



## Archives and Records

### Finding Aid

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** Coll.1  
**TITLE:** Papers of Mike Riegler

#### COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Creator(s):** Mike Riegler  
**Title:** Papers of Mike Riegler  
**Extent:** 3.5 linear feet (3 cartons, 1 boxe)  
**Date Span:** 1950, 1973 – 1991  
**Repository:** The History Project, Archives and Records Department

Finding aid prepared for The History Project, Archives and Records Department by Alexandra Bisio, student in the History/Archives masters degree program at Simmons College, under the supervision of Andrew Elder, Spring 2010. Addition materials filed and integrated into collection by William Holden, 2018.

#### SUBJECTS TERMS

##### *Subject Names:*

Mike Riegler

##### *Subject Topics:*

Gay Journalists -- United States  
Gay Press  
Gay Press Publications  
Education--Curricula—Gay and lesbian studies  
Social movements – -Gay liberation movement

#### **Related Collections:**

Coll.119 - Prison Project Papers of Mike Riegler  
Coll.16 – *Gay Community News*  
Coll.54 – Black and White Men Together/Men of All Colors Together

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Terms of Use/Copyright: Unrestricted, though some items in the collection are copyrighted by individuals and/or organizations outside The History Project.

Contact the History Project for further information:

29 Stanhope Street

Boston, MA 02116

617.266.7733

[info@historyproject.org](mailto:info@historyproject.org)

[www.historyproject.org](http://www.historyproject.org)

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Michael Riegle, journalist, gay liberationist and prisoner rights activist, was born in 1943 in Gary, Indiana. The son of a steel mill worker, he attended Knox College where he received his Bachelors Degree; he later received his Doctorate in the psychology of language from the University of Minnesota. Upon receiving his Doctorate, Riegle taught at Franklin and Marshall College and ended his teaching career at Cornell. Throughout the 1970s, Riegle traveled extensively through Europe, primarily Italy and France where he worked as a translator, English and children's tutor. Fluent in both French and Italian, Riegle maintained an avid interest in language and continued studying Russian, Spanish, Greek and American Sign Language until his death. In 1978, upon his return to the United States, Riegle became involved with the anarchist paper *The Fag Rag* and became part of the *Gay Community News* staff in 1979. Riegle expanded the newspaper's policy of providing free penpal ads to prisoners and began a program providing gays and lesbians behind bars with legal and health information. Riegle was an active advocate for prisoners and published on the subject extensively in *GCN*. He became a part of the Redbook Prison Book Program and advised the American Friends Service Committee and the AIDS Action Committee on the concerns of prisoners. Mike Riegle died on January 10, 1992 after a long struggle with AIDS.

*-Bronski, Michael and Amy Hoffman. "Obituaries: Michael Riegle." Gay Community News Vol. 19 No. 26, January 19-25, 1992.*

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Mike Riegler Papers contain a variety of printed media, including newspaper articles, magazine clippings, whole newspapers and magazine issues, published essays, bibliographies, advertisements, pamphlets, newsletters, comics, fiction and poetry all related to the research and collective interests of *Gay Community News* journalist Michael Riegler. Although the collection consists primarily of clippings and other collected materials from various gay and mainstream media from 1973 to 1990, Riegler's handwritten research notes on a variety of subjects can be found throughout, including those used in preparation for a review of Michel Foucault's *History of Sexuality* for *Gay Community News*.

Among the clippings, the collection also contains many non-English articles from European magazines, primarily Italian and French. In addition to the foreign language material, researchers should be advised that some material in this collection is of an erotic nature. Included in this collection are also a few statistical reports from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Department of Justice regarding anti-Gay Violence from the mid 1980s. Other political materials focus on issues related to family and children, especially gay fathers, education, feminism, and rights vs. liberation. Information regarding his work on gays and lesbians in prison can be found in Coll.1.2. A portion of the Mike Riegler Papers has also been removed to create collection No. 54, a collection of newsletters and flyers regarding Black and White Men Together and Men of All Colors Together.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SERIES**

Mr. Riegler's personal papers are divided into four series, **People, Subject Files, End of Life**, and **Personal Papers**. The first two series, People, and Subject Files, are both acting as a series of subject files. These series are further broken up into subseries based on subject, and as established by Riegler himself. All subseries and folders are arranged alphabetically, and items within folders are arranged chronologically where applicable. The first series of this collection is made up of files related to specific individuals of interest to Riegler including Carrie Dearborn, whose subseries includes correspondence, and Ellen Willis. The second series is a collection of subject files, mostly clippings and collected materials, ranging from topics like abortion, to education, history, stereotypes and violence.

The third series in the collection, **End of Life**, consists of cards, letters, poems, and thoughts of Mike Riegler and his friends during his final days. It is hard to decipher who the author is of many of the pages in this series. The materials have been left in the same order as they were received. Folder

titles were taken from the various groupings of papers, which are assumed to be arranged by Mike Riegle.

The fourth series in the collection, **Personal Papers**, consists of letters, greetings cards, photographs, bank statements, rental agreements and other items that give a further glimpse into Mike's life.

## **BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

### **Box 1**

#### **Series 1: People**

**Subseries: Carrie Dearborn**

Folder 1: Articles and Press

Folder 2: Correspondence

Folder 3: Essays

**Subseries: Michel Foucault**

Folder 1: Articles and Interviews 1979-1990, undated

Folder 2: Essays – Sexuality and Postmodernism

Folder 3: Reviews - The History of Sexuality

**Subseries: Pier Paolo Gasoline**

Folder 1: Articles – English

Folder 2: Articles – Non-English

**Subseries: Ellen Willis**

Folder 1: Ellen Willis

#### **Series 2: Subject Files**

**Subseries: Abortion**

Folder 1: Abortion

**Subseries: Advertising and Business**

Folder 1: Articles, Advertisements 1973-1983, undated

Folder 2: Articles, Advertisements 1984-1985

**Subseries: Age-ism**

Folder 1: Articles and Notes

Folder 2: Articles and Notes

Folder 3: Newsletters and Publications

**Subseries: AIDS**  
Folder 1: AIDS

**Subseries: Class Politics/ Issues**  
Folder 1: General 1983, undated  
Folder 2: General 1984 -1989  
Folder 3: GLBT

**Subseries: Death**  
Folder 1: Articles

**Subseries: Disability**  
Folder 1: Articles and Notes  
Folder 2: Correspondence  
Folder 3: Newsletters and Publications  
Folder 4: Newsletters and Publications – *Dykes, Disability and Stuff* 1988- 1989  
Folder 5: Newsletters and Publications – *The Disability Rag* 1986- 1987  
Folder 6: Newsletters and Publications – *The Disability Rag* 1988-1990

**Subseries: Education**  
Folder 1: Bibliographies  
Folder 2: General  
Folder 3: GLBT in Curriculum – Articles and Publications 1978-1979, undated  
Folder 4: GLBT in Curriculum – Articles and Publications 1981- 1984  
Folder 5: GLBT in Curriculum – Articles and Publications 1985-1990  
Folder 6: GLBT in Curriculum – Curriculum Outlines 1981-1985, undated  
Folder 7: GLBT in Curriculum – Film 1970s, undated  
Folder 8: GLBT in Curriculum – Flyers and Announcements  
Folder 9: GLBT in Curriculum – Notes

**Subseries: Lesbian Sexuality**  
Folder 1: *Bad Attitude Magazine* 1984 – 1985  
Folder 2: *Lesbian Contradiction* Winter 1989  
Folder 3: Articles 1976-1979, undated  
Folder 4: Articles 1980-1990

**Subseries: "Natural" (or, Homosexuality "Nature vs. Nurture")**

Folder 1: "Natural" (or, Homosexuality "Nature vs. Nurture")

**Subseries: "New Right" (Neo-Conservatism)**

Folder 1: "New Right" (Neo-Conservatism)

Folder 2: "New Right" (Neo-Conservatism)

**Subseries: Pornography**

Folder 1: Pornography

**Box 2**

**Series 2: Subject Files (con't)**

**Subseries: Family**

Folder 1: Articles 1973 – 1988, undated

Folder 2: Essays 1982- 1987, undated

Folder 3: Fiction and Poetry

Folder 4: Notes

Folder 5: Pamphlets and Newsletters

Folder 6: Political Media 1973 -1986, undated

**Subseries: Feminism**

Folder 1: Articles 1976- 1980

Folder 2: Articles 1981 – 1985

Folder 3: Articles 1986-1990

Folder 4: Articles, undated

Folder 5: Essays and Presentations

Folder 6: Notes

Folder 7: *Off Our Backs* 1980, 1985 (2, 8)

Folder 8: Pamphlets

**Subseries: France & LGBT**

Folder 1: Articles and Magazines 1979-1984

Folder 2: Articles and Magazines 1985 – 1990

Folder 3: Essays and Fiction

**Subseries: History**

Folder 1: Articles 1950 - 1979

Folder 2: Articles 1980 – 1990

Folder 3: Articles, undated

Folder 4: Bibliographies and Essays

Folder 5: Pamphlets and Programs

**Subseries: Humor**

- Folder 1: Articles 1982- 1989
- Folder 2: Articles and Advertisements, undated
- Folder 3: Articles - Non- English
- Folder 4: Articles and Advertisements – *In Touch For Men*
- Folder 5: Articles and Advertisements – *In Touch For Men*
- Folder 6: Booklets
- Folder 7: Comics and Pictorial Media
- Folder 8: Essays and Fiction

**Subseries: "Look-ism"**

- Folder 1: Articles, Essays and Advertisements 1979-1987, undated

**Subseries: Media**

- Folder 1: Articles 1976-1990, undated
- Folder 2: Essays, 1985, 1986
- Folder 3: "The Fenway" – Articles and Letters 1984
- Folder 4: The Gay Press Association
- Folder 5: Resources and Activism

**Box 3**

**Series 2: Subject Files (con't)**

**Subseries: Religion**

- Folder 1: Articles 1980-1986, undated
- Folder 2: Essays
- Folder 3: Letters 1983- 1987, undated
- Folder 4: Magazines and Newspapers 1974-1987, undated
- Folder 5: Newsletters, Pamphlets and Journals 1980-1988, undated
- Folder 6: Photographs and Artwork, undated

**Subseries: Rights vs. Liberation**

- Folder 1: Articles 1973- 1983
- Folder 2: Articles 1984-1990
- Folder 3: Articles, undated
- Folder 4: Essays
- Folder 5: Newsletters 1975-1987
- Folder 6: Notes, Excerpts, and Outlines
- Folder 7: Organizations – Bylaws and Manifestos 1974-1987

**Subseries: Separation**

Folder 1: 1978- 1983, undated

**Subseries: Sexism**

Folder 1: Sexism

**Subseries: Sexuality**

Folder 1: Sexuality

**Subseries: Stereotypes**

Folder 1: Advertising and Presentation

Folder 2: Articles and Publications

Folder 3: Articles and Publications

**Subseries: "Violence/Aggression/Brutality"**

Folder 1: Reports Pamphlets and Flyers

**Box 3**

**Series 3: End of Life**

Folder 1a: Memory-Desire-Death

Folder 1b: Memory-Desire-Death

Folder 1c: Memory-Desire-Death

Folder 1d: Memory-Desire-Death

Folder 2: Pieces and Poems to Come

Folder 3: Bobbie Lee

Folder 4: Greeting Cards

Folder 5: Obituary and Tribute

**Box 4**

**Series 4: Personal Papers**

Folder 1: Personal Correspondence, 1960-1969

Folder 2: Personal Correspondence, 1970-1979

Folder 3: Personal Correspondence, 1980-1989

Folder 4: Personal Correspondence, 1990-1991

Folder 5a: Personal Correspondence, Undated

Folder 5b: Personal Correspondence, Undated

Folder 6: City Maps and Notes

Folder 7: Personal Finances

Folder 8: Mike Riegle's Identifications

Folder 9: Photographs



