
Finding aid of the James Barr Papers

Collection number: Coll2008-043

ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:

Loni Shibuyama

Date Completed:

June 24, 2008

Encoded by:

Loni Shibuyama

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



Descriptive Summary

Title: James Barr papers

Dates: 1951-1991

Collection number: Coll2008-043

Creator: Barr, James (pseudonym for James W. Fugaté)

Creator: Fugaté, James W., 1922-1995

Collection Size: 1 archive carton.0.4 linear foot.

Repository: ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives.

Los Angeles, California 90007

Abstract: Manuscripts, correspondence, clippings and photographs relating to gay author James W. Fugaté (1922-1995), who under the pseudonym James Barr, wrote the groundbreaking novel, *Quatrefoil* (1950), as well as other gay-themed works, including a volume of short stories, *Derricks* (1951), and a play, *Game of Fools* (1955). The collection also includes manuscripts of short stories and of articles he contributed to homophile periodicals such as *ONE Magazine*, *Der Kreis* and the *Mattachine Review*; correspondence with his publishers and homophile organizations such as ONE, Inc.; and photographs of Fugaté dating back to 1952.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Acquisition Information

Donor and date of acquisition unknown.

Processing Information

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Biography

James W. Fugaté was born in Missouri on February 13, 1922. Fugaté was still a child when his mother died and, having never met his father, was relocated several times before a foster couple decided to raise him. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Fugaté studied professional writing at a university, but soon dropped out and moved to New York City where he earned a living writing advertising copy for television.

His experience in the Navy was the inspiration for his book, the groundbreaking novel, *Quatrefoil*, first published in 1950. Written under the pseudonym, James Barr, *Quatrefoil* is hailed as one of the first novels to present a frank and positive depiction of same-sex love. Following the success of *Quatrefoil*, he published a volume of short stories, *Derricks* (1951), and the play, *Game of Fools* (1955).

During the Korean War, Fugaté reenlisted in the U.S. Navy, but he was discharged when a background check by Naval Intelligence revealed him to be the author of *Quatrefoil*. Following the incident, he moved to Los Angeles where he became aware of ONE, Inc., the Mattachine Society and the early gay rights movement. As an early activist, he contributed a number of articles to homophile periodicals--such as *ONE Magazine*, *Der Kreis* (*The Circle*) and *Mattachine Review*--throughout the 1950s. By the mid-1960s, however, he lost touch with the gay rights movement and returned to the Midwest, where he earned a living in a variety of jobs, including laborer in oil fields and reporter for the *Kansas City Star*. He eventually settled in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he died on March 28, 1995.

Source: James Barr Papers, Coll2008-043, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection comprises manuscripts, correspondence, clippings and photographs. The manuscripts include short stories and articles Fugaté wrote for early homophile periodicals, such as *ONE Magazine* and *Der Kreis* (*The Circle*.) The correspondence documents his participation in the 1950s homophile movement as well as his work with publishers of his books. The photographs include photos of him in the 1950s and publicity photos taken for the re-issue of his novel, *Quatrefoil*, in 1991. The materials prior to 1980 appear to have been pulled from the files of ONE, Inc.

Indexing Terms

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

Barr, James

Fugaté, James W., 1922-1995

Gay authors--United States--20th century

Gays' writings, American

Homosexuality and literature

- Box 1 : 1 - 11 **Manuscripts and Publications 1954 - 1990**
Box 1 : 1 **Autobiographical Manuscript "James Barr - Warts and All" 1990**
Box 1 : 2 **"Camping in the Bush" 1954**
Box 1 : 3 - 4 ***Game of Fools* circa 1954**
Box 1 : 3 **Manuscript Pages circa 1954**
Box 1 : 4 **"First Reactions to *Game of Fools*" circa 1954**
Box 1 : 5 **"Hold That Curtain! Juliet's Still Shaving, or Maunderings with Jaybarr" Undated**
Box 1 : 6 **"Homosexuality and Liberal Mind" Undated**
Box 1 : 7 ***The Mamma Doll* 1955**
Box 1 : 8 **"A Mosaic of Ideas and Ideals" 1955**
Box 1 : 9 **"Nickels and Dimes" Undated**

- Box 1 : 10 **"Noblesse Oblige" Undated**
Box 1 : 11 **Quatrefoil Publicity Material 1982**
- Box 1 : 12 - 14 **Correspondence 1953 - 1991**
Box 1 : 12 **November 1953 - October 1954**
Box 1 : 13 **October 1954 - December 1962**
Box 1 : 14 **1989 - 1991**
- Box 1 : 15 **Clippings 1951 - 1966**
- Box 1 : 16 **Miscellaneous circa 1989 - 1991**
- Box 1 : 17 - 19 **Photographs 1952 - 1990**
Box 1 : 17 **James Barr Fugaté and Others 1952 - 1956**

 Physical Description: 14 photographs : b&w.
- Box 1 : 18 **James Barr Fugaté Publicity Photos and Contact Sheets 1990**

 Physical Description: 4 photographs : b&w + 4 contact sheets.
- Box 1 : 19 **Landscapes Undated**

 Physical Description: 12 photographs : col.