Finding aid to the Lynn Edward Harris papers, 1917-2009 Coll2012-137

Joseph R. Hawkins
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Finding aid to the Lynn Edward Harris papers, 1917-2009

Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Title: Lynn Edward Harris papers
creator: Harris, Lynn Edward
Identifier/Call Number: Coll2012-137
Physical Description: 7.3 Linear Feet3 archive boxes + 2 archive binder boxes + 2 archive cartons + 2 archive shoeboxes + 1 oversize flat box.
Date (inclusive): 1917-2009
Date (bulk): bulk
Abstract: Photographs, legal documents, manuscripts, personal and business correspondence, lecture notes, videotapes, audiotapes, clippings, scrapbooks, floppy disks, memorabilia and other material from actor, lecturer and intersex person, Lynn Edward Harris (1950- ). Born intersexed, Harris was raised female despite being born with ambiguous genitalia. The collection documents Harris throughout his life, including his transition to living publicly as male, and the subsequent public speaking engagements and legal challenge to the California Court's refusal to allow him to legally change gender.

Biography

Lynn Elizabeth Harris was born in the City of Orange, California on September 13, 1950. Harris was born with ambiguous genitalia and is what is today referred to as intersex, or in more dated terms, "hermaphrodite." Harris was identified as female in a birth certificate, and was subsequently raised female without medical intervention. Through puberty, Harris did not menstruate, grew facial hair and had an altered voice; but continued to present as female. Harris wore women's clothing and a padded bra to appear more feminine, and went on to compete in and win local beauty pageants, including Costa Mesa Junior Miss in 1968. Upon graduation, Harris left to be an actress and model in Los Angeles. Harris also worked in retail beauty sales, office work, and later occasionally with prostitution.

In 1973, Harris began undergoing tests and exploratory surgeries. A team of doctors diagnosed Harris with Stein-Leventhal Syndrome or Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS). Although doctors informed Harris that physical features would further masculinize over time, Harris reacted by increasing efforts at feminization.

Six years after the diagnosis, and after counseling, Harris decided to begin living as a male. He bought male clothes, let facial hair grow, and changed his middle name from Elizabeth to Edward. Four years later, he applied to have his birth certificate re-issued after having difficulty using his female California-issued identification card. The petition was initially rejected because of a lack of supporting medical evidence. However Harris persisted and eventually the court allowed him to have his birth certificate re-issued and to have his name legally changed. As such, Harris' case is a legal precedent for those wanting to change their legal sex without surgery. After his legal battle Harris became a spokesperson for intersex rights, gave lectures, and appeared frequently on national television and radio programs.

By 2008, Harris was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Sources:
Box 2, Folder 7, Lynn Edward Harris Papers, Coll2012-137, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Conditions Governing Use

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the ONE Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at USC Libraries as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.

Acquisition Information

A portion of the collection was donated directly by Harris, 2008. The remainder of the collection was forwarded from the West Hollywood Library, where Harris had sent it in 2008.

Preferred Citation

[Box/folder #, or item name] Lynn Edward Harris Papers, Coll2012-137, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Processing Information
Collection processed by Joseph R. Hawkins, December 2012.

Scope and Content
This collection comprises photographs, legal documents, manuscripts, personal and business correspondence, lecture notes, videotapes, audiotapes, clippings, scrapbooks, floppy disks, memorabilia and other materials from actor, lecturer, and intersex person Lynn Edward Harris (1950- ). The bulk of this collection is related to Harris' personal life and the complications related to his intersex status, as well as his career as an actor, talk show spokesperson, and amateur writer. The Personal Materials Series consists of Harris' resumes and work portfolios, vital records and legal documents, scrapbooks, school report cards and yearbooks, personal correspondence, clippings, medical records and other personal material. The Writings series consists of Harris' manuscripts and related material--including, notably, multiple versions of Harris' autobiographies such as "I, the Hermaphrodite," and "More Lives Than One." The Lectures, Articles and Research on Intersex Issues Series consists of materials related to Harris' public speaking engagements and lecture "A Path of Androgyny," as well as many journal articles and books of which Harris was the co-writer or subject of research. The Trophies and Memorabilia Series comprises awards Harris received in speech contests and pageants such as Costa Mesa Junior Miss Pageant; as well as other memorabilia, including buttons, ribbons, a sash, and an inscribed silver cup.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged in the following series:
Series 1. Personal material
Series 2. Writings
Series 3. Lectures, articles and research material on intersex and transgender issues
Series 4. Photographs
Series 5. Audiocassettes and videocassettes
Series 6. Trophies and memorabilia

Separated Materials
Two bundles of Lynn Edward Harris' hair have been separated from the collection and placed in the Collection Administration folder in ONE Archives' internal records.

Separated Materials
The following periodicals have been separated from the collection and placed in the ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives' Periodicals Collection:
Boy's Own, 1998-2003 (6 issues)
GenderFlex, Vol. IV, Issue 23 (1994)
"Guidelines for Transsexuals," Erickson Educational Foundation, September 1976
Hermaphrodites with Attitude, Intersex Society of North America newsletters, 1994-1999
The ICTLEP Reporter, the newsletter of the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Inc., November 1995-January 1996
ONE Magazine, March 1959
Our Sorority, An Outreach Publication, Issue 16 (September 1987)
Outreach Beacon, Spring 1987 and Spring-Summer 1988
Renaissance, Volume IV, No. 3 (October 1979)

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gender identity
Intersex people -- Identity
Intersex people
Transsexuals
Transgender people
Harris, Lynn Edward
**Personal material Series 1. 1917-2009**

**Series Description**
This series comprises Harris’ resumes and work portfolios, vital records and legal documents, scrapbooks, school report cards and yearbooks, personal correspondence, clippings, medical records and other personal material.

**Arrangement**
Yearbooks from Harris’ mother and grandmother have been placed at the end of this series. The remaining folders are arranged chronologically.

| Box 1, Folder 1         | Baby book 1950-1952                          |
| Box 1, Folder 4         | Grade school report cards 1956-1958          |
| Box 4, Folder 1-6       | Scrapbooks and material found loose 1960-1986|
|                         | Physical Description: [6 folders]           |
| Box 1, Folder 5         | Costa Mesa Savings Harbor Hi-Lites newsletter 1963-1964 |
| Box 1, Folder 6         | Costa Mesa Savings, clippings and correspondence 1964 |
| Box 1, Folder 7         | Junior high school yearbook, "The Golden Years" 1964 |
| Box 1, Folder 8         | High school report cards 1965-1968          |
| Box 1, Folder 9-10      | High school yearbooks 1965-1966             |
|                         | Physical Description: [2 folders]           |
| Box 1, Folder 11        | High school diploma 1968                     |
| Box 4, Folder 7         | High school graduation, correspondence and momento 1968 |
| Box 1, Folder 12        | Junior Miss Pageant 1968                     |
| Box 1, Folder 13        | Orange Coast College report cards 1968-1969 |
| Box 1, Folder 14        | Resumes, portfolio and vitae 1968-2001       |
| Box 1, Folder 15        | Legal documents, resume, and before-and-after photographs (photocopied) 1968-1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 16        | Theatrical resumes 1978-2001                 |
| Box 1, Folder 17-18     | Work and publicity 1978-1981                 |
|                         | Writing samples and day job resumes 1993-2000|
|                         | Physical Description: [2 folders]           |
| Box 2, Folder 1         | Headshot Undated                             |
| Box 2, Folder 2         | [Modeling portfolio] publishing company; International Security Conference |
|                         | tabloid papers Undated                       |
| Box 4, Folder 8         | Masquers Club 1972-1978                      |
| Box 1, Folder 19        | Psychological profile and self observation 1976-1986 |
| Box 1, Folder 20-24     | Correspondence 1979-2005                     |
|                         | Physical Description: [5 folders]           |
| Box 5                  | Driver’s licenses and identification cards 1980-2000 |
| Box 1, Folder 25        | Decree changing name 1983                    |
| Box 1, Folder 26-27     | Fan mail 1986-2005                           |
|                         | Physical Description: [2 folders]           |
| Box 1, Folder 28        | Cedars Sinai Medical Center research study 1995|
| Box 1, Folder 29        | Personal website printouts 1999              |
| Box 1, Folder 30        | OC Weekly cover story 1999                   |
| Box 1, Folder 31-35     | Medical records 2005-2009                    |
|                         | Physical Description: [5 folders]           |
| Box 2, Folder 3         | Sheet music Undated                          |
| Box 2, Folder 4         | Voice modulation exercises Undated           |
| Box 1, Folder 2         | Grandmother’s high school yearbook 1917      |
| Box 1, Folder 3         | Mother’s high school yearbook 1944           |
Writings Series 2. 1964-2004

Series Description

This series comprises Harris' writings—manuscripts, floppy disks, and related material—including multiple versions of Harris' autobiographies such as "I, the Hermaphrodite" and "More Lives Than One." This series also includes Harris' fictional and short works, as well as poetry. Note that additional magazine and journal articles co-written by Harris can also be found in Series 3: Lectures, articles and research material on intersex issues.

Arrangement

Harris' long-form manuscripts and related material are at the beginning of this series. The remaining folders are arranged alphabetically.

Box 2, Folder 6  "Bring Your Own Body" manuscript 1971
"I, the Hermaphrodite"

Box 2, Folder 7-11  Manuscript 1986
Physical Description: [5 folders]

Box 2, Folder 12  Copyright materials 1986
Box 2, Folder 13  Certificate of Copyright 1986
Box 2, Folder 14  Manuscript outline and synopsis 1986
Box 2, Folder 15  Synopsis of memoirs 2003
Box 2, Folder 16  Manuscript information, page list and titles list 1986
Box 2, Folder 17  Memoir, untitled Undated
"More Lives Than One"

Box 2, Folder 20  Incomplete manuscript circa 1970-1986
Box 2, Folder 21-23  Manuscript 1986
Physical Description: [3 folders]

Box 2, Folder 24-26  Manuscript [second copy] 1986
Physical Description: [3 folders]

Box 2, Folder 27  Equator Books 2004
"Of Pyramids, Points, & People"

Box 2, Folder 17  Manuscript 1977
Box 2, Folder 5  "The Beginning" 1997
Box 2, Folder 18  "Oh, Liberate Me from Women's Lib" manuscript 1976
Box 2, Folder 28  "Wrap Your Postage with Dreams" manuscript 1976
Box 4, Folder 9  Contracts 1972-1980
Box 3, Folder 1  Copyrights 1976-1986
Box 3, Folder 2  Correspondence, incoming 1981-2003
Box 3, Folder 3  Correspondence, outgoing 1988-2002
Box 8  Floppy disks Undated
Physical Description: 9 floppy disks (3 1/2 in.).

Box 3, Folder 4  Flyers 1980
Box 4, Folder 10  Letters of reference 1980-2001
Box 3, Folder 5  Poems Undated
Box 3, Folder 6  Publishers, agents, and production companies 1980-1999
Box 3, Folder 7  Rejections 1976-1977
Box 3, Folder 8  Reviews of Laguna Beach and Century City readings 1976
Box 3, Folder 9  Short works and plays 1964-1967
Box 3, Folder 10  Writing samples 1979
Lectures, articles and research material on intersex issues Series 3. 1967-2005

Series Description
This series comprises clippings, correspondence, manuscripts, journals, pamphlets, television transcripts, promotional material, slides and research material documenting Harris' public speaking engagements on intersex concerns, as well as the many journal articles and books of which Harris was the writer, co-writer, or subject of research. In particular, this series includes material used for Harris' lecture series, "A Path of Androgyny."

Arrangement
Folders related to Harris' lecture on intersex issues are at the beginning of this series. The remaining folders are arranged chronologically.

Lecture and speaking engagements
- Clippings, one-woman show 1977
- Conferences and seminars 1984-1999
- Correspondence 1984-2003
- "A Path of Androgyny" lecture flyer 1985
- "A Path of Androgyny" lecture material 1985
- Press releases 1985
- Slides for lecture circa 1950-1985
  Physical Description: 47 slides: b&w, col.

Speaking engagements 1967-2000
- Clippings and photocopied articles on intersex concerns circa 1975-2005
  Physical Description: [7 folders]

- Pamphlets 1979-1989
- Television and radio correspondence, guest appearances 1988-2003
- Television talkshow transcripts 1988-1997
- Journal of Transpersonal Psychology, article by Ronald Wong Jue 1988
- "Intersex: A social dilemma" Social Issues Resources Series 1988
- Annotated articles and research notes 1988-2000
- Data News, by Lois M. Rodden 1993
- Journal of Sex Research, article by Milton Diamond 1995
- "Intersex Awakenings," Chrysalis, correspondence for article by Lynn Edward Harris 1995
- International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy paper 1995
- Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education 1995
- Research notes and clippings 1995-2000
- Unidentified notes 1995
- Gender Blending, by Bonnie Bullough, Vern L. Bullough and James Elias 1995
- Gender Shock, by Phylis Burke 1996
- Sexually Stigmatized Communities, by Chuck Stewart, correspondence 1996-1999
- Personals: Portraits of Real People and Their Personal Ads, by Michael C. Smith 1998
- Tail Spins Magazine 1998
- Intersex Society of North America, HWA Quarterly articles by and about Harris 1998
- University of Warwick, thesis by Tracey Lee 1998
- Astrology thesis by Simon Wickham-Smith 1998
- Gires Directory correspondence 1999
- "A Paradox in Pants," Taygetos anthology submission, by Lynn Edward Harris 1999
- Anthology submission by Lynn Edward Harris for book edited by Chuck Stewart 1999
- Articles by Milton Diamond 1999-2000
- LA Weekly 2000
- Stop Hate Educate correspondence 2001
- Manuscript and correspondence with Milton Diamond 2001
- Photocopied pages from Middlesex, by Jeffrey Eugenides 2002
- Untitled book by Chuck Stewart 2004
- "The Comparison of Androgynes" article Undated
Photographs Series 4. 1950-2007

Series Description
This series includes photographs, negatives, a slide, and some related correspondence. The bulk of the photographs documents Harris throughout his lifetime, from his childhood years raised as female, through his later years when he began living publicly as male. This series also includes Harris' numerous modeling and acting headshots from the 1970s.

Arrangement
Photos of unidentified people have been placed at the end of this series. The remaining photographs are in approximate chronological order.

Box 5
1950-1969
Box 5
1970-1979
Box 6
Modeling and acting portfolio circa 1970-1979
Box 6
1980-1989
Box 6
1990-2007
Box 6
Unidentified people circa 1960-2005

Audiocassettes and videocassettes Series 5. 1979-2000

Series Description
This series contains VHS tapes of Harris' various talk show appearances, as well as audiocassettes of Harris' interviews and lectures.

Arrangement
This series is grouped by format and arranged chronologically.

Audiocassettes 1979-1995
Box 8, Item 10
Lynn Harris speaking on androgyny Undated
Physical Description: 1 audiocassette (35 min.)

Box 8, Item 11
Lew Irwin Show, Earth News Radio, Lynn Harris interview January 29, 1979
Physical Description: 1 audiocassette.

Box 8, Item 12
Earth News Radio, Lynn Harris interview January 29, 1979
Physical Description: 1 audiocassette.

Box 8, Item 13
Lew Irwin Show, Earth News Radio, Lynn Harris interview January 29, 1979
Physical Description: 1 audiocassette.

Box 8, Item 14
APRT 3rd Annual Conference, A Case of Androgyny, Ronald Wong Jue, Ph.D. and Lynn Harris October 8, 1983
Physical Description: 2 audiocassettes.

Box 8, Item 15-17
Carol Hemingway Show KGIL, Lynn Harris interview November 28, 1988
Physical Description: 3 audiocassettes.

Box 8, Item 18-21
Michael Jackson Show, KABC Talkradio AM 790, Lynn Harris interview December 7, 1988
Physical Description: 4 audiocassettes.

Box 8, Item 22-23
International Congress on Gender, Cross-Dressing and Sex Issues. Session II: Legal Issues, Lynn Harris, Louis Swatz, Ph.D. and Stephen Whittle February 25, 1995
Physical Description: 2 audiocassettes.

Box 8, Item 24
Lynn Edward Harris, Whittier College April 26, 1995
Physical Description: 1 audiocassette.
VHS videocassettes 1989-2000

Box 7, Item 1-2
Mix Master Sally, AM LA, Geraldo, Donahue 1989
Physical Description: 2 videocassettes (VHS).

Box 7, Item 3
Interview AM LA ABC TV February 2, 1989
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS).

Box 7, Item 4-5
Sally's Show (Jesse Raphael) April 27, 1989
Physical Description: 2 videocassettes (VHS).

Box 7, Item 6
Geraldo Show, CBS July 27, 1989
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS).

Box 7, Item 7
Donahue, "Roundtable of Sexual Oddities" October 10, 1989
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS).

Box 7, Item 8-9
Donahue Show November 27, 1989
Physical Description: 2 videocassettes (VHS).

Box 7, Item 10-11
Montel Williams Show April 24, 1992
Physical Description: 2 videocassettes (VHS).

Box 7, Item 12
Lynn, #252, profile (1) circa 1993
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS) (20 min.).

Box 7, Item 13-14
Dish, Episode 63; Lynn Harris Special Guest 1994
Physical Description: 2 videocassettes (VHS) (27:30).

Box 7, Item 15
Strange Universe Show #2072 November 11, 1997
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS) (28:30).

Box 7, Item 16
Doc Talk Show #2 November 5, 1999
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS).

Box 7, Item 17
Maury, "My Secret Destroyed My Family!" September 29, 1999
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS).

Box 7, Item 18
The Leeza Gibbons Show February 28, 2000
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS).

Trophies and memorabilia Series 6. 1950-2000

Series Description
This series contains trophies Harris received in speech contests and pageants such as Costa Mesa Junior Miss Pageant; as well as other memorabilia, including buttons, ribbons, a sash, and an inscribed silver cup.

Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 10, Item 1
Button: "Cal State Fullerton, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Association (LGBA)" Undated

Box 10, Item 2
Button with photograph of Lynn Edward Harris Undated

Box 10, Item 3
Graduation cap 1964

Box 10, Item 4
Ribbon: "Los Angeles, Presenter, Facilitator" Undated

Box 10, Item 5
Ribbon: "Participant, Southern Orange County Junior Miss Pageant 1968" 1968

Box 9, Item 1

Box 10, Item 6
Silver cup: "Lynn Elizabeth Harris Sept. 13, 1950" 1950
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 10, Item 7</th>
<th>&quot;1968 Costa Mesa Junior Miss Pageant 1st&quot; 1968</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 trophy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Item 8</td>
<td>&quot;California District Exchange Clubs; Search for Talent Finals, Runner-up Fresno&quot; June 22, 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 trophy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Item 9</td>
<td>&quot;Lynn Harris; Costa Mesa Christmas Decorations 1967, Miss Tinsel&quot; 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 trophy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Item 10</td>
<td>&quot;Newport Harbor; Search for Talent 1967, 1st Place--Senior&quot; 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 trophy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Item 11</td>
<td>&quot;Superiority in Dramatic; Lynn Harris&quot; May 27, 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 trophy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>