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## Finding aid of the Max Gundy and Jack D. Bloch Papers

### Collection number: Coll2008-070

ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives  
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:

Michael C. Oliveira, with assistance from Misha Karbelnig and Richard French

Date Completed:

December 18, 2008

Encoded by:

Michael C. Oliveira

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Max Gundy and Jack D. Bloch papers

**Dates:** 1887-1996

**Bulk Dates:** 1970-1990

**Collection number:** Coll2008-070

**Creator:** Gundy, Max, 1910-1996

**Creator:** Bloch, Jack D. (Jack Daniel), 1912-1996

**Collection Size:** 3 records boxes, 1 archive carton, and 1 oversize box.4.8 linear feet.

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

Los Angeles, California 90007

**Abstract:** Materials relating to the lives of progressive activist Max Gundersheimer (aka Gundy; 1910-1996), of New York City, and his partner of more than 60 years, Jack D. Bloch (1912-1996). The documents include correspondence, photographs, business, and financial records, as well as minutes and notes taken by Gundy of the meetings and other activities of Communist, socialist, peace, and other progressive organizations in Long Beach, California, where the couple retired in 1977. Both men died in 1996, within three months of each other.

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

### Access

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

### Publication Rights

Researchers wishing to publish materials must obtain permission in writing from ONE National Gay and 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

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Box #, folder #, Max Gundy and Jack D. Bloch Papers, Coll2008-070, ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

### **Acquisition Information**

Date and method of acquisition unknown.

### **Processing Information**

Formerly boxes 103-106, 103-107, 103-108, and 104-121. Collection processed by Michael C. Oliveira, with assistance from Misha Karbelnig and Richard French, December 2008.

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### **Biography**

Max Gundersheimer, Jr., was born in New York City on December 19, 1910, to Max and Alice Gundersheimer. Little is known of his early life. He served as the President of Beth Sholom Peoples Temple Young Folks League from 1929-1930. In the early-to-mid 1930s he met Jack D. Bloch, a fellow New Yorker. Bloch was born June 4, 1912, and held a series of jobs in a variety of occupations until 1942. He served with the U.S. Army in Europe from March 1942 to October 1945. During the late 1940s and early 1950s, Gundersheimer, who went by the name Max Gundy as early as 1944, became involved in the Communist party and other progressive causes; he became more actively involved after his retirement to Long Beach, California, in 1977. In 1950, Bloch purchased a home in Eastchester, Westchester County, New York, in which the two lived. In 1953, Bloch joined Gundy's printing business as an assistant production person in direct mail advertising. The business was dissolved in 1970, and both men obtained other related positions. In 1977, they retired and relocated to Long Beach, California, where they purchased a condominium. Bloch volunteered helping other senior citizens while Gundy took a more active role in Communist, socialist, peace, and other progressive community organizations. He volunteered at the International Book Shop in Long Beach, of which he became the manager in the early 1980s. He also ran as the Peace and Freedom Party candidate for the 57th district of the California Assembly between 1980 and 1988. Gundy and Bloch both died in 1996, within three months of each other, after more than 60 years together.

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

Approximately half of the collection consists of Gundy's handwritten notes and minutes, together with newsletters, flyers, and other materials relating to Communist, socialist, peace, and other progressive community organizations in Long Beach, California, from 1977 to 1994. The remainder of the collection consists of Gundy's and Bloch's personal papers and the records of Gundy's printing business. The personal papers consist of correspondence, photographs, financial records, genealogical information dating from 1887, day planner calendar books, and various greeting cards. The collection is divided into two series: (1) Community Activism, and (2) Personal Papers.

### **Indexing Terms**

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

Bloch, Jack D. (Jack Daniel), 1912-1996

Citizens' associations--California--Long Beach

Communist Party of the United States of America--California--Long Beach

Gay couples--United States

Gay men--California--Long Beach

Gundersheimer, Max, 1910-1996

Gundy, Max (pseudonym for Gundersheimer, Max), 1910-1996

Peace and Freedom Party of California

Political activists--California--Long Beach

### **Separated Material**

The following materials were transferred to the library collections of ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, December 18, 2008.

Brogan, Jim. *Jack and Jim: A Personal Journal of the 70's*. Bolinas, California: Equanimity Press, 1982.

Berger, Raymond M. *Gay and Gray: The Older Homosexual Man*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1982.

*Data-Boy Magazine*. Pacific Southwest, number 192, October 19, 1977 / Pacific Northwest, number 117, October 20, 1977.

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*The Directory Long Beach: A Gay Persons Guide* . Tukay Media Services, Long Beach, California. Volume 2, number 3, 1980; volume 6, number 2, 1984.

Gordon, Eric A. *Mark the Music: The Life and Work of Marc Blitzstein* . New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989.

Hernton, Calvin C. *Coming Together: Black Power, White Hatred, and Sexual Hang-Ups* . New York: Random House, 1971

*ONE Magazine*. ONE Incorporated, Los Angeles, California. Volume 11, number 10, October 1963.

Weinberg, George H. *Society and the Healthy Homosexual*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1972.

*The Voice*. Paul D. Hardman & Associates, San Francisco, California. Volume 2, number 11, May 23, 1980.

## Series 1: Community Activism 1974-1994

**Physical Description:** 42 folders.

**Series Scope and Content**

From 1977 to 1994, Gundy participated in approximately twenty different progressive community organizations in Long Beach, including Communist, socialist, and peace groups. The folders in this series are arranged alphabetically by the name or title Gundy provided, and contain Gundy's handwritten notes and minutes along with the organizations' newsletters, flyers, and other materials. The first two folders listed contain unsorted flyers and handwritten lists and notes. The folders contain Gundy's handwritten notes and minutes along with the organizations' newsletters, and flyers.

Box 1 : 1	<b>Unsorted Flyers circa 1985</b>
Box 1 : 2	<b>Unsorted Lists and Notes circa 1985</b>
Box 1 : 3	<b>Ad Hoc Committee in Defense of the Political Prisoners of Iran 1984</b>
Box 1 : 4	<b>American Civil Liberties Union Gay Rights Chapter (ACLU GRC) 1977-1989</b>
Box 1 : 5	<b>Center 55 1988-1995</b>
Box 1 : 6	<b>Coalition for a National Health Care Plan / Los Angeles South Coalition for National Health Care 1984-1985</b>
Box 1 : 7	<b>Coalition to Roll Back Rents / Council of Senior Citizens 1978</b>
Box 1 : 8	<b>Committee for a Just Peace in the Middle East 1974-1976</b>
Box 1 : 9	<b>Committee in Solidarity with the People of Iran (CISPI) 1984-1985</b>
Box 1 : 10	<b>Communist Party 1979-1989</b>
Box 1 : 11	<b>Couples 1984-1984</b>
Box 1 : 12	<b><i>Daily World</i> 1973-1985</b>
Box 1 : 13-14	<b>Gray Panthers 1977-1988</b>
Box 1 : 15	<b>International Book Shop (IBS) 1977-1989</b>
Box 1 : 16	<b>Long Beach Anti-Klan Coalition (LBAKC) 1981-1983</b>
Box 1 : 17	<b>Long Beach Area Citizens for Peace (LBACP) 1981-1985</b>
Box 1 : 18	<b>Long Beach Area Citizens Involved (LBACI) 1977-1984</b>
Box 1 : 19	<b>Long Beach Area Peace Network (LBAPN) 1982-1992</b>
Box 1 : 20	<b>Long Beach Club of the Communist Party (Club) 1983-1989</b>
Box 1 : 21	<b>Long Beach Housing Action Association (LBHAA) 1978-1981</b>
Box 1 : 22-23	<b>Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club (LBLDC) 1977-1990</b>
Box 1 : 24	<b>National MJ Coalition on Lebanon 1982</b>
Box 1 : 25	<b>National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL) 1983-1984</b>
Box 1 : 26	<b>ONE, Incorporated 1970-1984</b>
Box 1 : 27-28	<b>ONE in Long Beach, Incorporated 1977-1994</b>
Box 1 : 29	<b>Peace and Freedom Party (PFP) 1981-1994</b>
Box 2 : 1	<b>Peace and Solidarity Commission 1983-1984</b>
Box 2 : 2	<b>People for Just Cause Evictions 1983</b>
Box 2 : 3 ; 5 : 5 (Oversize)	<b><i>People's World, People's Daily World</i> 1977-1988</b>
Box 2 : 3	<b>1977-1988</b>
Box 5 : 5 (Oversize)	<b>1979-1980</b>
Box 2 : 4	<b>PISC (unknown acronym) 1984</b>
Box 2 : 5	<b>Response Committee to the Straight Community Order 1987</b>
Box 2 : 6	<b>Right on Committee (ROC) 1981-1989</b>
Box 2 : 7	<b>Socialist Classes 1981-1986</b>
Box 2 : 8	<b>Southern California Coalition for a National Health Service 1984-1989</b>
Box 2 : 9	<b><i>Tikva: Lesbian and Gay Jews Celebrating Our Heritage</i> newsletter 1986</b>
Box 2 : 10	<b>The Unitarian Universalist Church (UUC), Unitarian Universalists Fellowship (UUF) 1977-1985</b>
Box 2 : 11	<b>The United States Peace Council (USPC) 1982-1984</b>
Box 2 : 12	<b>Wilsonian Apartments 1976-1994</b>

Series 2: **Personal Documents 1887-1996****Physical Description:** 37 folders.**Series Scope and Content**

This series consists of genealogical information, correspondence, photographs, personal and business financial records, day planner desk calendars, and various greeting cards, including New Years, birth announcements, birthday, get-well, Christmas, and Hanukkah cards. The folders of three alphabetical file cases of correspondence and financial records retain their original alphabetical order. The eight folders of photographs consist of early family photographs, Gundy as an activist, Bloch in the military and on vacation, Gundy and Bloch together at home and on vacation, and photographs from their extended family.

Box 2 : 13      **Biographical and Family Documents 1887-1996**Box 2 : 13      **1887-1996**Box 5 : 1 (Oversize)      **1887****Correspondence 1928-1995****Physical Description:** 12 folders.Box 2 : 16-17 ; 5 : 3      **File Case 1: A-W 1928-1953**

(Oversize)

**Physical Description:** 3 folders.Box 2 : 18-19      **File Case 2: D-Z 1929-1947****Physical Description:** 2 folders.Box 2 : 14-15 ; 5 : 2      **File Case 3: N-Z 1928-1947**

(Oversize)

**Physical Description:** 3 folders.Box 2 : 20-22      **1931-1995****Physical Description:** 3 folders.Box 5 : 4 (Oversize)      **1977-1978****Max Gundy Printing 1952-1970****Physical Description:** 3 folders.Box 2 : 26      **Bills and Receipts 1969**Box 2 : 25      **Business Records 1952-1970**Box 2 : 27      **Corporate Papers 1969****Personal 1940-1995****Physical Description:** 20 folders.Box 2 : 24      **Bank Statements 1948-1984**Box 3 : 4-10      **Day Planners 1970-1994****Physical Description:** 11 items ; 7 folders.Box 3 : 1      **Federal, State, and Local Tax Documents 1955-1976**Box 3 : 11-18      **Greeting Cards 1970-1995****Physical Description:** 8 folders.Box 2 : 23      **Identification cards 1940-1982**Box 3 : 2      **Insurance Documents 1956-1984**Box 3 : 3      **Miscellaneous Receipts 1969-1986**

**Photographs circa 1916-circa 1990**

**Physical Description:** 12 folders.

- Box 4 : 1                    **Gundy and Gundy with Family circa 1916-1978**
- Box 4 : 2                    **Gundy and Progressive Organizations 1968-1985**
- Box 4 : 3                    **International Bookshop 1978**
- Box 4 : 4                    **Bloch and Bloch with Family circa 1929-circa 1984**
- Box 4 : 5                    **Bloch in United States Army, United States and Europe 1942-1945**
- Box 4 : 6                    **Bloch on Vacation circa 1945-circa 1965**
- Box 4 : 7-9                 **Gundy and Bloch circa 1950-1977**

**Physical Description:** 3 folders.

- Box 4 : 10-12             **Extended Family circa 1920-1988**

**Physical Description:** 3 folders.