



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Walter S. Albano Papers

NMAH.AC.1599

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

2024

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Walter S. Albano Papers
Date:	1983-2014
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1599
Creator:	Albano, Walter S. (Donor)
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Personal papers and materials collected by and documenting the life of Walter S. Albano of Washington, DC.

Administrative Information

Processing Information

Processed by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., archivist, 2024 supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Walter S. Albano Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

This biography/history was supplied by the donor, Walter S. Albano, February 2024.

"I was born in Jacksonville, Florida, to Mario and Anna (Combes) Albano on January 27, 1951, and there I attended Christ the King Catholic School (grades 1 through 8) and graduated class valedictorian from Bishop Kenny High School. I left Jacksonville in 1969 to attend Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., graduating *magna cum laude* in 1973 with B.A. degrees in English and History. I entered Georgetown Law School in fall of 1973, took a leave of absence after completing the first year of classes, and did not return.

In May 1974 I began work as a paralegal in the Congressional Research Service (CRS), Library of Congress (LC). While working, I attended graduate school at the University of Maryland, College Park, and received an M.L.S.

(library and information science) and an M.A. (history). I became a research librarian in the Congressional Research Service (CRS) in 1982 and worked there as a librarian and manager until retiring in January 2006.

After college I lived in the Washington, D.C., neighborhoods of Capitol Hill, Dupont Circle, and West End. Having long contemplated keeping a personal journal, I made my first entry on October 2, 1974, with an entry that included the statement, "My thoughts keep daring me to write the word which has been a bugaboo for the past six years... homosexuality." With very few exceptions I have made an entry in my journal at least once a week and have recorded nearly everything I did with others or by myself, along with describing my thoughts and feelings. Although for a long time I thought I might be gay, I came out to myself and others unequivocally in February 1977. I wrote about my life as a gay man in Washington: coming out; dating; boyfriends and lovers; living with HIV since at least 1984 and AIDS in the 1990s.

I enrolled and have continued to participate in the Study to Help the AIDS Research Effort (SHARE), a longitudinal study, begun in 1984, of men with HIV/AIDS in the Baltimore/Washington area. Along with my other day-to-day activities, I participated in gay men's groups (such as Adventuring, D.C. Front Runners, and Bookmen) and in gay social and political events around the city. After retiring, I made long-term commitments as a volunteer at the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery, Rock Creek Park, and historic house museums. My outlook on life has been that I will try almost anything once and, if I like it, do it again."

Content Description

Papers consist of calendars, magazines, and ephemera relating to the LGBTQ community and the life of Walter S. Albano within that community.

Scope and Contents

These papers consist of wall calendars, magazines, and ephemera documenting and collected by Walter S. Albano. The wall calendars provide a brief day-to-day listing of Albano's activities. While not all calendars are as robust in their detail as others, they nonetheless provide a window into the daily life of a person actively involved within their city and community, and after circa-1984 a man living with HIV/AIDS. Magazines and ephemera provide additional context to Albano's life and interests.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in one series.

Series 1, Wall Calendars, Magazines, and Ephemera, 1983-2014

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

LGBT

Types of Materials:

Calendars

Magazines (periodicals)

Container Listing

Series 1: Wall Calendars, Magazines, and Ephemera, 1983-2014

Subseries 1.1: Wall Calendars, 1983-2014

Box 1, Folder 1	Bohica, Calendar of Men, 1983
Box 1, Folder 2	Working Out, calendar, photographs by Ken Haak, text by Charles Hix, 1984
Box 1, Folder 3	U.S. Choice, calendar, photography by Jeff Martin, 1986
Box 1, Folder 4	Men, calendar, 1987
Box 1, Folder 5	Rear View, calendar, 1990
Box 1, Folder 6	Tall N' Tan, calendar, 1991
Box 1, Folder 7	Skin Deep, calendar, 1992
Box 1, Folder 8	Men for All Seasons, calendar, 1993
Box 1, Folder 9	Hot Bods USA, calendar, 1994
Box 1, Folder 10	Klaus Gerhart KG, calendar, 1996
Box 1, Folder 11	Andrew Melick, calendar, 1997
Box 1, Folder 12	Naked Gallery, Harriet Leibowitz, calendar, 1998
Box 1, Folder 13	Male Form, calendar, photographs by Douglas Cloutier, 1999
Box 2, Folder 1	David Morgan Retrospective, calendar, 1999-2000
Box 2, Folder 2	The Romance, Tom Bianchi, calendar, 2001
Box 2, Folder 3	Together, Clifford Baker, calendar, 2001-2002
Box 2, Folder 4	Rear View, photography by Jeff Palmer, calendar, 2002-2003
Box 2, Folder 5	Men by Jeff Palmer, calendar, 2003-2004
Box 2, Folder 6	Hard Bodies, photography by Susie Speck Mayor, calendar, 2004-2005

Box 2, Folder 7	True Man, Provocateur, Harriet Leibowitz, calendar, 2005-2006
Box 2, Folder 8	Men of Mexico, Provocateur, photography by Oscar Morales, calendar, 2006-2007
Box 3, Folder 4	On the Couch, photographs by Tom Bianchi, calendar, 2008
Box 2, Folder 9	Tom Bianchi's Out of the Studio, Provocateur, calendar, 2009
Box 2, Folder 10	Masculinity, Provocateur, photography by Fred Goudon, calendar, 2010
Box 2, Folder 11	Men, calendar, 2010-2011
Box 2, Folder 12	Masculinity, Provocateur, photography by Michael Stokes, calendar, 2011-2012
Box 2, Folder 13	Jeff Palmer, calendar, 2013
Box 2, Folder 14	Jeff Palmer, calendar, 2014

Subseries 1.2: Magazines and Periodicals, 1997-2002

Box 3, Folder 2	A & U, magazine, 1997-07 Notes: Walter Albano appears on page 64.
Box 3, Folder 3	The Advocate, magazine, 35th Anniversary issue, 2002-11-12

Subseries 1.3: Ephemera, 1988-2020

Box 3, Folder 1	Louganis, Greg, Speedo advertisement, autographed, 1988
Box 3, Folder 5	World AIDS Day: A Timeline, 2020

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