

James Anctil papers, circa 1930-1997

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Anctil, James, 1943-1997
Title	James Anctil papers
Dates	circa 1930-1997 (inclusive) 1930 1997 1961-1998 (bulk) 1961 1998
Quantity	5 cubic feet, (11 document cases, 1 oversize folder)
Collection Number	Mss 2988-8
Summary	Personal papers of James Anctil (1943-1997), a Portland-area gay activist, educator, and artist. Includes extensive personal diaries, correspondence, subject files, and files on gay organizations.
Repository	Oregon Historical Society, Davies Family Research Library Davies Family Research Library Oregon Historical Society 1200 SW Park Avenue Portland, OR 97205 Telephone: 503-306-5240 Fax: 503-219-2040 libreference@ohs.org
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

James Anctil, 1943-1997, was a resident of the Portland (OR)/Vancouver (WA) area from December 1981 until his death from suicide in July 1997. A translator and Slavic language expert by profession, Anctil was also a published writer, diarist, vocalist, dancer, and visual artist and active in the gay & lesbian community of the Pacific Northwest.

Born in Nashua, NH (March 26, 1943), Anctil graduated from Middlebury College (VT) in 1965 before moving to New York City. Anctil received his Master's Degree in Slavic Languages from New York University and eventually moved to Portland, OR in 1981. In Portland, Anctil taught English as a second language at 5 different area colleges. He was a frequent contributor to gay publications including "Just Out" and "The EAGLE Newsmagazine," and active in gay organizations including the Portland Gay Men's Chorus (PGMC) and Rosetown Ramblers (an LGBT square dancing club.) Anctil was a choral translator for the Portland Opera and the Oregon Symphony, as well as a prolific visual artist.

Anctil's extensive diaries attest to his perspectives on homosexuality, politics, depression, love, art, and daily life over a span of 25 years. The Anctil collection documents his interests in spirituality, the men's movement, and gay & lesbian issues.

Content Description

The collection includes: personal papers, correspondence, yearbooks, financial records, sketches, artists' inventories, clippings, periodicals. Also included are materials related to gay issues, men's movement, languages, square dancing, and politics. Of special note are Anctil's personal diaries, which contain detailed and introspective entries

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

James Anctil papers, Mss 2988-8, Oregon Historical Society Davies Family Research Library

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the following series:

- Series A: Biographical Materials
- Series B: Finances
- Series C: Clippings
- Series D: Portland area culture and politics
- Series E: Men's movement
- Series F: Miscellany
- Series G: Photographs

Custodial History

The collection came to the Oregon Historical Society via the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest (GLAPN)

Acquisition Information

Acquired 1997. Includes Library Accession 23248.

Related Materials

Art work of James Anctil was donated to the Washington State Historical Society.

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series A: Biographical materials, 1961-1996

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Transcripts	1961-1996
1/2	1990 Middlebury College Reunion (25th Anniversary) Contains extensive autobiography and poll responses written by Anctil for inclusion in the reunion yearbook	1990
1/3	1962 Middlebury College Yearbook	1962
1/4	1963 Middlebury College Yearbook	1963
1/5	1964 Middlebury College Yearbook	1964
Oversize folder	Diploma (M.A.), New York University	1968
1/6	Art Projects Contains applications for fellowships and grants, artists' biography, lease for art studio, artists' statements, and inventories of Anctil's visual artworks.	circa 1989-1990
1/7	Correspondence with Father Letters to and from father, A.F. Anctil	circa 1990-1992
2/1	TMO & AMORC Certificates	1973-1975
2/2	Published Writing Contains Anctil's written works published in "Just Out", "The EAGLE Newsmagazine", "The Oregonian" as well as drafts and revisions.	1985-1989
2/3	Miscellaneous Correspondence & Sketches	1978-1995
2/4	Psychic Notebook and Blueprint for Success	circa 1976

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/5	Men's Work	circa 1990-1992
2/6	Miscellaneous Writings	1976-1985
2/7	Clark College Panel	1994
2/8	Poetry	1987-1992
2/9	Suicide Folder Contains materials that Anctil had with him when he committed suicide in a hotel room in Cannon Beach on July 1, 1997. Last will and testament; list of artworks donated to State of WA, DNR documents, open letters to friends and family.	1997
2/10	Directive to Physicians	1995
2/11	Materials from James Anctil's memorial service	1997
3/1	My Diary of My Entire Life	1977
3/2	Diary 1972-1975	1972-1975
3/3	Diary 1976-1987	1976-1987
3/4	Diary 1978-1979	1978-1979
3/5	Diary 1982-1983	1982-1983
3/6	Diary 1983-1992	1983-1992
4/1	Diary 1992-1997	1992-1997
4/2	Hiking Notes Contains some diary-related entries.	1982-1994
4/3	Calendars 1981-1983	1981-1983
4/4	Calendars 1985-1986; 1996	1985-1996

Series B: Finances, 1981-1997

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/5	Video Order Receipts	1996-1997
4/6	Credit Union Material	1996-1997
4/7	Expense Records 1982-1983	1982-1983
4/8	1981 Income Tax	1981
4/9	1982 Income Tax	1982
4/10	1983 Income Tax	1983
5/1	Charitable Expenses 1980-1982	1980-1982
5/2	Apartment Rental 1981-1982	1981-1982
5/3	Auto Expenses 1982	1982
5/4	Medical Expenses 1982	1982
5/5	Trip Expenses 1982	1982
5/6	Entertainment Expenses 1982	1982
5/7	Art Supplies Expenses 1982	1982
5/8	Office Expenses 1982	1982
5/9	Special Business Account	1982
5/10	Pay Stubs	1982
5/11	Teaching Expenses	1982
5/12	Personal Account	1982
5/13	Storage Expenses	1982
5/14	Miscellaneous Expenses	1982

Series C: Clippings, undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
5/15	Japan	undated
5/16	Japanese Art	undated
5/17	Nature	undated
5/18	Computer Design	undated
5/19	Mystic Occult	undated
5/20	Writers	1978-1981
6/1	Fantasy	undated
6/2	Readings	undated
6/3	Spiritual	undated
6/4	Spirituality	undated
6/5	Miscellaneous Spiritual Information	undated

Series D: Portland Area Culture and Politics, 1984-1994

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
7/1	Readers Theatre	1986
7/2	Theatre Programs	circa 1992
7/3	Hands Off Washington	1993-1994
7/4	SHB 1443	1993-1994
7/5	Idaho Ballot Measure	1993

Container(s)	Description	Dates
7/6	Portland Gay Men's Chorus	1984-1992
7/7	Portland Opera	1987-1991

Series E: Men's Movement, 1989-1996

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
7/8	MENTOR	1989-1996
7/9	Miscellaneous Men's Flyers and Articles	undated
8/1	Wingspan	1990-1993
8/2	Seattle M.E.N.	1992-1996
8/3	Merge	1992
8/4	M&M Packet 21st Annual Men & Masculinity Conference	1996
8/5	Earth & Spirit	1992-1994

Series F: Miscellaneous, 1984-1995

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
8/6	Miscellaneous Inspirational	undated
8/7	Teaching/Learning Materials	undated
8/8	Finnegan's Wake	1995
8/9	Rilke Translations	undated
8/10	Miscellaneous Language Notes	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
9/1	Music Projects Part I	circa 1990
9/2	Music Projects Part II	circa 1990
9/3	Square Dancing	circa 1984

Series G: Photographs, circa 1930-1998

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
10/1	Birthday photos	1997
10/2-10/98	Album 1 Includes family and friends	circa 1930-1998
11/1	Album 2--"Students of J. Anctil"	undated
11/2	Nihonga photographs	circa 1986
11/3	Miscellaneous photographs Includes photographs by Paul Dahlquist	1980-1992

Find Related Collections

Subject Terms :

[Artists--Oregon](#)

[Artists--Washington \(State\)](#)

[Gays--Oregon](#)

[Gays--Washington \(State\)](#)

Personal Names :

[Anctil, James, 1943-1997--Archives](#)

Corporate Names :

[Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest](#)

Family Names :

[Anctil family](#)

Geographical Names :

[Portland \(Or.\)--Social life and customs](#)

[Vancouver \(Wash.\)](#)

Form or Genre Terms :

[Diaries](#)

[Letters \(correspondence\)](#)