

Gay and Lesbian Archives of South Africa

AM 2709 The Oral History Project – Mark Gevisser, cA. 1930s to 2000

- Summary
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Summary

Title: The Oral History Project, c. 1940s to 2000

Size: 9 boxes, 82 audio cassettes; 3 video cassettes; 105 photographs; scrapbook. (Note: July 2015 – only 26 audio cassettes found in box)

Restrictions: Several interviews have restrictions on them and researchers will need either GALA's or the interviewee's permission to use them.

Special formats: audio and video cassettes; 8mm films; photographs; scrapbook

Processed: July 1999, by Karen Martin and Graeme Reid. Updated January 2002, by Anthony Manion. Updated by LC, July 2015- Not all items could be located. Lists were made of all audio/visual material that was found in the OHP boxes.

See also: Mark Gevisser Collection AM2663

Background note.

GALA's Oral History Project was launched in co-operation with journalist Mark Gevisser to provide background material for Gevisser's film biography of Cecil Williams (*The Man who Drove with Mandela*) - See AM2663 for the interviews relating directly to Cecil Williams.

Scope and content.

A1 consists of more than 52 interviews on audio cassette with lesbians and gay men older than 60 at the time of the interview. Some of the interviews have been transcribed, and include some photographs and memorabilia. Not all interviews are accessible due to privacy embargoes and restrictions. A1. Is the bulk of the collection.

A2 consists of interviews conducted to provide background material for the *Man who Drove with Mandela* documentary. Stored with the Mark Gevisser collection AM2663.

A3. Project documents and notes

A4. Additional interviews

B. List of all tapes – Index.

Series Description.

A. Interviews

A.1 General interviews with gay men and lesbians about their lives in South Africa

A.2 Mark Gevisser's interviews with a range of people who knew Cecil Williams or of him – stored with Mark Gevisser Collection AM2663

A.3 Interviewers' reports and other background material. Access restricted.

A.4 Additional interviews

B. Appendix

B.1 List of all VHS tapes, film reels, computer floppy discs and a mini-disc

B.2 List of all audio cassettes

Container list

A. INTERVIEWS WITH GAY MEN AND LESBIANS

Please note that the keywords given below are drawn from interviewers' summaries and do not cover the content of each interview completely.

A.1.1 Ivan Agherdine

Restricted access: Researchers need Agherdine's permission. GALA has Agherdine's contact details.

1 audio cassette

1 transcription

Keywords: theatre; Cape Town; Zambia; Port Elizabeth; University of Cape Town; racial classification; apartheid.

A.1.2 Allwynne

1 audio cassette and transcription

Keywords: Kenya; London; married lesbians; interracial relationships; racism; coming out.

A.1.3 Charlie Arendse

Not available at present.

2 audio cassettes

1 transcription

Keywords: racism; Cape Town; married gay men; drag; police.

A.1.4

(previously restricted until 2017 – now lifted)

1 audio cassette and transcription

Keywords: London; theatre; University of Cape Town; coming out; South African Broadcasting Corporation; bisexuality; psychoanalysis.

A. 1.5

Not available at present.

2 audio cassettes

(no file)

A. 1.6 David Booysen

2 audio cassettes

1 transcription
1 letter and photographs (restricted)
Keywords: Western Cape Province; child sexual abuse; racial identity; interracial relationships; Immorality Act; Cape Town; drag; cruising; racism.

A. 1.7 Michelle Bruno

1 audio cassette
1 transcript
17 photographs
1 x large format black and white portrait photo (stored in poster cabinet)
Photo album – has been scanned. Contains photos and event invitations
23 negatives
1 newspaper article (1994)
4 pages from personal photograph album
1986 Benefit campaign
Scrapbook of hairstyling career (scanned and returned – digital only)

*Note: Michelle Bruno A.1.7 is stored in its own box.

Keywords: drag queens; Johannesburg; police; cruising; interracial relationships; language; discrimination.

* Note: Michelle Bruno was born Michael Brand and was a hairdresser in the 1960's. He was also part of drag life in Johannesburg at that time. The collection was a donation from Michelle. Bruno passed away in 2016.

A. 1.8

Not available at present.
1 audio cassette
Keywords: theatre; Cape Town; Hell's Angels; Congo; racism; apartheid.
(no file)

A. 1.9

Not available at present.
1 audio cassette
(no file)

A. 1.10 Anonymous

Restricted access: Researchers need GALA's permission.

1 audio cassette and transcription

Keywords: married gay men; photography.

A. 1.11 RD and Colin Lang

Open access – previous restricted access until 2002

2 audio cassettes

Colin Lang transcription

Keywords: discrimination; Afrikaners; English-speaking South Africans; Johannesburg; legislation; media coverage; police; Pretoria; communism; blackmail; University of Cape Town.

A. 1.12

Not available at present.

1 audio cassette

Keywords: Johannesburg; Pretoria; transvestism; blackmail; alcoholism; discrimination; Rivonia treason trial; human rights; gay and lesbian rights; politicians.

(no file)

A. 1.13 John Henrick and Dennis Dingle

1 audio cassette

6 documents "used in the British Law Reform Commission and sent to SA on the request of the Catholic Bishops Conference to help in the SA submission"

Keywords: Catholic Church; Pretoria; Johannesburg; support groups; language; cruising; police; Law Reform Movement.

Six Documents:

- Consultation on the Church, Society and the Homosexual – by Antony Grey
- Proceedings of above
- Demythologising the Homosexual – by Alfred A Gross
- The Churches' responsibility towards the homosexual – by Canon DA Rhyme
- The Homosexual's experience of the Churches – by Donald S Lucas
- The Sociological Perspective on Homosexuality – John Gagnan and William Simon

A. 1.14 Sheila Elliot

Restricted access: Researchers need Elliot's permission. Contact details from GALA.

1 audio cassette and transcription, 2 x audio CD discs

Keywords: Catholic Church; married lesbians; coming out; apartheid; racism; Tanzania; second world war; Christianity.

A. 1.15

Alan Fennell

No formal restrictions, but Fennell requests that the material be used "with due respect for persons named or mentioned".

1 audio cassette

1 transcription

10 photographs (missing, possibly returned)s

3 pages photograph album – photocopies

1 newsletter "Stuttaford News"

1 invitation

Keywords: Durban; Johannesburg; Cecil Williams; interracial relationships; London; Lourenco Marques; intergenerational relationships; language.

A. 1.16

Harold Fransman

Not available at present.

1 audio cassette

Keywords: Cape Town; butches; murders; second world war; Coloureds; Europe; apartheid; identity; HIV/AIDS.

(no file)

A. 1.17

Joe Garmeson

Restricted use: Researchers may listen to the interview but need Garmeson's permission to quote or make public use of it in any way. GALA has Garmeson's contact details. – now deceased, open access (updated 2016)

2 audio cassettes

2 x interview transcripts

19 photographs and negatives – stored with AM2580

2 copies of logo

1 copy of diary 1964 to 1968

See also the Joe Garmeson Collection AM 2580

A. 1.18

'Beryl'

Restricted access: Researchers may not listen to the interview until 2047.
They may use the photographs anonymously.

1 audio cassette and transcription

12 photographs

1 list of captions for photographs

Keywords: coming out; England; advertising; Cape Town; 1960s; interracial relationships; Rivonia treason trial.

A. 1.19 Bob Haber

Restricted access: Researchers need Haber's permission. GALA has Haber's contact details.

1 audio cassette

Keywords: Cecil Williams; University of the Witwatersrand; United Kingdom.

(No file)

A. 1.20 Joy Heald

1 audio cassette and transcription

Keywords: Rhodesia; coming out; Cape Town; 1960s; theatre; Law Reform Movement; 1990s.

A. 1.21 Judith Henderson

Restricted access: Researchers need Henderson's permission. GALA has Henderson's contact details.

1 audio cassette and transcription

Keywords: South African Broadcasting Corporation; discrimination; University of the Witwatersrand; London; married lesbians; married gay men; 1950s; Johannesburg; Cape Town; apartheid; harassment.

A. 1.22 Selwyn Hurwitz

A. 1.22.a video cassette

A. 1.22.b video cassette (for viewing only; no copying)

A. 1.22.c scrapbook of clippings about the arts in South Africa 1940 to 1975
(stored in archive office)

A. 1.22.d memoirs

A. 1.22.e 12 reels of 8mm home movies and 10 labelled boxes

*a, b, c stored separately

A. 1.23 Kewpie (Eugene Fritz)

1 audio cassette

1 transcription

(See also AM 2886)

Keywords: hairdressers; apartheid; racial identity; closeted homosexuals; gay and lesbian rights.

Kewpie passed away in June 2012

A. 1.24

Dallas Le Page

Restricted access: Researchers need Le Page's permission. GALA has Le Page's contact details. UPDATE 2016: La Page is deceased, as per his release form the interview is now accessible.

1 audio cassette

1 detailed summary of interview

Keywords: England; Archbishop of Cape Town; Anglican Church; homophobia; closeted homosexuals; Gay Christian Community; GASA; cruising; racism; apartheid; discrimination; conscientious objectors; Natal; Afrikaners; language

A. 1.25

Bernhard Leeman

1 audio cassette

Keywords: King Edward School; legislation; South African Broadcasting Corporation; gay and lesbian rights.

(no file)

A. 1.26

Ann Levett

Restricted access: Researchers need Levett's permission. GALA has Levett's contact details.

1 audio cassette

Keywords: Cape Town; coming out; 1950s; marriage; language; butch/femme relationships; 1960s; Johannesburg; legislation; bisexual women; Rape Crisis; interracial relationships.

(no file)

A. 1.27

Monty Lewis

1 audio cassette

Keywords: Pietersburg; coming out; Johannesburg; interracial relationships; police.

(no file)

- A. 1.28** **Three Anonymous gay men**
Restricted access: Researchers need permission from GALA.
1 audio cassette
Keywords: interracial relationships; Swaziland; Soweto; New York; Johannesburg; police.
- A. 1.29** **Marion Menzies**
Restricted access: Researchers cannot use the interview until 2047, but can read Menzies' curriculum vitae.
1 audio cassette and transcription
1 curriculum vitae
Photocopies of photographs
Keywords: artists; coming out; Johannesburg; 1960s; racism; language; 1970s; clubs; butch/femme relationships; Cape Town.
- A. 1.30**
Not available at present.
1 audio cassette
(no file)
- A. 1.31** **Anonymous**
Restricted access: Researchers need permission from GALA.
1 audio cassette and transcription
Keywords: coming out; Johannesburg; language; cruising; Law Reform Movement; police; interracial relationships.
- A. 1.32** **Julie Mullard**
1 audio cassette, 1 audio CD disc
1 transcription
Keywords: Mary Renault; England; Durban; Cecil Williams; second world war; Rivonia treason trial; 1950s; coming out.
- A. 1.33**
Not available at present.
1 audio cassette
Keywords: Cecil Williams; Johannesburg; theatre; communism; married lesbians; married gay men; fashion; language.

A. 1.34

Bienne Nel

Restricted access: Researchers need Nel's permission to listen to the interview. GALA has Nel's contact details. Researchers may use the photographs.

1 audio cassette

11 reproductions of photographs

Keywords: Pretoria; Zambia; Johannesburg; Zurich; cruising; fashion; police; Cecil Williams; 1960s.

A. 1.35

Truus Palmer

Restricted access: Researchers need Palmer's permission to listen to the interview. GALA has Palmer's contact details. Researchers may use the other material. See also 4.4

1 audio cassette

1 newspaper article re Francis Sinclair

1 letter from E. Pereira, UNISA re Francis Sinclair

1 card from Frank

1 newspaper article re Oaklands Women's Discussion Group 1956

Keywords: Black Sash; Cecil Williams; coming out; children of gay/lesbian parents; teachers; schools; butches.

A. 1.36

Francis Radebe

Restricted access: Researchers need Radebe's permission. GALA has Radebe's contact details.

1 audio cassette

(No file)

A. 1.37

John Ramsdale

2 audio cassettes

1 transcription

Keywords: Cape Town; Catholic Church; theatre; cruising; drag queens; University of Cape Town; ballet; liberalism; language; blackmail.

A. 1.38

Restricted access: Researchers need permission from GALA.

1 audio cassette and transcription, 1 x audio CD disc

Keywords: Coloureds; hairdressers; Johannesburg; emigration; apartheid; coming out; interracial relationships; Immorality Act; police; violence; South African Institute of Race Relations; pride parades; Europe; Lesotho; language.

A. 1.39

Pat Rule

1 audio cassette

1 transcription

8 photographs

1 list of captions for photographs

Keywords: Coloureds; racism; apartheid; Cape Town; language; Group Areas Act; child sexual abuse; Cape Town; lesbian organisations.

A. 1.40

Mansoor Saban

1 audio cassette, 1 x audio CD disc

Keywords: Islam; Cape Town; interracial relationships; suicides; police; apartheid; coming out; drag shows; language; Coloureds.

(no file)

A. 1.41

1 audio cassette and transcription

18 photographs

1 newspaper clipping (1961)

Keywords: Afrikaners; coming out; Johannesburg; cruising; murders; police; Law Reform Movement; gay bashing; language; married gay men.

A. 1.42

Cyril Schewitz

Not available at present.

1 audio cassette, 1 x transcription

7 photographs, and photocopies of photos

1 contact sheet

A. 1.43

Joan Schubotz

1 audio cassette

4 photographs

Keywords: married lesbians; coming out; lesbian mothers; sports clubs; Coloureds; Johannesburg; language; butches; apartheid; lesbian couples; gay and lesbian pride.

A. 1.44

Shay McClaren

1 audio cassette

1 transcription

Songs/poems (lyrics)

1 drawing (1949)

1 page from photograph album (1952/3)

2 signed books: *Radclyffe Hall, The Well of Loneliness* (1949)

4 photographs

Press clippings and political cartoons

1 x poster "Man op Maand" – original poster from *Die Transvaler*, 1969 (re. moon landing).

1 x school blazer and tie (Parktown Girls)

*negative sleeves – found with Shay's material, unclear if they belong with her collection (noted by LC – July 2015)

*Shay's collection has its own boxes.

Keywords: Law Reform Movement; coming out; 1950s; 1960s; legislation; England; Johannesburg; sports clubs; discrimination; transgenderism.

A. 1.45

Brian Stanley

Restricted access: Researchers need Stanley's permission. GALA has Stanley's contact details.

1 audio cassette

Keywords: coming out; Cape Town; Law Reform Movement; Durban; Johannesburg; cruising; discrimination.

(no file)

A. 1.46

Charles Stodel

Restricted access: Researchers need permission from GALA.

1 audio cassette

Keywords: Cecil Williams; prostitution; clubs; bars; theatre; Coloureds.

(no file)

A. 1.47

John Whiteley

Restricted access: Researchers need Whiteley's permission to use the interview. GALA has Whiteley's contact details. Researchers may read the newspaper article.

1 audio cassette
1 transcription
1 newspaper article (1996)
Keywords: theatre; Cecil Williams; coming out; Johannesburg; Durban; interracial relationships; pornography; Cape Town.

A.1.48 Andrew Wichman

Not available at present.

1 audio cassette

Keywords: Cape Town; whites; police; Second World War; apartheid; racial classification; Defiance Campaign.

(no file)

A.1.49 Lionel Clark

Not available at present.

Keywords: racial classification; public sex; Europe; apartheid; East London; Helen Suzman; Torch Commando; Rivonia treason trial.

(no file)

A.1.50

Not available at present.

1 audio cassette

1 transcript

(no file)

A. 1.51

Not available at present.

Photographs

A. 1.52 Ernest Thorp

Not available at present

Please note that the films have been transferred to the Ernest Thorp Collection (AM 2842)

(no file)

A.2. INTERVIEWS ABOUT CECIL WILLIAMS

Interviews conducted by Mark Gevisser, Greta Schiller and others for the film *The Man Who Drove with Mandela*.

* **Note** – these are stored with the Gevisser Collection – AM2663 series I-A.

A). Interviews

A1: Transcripts 27 interviews

- A.1 Albie Sachs, 6pg (transcript)
- A.2 Bernsteins, 24pg (transcript)
- A.3 Bill and Ann Williams, 20pg (transcript and summary)
- A.4 Brian and Sonya Bunting, 47 pg (transcript and summary)
- A.5 Brian Stanley, 3pg (summary)
- A.6 Colin Lang, 13pg (transcript)
- A.7 Connie Mabaso and David Phetoe, 14pg (transcript)
- A.8 Cyril Schewitz, 18 pg (transcript and summary)
- A.9 Dereck Gowett, 49 pg (transcript and summary)
- A.10a Eduan Naude, 3 pg (rough paraphrase)
- A.10b Jenifer Joseph, 82pg (transcript and summary).
- A.11 Joe Garmeson, 13pg (transcript)
- A.12 John Brett, 62 pg (transcript and summary)
- A.13 John Calderwood, 211 pg (transcript and summary) note that two pages (101,102) are missing
- A.14 John Whitely and Francis Hadebe, 13 pg (transcript and summary)
- A.15 Julius Baker, 7pg (transcript)
- A.16 Kay Gordon, 22pg (transcript and summary)
- A.17 Ken Gampu, 5 pg (transcript)
- A.18 Myrtle and Monty Berman, 26 pg (transcript and summary)
- A.19 Nelson Mandela, 2pg (transcript)
- A.20 Percy Tucker, 52pg (transcript and summary)
- A.21 Phyllis Atman, 7 pg (transcript and summary)
- A.22 Rica Hodgson, 59 pg (transcript and summary)
- A.23 Sophie Mqocina, 5pg (transcript)
- A.24 Tony Farmer, 19 pg (transcript)
- A.25 Walter Sisulu, 9 pg (transcript)
- A.26 Wolfie Kodesh, 33 pg (transcript and summary)
- A.27 Francis & Pat, 20pg (transcript)

Audi Cassettes: 24 audio cassettes, labelled by Gevisser as follows:

1. Benjamin (1)
2. Bill/Ann Williams (1)
3. Williams (2)/B: Rusty and Hilda Bernstein
4. Bernsteins (2) + (3)
5. John Brett (1)
6. Brett (2)
7. Brian and Sonia Bunting (1)
8. Bunting (2)
9. John Calderwood (1)
10. Calderwood (2)

11. Calderwood (3)
12. Calderwood (4)
13. Calderwood (5)
14. Ken Gampu [unclear] (1)
15. Cocky "Two Bull"
16. Gowlett (1)
17. Gowlett (2)
18. Ingham
19. Jenefer Joseph (2)
20. Wolfie Kodesh (1)
21. Kodesh (2)
22. Phetoe Mabaso
23. Phetoe
24. Natie and Molly Marcus

**A.3. INTERVIEWERS' REPORTS AND OTHER BACKGROUND MATERIAL
(Restricted)**

- A3.1 Handwritten notes taken during interviews
- A3.2 Interviewers' summaries and copies of interview permission forms
- A3.3 Oral history research and articles
- A3.4 Correspondence, project proposals, notes, contracts, release forms etc.

*Note: Lever-arch file of interview release forms etc. is stored in the archivist's office – this is CONFIDENTIAL and not to be shared with researchers as real names are given.

A.4 ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS

General interviews with gay men and lesbians about their lives in South Africa. Not undertaken as part of a specific project.

- A4.1. Margaret Auerbach**
 Interviewed by Ruth Morgan, 19/10/1999
 2 audiocassettes
 1 transcription
 See also AM 2862
- A4.2. Pieter Bosman**
 Interviewed by Graeme A. Reid, 03/04/2000
 1 audiocassette
- A4.3 Derek (Dirk?) Swanepoel - MISSING**

Photo album (in archive office)
3 x cassette tapes of interview by Anthony Manion 21/04/05

- A4.4** Wendy & Truuce, Es & Hazel – transcription duplicate from A2
A4.5 Pat and Francis– transcription duplicate from A2

B. Appendix:

Stored in box 2070036 – DW
Hurwitz film reels: 2067808

(full list of tapes and discs as of 28 July 2015 – compiled by LC. Only 26 – original inventory says 82)

B. 1 Full list of tape cassettes: (in Document Warehouse box 2070036 (box 1 of 6):

- A.17 Joe Garmeson 02/01/97 x 1 tape; 2.11.97 x 2 tapes
- A.18 Bob Harber (restricted access) – *Note – in the inventory Harber is A19!
- A.23 Kewpie
- A.28: Not for public access
- A.39 Pat Rule
- A.40 Mansoer Saban 22.10.97
- A.44 Shay McLaren 26/09/97
- A.45 Brian Stanley (restricted)
- Ann 25.10.1997 (bad audio) (*could be A.26 Ann Levitt)
- Charlie Arendse x 2
- Cyril Schewitz
- Daniel Somerville interviewed by Anthony Manion, JHB, 31/03/04 tape 1 of 1
- Dawn Betteridge interviewed by Anthony Manion (x2) 31/01/04
- Duncan Brown interviewed by Anthony Manion 22/05/05
- Eddy de Beer
- Eduan Naude interviewed by Karin Martin (Gramadoelas restaurant, Market Theatre, JHB 20.8.97).
- Freedom (?) Cohen 1.
- Harold Fransman
- John Caviggia
- John Ramsdale x 2
- Lola Walter interviewed by Mark Gevisser and Greta Schiller
- Mgcin
- Nkunzi Nkabinde 6/11/2006 session 3
- Sam (Sammy, Pat, Francis)
- Sammy Bodibe
- Dinky Blougard interviewed by Mary Louw 31/05/05, Newclare, JHB, tape 1 of 2 (master). – this belongs to Coloured OHP and needs to be relocated to that collection
AM

B.2 VHS tapes, CDs and floppy discs:

- **Floppy discs:** (labelled as follows)
 1. Alwynne, A.31 (part 2); A.10; A.38; A.41
 2. "Julie"
 3. OHP Transcriptions
 4. Participant B transcript GALA copy Joy Rowe (to remain anon.)
 5. Adelle transcriptions 6/5/99
 6. OHP Transcripts: Michelle Bruno; Shay; John Whitely; Alan Fennell; John Ramsdale

- **Mini-disc**
Participant B Wed July 10 2002

- **VHS tapes and film reels:**

A.22 Selwyn Hurwitz:
VHS: C22a – Home movies – master copy/not for viewing; 22b – viewing copy; 8mm home movies master copy
Movie Reels: "Kavadi (Durban) Indian Festival" movie reel (damaged) – C22 Selwyn Hurwitz; 2 x movie reels in boxes, no labels (see film reels inventory, stored separately), 11 x min reels.

- **CDs** (labelled as follows)
 1. A.32 Julie Mullard
 2. A.40 Mansoer Saban
 3. A.38
 4. A.14 Sheila Elliot part 1
 5. A.14 Sheila Elliot part 2
 6. A.17 Joe Garmeson part 3