



ArchivesSpace

## **Marlene Somers Collection, 1950-2010 Tretter: 356**

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English

Jean Nickolaus Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Jean Nickolaus Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies
<b>Creator:</b>	Somers, Marlene
<b>Title:</b>	Marlene Somers Collection, 1950-2010
<b>ID:</b>	Tretter: 356
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1950-2010
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 boxes 8.75 linear feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Marlene Somers Collection includes magazines, tabloids, pulps, and books that contain subject matter related to transgender, transvestite, and transsexual identity categories.

### Preferred Citation

Marlene Somers Collection, 1950-2010, Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies, University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis.

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## Biographical Sketch

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This collection was donated by Marlene Somers, a closeted trans\* woman from the Minneapolis area. Marlene has lived her daily life as a married family man, keeping her female self in a storage locker, only able to emerge on special occasions. Marlene has collected materials about transgender issues since the 1950s and has donated them to the Tretter Collection in the hope they may help others struggling to find their true selves

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## Scope and Content

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The Marlene Somers Collection (1950-2010) is representative of the publications that were accessible to a person of relative affluence and mobility in the United States from the mid-twentieth century up until the early 2000s. There is very little of Somers herself represented within the collection, save for a few annotations in books and magazines, lipstick prints, and five sheets of personal writing that include a diary entry. The material includes transploitation pornographic magazines and forced feminization serials as well as scientific articles concerning the topic of transsexualism and periodicals generated by and for transgender communities.

*Tapestry*, *Transgender Community News*, *International Trans Script*, *UTTS* (United Transvestite and Transsexual Publication), *Transvestia*, *TV World Directory*, *International Way Out World Tranny Guide*, and *Drag Magazine* are examples of publications that were generated by and for transgender communities. The content of these publications ranges from opinion pieces by trans\* columnists, resources for changing identity documents, resources for accessing gender affirmation services, listings of transgender organizations, reprints of mainstream reporting on trans\*-related issues/events, and personal ads.

While many of the assorted TV (Transvestite) magazines and tabloids such as *Shemaleor TV/TS Chronicle*, were certainly consumed by transgender people, the target audience of many of these publications was arguably people that fetishize TV and TS (Transsexual) bodies, which is why they have been described as ‘transploitation.’ The pulp novels are geared towards a similar audience.

The pocket-sized *Forced Femininity*, *Exotique*, and *Thrills and Frills*, are fantasy serials dominated by ‘forced feminization’ narratives that frequently involve powerful cisgender women, bondage, and humiliation.

The books in this collection such as *Transgender History* by Susan Stryker and *Gender Outlaw* by Kate Bornstein are representative of a body of literature by trans\* people that challenge (among other things) the dominant two-gender system, heteronormativity, and transphobia.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Jean Nickolaus Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies

## Restrictions on Access

Items in this collection do not circulate and may be used in-house only. Materials will be retrieved from and returned to storage areas by staff members.

## Restrictions on Use

Please contact staff regarding copyright status of these materials. Researchers may quote from the collection under fair use provisions of the copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code).

## Source of acquisition

The collection was donated by Marlene Somers in 2014.

## Processing Information

The Marlene Somers Collection was processed by Emily Atchison in 2015 as part of a project funded by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Transgender people -- Identity.
- Transsexuals.
- Transsexualism.
- Transvestites.
- Transgender people's writings
- Gender identity.
- Gender, bodies and transformation
- Gender expression.
- Queer studies

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
Personal Writing - Diary Entries, undated <u>Physical Description</u> : 5 items	box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Diary entry, notes about surgical desires, check list for dressing.

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*Tapestry*, 1987-1999 box 1

Physical Description: 29 issues

**Scope and Contents**

Lipstick kiss marks on issues #52-55, #87. Notations, underlining in issues #52, #56-57, #66, #73, #87. Dupes of #53, #56, #60, #67-69.

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*TV Gender*, undated box 1

Physical Description: 2 Issues

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*Feminine Illusion*, 1985-1995 box 1

Physical Description: 16 Issues

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*Femanine*, 1989-1992 box 1

Physical Description: 11 Issues

**Scope and Contents**

Duplicate of Vol. 1, #9. Vol. 2, #7 contains notations.

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*Girls Talk*, 1989-1990 box 1

Physical Description: 16 Issues

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*Alicia's Girls Talk*, 1991-1992 box 1

Physical Description: 6 Issues

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Mixed tabloids, undated box 1

Physical Description: 3 Issues

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Assorted TV magazines, 1968-1996 box 2

Physical Description: 27 Issues

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Mixed tabloids, 1969-1984 box 2

Physical Description: 6 Issues

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*Female Impersonator News*, undated box 2

Physical Description: 10 Issues

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*TV Girl Talk*, 1989-1991 box 2

Physical Description: 5 Issues

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*Transvestian*, undated box 2

Physical Description: 30 Issues

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*TV Sexcapades*, undated box 2

<u>Physical Description</u> : 3 Issues	
<i>Shemale</i> , undated	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 5 Issues	
<i>Transvestite Guide</i> , undated	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 5 Issues	
<i>W.I.G.</i> , undated	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 3 Issues	
<i>Inside News</i> , 1968-1972	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 4 Issues	
<i>Monthly</i> , undated	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 3 Issues	
<i>The Keyhole</i> , 1968-1969	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 Issues	
<i>The National Insider</i> , 1968-1969	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 10 Issues	
<i>Candid Press</i> , 1972	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 6 Issues	
Mixed TV magazines, 1980-1995	box 3
<u>Physical Description</u> : 25 Issues	
<i>Transformation</i> , 1996-2010	box 3
<u>Physical Description</u> : 21 Issues	
<i>TV/TS Chronicle</i> , 1993-1997	box 3
<u>Physical Description</u> : 5 Issues	
<i>Girl Talk</i> , 1999-2004	box 3
<u>Physical Description</u> : 5 Issues	
<i>Best of Girl Talk</i> , 1993	box 3
<u>Physical Description</u> : 3 Issues	
<i>Nugget</i> , 1979-1988	box 3
<u>Physical Description</u> : 5 Issues	
<i>Sexology</i> , 1951-1978	box 3
<u>Physical Description</u> : 14 Issues	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
1 issue contains an article by Harry Benjamin.	
<i>Turnabout</i> , 1963-1972	box 3

Physical Description: 8 Issues

*Forum*, 1977-1982 box 3

Physical Description: 5 Issues

**Scope and Contents**

"Sex changes" article is highlighted.

*Variations*, 1979-1983 box 3

Physical Description: 6 Issues

*Female Impersonator*, undated box 3

Physical Description: 3 Issues

*TV Times*, 1978 box 4

Physical Description: 3 Issues

*TV Connection*, 1992-1999 box 4

Physical Description: 7 Issues

*Veer*, 1996 box 4

Physical Description: 3 Issues

*Transgender Community News*, 2000-2002 box 4

Physical Description: 7 Issues

*Female Impersonators*, 1969 box 4

Physical Description: 2 Issues

*The Female Impersonator*, 1971-1972 box 4

Physical Description: 6 Issues

Assorted TV magazines, 1959-1999 box 4

Physical Description: 66 Issues

**Scope and Contents**

*International Trans Script*, article by Virginia Prince;  
*UTTS*(United Transvestite and Transsexual Publication):  
 articles about I.D. change, personal ads.; *Sex Change Magazine*: Interview with Angela Douglas (of TAO Transgender Activist Organization)

Half-sized misc. magazines, 1959-1994 box 4

Physical Description: 36 Issues

**Scope and Contents**

forced feminization content; TV TS Pocketbook

Books and pulps, 1950-2008 box 5

Physical Description: 73 Items



## Scope and Contents

*The Transsexuals* includes notes made by Somers; *The Gender Workbook* by Kate Bornstein, half filled out by Somers; *The Transvestite and His Wife* by Virginia Prince; *Transgender History* by Susan Stryker, with dog-eared pages; *Gender Outlaw* by Kate Bornstein, with dog-eared pages.

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*Transformation*, 1993-2010 box 6

Physical Description: 23 Issues

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*Tapestry*, 1995-2006 box 6

Physical Description: 24 Issues

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*Female Mimics*, 1963-1979 box 6

Physical Description: 13 Issues

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*Female Mimics International*, 1980-1999 box 6

Physical Description: 29 Issues

## Scope and Contents

"sex change surgery" article Somers underlined.

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*Transform*, undated box 6

Physical Description: 2 Issues

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Assorted magazines, 1958-2009 box 7

Physical Description: 130 Issues

## Scope and Contents

90 full size mags, 40 small mags. *Transvestia*#38; *TV World Directory*; *Forced Femininity*; *Exotique*#32, two photographs stuck inside of a woman in a corset (and latex?); *Thrills and Frills*; *International Way Out World Tranny Guide* 12th Edition, "Transgender Bible," London; *Transvestism: Males in Female Dress*; *Drag Magazine*#10 contains an interview with Vaginal Davis

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Books, 1998-1999 box 7

Physical Description: 2 books

## Scope and Contents

*Travesti*, *Female Desires*, both contain annotations.