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Ted Bloecher Papers
1950-2000
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Summary

Main entry:	Bloecher, Ted
Title:	Ted Bloecher papers, 1950-2000
Size:	15.5 linear feet (39 boxes)
Source:	Gift of Ted Bloecher, July 2002
Abstract:	Ted Bloecher (1929-) is a retired actor and member of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus. His papers (1950-2000) consist of correspondence, personal journals, a memoir and other writing, theatre memorabilia, and his New York City Gay Men's Chorus files. The papers document daily life of a struggling actor and singer in New York City, gay life before and after Stonewall, and thirty years of UFO research.
Access:	Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
Preferred citation:	Ted Bloecher Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
Special formats	Diaries, memoirs.

Biographical note

Ted Bloecher (1929-) is a retired actor and member of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus. He came to New York City as a scholarship student in Fine Arts at Cooper Union. But after having the opportunity to act in small parts for the Provincetown Players during a summer spent on Cape Cod, Bloecher decided on a stage career. He appeared on Broadway and in the national touring company of the musical *Oliver*, as well as in the national touring companies of *My Fair Lady* and *Hello, Dolly*. He also acted in a variety of summer stock productions. However, for much of his life he had to support himself through other employment.

During the 1950s Bloecher developed an interest in unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and began a research project documenting all of the known UFO sightings of 1947. He cofounded Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York in 1954, and served as an officer of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. He is the coauthor with Isabel Davis of *Close Encounter at Kelly and Others of 1955* (Center for UFO Studies, 1978) and collaborated closely with most of the major researchers in the field.

In 1985, Bloecher joined the New York City Gay Men's Chorus. He sang as a tenor with the chorus, as a member of its pops ensemble "Uptown Express" and acted as its music librarian.

Since his retirement he has served as a volunteer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Scope and content note

The papers consists of Bloecher's voluminous correspondence and personal journals, a memoir of a summer spent in Provincetown in 1951 and other writings, theatre memorabilia, and his New York City Gay Men's Chorus files. The collection document the daily life of a struggling actor and singer in New York City and gay life, chiefly in New York City, before and after Stonewall. They also include significant coverage of Bloecher's involvement in UFO research.

Arrangement note

The Ted Bloecher Papers are organized in the following series:

Series I. Correspondence, 1950-2000

Series II. Journals, 1950-2000

Series III. Writings, 1975-1999

Series IV. New York City Gay Men's Chorus, 1985-2000

Series descriptions and container list

Series I. Correspondence, 1950-2000

Series I consists of Bloecher's correspondence with friends, family, fellow singers and actors, and UFO researchers.

Correspondents include Isabel Davis, cofounder (with Ted Bloecher and Alexander Mebane) of Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York in 1954, James W. Moseley, President of Saucer And Unexplained Celestial Events Research Society (SAUCERS), Len Stringfield Director of Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects (CRIFO), Major Donald Keyhoe, head of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt ("Project Blue Book") and Leon Davidson.

Following the correspondence for most years is a folder of printed material containing covers of playbills for musicals, plays, and concerts he attended. Most are annotated with a brief remark summarizing his thoughts about the performance. In addition there are clipped reviews and/or feature articles about the shows.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	1950 Jun - Aug
	2	1951 Jun - Aug
	3-4	1952
	5-12	1953-1955
2	1-10	1956 - 1957 Jun
3	1-9	1957 Jul - Dec; 1958
4	1-9	1959 - 1961
5	1-6	1962 - 1963
6	1-9	1964 - 1966
7	1-6	1967; 1968 Jan - Jul
8	1-7	1968 Aug - Dec; 1969 Jan - Mar
9	1-6	1969 Apr - Dec; 1970 Jan - Jun
10	1-6	1970 Jul - Dec; 1971 - 1972
11	1-7	1973; 1974 Jan - Jul
12	1-7	1974 Aug - Dec; 1975
13	1-7	1976; 1977 Jan - Apr
14	1-7	1977 May - Dec; 1978 Jan - Apr
15	1-8	1978 May - Dec; 1980 - 1983
16	1-10	1984 - 1986
17	1-7	1987 - 1989
18	1-8	1990 - 1992 Jan - Mar
19	1-6	1992 Apr - Dec; 1993 - 1994
20	1-2	1994 (Printed material)
	3-6	1995
21	1-7	1996 - 1997

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
22	1-4	1998
23	1-6	1999 - 2000

Series II. Journals, 1950-2000

Bloecher's journals cover fifty years of his life, beginning in his late teens. The journals document the daily life of a gay man in the United States, primarily in New York City, including reports on his sexual activities and relationships and the impact of the AIDS epidemic. There is little mention of the homophile or gay rights movements.

24	1-8	1950-1952
25	1-6	1953-1955
26	1-14	1958-1988
27	1-14	1989-1993
28	1-12	1994-1998
29	1-6	1999-2000

Series III. Writings, 1975-1999

Bloecher's writings include an unpublished musical comedy "Something in the Air" (1994), a research paper, "The Stonehenge Incidents" (1975), a memoir, "Coming of Age in Provincetown," and his poetry (1995-1998). His memoir describes his experiences as a young man spending the summer in Provincetown, Massachusetts in 1951.

30	1	The Stonehenge Incidents, 1975 Jan
	2	Something in the Air, 1994 Jan-Feb
	3-6	Poems, 1995-1998
39	1-2	Coming of Age in Provincetown

Series IV. New York City Gay Men's Chorus, 1985-2000

Materials documenting Bloecher's membership in the New York City Gay Men's Chorus include copies of the handbook, constitution and by-laws, board minutes, fundraising materials, performance programs and reviews, and publicity brochures for public appearances by the Chorus.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
31	1	Fall 1985
	2	AIDS Benefit , 1985 Nov
	3	Winter 1986
	4	Gay Pride Parade, Spring 1986
	5	Fall 1986
	6	Winter 1987
	7	Spring 1987
	8	Summer 1987
	9	Fall 1987
	10	Winter 1988
	11	Uptown Express, 1988
32	1	Spring 1988
	2	Summer 1988
	3	Fall 1988
	4	Winter 1989
	5	Uptown Express, 1989 Jan
	6	Spring 1989
	7	Jul 1989
	8	Fall 1989
	9	Friedenstag, 1989 Nov
33	1	Winter 1990
	2	Spring 1990
	3	Summer 1990
	4	Fall 1990
	5	Uptown Express, 1990 Jun
	6	Winter-Spring 1991
	7	Gay Pride Concert, Spring 1991
	8	Summer 1991
	9	MAD Committee, 1991
	10	Christmas Concert, 1991
34	1	Collegiate Chorale, 1992 Jan
	2	Winter 1992
	3-4	Summer 1992
	5	Fall 1992
	6	MAD Committee, 1992
35	1	NYCGMC handbook, constitution and bylaws, 1993
	2	Winter 1993
	3	Uptown Express, 1993 Apr
	4	Gay Pride Concert, 1993 Jun
	5	Summer 1993
	6	Fall 1993
	7	Winter 1994
	8	Summer 1994
	9	Gay Pride Concert, 1994 Jun
	10	Gay Games IV, 1994 Jun

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
36	1	Gay Games IV, 1994 Jun
	2	Winter 1994
	3	MAD Committee, 1994
	4	Spring 1995
	5	Gay Pride Concert, 1995 Jun
	6	Spring 1996
	7	Summer 1996
37	1	Gala Festival, 1996 Jul
	2	Christmas Concert, 1996
	3	Spring 1997
	4	Summer 1997
	5	Fall 1997
	6	Spring 1998
	7	Gay Pride Concert, 1998 Jun
	8	Summer 1998
38	1	Christmas Concert, 1998
	2	Spring 1999
	3	Gay Pride Concert, 1999 Jun
	4	Christmas Concert, 1999
	5	Spring 2000
	6	Summer 2000
	7	Gala VI, 2000 Jul
	8	Winter 2000