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LG MS 35 Ryan Conrad Collection Finding Aid

Katharine Renolds Thomas

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LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER COLLECTION**

**RYAN CONRAD COLLECTION
LG MS 35**

**Total Boxes: 2
Mapcase Drawers: 1
Linear Feet: 2.25**

**By
Katharine Renolds Thomas**

**Portland, Maine
October 2014**

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Administrative Information

Provenance: The collection was donated by Ryan Conrad between 2007 and 2011.

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Cite as: Ryan Conrad Collection, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Restrictions on access: This collection is open for research.

Biographical Sketch

Ryan Conrad (b. 1983) is a radical queer activist, artist, and educator. A Maine native, Conrad earned his undergraduate degree from Bates College in Lewiston, ME in 2005 and his Master of Fine Arts degree from the Maine College of Art in Portland in 2010. As of 2014 he is a PhD candidate in the Interdisciplinary Humanities program at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, where he is employed as a faculty member.

He has served as a volunteer, board member, and/or advisor for a number of community organizing groups, including EquityFund, Outright Lewiston/Auburn, Maine HIV Prevention Community Planning Group, and Maine Video Activist Network, among others. He is editor of *Against Equality*, a series of anthologies addressing the issues of same-sex marriage, the prison system, and militarism.

Conrad curated the June 2009 exhibition "Future of the Past: Reviving the Queer Archives" at Maine College of Art. He has exhibited his work in the United States and internationally at festivals and galleries in Canada, Germany, and Japan.

Description of the Collection

The Ryan Conrad Collection contains zines, flyers, visual media, political publications, and material ephemera dating from 1976 to 2011, with the bulk of the material originating from the early 2000s.

The Collection is divided into eight series:

Series 1. Ryan Conrad Personal Work

The first series contains items related to work in which Ryan Conrad was explicitly involved and contains materials that also fall into the subjects areas of subsequent

series in the collection, including HIV/AIDS, same-sex marriage, and events and news in Maine and New England. Contents include a copy of *Against Equality: Queer Critiques of Gay Marriage*, which Conrad edited. It is the first book of a trilogy concerning same-sex marriage, militarism, and the industrial prison complex. Also of note are the materials connected with Conrad's 2009 art exhibit "Future of the Past," focusing on the photography of Annette Dragon.

Series 2. HIV/AIDS

This series includes a number of items relating to ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), an activist group with international affiliations that addresses political and social issues of persons living with AIDS. There are also a few issues of "Diseased Pariah News," a humorous zine from the late 1980s and early 1990s with HIV/AIDS as its topic.

Series 3. Same-Sex Marriage

The items in this series are from 2009-2010. Two southern Maine newspapers are included here that date from 2009, the year a same-sex marriage bill was legalized in the state before being repealed by a referendum. Included are promotional materials both for and against "Maine Question 1, 2009," the repeal campaign.

Series 4. Outright L-A Youth Organization

This small series contains materials about Outright Lewiston/Auburn, an advocacy group for LGBTQ youth. Ryan Conrad volunteered for Outright L/A and served as a board member beginning in 2004.

Series 5. Events and News, Maine/New England

Herein are flyers and posters promoting local events including Lewiston, Maine's "Lewistunning Dragapalooza" annual drag show for the years 2008-2010. Other posters advertise local LGBTQ events such as dance parties and theater and arts events. Finally, a scanned newspaper clipping and a t-shirt reference the 2009 closure of The Sportsman's Athletic Club, a Lewiston, ME gay bar. There are also a few programs and posters from events occurring in other regions of the U.S. and in Canada.

Series 6. Publications

This series is divided into two sections. The first contains publications and ephemera from Maine and New England, including "Our Paper," a 1991 Maine newspaper and two regional zines. The second and larger section holds publications from throughout the United States and ranging broadly in topic and time period. Included are "Gay Chicago Magazine" from 1976, items relating to the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, a variety of zines, many newspapers and other printed materials from the West Coast, and a collection of buttons.

Series 7. Incarceration

This series has a number of different zines relating to imprisonment including “Imprisoned Pride,” “Chairman of the Bored,” “Left Back,” and “Weiner Society.” The Case of the New Jersey 4 (NJ4) material is of special interest in this series along with items from The Prisoner Correspondence Project.

Series 8. Anarchism

This series includes a newsletter by Naughty North, a radical queer organization in Maine of which Ryan Conrad was a part. One notable item in this series is “Cheer Yer Ass Off,” a handmade booklet of original radical cheers and illustrations.

Series 9. Oversize

This series contains materials too large or bulky to fit into regular boxes. Listed within their regular series, they are included here to give their physical location.

Keywords:

Ryan Conrad, Against Equality, Same-Sex Marriage, HIV/AIDS, ACT UP, Future of the Past, Annette Dragon, Outright L/A, Lewiston/Auburn, Drag, New Jersey 4 (NJ4), Anarchism, Naughty North, The Prisoner Correspondence Project

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 1. Conrad Personal Work (2008-2011, undated)			
1	1	DVDs: “No Faggots Allowed WGME,”; “No Faggots Allowed by Maine Video Activist Network”; MTV Street Team + Additional Interview Footage;	2008-2009
1	2	“Homotopia” promotional cards Poster See Oversize	2008
1	3	“No Faggots Allowed” press release Poster See Oversize	2008
1	4	American Red Cross letter	2009
		“Dump Gay Marriage, a Queer Activist’s View,” Portland Phoenix newspaper See Oversize	2009

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 1. Conrad Personal Work (cont.)			
1	5	DVDs: World AIDS Day; Milk Discussion; In the Aftermath of Maine Marriage Equality	2009
1	6	Events: "Bluestockings" brochure; "Cirque du Burlesque" programs	2009, 2010
1	7	"Future of the Past" captions 1-29	2009
1	8	"Future of the Past" captions 30-60	2009
1	9	"Future of the Past" captions 61-97	2009
1	10	"Future of the Past" single caption	2009
1	11	"Future of the Past" guestbook pages	2009
1	12	"Future of the Past" poster	2009
1	13	"Future of the Past" postcards	2009
		L/A AIDS Walk: flyer, DVD Poster See Oversize	2009
1	14	T-shirt, black See Oversize "Stand Against AIDS" red foam hand See Oversize	
1	15	<i>Against Equality</i> : book; "Queer writers/activists criticize marriage equality" review; Time Out Chicago review clipping; Chicago Public Library event flyers	2010-2011
1	16	Against Equality military themed postcards; blue and yellow stickers	undated
1	17	"Annual July 4 th Casco Bay Cruise" flyer	2010
1	18	"The Domestic Queens Project" program	2011
1	19	"In 1983 . . ." postcards	undated
		"In 1983 . . ." poster See Oversize	undated
1	20	"Out of the Closets" zine	undated
Series 2. HIV/AIDS (1988-2009, undated)			
1	21	Diseased Pariah News zine nos. 6 and 8	1988, 1992

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 2. HIV/AIDS (cont.)			
1		ACT UP Target Bush posters: "Read My Lips"; "Open Your Eyes George"; "We Are Here Today" See Oversize	1988, undated
	22	ACT UP: "Target Bush" DVD; "New York Activism" program; "Fight Back, Fight AIDS: 15 Years of ACT UP" DVD; poster	1991, 2002, 2009, undated
1	23	"Creating in Crisis" program	1994
1	24	"Criminalization of Exposure" poster	2009
1	25	"Inter-": program; promotional cards Poster See Oversize	2009
1	26	"Silence (still)=Death" flyer; handbills; CD-R Poster See Oversize	undated
Series 3. Same-Sex Marriage (2009-2010, undated)			
		"Celebration: Same-Sex Marriage is Legal!" Portland Phoenix See Oversize	2009
		"Mainers Face Historic Choice" Lewiston Sun Journal newspaper See Oversize	2009
1	27	"Yes on 1" flyer "Yes on 1" sign See Oversize "No on 1" sign See Oversize	2009
1	28	"Married to the State" brochure	2010
1	29	"Gay Marriage Debate" DVD	2010
1	30	"Don't Get Hitched" zine	undated

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 4. Outright L-A Youth Organization (2009-2011, undated)			
1	31	Newsletter	2009-2011
1	32	Brochure, oral history DVD	2011, undated
1	33	Left Out zine	undated
Series 5.1 Events and News: Maine/New England, Drag Related (2008-2010)			
1	34	“Lewistunning Dragapalooza” handbills; punched tickets; poster; drag show poster CD-R Poster See Oversize	2008-2010
1	35	“Dragapalooza” DVD	2009-2010
Series 5.2 Events and News: Maine/New England, Social (2008-2010, undated)			
1	36	LGBTI Health Summit folder	2008
1	37	Flyers: “Portland Dyke March”; “Pier Dance Alternative”; “GLBTQA Dance Party”; “Queer Dance Party”	2009, undated
1	38	“Lewiston Gay Club to Close” scanned article Coors Lite “Sportsman’s Curtain Call” T-shirt See Oversize	2009
1	39	Programs: St. Lawrence Arts Center; Marsden Hartley; Mainstage; “Two Point Gallery Presents: Honey Cling to Me” promotional card	2009-2010, undated
1	40	“Call to Women Artists” flyer	1990
1	41	“Queer Bonds” program; promotional cards Poster See Oversize	2009
1	42	“Pervers/Cite 2010” program Poster See Oversize	2010
1	43	“Hide/Seek” program “Gaylord-o-rama strip-o-ganza” poster See Oversize	2010-2011 undated

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 6. Publications (1976-2011, undated) (See also LGBT Periodicals for more issues)			
2	44	"Our Paper" vol. 9 issue 2	1991
2	45	"Gay Community News"	1993
2	46	"Faeryland" #1	2003
2	47	"New England Blade" vol. 17 issue 50	July 30, 2008
		"Back to the Future: Gay and Lesbian Mainers Revisit the Last 25 Years" Portland Phoenix See Oversize	2009
		"Maine QT Youth Summer" T-shirts See Oversize	2010, undated
2	48	"Smut Ball" zine	undated
2	49	Gay Chicago Magazine	1976
2	50	March on Washington "Out & Outraged C.D." booklet; "Why I Hated" broadside	1987, 1993
2	51	"Art Fag Presents Prick " zine	1991
2	52	"Bimbox" #4 zine	1991
2	53	"How to '92" booklet	1992
2	54	"Blue Blood" vol. 1 no. 3 zine	1993
2	55	"Teen Fag" nos. 1, 3. 4 zine	1993-1995
2	56	"Out Against the Right" poster	1994
2	57	"Outpunk" #6 zine	1996
2	58	"Whorzine" zine	1996
2	59	"It's Time to End" broadside	1997
2	60	"This Is the Salvation Army" issues IV and X	1997, 2004
2	61	"Ready for Drama" vol. XXXI no. 4	2005
2	62	"Queer Tribes"	2007
2	63-64	"Ultra Violet" newspaper, vol. XIX nos. 2,3,5; vol. XX no. 3; vol. XXI no. 2	2008-2010
2	65	"MaximumRocknRoll" #317	2009
2	66	"The New Face of Fascism" booklet	2010
2	67	"This is about not waiting" stickers	2010
2	68	"Seattle Gay News" vol. 39 issue 13	2011

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 6. Publications (cont.)			
2	69	"HRC is Not Your Friend" booklet	undated
2	70	"Are You Ready for Direct Action?" zine	undated
2	71	"Back to School" comic supplement	undated
		Buttons: "You Can Fight City Hall"; "Vomiting Up "Assimilation"; "Eat a Twinkie" See Oversize	undated
2	72	"Creating Change or Creating Chains?" broadside	undated
2	73	"HomoX" zine	undated
		Posters: "I Am a Mannish . . ."; "Dyke" See Oversize	undated
2	74	"Queers Against Borders" fabric square	undated
		"Sign a Letter" sign See Oversize	undated
2	75	"We're a Movement, Not a Market" flyer	undated
2	76	"Whispering Campaign" no. 2 zine	undated
2	77	"The Zenger" zine	undated
Series 7. Incarceration (2002-2009, undated)			
2	78-79	"Fanorama" zine	2002-2005, 2007
2	80	"The Case of the New Jersey 4" broadside	2007
		"Support Self-Defense" poster; CD-R; sign; buttons See Oversize	
		"Uncage the NJ4" halter top See Oversize	
2	81	"Imprisoned Pride" zine	2008
2	82	"You Improvise to Survive" zine	2009
2	83	The Prisoner Correspondence Project "The Word is Out" newsletter; "Calling All Gay . . ." cards; "Gay Penpal" cards	2009, undated
		Posters See Oversize	

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 7. Incarceration (cont.)			
2	84	"Are You Now?" satirical advertisement	undated
2	85	"Chairman of the Bored" zine	undated
2	86	"Criminal Queers" promotional cards	undated
2	87	"Left Back" nos. 1 and 2 zine	undated
2	88	"One Woman's Struggle" booklet	undated
2	89	"Wiener Society" zine	undated

Series 8. Anarchism (2008-2009, undated)

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	90	Naughty North newsletter	2008
2	91	"Reflections on Revolution" cards	2009
2	92	"Anarchist Bookfair" booklet	undated
		"Anarchist Bookfair" poster See Oversize	undated
2	93	"Cheer Yer Ass Off" booklet	undated
2	94	"Glamarchist Lookfair 2" flyer	undated
2	95	"Towards a Less Fucked Up World" zine	undated

Series 9. Oversize

Mpcs4	Dr37	"Homotopia" film poster (Series 1, Folder 2)	2008
Mpcs4	Dr37	"No Faggots Allowed" poster (Series 1, Folder 3)	2008
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Dump Gay Marriage" Portland Phoenix newspaper (Series 1, Folder 4)	2009
Mpcs4	Dr37	L/A AIDS Walk poster (Series 1, Folder 14)	2009
Mpcs4	Dr37	L/A AIDS Walk t-shirt (Series 1, Folder 14)	2009
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Stand Against AIDS" red foam hand sign (Series 1, Folder 14)	undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	"In 1983 . . ." poster (Series 1, Folder 19)	undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	ACT UP Target Bush posters (Series 2, Folder 21)	1988, undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Inter-" poster (Series 2, Folder 25)	2009

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 9. Oversize			
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Silence (still) = death" poster (Series 2, Folder 26)	undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Celebration: Same-Sex Marriage is Legal!" Portland Phoenix newspaper (Series 3)	2009
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Mainers Face Historic Choice" Lewiston Sun Journal newspaper (Series 3)	2009
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Yes on 1" sign (Series 3, Folder 27)	2009
Mpcs4	Dr37	"No on 1" sign (Series 3, Folder 27)	2009
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Lewistunning Dragapalooza" poster (Series 5.1, Folder 34)	undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	Coors Lite "Sportsman's Curtain Call" t-shirt (Series 5.2, Folder 38)	2009
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Queer Bonds" poster (Series 5.2, Folder 41)	2009
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Gaylord-o-rama strip-o-ganza" poster (Series 5.2, Folder 43)	undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Back to the Future" Portland Phoenix newspaper (Series 6, Folder 47)	2009
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Maine QT Youth" t-shirts (Series 6, Folder 47)	2010, undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	Buttons: "You Can Fight City Hall"; "Vomiting Up "Assimilation"; "Eat a Twinkie" (Series 6, Folder 71)	undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	Posters: "I am a Mannish"; "Dyke" (Series 6, Folder 73)	undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Sign a Letter" hand sign (Series 6, Folder 74)	undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Support Self-Defense" poster; sign; buttons (Series 7, Folder 80)	undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Uncage the NJ4" halter top (Series 7, Folder 80)	undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	Prisoner Correspondence Project posters (Series 7, Folder 83)	undated
Mpcs4	Dr37	"Anarchist Bookfair" poster (Series 8, Folder 92)	undated