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## Guide to the Allen Day Papers

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## Guide to the Allen Day Papers

### Collection number: 2006-46

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society  
San Francisco, California

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Allen Day Papers

**Dates:** Circa 1978-1988

**Collection number:** 2006-46

**Creator:** Day, Allen (Allen James), 1941-1987

**Collection Size:** 2 boxes (Approximately 3 linear feet)

**Repository:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society  
San Francisco, California 94105

**Abstract:** Erotic drawings in pen and ink of men in a variety of bondage and sadomasochistic settings. Drawings are by Allen Day, with many signed under his pseudonym 'Strider'. In addition to drawings, the collection also includes profusely illustrated letters and cards from Day to his lover of many years, Louis Bryan, detailing day-to-day aspects of their life together; photographs; invitations, many created by Day, to parties and events; and several artists' books written and illustrated by Day.

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

### Access

Collection open for research.

### Publication Rights

Copyright to unpublished manuscript materials created by the donor has been transferred to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

### Preferred Citation

Allen Day papers, 2006-46, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

### Acquisition Information

Donated by Louis Bryan.

### Biography

Allen James Day, Jr. was born on 28 July 1941 in Eastford, CT, the second son of Allen James Dan and Margaret Pittman. He attended the Woodstock Academy and upon his graduation in 1959 moved to Boston to enroll in the Boston Art Academy. Upon graduation, he found work as a commercial artist for a local firm, where he worked until he was drafted in 1965. Instead of Vietnam, he was sent to Germany, where his artistic talent was utilized in making posters and signs at the headquarters. His military service ended in 1967.

Allen came out shortly after he got to Boston, and he had a German lover almost from the beginning of his tour of duty. When he got back to Boston, he started doing erotic drawings in earnest, and he did some advertising flyers for Titans Motorcycle Club events in the early seventies. In the mid-seventies, his friend David Morgan talked him into doing a series of drawings of which limited, numbered reproductions, as well as the originals, would be for sale.

In September 1977, Allen came to San Francisco on vacation and stayed with his friend Thom Gunn, whom he had met in 1973. Allen met Louis Bryan shortly thereafter; they were lovers for the remainder of Allen's life. In San Francisco, Allen worked as a commercial artist for Raychem, a large chemical company. Allen Day died of toxoplasmosis and pneumocystis

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pneumonia on 18 August 1987. Several friends made AIDS quilt panels in his memory.

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

This collection comprises primarily erotic drawings in pen and ink of men in a variety of bondage and sadomasochistic settings. Drawings are by Allen Day, with many signed under his pseudonym 'Strider'. In addition to drawings, the collection also includes profusely illustrated letters and cards from Day to his lover, Bryan, detailing day-to-day aspects of their life together; photographs; invitations, many created by Day, to parties and events; and several artists' books written and illustrated by Day.

#### **Arrangement**

Collection is arranged by type of material.

#### **Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Gay men

Art

Erotica

#### **Separated Material**

An undated VHS videocassette, *The 15 Association: On Fire*, produced by The 15 Association (San Francisco), was removed from this collection and added to the GLBTHS general video collection. The donor, Louis Bryan, apparently appears in this video.

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Box/Folder 1/1	<b>Artists' books and related materials</b>
Box/Folder 1/2	<b>Correspondence from Allen Day to Louis Bryan</b>
Box/Folder 1/3	<b>Drawings</b>
Box/Folder 1/4	<b>Invitations</b>
Box/Folder 1/5	<b>Photographs</b>
Box/Folder 2/1-3	<b>Drawings, oversize</b>