



## **Jeffrey Escoffier records of "The Gay Alternative", 1972-1976 : Ms.Coll.9**

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Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by staff of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories using data provided by the John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia on

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center
<b>Creator:</b>	Escoffier, Jeffrey
<b>Title:</b>	Jeffrey Escoffier records of "The Gay Alternative"
<b>ID:</b>	Ms.Coll.9
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1972-1976
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Linear Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 record carton
<b>Physical Location:</b>	Collections 8
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	<i>The Gay Alternative</i> was a literary forum for gay expression created by a collective of individuals during the early years of gay liberation. This magazine began as a newsletter of the Gay Activists Alliance of Philadelphia. The Jeffrey Escoffier records of <i>The Gay Alternative</i> , 1972-1976, include original manuscripts of essay submissions, administrative, correspondence, and financial records of the organization, and a small amount of Escoffier's personal papers.

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## Biographical/Historical Note

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*The Gay Alternative* was a literary forum for gay expression created by a collective of individuals during the early years of gay liberation. This magazine began as a newsletter of the Gay Activists Alliance of Philadelphia. They hoped to provide information, opinion, and discussion regarding the many aspects of gay life in Philadelphia. The magazine was published in Philadelphia from December 1972 through April 1976

Jeffrey Escoffier was a founder of *The Gay Alternative*. He has been involved in political and intellectual journalism for almost twenty-five years, has taught at the college level in New Jersey and California, and has been extensively involved in the formation and publication of many gay-specific endeavors including *OUT/LOOK: National Gay & Lesbian Quarterly* and *OutWrite: National Gay & Lesbians Writers' Conferences*.

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## Scope and Content Note

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Jeffrey Escoffier records of *The Gay Alternative* include records of the magazine and a small amount of Jeffrey Escoffier's personal papers. The collection includes original documents (many hand-written) that pertain to the activities of the magazine, such as administrative forms, financial statements, and internal as well as external correspondence. The bulk of the collection, however, is manuscripts, some with editors' corrections, which were subsequently published in the magazine (or not). Finally, it includes personal papers of Jeffrey Escoffier, including a paper he delivered to the Homosexual Community Counseling Center Conference on Vocational Guidance and Gay Lifestyles in 1974 in New York.

The collection may interest researchers who desire an understanding of one of Philadelphia's first gay literary magazines. It provides a thorough look at the operation of *The Gay Alternative* as well as provides a personal look at some of the work of Jeffrey Escoffier from 1972 to 1976. The papers reveal attitudes and beliefs of one segment of the gay community through essay, commentary, poetry, letters, etc.

The collection is organized in three series: "I. Original manuscripts" organized by author's last name; "II. 'The Gay Alternative' administrative records"; and "III. Jeffrey Escoffier papers." An inventory is provided below.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center

1315 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
[archives@waygay.org](mailto:archives@waygay.org)

### Conditions Governing Access Note

Any correspondence with private individuals is embargoed until 50 years after the creation date of the correspondence; correspondence with organizations, public figures, and businesses is unrestricted.

Contact John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia for more information about accessing this collection.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

This collection was donated to Tommi Avicoli Mecca's Gay/Lesbian Archives in the early 1980s. Mecca transferred this and other collections to the William Way Community Center's Library/Archives in 1991.

## Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2011-2012 as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR), using data provided by the John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia. The HCI-PSAR project was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was done in the HCI-PSAR project.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Gay liberation movement
- Gays
- Periodicals -- Publishing
- Philadelphia (Pa.)
- Sexual minorities
- Gay Alternative Collective (Philadelphia, Pa.).
- Escoffier, Jeffrey

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## Collection Inventory

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**Jeffrey Escoffier's Vitae, 1997**

folder not  
specified

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## I. Original manuscripts (by author's last name)

Title/Description	Instances
A	folder 1
B	folder 2
C	folder 3
E	folder 4
F	folder 5
G	folder 6
H	folder 7
I-K	folder 8
L	folder 9
M	folder 10
N	folder 11
O	folder 12
P-T	folder 13
U-Z	folder 14

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## II. "The Gay Alternative" administrative records

Title/Description	Instances
Budgets and finances	folder 1
Conferences	folder 2
Copyright	folder 3
Correspondence - back issues	folder 4
Correspondence - organizational	folder 5
Correspondence - subscriber	folder 6
Office	folder 7
Printing (Philadelphia Resistance Print Shop)	folder 8
Stationary and fliers	folder 9
Photographs (First Philadelphia Gay Pride Parade, 1973)	folder 10
Biography	folder 11
Academia and gays	

folder 12

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<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Untitled	folder 1
Untitled	folder 2
Sports revision	folder 3
A. Gide	folder 4
Jeffrey Escoffier's study	folder 5
Untitled	folder 6
Gay people in Civil Service jobs	folder 7
Economic testimony at Philadelphia Human Relations Commission	folder 8
Questionnaires	folder 9
Gays in professional associations or unions	folder 10
Men's Conference	folder 11
Cases - Job discrimination	folder 12
J. A. Symonds	folder 13
The homosexual as critic	folder 14
Socialist Caucus	folder 15
Walt Whitman	folder 16
Marx and sexual liberation	folder 17
Employment rights laws	folder 18
Stigma (original by Jeffrey Escoffier)	folder 19

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