of the Gay Switchboard of Harrisburg, a telephone service that gave information, referrals, and supportive counseling to members of the local LGBTQ+ community.

Barns lives in Central PA today.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection contains 6 series: Newspaper and Magazine Clippings; Dignity/Central PA; Cards and Postcards; Montreal, Quebec, Canada LGBTQ+ Information; Miscellaneous; and Artifacts.

The Newspaper and Magazine Clippings series holds clippings from a wide variety of publications, not limited to Central PA, addressing LGBTQ+ issues related to marriage, clergy, politics, discrimination, and the military. The Dignity/Central PA series contains items pertaining to

Dignity/Central PA events and notes. Cards and Postcards series holds postcards and greeting cards designed with LGBTQ+ community in mind.

The Montreal, Quebec, Canada LGBTQ+ Information series holds brochures, pamphlets, and publications from Montreal, Quebec that discuss LGBTQ+ health, specifically HIV/AIDS. The Miscellaneous series contains personal correspondence, bookmarks, single LGBTQ+ publications, posters, and a scrapbook created by Barns about the movie *Brokeback Mountain*, which premiered in 2006. Finally, the Artifact Collection contains LGBTQ+ items from Central PA and Montreal, Quebec.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings

1.01 *Advocate* (see oversized OBS)

1.01.01 "Gay Rights + Women Priests = Episcopal Schisms" – Dec. 28, 1977

1.02 *Belgrade Insight*

1.02.01 "Clinic Claims to 'Cure' Homosexuals" – Sep. 24 and Oct. 7, 2010

1.03 *BookPage*

1.03.01 "Searching for Addie's Voice" – circa Aug. 2011

1.04 *Capital Times*

1.04.01 "Study pin pinpoints gays, not drug users" – May 16, 1996
"Episcopal court drops heresy charges, says doctrine doesn't bar gay priests,"
– May 16, 1996

1.05 *Chicago Tribune* (see oversized OBS)

1.05.01 "Gay film marketing comes out of the closet" – Aug. 27, 1995

1.06 *Hour Community*

1.06.01 "A Night At The Tubs" – Aug. 14, 2008

1.07 *International Herald Tribune*

1.07.01 "The code of the callboy" – Nov. 9, 2006

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1.08 *Intelligencer Journal* (Lancaster, PA) (see oversized OBS)

- 1.08.01 “Catholic nun who ministers to gays, lesbians to give talk here” –
Jun. 23, 2001

1.09 *Isthmus*

- 1.09.01 “Gay photo exhibit within school district guidelines” – circa 1998
“A Rural Awakening” – Sep. 27 - Oct 3, 1996 (see oversized OBS)

1.10 *Metro* (see oversized OBS)

- 1.10.01 “‘Huge Progress’ in Gay Rights” – May 17, 2011

1.11 *The Nation* (see oversized OBS)

- 1.11.01 “Strict security for Wyoming murder trial” – circa Mar. 1999

1.12 *New York Times*

- 1.12.01 “The Homosexual Pedigree” – Oct. 16, 1994
“Gay Troops: Clinton’s Juggling Act”/ “Gay Survey Raises a New Questions” –
Oct. 18, 1994 (see oversized OBL)
“Out and About” – Nov. 6, 1994
“When a Roaring Lion Learns to Purr” – Jan. 12, 1995 (see oversized OBL)
“A Stand on Homosexuality for Both Left and Right” – Sep. 6, 1995
- 1.12.02 “Homosexuality Still Questioned by the Military, ” – Feb. 27, 1996
(see oversized OBL)
“To Be Young, Gay and Going to High School in Utah” – Feb. 28, 1996
(see oversized OBL)
“In Eye of a Storm Over Gay Clergy” – Mar. 16, 1996
“Role in Openly Gay Episcopalians Causes a Rift in the Church” –
Mar. 21, 1996 (see oversized OBL)
“Of Homoerotic Elements in Mann’s Work and Life” – Mar. 21, 1996
- 1.12.03 “Why Marry?” – Apr. 17, 1996
“Gay Marriage as a Basic Human Right” – May 3, 1996
“Gay Parents Ease into Suburbia” – May 16, 1996 (see oversized OBS)
“Gray Skies and a Smaller Crowd, but High Sprits at Gay Pride March” –
Jul. 1, 1996 (see oversized OBS)
“Looking Back at a Non-Crisis On Gay Rights” – c. 1996 (see oversized OBS)

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1.12 *New York Times* (cont.)

- 1.12.04 Untitled Illustration – circa Aug. 1996
 “Gay America Depicted Through a Gay Lens” – Aug. 25, 1996
 “Anti-Discrimination Proposal Delays Senate Vote on Bill Opposing
 Same-Sex Marriage,”/ “Foes of Gay Marriage Are Foiled in California
 Senate,” – Sep. 6, 1996
 “Gay and Conservative: It Can Be Done” – Jan. 2, 1997
 “Reform Rabbis to Avoid Vote On Allowing Same-Sex Unions”–
 May 8, 1998
- 1.12.05 “The Face of Hate Made Plain” – Jan. 5, 1999
 “New Jersey Top Court Hears Arguments Over Gay Scouts,” – Jan. 6, 1999
 “New York’s First Openly Gay Senator Tests Unfamiliar Turf” –
 Jan. 10, 1999 (see oversized OBL)
 “Despite Victim, Case of Swiss Guard’s Murder Remains Alive”/ “U.S. Writer On
 Gay Topics Is Badly Beaten in an Irish City” – Feb. 18, 1999
 (see oversized OBL)
 “Bright Young Things” – Mar. 21, 1999 (see oversized OBL)
- 1.12.06 “Suspended Pastor’s Flock Voices Its Support” – Mar. 29, 1999
 (see oversized OBL)
 “Republicans and the Gay Vote” – Aug. 13, 1999
 “The Many Flavors of Love, For Just About Any Taste” – Aug. 13, 1999
 (see oversized OBL)
 “Bigotry in the Military” – Aug. 30, 1999
 “A Major League Player’s Life of Isolation and Subterfuge” – Sep. 6, 1999
 (see oversized OBL)
- 1.12.07 “Bradley Favors Expanding Homosexual Rights” – Sep. 10, 1999
 “Gay Republican Cleaves to the Party Despite a Bush Snub” –
 Nov. 29, 1999 (see oversized OBS)
 “Paul Cadmus Dies At 94; Virtuositic American Painter” – Dec. 15, 1999
 (see oversized OBS)
 “Rejecting ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’” – Dec. 1999
 “G.I. Who Killed Gay Is Sentenced to Life” – Dec. 1999
 “Giving Benefits To Partners of Gay Workers” – c. Dec. 1999

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1.12 *New York Times* (cont.)

- 1.12.08 “Policy on Gays Put to the Test At Army Base” – Feb. 14, 2000
“Vermont’s House Backs Wide Rights For Gay Couples” – Mar. 17, 2000
(see oversized OBS)
“The Way We Live Now: Closet-Case Studies” – Dec. 16, 2001
(see oversized OBS)
“Reflections From the Town of the Crime” – Mar. 8, 2002
“Exposure for a Nude” – Sep. 30, 2005
“Film in Review: Blackmail Boy” – Nov. 18, 2005
- 1.12.09 “A Twisty Tale of Bed-Hopping With a Power-Shifting Pair” – Feb. 3,
2006
“Massachusetts: Gay Bias Complaint” – Feb. 15, 2006
“Tightly Knit and Western-Loving” – Feb. 24, 2006
“Loneliness, Generosity and Selfishness at the End of Life” – Jul. 14, 2006
(see oversized OBS)
“Growing Up Is Hard to Do, Especially When You’re 35” – Jul. 14, 2006
(see oversized OBS)
“Aspen Gay Ski Week: Was That Liza on the Black Diamond Run?” –
Feb. 3, 2006 (see oversized OBS)
- 1.12.10 “How a Governor Set His Stance on Gay Rights” – May 30, 2008
(see oversized OBS)
“Fighting Same-Sex Policy Seems to Be Uphill Battle” – May 30, 2008
(see oversized OBS)
“Secret Lives in the Age of Gay Rights” – May 8, 2009

1.13 *Newsweek*

- 1.13.01 “The Love That Will Finally Speak Its Name” – Sep. 3, 2007

1.14 *Patriot News* (Harrisburg, PA)

- 1.14.01 “Church hires gay pastors: Couple a first for major denomination” – Jun. 16,
1994
“Equality sought for all, regardless of sexuality” – Mar. 24, 1999
“Vatican disbands ministry for gays” – Aug. 7, 1999 (see oversized OBL)
“Cross-dresser dared to live life in public” – Oct. 25, 2006 (see oversized OBL)

1.15 *Philadelphia Gay News*

- 1.15.01 “Mpozi Tolbert, photographer, dead at 34” – Jul. 7 - 13, 2006
“Kameny donates papers to Library of Congress” – Oct. 2006

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1.16 Philadelphia Inquirer

- 1.16.01 “Gays, lesbians deserve protection of state anti-discrimination laws,” – Mar. 6, 1998
“Trial opens for 1 of 2 in beating death of gay man in Wyo.” – Mar. 25, 1999

1.17 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (see oversized OBL)

- 1.17.01 “Homosexuality issue threatens United Methodists” – Apr. 26, 1998

1.18 US News & World Report

- 1.18.01 “Is there a ‘gay gene’?” – Nov. 13, 1995

1.19 Wall Street Journal (see oversized OBL)

- 1.19.01 “How Hawaii Became Ground Zero in Battle Over Gay Marriages” – Jun. 17, 1996

1.20 Washington Post

- 1.20.01 “Perry Watkins, 48, Gay Sergeant Who Won Enlistment in Court” – Mar. 21, 1996

1.21 World

- 1.21.01 “‘You want to study us to death’” – Jun. 19, 1993

1.22 Xtra! (see oversized OBS)

- 1.22.01 “Nate Phelps: breaking the mould” – Aug. 11, 2011

1.23 York (PA) Daily Record

- 1.23.01 “United Methodists on trial” – Mar. 20, 1999

1.24 Unidentified

- 1.24.01 “Early American Gay,” – circa 1986
“Bishop Who Ordained Gay Deacon Is Accused of Heresy,” – Feb. 1996
“N.Y. gay marriage bill snags on religion,” – Jun. 18, 2011
“Service to be a blend of past, future, with joyous music” – Aug. 22, 2011
(see oversized OBS)

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Series 2 Dignity/Central PA

- 2.01 "Dignity/Central PA Pilgrimage" – Jun. 22, 1986
- 2.02 "Mass of Thanksgiving," *Dignity of Central Pennsylvania* program – c. Jul. 15, 1989
- 2.03 Notes from John McNeill lecture to Dignity Central PA

Series 3 Cards and Postcards

- 3.01 "Paul Cadmus: Fantasia on a Theme" postcard – 1946
- 3.02 "Briefs," greeting card (New York, NY) – 1974
- 3.03 "Rustler" by George Stavrinos, greeting card – 1979
 - "The Musician," advertisement postcard – Apr. 1979
 - "Buck," greeting card (New York, NY) – 1979
 - "Series SP," greeting card (Boston, MA) – 1979
 - "The Messenger" greeting card (New York, NY) – 1979
 - "Para-Shooter," greeting card (New York, NY) – 1979
- 3.04 "Super Jock," greeting card (Vancouver, B.C.) – 1980
 - Untitled greeting card (Chicago, IL) – 1980
 - "Harry 1978" greeting card (Los Angeles, CA) – 1980
 - "Self Portrait in Pool 1978," greeting card (Los Angeles, CA) – 1980
 - "John Paul," greeting card (New York, NY) – 1980
 - "White Table" greeting card (New York, NY) – 1980
- 3.05 "Romanticizing Gerry" greeting card (New York, NY) – 1981
 - "Daddy," greeting card (San Francisco, CA) – 1981
- 3.06 "#015" greeting card (San Francisco, CA) – 1982
 - "Loving You," greeting card (New York, NY) – 1982
- 3.07 "Drew Okun" greeting card (Los Angeles, CA) – 1983
 - "#38 – Leather" greeting card (San Francisco, CA) – 1983
 - "#39 – Construction" (San Francisco, CA) – 1983
 - "#40 – Cowboy" (San Francisco, CA) – 1983
- 3.08 Backes, Parsons, & Smith Inc. greeting cards (Oakland, CA) (2 versions) – 1985
- 3.09 "Homomonument, Amsterdam 1987," postcard – 1987
- 3.10 "Furball," advertisement postcard - Sep. 30, 2006
 - "xxx leather show," advertisement postcard - Sep. 2006
- 3.11 German postcard – undated
- 3.12 "Playgrounds 06," advertisement postcard – undated
 - "Gay classics," advertisement postcard – undated
- 3.13 Petition postcard – undated
- 3.14 "Pleasure Greetings," greeting cards (New York, NY) (2 versions) – undated
- 3.15 La Den greeting card (New York, NY) – undated
 - "Working Stiffs," greeting card (New York, NY) – undated
- 3.16 Ross/Backes greeting cards (San Francisco, CA) (6 versions) – undated

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Series 4 Montreal, Quebec, Canada LGBTQ+ Information

4.01 Brochures

- 4.01.01 *Hey Girls* – undated
- 4.01.02 *Renzo* (in French) – undated
- 4.01.03 *Open Your Eyes* – undated
- 4.01.04 *ACCM (AIDS Community Care Montreal) Support Services* in French and English – undated
- 4.01.05 *ACCM (AIDS Community Care Montreal) Information Brochure* in French and English – undated

4.02 Pamphlets and Booklets

- 4.02.01 *Drugs, Alcohol, and Gay Men* booklet – 2007
- 4.02.02 *Living Positive* Booklet – 2009
- 4.02.03 *STI: Sexually Transmitted Infections* Booklet – 2010
- 4.02.04 *My Sex Life: Info for Young POZ People* Pamphlet – 2013
- 4.02.05 *BDSM Safer Kinky Sex* Booklet – 2013

4.03 Flyers

- 4.03.01 *OK On S'engage!* (Saunas agreeing to promote safe sex practices and prevention) – undated
- 4.03.02 Promotion of pre-auditions for *The Voice* (in French) – undated
- 4.03.03 *Démystifier L'Homosexualité et La Bisexualité Ça Commence Avec Toi* (How to demystify Homosexuality and Bisexuality) – undated

4.04 Publications

- 4.04.01 *Rainbow Guide Arc-En-Ciel* (in French, Guide to Montreal, Quebec) – 2016/2017
- 4.04.02 *Fugues* (Runaways Magazine, LGBTQ+ magazine published in Montreal, Quebec) – Sep. 2016

Series 5 Miscellaneous

- 5.01 “Neptune’s Lounge” notepad – circa 1975
- 5.02 Photo of two gay men that appeared in *The Advocate* in 1979, autographed on the back – 1976
- 5.03 Postcard to John Barns from “B” (handwritten) – 1980
- 5.04 Letter from Rodger L. Beatty to John Barns (handwritten) – Oct. 24, 1980
- 5.05 *The Whole Gay Catalog: Books for Gay Men & Lesbians, Their Families & Friends* – Nov. 1984
- 5.06 *New York* Stonewall riots 25th anniversary issue – Jun. 20, 1994

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Series 5 Miscellaneous (cont.)

- 5.07 *Cartes de Montréal et de son Village Gai* (Visitors Guide to Montreal's Gay Village) – 2015 – 2016
- 5.08 Brokeback Mountain scrapbook – 2006 – 2008
This Scrapbook contains advertisements, newspaper articles, handwritten notes by Barns, and memorabilia about the movie *Brokeback Mountain*, which premiered in 2005.
- 5.09 Bruce Thomas gay pride poster, New York City – 1984 (see oversized OD)
- 5.10 Carol movie poster – 2016 (see oversized OBS)
- 5.11 *Homomonument: In the Centre of Amsterdam* Brochure – undated
- 5.12 Arnold Ipolyni quote (handwritten) – undated
- 5.13 “Answer the call...” – undated
“Giovanni’s Room: Gay and Feminist Books” (3) – undated
“Penn Book Shop” – undated

Series 6 Artifacts

- LGBT-015-AC01 Neptune’s Lounge buffalo wooden nickels (3) – circa 1975
- LGBT-015-AC02 Dignity pin – circa 1980
- LGBT-015-AC03 Pink balls hung from guide wires across rue Sainte-Catherine, Montreal, Quebec’s gay village – 2015
- LGBT-015-AC04 Framed and autographed photograph to John Barns from Leonard Matlovich – undated
- LGBT-015-AC05 Needlepoint pillowcase of a nude male created by David Roberts – undated
- LGBT-015-AC06 Arm Band Condom Holder with Condom and REZO Business Card – undated