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## Finding aid of The James White Review Association Records

### Collection number: Coll2006-004

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives  
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:

Michael C. Oliveira

Date Completed:

November 10, 2006

Encoded by:

Michael C. Oliveira

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Processing this collection has been funded by a generous grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.



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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** James White Review Association records

**Dates:** 1980-1999

**Collection number:** Coll2006-004

**Creator:** Willkie, Phil, 1952-

**Collection Size:** 2 archive boxes 0.7 linear feet

**Repository:** ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives.

Los Angeles, California 90007

**Abstract:** Correspondence, manuscripts, illustrations, photographs, press releases, newspaper clippings, event posters, and financial records documenting the activities of the James White Review Association, (JWRA) from 1983 to 1999.

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

### Access

The collection is open to researchers when ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives is open, and at other times by appointment. Access to the Lists and addresses file is restricted, but may be granted at the discretion of archives staff.

### Publication Rights

Researchers wishing to publish materials must obtain permission in writing from ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives as the physical owner. Researchers must also obtain clearance from the holder(s) of any copyrights in the materials. Note that ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives can grant copyright clearance only for those materials for which we hold the copyright. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance for all other materials directly from the copyright holder(s).

### Preferred Citation

Box #, folder # The James White Review Association Records, Coll2006-004, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

### Acquisition Information

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Gift, together with the James White Papers, the Tom Young Papers, and the David M. Lindahl Papers, of Philip H. Willkie, March 21, 2004.

### **Processing Information**

Collection processed by Michael C. Oliveira, November 10, 2006.

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### **Administrative History**

In March 1983, a group of gay male writers began meeting weekly at the Minneapolis writing center, the Loft, for the purpose of improving their skills and publishing their work. In October 1983, the first issue of *The James White Review* ( TJWR) was published by the James White Review Association (JWRA), under the editorship of Phil Willkie, Greg Baysans, and Paul Edmond. Willkie was instrumental in the choice of name for the publication, which commemorated his friend, the local poet James L. White, and was also intended to obtain regional name recognition for the publication. The name had the desired effect and gained TJWR recognition from the local literary establishment. Six thousand copies of the first issue were distributed nationally, free of charge, to gay bookstores, newspapers, and writers. Although the first issue contained only regional materials, TJWR's wide distribution attracted over 170 submissions from throughout the U.S. and Canada. TJWR's reputation grew throughout the 1980s, and it became recognized as one of the leading examples of the second wave of gay journals, following publications such as *Fag Rag*, *Gay Sunshine*, and *Mouth of the Dragon*. By 1985, TJWR was receiving submissions of 200 to 250 poems and 25 to 40 prose pieces for each issue, and was publishing an average of 25 poems and seven prose pieces. The issues were distributed to over 270 subscribers and were available at more than 70 retail locations. During the summer of 1986, TJWR conducted workshops on writing for gay men in northwestern Wisconsin. By January 1987, the subscription base had more than doubled to 600, including 25 foreign subscribers. As AIDS impacted the Gay community, TJWR provided an outlet for literary expression. In 1990, the Lambda Literary Awards recognized Willkie and Baysans with the Publisher's Service Award for TJWR's contribution to the community. In 1991, Willkie and Baysans edited and published *The Gay Nineties: An Anthology of Contemporary Gay Fiction*.

By 1998, its 15th year of publication, TJWR had published the works of an estimated 500 writers and artists, and had a subscription list of 1,700. On July 1, 1998, Willkie transferred publication rights for TJWR to the Lambda Literary Foundation, Washington, D.C., which suspended publication in 2004.

Sources:

Beard, William Randall. "Gay Literary Journal Celebrates 10th Anniversary." *Equal Time*, March 17-24, 1994, Q-2.

Bittmann, Joe. "Gambling for a 'New Generation.'" *The Washington Blade*, January 30, 1987, 2, 13.

Hutera, Donald J. "Changing Perceptions of Gender: Gentlemen's Quarterly." *Minnesota Daily*, October 14, 1985, 14-15.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Anything From Anyone:" *The James White Review* Aims to be a Comprehensive Gay Men's Quarterly." *New York Native*, January 19, 1987, 27-28.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Leading Gay Lit Mag Moves to Washington." *Pulse*, June 17, 1998, 6.

Kasel, Mark. "The James White Review Discovers New Directions." *Equal Time*, February 20, 1985, 6,10.

"Lambda Literary Foundation: LL Awards Recipients: 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991." Lambda Literary Foundation, 2006. Available from [http://www.lambdaliterary.org/awards/previous\\_winners/paw\\_1988\\_1991.html](http://www.lambdaliterary.org/awards/previous_winners/paw_1988_1991.html) (accessed October 12, 2006.)

Peck, Claude. "Inventing New Forms: A Gay Literary Quarterly Named for Poet James White Reflects a Range of Styles and Substances." *City Pages*, 1983, 21.

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection comprises correspondence, manuscripts, illustrations, photographs, press releases, newspaper clippings, event posters, and financial records documenting the activities of the JWRA from 1983 to 1999. The bulk of the materials consists of correspondence, documenting the relationship between authors and editors, as well as sponsored events and fund-raising projects; these materials are arranged chronologically. The collection also includes a small number of submissions, some with accompanying correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the name of the correspondent. The newspaper clippings, event posters, and press releases, arranged chronologically, relate to the activities of JWRA staff, from fund-raises to readings across the country. Records for two writers' programs sponsored by TJWR survive: those for the Jim Holmes a.k.a. Jacob Lowland writers' program and those for the Jim White School Summer Writers' Program. The address lists include lists of subscribers, authors, and invitees to special events and readings. The remaining materials consist largely of fragmentary financial and legal records.

### **Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

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Gays in literature  
Gays' writings  
Holmes, Jim (James S.), 1924-1986  
James White Review Association  
Lowland, Jacob (pseudonym for Jim Holmes)  
Poetry--Collections  
Poetry--Publishing  
Poets, American--20th century  
Queries (Authorship)  
White, James L., 1936-1981  
Willkie, Phil, 1952-

**Related Material**

James L. White Papers, Coll2006-003, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.  
Tom Young Papers, Coll2006-005, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.  
David M. Lindahl Papers, Coll2006-006 ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

Box : Folder 1 : **1Event posters 1983-1996**

Box : Folder 1 : **2Newspaper Clippings 1981-1998**

Box : Folder 1 : **3Press Releases 1985-1986, 1992**

Box : Folder 1 : **4Correspondence 1980-1998**  
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Box : Folder 1 : 4 **1980-1984**

Box : Folder 1 : 5 **1985**

Box : Folder 2 : 1 **1986**

Box : Folder 2 : 2 **1987-1991**

Box : Folder 2 : 3 **1992-1998**

Box : Folder 2 : 4 **undated**

Box : Folder 2 : **5Jim Holmes a.k.a. Jacob Lowland 1985-1986**

Box : Folder 2 : **6Jim White School 1985**

Box : Folder 2 : **7Submissions 1981, circa 1990**

Box : Folder 2 : **8Financial 1985-1999**

Box : Folder 2 : **9AIDS Annotated Bibliography 1982-1991**

Box : Folder 2 : **10Lists and Addresses 1985-2000**

Box : Folder 2 : **11Photographs - published 1986-1989**

Box : Folder 2 : **12Photographs - Willkie 1998**