

LGBT-114 Richard L. Schlegel Collection

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

Name:	Schlegel, Richard	LGBT-114
Material:	Papers (1949-2006)	
Volume:	0.5 linear feet (1 document box, 1 oversized folder, 1 book)	
Donation:	Donated by Robert “Bob” Deibler, 2018, 2024	
Usage:	These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.	
Processor:	Sarah Wakefield, December 2020; Simone Gillespie, October 2024	
Support:	Funding to process this collection was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Schlegel Deibler Foundation.	

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in 1927 in Berrysburg, PA, a small borough in Dauphin County, Richard Lamar Schlegel grew up in various small towns in Pennsylvania. When he graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1949, he moved to Washington, D.C. where he pursued a master’s degree and later took a job in the federal government. However, his career ended in 1961 when he was fired for “immoral and indecent conduct” after being followed by secret investigators who investigated his personal life. Schlegel appealed his case, *Schlegel vs. the United States*, which went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court but was refused a hearing.

Schlegel then returned to Pennsylvania, and once back, sent his resume to the Governor’s Office of Administration, Bureau of Personnel in Harrisburg. He was hired as Director of Finance for the Department of Highways (now referred to as Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, or PennDOT). Schlegel started a small chapter of the Janus Society in Harrisburg by recruiting a small membership and opening a post office box to communicate with the larger Janus Society in Philadelphia. This is believed to be the first gay organization created in central Pennsylvania. Yet, what happened in D.C. occurred again in Harrisburg, and Schlegel was fired from his state position in 1965 after a postal inspector told his state government superiors about the post office box. After this, Schlegel moved to Philadelphia. He later retired to his parents’ home in Lewisburg, PA. He passed away February 26, 2006.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection was originally part of the Robert “Bob” Deibler collection as Deibler donated the founding documents in 2018. When Deibler donated additional materials in 2024, the collections were divided. Deibler and Schlegel were distant family relatives, with their mothers being first cousins. Deibler kept Schlegel’s records for future reference.

The Robert Schlegel papers include ten categories: Employment, Court Documents, Articles and Newspaper Clippings, Education, Certificates, Financial Contributions, Collection at Cornell University, Photos, Oral History, and Books. The Employment category contains information regarding Schlegel’s time as a government employee in Washington D.C. and a copy of his case brief *Richard L. Schlegel vs. United States*. The Articles and Newspaper Clippings grouping includes coverage of Schlegel’s time as the Director of Finance for the Department of Highways and his obituary. The Certificates category contains Schlegel’s nomination into “Who’s Who in America.” The Photos section is comprised of images from Schlegel’s time as Director of Finance for the Department of Highways. The Oral History category contains the transcription on an oral history interview recorded in 1993, and lastly the Book category contains a book that was dedicated to Schlegel.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1 Employment

- 1.01 Resumes and performance appraisals, two with written correction – Feb. 1, 1953-Apr.30, 1961 (4)
- 1.02 Resumes – 1961-1979 (3 pages)
- 1.03 Professional portfolio, including:
 - Resume
 - Performance appraisals – Feb. 1, 1953- Apr. 30, 1961
 - Letter from Henry D. Harral, Secretary of Highways to Central Office, Engineering Districts, and Maintenance Districts regarding Management Improvement Project
 - Copy of newspaper articles about the State Highways Department (2)

Series 2 Court Documents

- 2.01 U.S. Court of Claims Petition No. 369-63 – filed Dec. 20, 1963
- 2.02 U.S. Court of Claims Report of Commissioner to the Court – Aug. 26, 1968
- 2.03 U.S. Court of Claims Decision – Oct. 17, 1969
- 2.04 *Richard L. Schlegel v. The United States* Court of Claims brief (2)
- 2.05 *Richard L. Schlegel v. The United States* opposition brief – Oct. 1969
- 2.06 *Richard L. Schlegel v. The United States* writ of certiorari – filed Feb. 28, 1970
- 2.07 Copies of various Pennsylvania Governor’s Office Executive Orders – 1975-88

Series 3 Articles and Newspaper Clippings

- 3.01 Newspaper clipping of PA Highway Engineers at management seminar at Bucknell University – Aug. 1963
- 3.02 Newspaper clipping of photo of PA Highway Department Executives (from left to right: District Engineer Max Frey, Ken Larson, Richard Schlegel, and James Mifflin) – May 12, 1964
- 3.03 “Man Says Being Gay Cost Him Top Government Job,” *Sunbury Daily Item* [PA] – Aug. 13, 2002 (see oversized OBS)
- 3.04 “Delta Pi Celebrates Its Past, Present and Future” recognizing Richard Schlegel as the recipient of the “Who’s Who in America,” *Rainbow* - Dec. 2004
- 3.05 “Richard Schlegel Presents Gift Annuity to Slifer House,” *The Victorian Times* – Winter 2004
- 3.06 Richard Schlegel memoriam article, *The Penn Stater* – Jul./Aug. 2006
- 3.07 Newspaper clipping of PA Highway officials discussing Area Road Projects (from left to right: Max Frey, district engineer; James E. Krick, assistant district engineer; Richard Schlegel, director of highway finance) – undated

Series 4 Education

- 4.01 Pennsylvania State College Commencement program – Jan. 1949.
- 4.02 Master of Public Administration diploma, in cover, awarded to Richard LaMar Schlegel by The American University – Jun. 13, 1954

Series 5 Certificates

- 5.01 “Who’s Who in America,” Richard Schlegel biography certificate – circa 2004
- 5.02 “Who’s Who in America” copy of certificate – circa 2004

Series 6 Financial Contributions

- 6.01 Announcement of endowment at Bucknell University – circa 1998
- 6.02 Bucknell University Endowment Fund Agreement – Dec. 16, 1998
- 6.03 Bucknell University Endowment Fund Agreement – Dec. 16, 1998
- 6.04 Ellen Clarke Bertrand Society at Bucknell University folder, letter of membership, and certificate – Dec. 16, 1998
- 6.05 Email with sticky note and American University Gift Agreement, 2001
- 6.06 American University tribute to Richard Schlegel article, photograph, and envelope – Sept. 2006

Series 7 Collection at Cornell University

- 7.01 Finding aid and description of Richard L. Schlegel Papers in Human Sexuality Collection at Cornell University Library – 1991
- 7.02 Article about Human Sexuality Collection at Cornell University

Series 8 Photographs

- 8.01 Bucknell University seminar for highway executives, left to right: Ken Larson, Dr. George LGBT-113 – Richard L. Schlegel (cont.)

- McManmon (standing), Richard Schlegel, and James Mifflin – Aug. 1963
- 8.02 Pennsylvania Highway Information Association dinner at the Scranton Holiday Inn, left to right: Ken Larson, James E. Krick, Max Frey, and Richard Schlegel – Mar. 11, 1964
- 8.03 Richard Schlegel at desk – circa 1962-1965
- 8.04 Richard Schlegel with large group of men in front of building [PA Highway Dept. staff?] – circa 1962-1965
- 8.05 Richard Schlegel (right) at dinner – circa 1963
- 8.06 Richard Schlegel with Department of Highways Deputy Secretary Wilbur Webb, Secretary Henry Harral, and Joe Micco with others at event – circa 1963-1965

Series 9 Oral History

- 9.01 Transcription of oral history interview with Richard Schlegel – May 11, 1993

Series 10 Books

McLeod, Donald W. *A Brief History of Gay: Canada's First Gay Tabloid, 1964-1966*. Homewood Books, 2003 [SC-LGBT 306.76 M165b]