

# LGBTQ+ History

## Collections Resource Guide

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We preserve and provide access to a diverse range of archival material and Special Collections publications. This guide showcases some of our collections and items related to LGBTQ+ history to help you start your research but isn't an exhaustive list and won't cover all of the material that we hold.

You can also browse a frequently updated list of items [tagged as relating to LGBTQ+ History](#) via our catalogue.

Email [archives@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:archives@ljmu.ac.uk) for further information, and all enquiries and appointments. To browse all of our collections A-Z, please [visit our catalogue](#).

### PF – The Peter Farrer Collection

Our most notable collection related to LGBTQ+ historical life and experiences is the Peter Farrer collection. It consists of the published works of Peter Farrer, notable crossdresser and crossdressing historian, in addition to his large collection of unique and rare publications related to crossdressing, fetish, LGBTQ+, and transgender life in Britain from the Victorian period until the early 2000s.

This collection is uncatalogued but a provisional box list can be obtained by emailing [archives@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:archives@ljmu.ac.uk).

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

### LH – Liddell Hart Collection of Costume

The Liddell Hart collection is a personalised 19th and early 20th Century fashion collection curated by Sir Basil Liddell Hart, containing works concerning fashion, but also feminism, psychology of dress, and the social scene and society. It includes: published materials such as books and periodicals; early fashion plates; Liddell Hart's writing and correspondence; and curated scrapbooks of clippings based on Liddell Hart's personal interests in women's period fashion, particularly corsetry and tight lacing.

Liddell Hart was a friend of Peter Farrer and there is a possibility that he may also have been involved in the crossdressing scene, albeit not publicly. His collection also contains

bound volumes of *The Family Doctor*, an 1880s domestic medical periodical which Farrer had borrowed from Liddell Hart for use in his crossdressing research due to their frequent mention of both male and female crossdressing, and discussions of the intersections between fashion and health, especially corsetry and tight lacing. Although these volumes now sit within the Liddell Hart collection, they still contain the bookmarks made by Farrer during his research.

The Liddell Hart collection may also be generally useful on transgender and crossdressing history, as within its focus on women's period costume it contains occasional reference to transgressions and variance of gendered norms in fashion, such as photographs of the notable crossdressers Fanny (Frederick William Park) and Stella (Thomas Ernest Boulton) and Stella's husband Lord Arthur Clinton, who also feature in Farrer's 1987 publication *Men in Petticoats*.

This collection is currently uncatalogued but a provisional list can be found in the Multimedia field of its [collection-level description](#), and the books within this collection are searchable via [LJMU Library Discover](#).

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## **FEM/49 – Spare Rib**

*Spare Rib* was a British counterculture feminist magazine published between 1972-1993. The magazine includes discussion of various branches of the women's liberation movement during this period, including lesbian feminism and discussions of sexuality, among other intersectional feminist topics.

This collection has been catalogued and issues we hold are browsable [via our catalogue](#). One additional issue (no.59) of *Spare Rib* is however catalogued within the England's Dreaming collection under reference [ED/2/21/49](#) because of its connection to Jon Savage's punk research. Further issues of *Spare Rib* (no.s 60, 68, 78, 107, and one undated issue) are also available via the currently uncatalogued collection [FSXS](#) Falcon Stuart and X-Ray Spex Papers.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## **OZ – Oz Obscenity Trial Papers**

This collection pertains to the obscenity charges and trial of 1971 surrounding the underground Australian and British magazine *Oz*, including: issues of the magazine related to the trial; press cuttings; photographs; flyers; posters; and other manuscript records

related to the trial. Although Oz magazine was accused of corrupting the morals of children and young people for a wide variety of reasons, among them was ‘homosexuality, lesbianism... [and] perverted sexual practices,’ according to prosecutor Brian Leary. The magazine frequently satirised homophobic police harassment of gay people among other issues of persecution and censorship which affected LGBTQ+ life in Britain and Australia.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## **TP – Ted Polhemus’ Papers**

Ted Polhemus is a photographer and anthropologist of fashion and the body, known for his sociological and anthropological examinations of style to explore the communicative importance of personal expressions within fashion. His collection includes many examples of LGBTQ+ cultural life and expression such as: within his own photography and research on street style; material related to the London club scene in the 1980s-1990s; material related to the London fetish scene including fetish and erotic ephemera; and material related to representations of bodies in material culture.

His papers are split into three subcollections: [TP/ABAD](#) Anthropology of the Body, Adornment, and Dress; [TP/FF](#) Fashion and Fetishism; and [TP/SS](#) Streetstyle.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## **LJMUH/IMM – I M Marsh College of Physical Education**

This collection consists of the papers of I M Marsh College of Physical Education, previously the Liverpool Physical Training College founded in 1900 by Irené Mabel Marsh (1875-1938). The college was a women’s college until the 1970s, and several notable figures associated with the college had relationships with other women.

This includes Irené Mabel Marsh, whose ‘life companion’ Kathleen M Henderson (1885-1944) was a student at the college 1902-1904 before joining as a staff member in 1905, and became Vice Principal from 1906 until 1939. The collection includes personal photograph albums from Marsh’s family holiday home in Abersoch called ‘The Shanty,’ where family and sometimes students would stay. According to Marsh’s great niece Sarah Green, Henderson was referred to within the family as ‘Aunty Kathleen.’ The albums include photographs of Marsh and Henderson together and with their three dogs, but as Henderson was a keen photographer she may have taken most of the other photographs in these albums, as well as other photographs within the collection of the college and its students during her active years. The Shanty was left to Henderson upon Marsh’s death as

per Marsh's wishes. Although the collection contains no explicit mention of their relationship as LGBTQ+, the collection may be of use for research into LGBTQ+ life and experience, particularly within women's sports and colleges.

LJMU Special Collections & Archives also holds the papers of another women's college, [LJMUH/FLC](#) F L Calder College of Domestic Science. While this collection also does not explicitly mention LGBTQ+ relationships, it may still be useful within similar research topics.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## Counterculture Collections

Alongside the aforementioned Ted Polhemus, *Spare Rib*, and *Oz* papers, our counterculture collections contain other references to LGBTQ+ history, both explicit and implicit within material related to punk and subculture life. For a full list of our counterculture collections, please see the [Pop Culture, Music, and Counterculture Collections Resource Guide](#) available alongside this guide on our website.

An inexhaustive list of items of note within our counterculture collections includes:

- [ED/2/21/25](#) *Homoture* magazine.
- [ED/2/21/102](#) *The Wolverine* magazine issue entitled 'Gay Voices of Hostility' concerning working class LGBTQ+ life and social unrest.
- [ED/3/54/45](#) *Gaie Presse* 1978 French language magazine.
- [ED/4/2/27](#) Rock and Roll Queer Bar poster for a gay event at The Underground, San Francisco, with letter on reverse to Jon Savage.
- [ED/6/4/39/8](#) *Time Out* magazine dated 27 July 1994 with cover title 'King or Queen? Why There's Nowt So Queer as Pop.'
- [ED/6/4/44/19](#) *Buy Boy* magazine featuring Boy George advertisements.
- [ED/6/4/44/46](#) *Gay Life* magazine dated 1 June 1986.
- [ED/6/4/44/47](#) *Gay Times* magazine dated 1 October 1991. Please note that multiple other issues of *Gay Times* magazine can be found within the [Peter Farrer](#) collection.
- [IOC/1/154](#) *Index on Censorship* Vol.24 No.1 issue published January 1995 entitled 'Gay's The Word in Moscow.'
- [IT/BM/1/129](#) *International Times* Vol.1 No.124 issue published 24 February – 9 March 1972, including article entitled 'Gay Power.'
- [JMS/O/000007](#) *Two Cowboys* pillowcase t-shirts, designed 1976 by Malcolm McLaren and Vivienne Westwood for their SEX boutique on King's Road in London, featuring Tom of Finland artwork.

- [JMS/B/000038](#) *The Colt Album* publication featuring unattributed Tom of Finland artwork, including the *Two Cowboys* design.
- [JR/9](#) *No Clause 28*, 1989 and [JR/10](#) *Heartbreak Hotel*, 1989 artwork by Jamie Reid protesting Section 28.
- [FSXS](#) Falcon Stuart and X-Ray Spex Papers also include currently uncatalogued issues of *Gay News*.
- [1966JS](#) papers for Jon Savage's 2015 *1966: The Year the Decade Exploded* includes some material related to the 1960s Homophile movement for American gay liberation.

Author Jon Savage (whose writer's research papers we hold under [ED](#) *England's Dreaming: Sex Pistols and Punk Rock*; [TJS](#) *Teenage: The Creation of Youth 1975-1945*; and [1966JS](#) *1966: The Year the Decade Exploded*) is also a historian of LGBTQ+ life in pop and counterculture history. His most recent 2024 publication *The Secret Public: How LGBTQ Resistance Shaped Popular Culture 1955-1979* is available via the [LJMU Library](#).

## **FEM – Femorabilia: Just Seventeen, Honey, and Jackie**

[FEM/21](#) *Just Seventeen*, also known as *J-17*, was a fortnightly magazine aimed at teenage girls published by EMAP from 1983-2004. The magazine occasionally included articles and advice columns related to LGBTQ+ life and sexual health, including responding to teen readers' questions. [FEM/21/1/54](#), the issue dated 26 June 1985 featured the article 'Glad to be gay? Real life experiences' on the cover. *Just Seventeen* also frequently published adverts from the UK Government's 'AIDS: Don't Die of Ignorance' public health campaign.

Other titles from our [Femorabilia collection](#) of women's and girls' magazines also reference LGBTQ+ life and experiences, such as [FEM/11](#) *Honey* and [FEM/13](#) *Jackie*. [FEM/11/1/18](#), the December 1980 issue of *Honey*, for example, featured an article on the cover entitled 'The Sex Change Operation: Didn't you always wonder how they do it...?'

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## **Future Collections**

LJMU Special Collections & Archives is anticipating receiving more collections which substantially relate to LGBTQ+ history, life, and experiences in the near future, particularly related to transgender history and LGBTQ+ art and performance. Keep an eye on our social media for future updates, and email any enquiries to [archives@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:archives@ljmu.ac.uk).

We also welcome proposals for donations to our collections related to this theme. See our [Donations page](#) for more information.