

## **Finding Aid to the Pat Bond Papers**

**(#1992-05)**

**Repository:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

**Collection Title:** Pat Bond papers

**Collection Number:** 1992-05

**Physical Description:** 7.8 linear feet (2 cartons, 4 manuscript boxes, 2 half-manuscript boxes, 2 oversized boxes, and 1 oversized folder)

**Creator:** Bond, Pat

**Date (inclusive):** circa 1910s-2012

**Language of Material:** English

**Abstract:** Pat Bond (1925-1990) was a lesbian playwright, theater performer, and Women's Army Corps veteran. The collection includes research materials, drafts, manuscripts, audiovisual recordings, photographs, and costumes from Bond's one-woman plays; additional correspondence, poetry, writing practice, character sketches, stories, and incomplete manuscripts; diaries spanning from 1966 to 1990; photographs of Bond, family, and friends from the 1910s through the 1980s; and materials commemorating Bond's life.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of item], Pat Bond papers (1992-05), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

Collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights:**

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**Acquisition Information:**

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Gail J. Lynch in 1992, 2007, and 2012.

**Processing Information:**

Finding Aid created by Jessica Moll in 1997. Devin McGeehan Muchmore added information about the 2007 and 2012 additions in 2024.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

**Biographical Note:**

Pat Bond was a lesbian playwright, theater performer, and Women's Army Corps veteran.

Born Patricia Childers on February 7, 1925 in Chicago, Bond grew up in Davenport, Iowa. In 1945 she joined the Women's Army Corps with the hope of meeting other lesbians. In the army, she cared for wounded soldiers returning from the South Pacific and later served in occupied Japan. In 1947, in Tokyo, 500 women were dishonorably discharged from the army on the charge of homosexuality. She escaped this "witch hunt," in which many lesbians testified against each other in trial, because before going to Japan she had married a gay man, Paul Bond, in San Francisco. With her marriage license Pat Bond was able to get an honorable discharge from the army on July 3, 1947, and she moved to San Francisco. She studied theater at San Francisco State College, earning a B.A. and an M.A., and for the next several decades she acted in various small theater groups, did some bartending, and for a short time owned her own bar.

In the late 1970s, Bond started to write a book about Gertrude Stein, but was overwhelmed with the project until her friend Nancy Adair suggested she transform the book into a performance piece. In 1978, Bond was interviewed for the documentary *Word is Out*, directed by Peter Adair. Bond's performance in this film, in which she speaks humorously and poignantly about her experiences in the army, stole the show, and her career as an actress and comedienne was launched. In the 1970s and 1980s she performed four one woman shows in small theaters and at colleges and universities across the country: *Gerty, Gerty, Gerty Stein is Back, Back, Back*; *Conversations with Pat Bond*; *Murder in the WAC*; and *Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt: A Love Story*. *Gerty* was shown repeatedly on national public television. Pat also played the part of Nurse Maxine in the movie *The House of God* (1980). In the 1980s she served on the board of directors of Theater Rhinoceros in San Francisco and directed several plays there. During the 1980s an oral history was done by historian Allan Berube for the book *Coming Out Under Fire*.

She was also taped for the documentary film based on the book but didn't appear in the movie, because she had become too sickly by that time.

In 1990, Bond was honored by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for her service during World War II. She died in Marin County, California on December 24, 1990. In Bond's memory, her friends established the Pat Bond Memorial Old Dyke Award to honor lesbians over the age of sixty. Bond's papers and photograph albums were collected by her close friends and donated to the GLBT Historical Society.

### **Scope and Content:**

The collection consists of the background research, notes, early drafts, and manuscripts for Bond's four one woman shows. Also included are Bond's correspondence, poetry, writing practice, character sketches, stories, incomplete manuscripts, as well as reviews and awards for her shows. Boxes 1 and 2 contain the manuscripts of Bond's productions, arranged in chronological order. While "The Only Gay Bar in Town" and Bond's "Autobiography" were never produced or published, they are included in Box 2 because they are substantial works.

Box 3 contains miscellaneous documents, manuscripts, and diaries. The collection includes Bond's diaries from 1966 through 1987. Some of the diaries are journals with substantial entries; however, most of the diaries are date books in which Pat kept a record of her daily life, including comments about the weather and doctors' appointments as well as notes about friends and relationships.

Bond's photographic collection consists of her head shots and performance pictures (8" x 10", black and white, positive and negative images) as well as six photo albums composed of her personal snapshots (different sizes but mostly 3 ½" x 5"; color and black and white). The personal pictures show: Bond's grandmother and mother in the 1910s and 1920s; Pat as a child in the 1920s and 1930s; Bond as a young woman in the 1940s; Bond with friends (gay male friends and women friends) in Marin County and at the Russian River in the 1950s and 1960s. The majority of the pictures are from the early 1980s and show Bond and her friends, dogs, and cats at her home in Marin County. The photographs do not seem to have been placed in any particular order in the albums, but the order of the albums has been maintained.

The collection also includes video and audio of Pat Bond's performances, and some of the costumes she wore during her shows.

2007 and 2012 additions to the collection include Bond's final diary from 1990; 1979-1980 letters to Gail Lynch; notes and writings from scripts and workshops; photographs of Bond and her friends spanning the 1950s through the 1980s; and memorial materials.

### **Indexing Terms:**

LGBTQ

Lesbians  
Theater  
Diaries  
Photography  
Veterans  
World War, 1939-1945  
San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)

## Container Listing

### Box 1

#### Manuscripts

*Gerty, Gerty, Gerty Stein is Back, Back, Back*  
Notes (no date)  
Draft (no date)  
The Script (early version -- no date)  
An Evening with Gertrude Stein and Friends (no date)  
*Gerty* production schedule (May 1979)  
Script of *Gerty* with Pat Bond's handwritten annotations for the PBS TV show  
Entry for Gertrude Stein writing contest (1984)  
*Conversations with Pat Bond*  
Conversations (no date)  
The Act (1978-1979)  
A Conversation with Ms. Bond (1980)  
*Murder in the WAC*  
Notes for army plays (no date)  
Sample from The WAC (no date)  
The WAC: full draft (no date)  
The WAC: revision I (no date)  
Women in Uniform (no date)  
The Andrew Sisters join the Army (no date)  
The New Thing (1981)  
Murder in the WAC: notes (1981)  
Murder in the WAC: revised version #2 (1981)

### Box 2

#### Manuscripts (continued)

*The Only Gay Bar in Town*  
The Only Gay Bar in Town (no date)  
Come Out of the Closet/The Only Gay Bar in Town (1981)

One Act Play -- Bush Street Incident (1981)  
*Autobiography*  
Autobiography (no date)  
The Piece About Me (no date)  
Our Hearts Were Young and Gay (no date)  
*Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt: A Love Story*  
Background research  
Notes (no date)  
Outline (no date)  
A Love Story (no date)  
Outline of Hickok (1982-1983)  
Outlines and drafts (1983 notebook)  
Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt: A Love Story (1983)  
Hick notes (1984)  
Second rewrite (1984)

### Box 3

#### Miscellaneous

Army documents  
Reviews, Publicity, and Awards  
General Publicity  
Interviews  
*Word is Out*  
*Word is Out* Transcript  
*Gerty, Gerty, Gerty Stein is Back, Back, Back*  
*Conversations with Pat Bond*  
*Lorena Hickock and Eleanor Roosevelt*  
Show announcements: miscellaneous shows  
Advertisement in *The Advocate*  
Cartoon Drawing of Pat Bond  
Miscellaneous Newspaper cutouts  
Published Pieces 1980-1986  
Memorials/Obituaries  
Pat Bond Memorial Awards  
Show for Oct 23, 1964  
Literary Studies (1975-1977)  
Correspondence (1975-1990)  
Writing Practice (1971-1985)  
Writing Practice (no date)  
Poetry (1970-1983)

Miscellaneous Notes

Sketches

Aimee Semple McPherson  
Andy  
Barbette  
Carmelita Pope  
Colette  
The Constant Companion  
Daisy the Dog  
Form Threes  
John  
Jane Eyre  
Lassie is a Drag Queen  
Lizzie Borden  
Love is the Thing  
Skip  
Zelda

Diaries

1966  
1970-1975  
1973-1975  
1976-1981  
1980  
1977-1978  
1979-1989  
1980-1981  
1982  
1984  
1985-1986  
1987

**Box 4**

**Legal Sized Items**

Gerty: notes  
A Love Story: notes  
Menage a Trois  
Tennessee Papers  
Eudora Welty Correspondence  
Album #6 Memorabilia  
Resume (1985)

Poster for The Member of the Wedding (1983)  
*Word is Out* Reviews  
*Gerty* Reviews  
WAC Literature: Sex Hygiene Course  
Gertrude Stein portraits  
Original newspaper articles with photos of Pat Bond

**Box 5**

**Photographs**

Photos 1925-1947  
Portraits/Head Shots (8" x 10", Black and White and Color, with some negatives)  
Performances (8" x 10", Black and White, some negatives)  
Contact Sheets  
Conversations with Pat Bond (Color, 3 ½" x 5")  
Album #1 (2 folders)  
Album #1 -- memorabilia  
Album #2 (1983-1988)  
Album #2 -- memorabilia  
Album #3 (2 folders)  
Album #3 -- memorabilia

**Box 6**

**Photographs (continued)**

Album #4  
Album #4, 5, & 6 -- memorabilia  
Album #5  
Album #6  
Duplicates of Black and White 8" x 10" photos -- for exhibition purposes

**Box 7**

**Costumes**

The vest, skirt, and wigs Bond wore as Gertrude Stein  
Two argyle sweaters Bond wore as Lorena Hickock.

**Box 8**

**Costumes (continued)**

Army cap and blouse Bond wore as Gertrude Stein.

**Box 9**

### **Audio Tapes**

Pat Bond reads Songs of Bilitis

Pat Bond performing *Conversations* at "The City," San Francisco, Feb 20, 1978

Pat Bond interview with Studs Terkel on WFMT, Feb 17, 1981

Lizzie Tape Original

### **Video Tapes**

*Gerty, Gerty, Gerty Stein is Back, Back, Back*. PBS version, September 1980

*Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt: A Love Story*. Rough cut, San Francisco State University, April 12, 1984 [2 copies]

Pat Bond at Institute for Human Sexuality, San Francisco State University, June 1986

Pat Bond Old Dyke Award, April 24, 1994 [2 copies]

## **Box 10**

### **2007 Addition**

Framed photograph, undated

Keys on keychain, undated

Audio tape reel with Bond interview on public radio, 1980 September 19

Photographs of "Pat Bond's Friend's '50s and '60s," circa 1950s-1960s, undated

Portraits of Pat Bond, circa 1970s-1980s

Mothertongue Feminist Theater Collective script, 1994 May 21

Portrait of Pat Bond, circa 1970s

### **2012 Addition**

Diary and donation letter, 1989-1990, 2012

Loose script drafts and workshop materials, circa 1980s

Gail Lynch memorial speech for Pat Bond, 1994, 2012

"Lesbian Images 1944" photographs and interview, 1944-2012

Pat Bond's handwritten notes from April 1979

Photographs of Pat Bond, 1963-1990, 2012

Items sent to Pat, 1957-1990, 2012

Images of Pat Bond's life with the Lynch family, 2012

Images of Pat Bond performing in community theater, circa 1965-1985, 2012

Vital documents, circa 1985-1991, 2012

Pat Bond letters to Gail Lynch, 1979-1980, 2012

Contact sheets and photographs of Pat Bond, circa 1979, 2012

## **Box 11**

### **2007 Addition (continued)**

Radcliffe jersey, undated

*Word is Out* t-shirt, circa 1977

**Oversized Folder**

Posters for Bond's shows and copies of newspaper articles