



SQUARE PEG/ BRIAN ROBINSON ARCHIVE

(SP)

SP Square Peg/Brian Robinson Archive 1982-2009

Name of Creator: Various.

Extent: 3 boxes, 5 banners, 9 t-shirts, 22 oversized items

Administrative/Biographical History: Brian Robinson was born in Northern Ireland and studied law at Sussex University, where he established a gay film society. He was a founder member of the collectively produced radical queer quarterly Square Peg magazine (1982-1991), which featured art, style and politics. He joined the British Film Institute as a press officer in 1987, going on to a career as programmer of BFI Southbank and, since 2000, of BFI Flare: London LGBT Film Festival. He has written on queer cinema for several magazines and journals including Sight and Sound and The Guardian.

Custodial History: Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute by Brian Robinson, May 2021.

Scope and Content: Papers, t-shirts, placards, banners and other ephemera for Square Peg magazine, a radical queer cultural quarterly published 1982-1991. Includes cover mock-ups, artwork, advertising copy, meeting minutes, draft articles. Also the personal papers of founding editor Brian Robinson, including those regarding his work at the British Film Institute and its Flare [LGBT+] Film Festival, and the papers and publications of groups and causes he supported, [1983-1990]

System of Arrangement:
No further arrangement required.

Language/scripts of material:
English

Access conditions:
OPEN

Copying conditions:
Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:
Copy of handlist available in researcher's area.

Rules and Conventions:
Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

Square Peg t-shirts

Cotton t-shirts advertising the magazine

Square Peg, [c.1990]

Includes:

1. white shirt with a stylised image of two male upper torsos and the words 'Square Peg' in black (3 t-shirts)
2. white shirt with turquoise and purple design of the face and upper body of an androgynous figure with wings holding a starfish, a sun and moon design to either side, and the word 'Square' at the top of the image and 'Peg' at the bottom (2 t-shirts)
3. white shirt with design in black of two hearts, a bird, a rose, and a ribbon across the two hearts on which is printed 'Square Peg Magazine' and 'True Love' (1 t-shirt)
4. as for item 3 but in colours: blue hearts, red bird and rose, blue for the words 'True Love' (2 t-shirts)
5. white shirt with design in black of a circle broken up into eight segments, with images and lettering mimicking a Medieval horoscope and including the words 'Prophetia', 'Penetrare' and 'Labia Majora' and images of men, women and parts of the body, along with the words 'Square Peg' (2 t-shirts)
6. white shirt with the letters of the words 'Square Peg' in black running vertically to the left of a square design filled with the image of an androgynous face with red 'rays' (as from a sun) surrounding the figure's head (2 t-shirts)
7. white shirt with design in navy and black of a prone figure bending from the waist so that its head is touching the knees of its outstretched legs. At the top are the words 'Square Peg'; at the bottom 'Magazine' (2 t-shirts)
8. grey shirt with a reproduction of a photographic image of a young man squatting, holding one end of a rope in his mouth, the other end tied round both wrists, which he holds near his feet. One of the two versions of this shirt have metal nipple rings attached to the man's torso. Running vertically down the right side of the figure are the words 'Contemporary Fucking Perverts' (2 t-shirts)
9. grey shirt with a reproduction of a photographic image of a young woman's face and upper body. One of the two versions of this

shirt have metal nipple rings attached to the woman's breasts. Running vertically down the left side of the figure are the words 'Contemporary Fucking Perverts' (2 t-shirts)
OPEN

SP/2 Square Peg Magazine covers 1983-1990

Cover artwork for issues 1-3, 5-21 and 24-25 of Square Peg Magazine. Printed paper glued to card, measuring 25x60cm, [1983-1990]
OPEN

SP/3 Square Peg banners c.1990

Banners for Square Peg, [c.1990]
Includes:
1. Plain white sheet with 'Square Peg' spelled out in black marker pen (218cm wide x 82cm high)
2. Painted banner in turquoise and purple with a design of a face and upper body of an androgynous figure with wings holding a starfish, a sun and moon design to either side, and the word 'Square' at the top of the image and 'Peg' at the bottom (227cm wide x 251cm high)
3. Plain white sheet with 'Square Peg' and an image of two male torsos in black (224cm wide x 123cm high)
4. Plain white sheet with 'Square Peg' and an image of two male torsos in black (232cm wide x 215cm high)
5. Yellow fabric with 'Square Peg' spelled out in blue, with green circles and red drawings of lips, eye and eyebrow, sunburst (214cm wide x 83cm high)

OPEN

SP/4 Square Peg meeting minutes 1988-1989

Minutes of Square Peg meetings, [1988-1989]
APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

SP/5 Square Peg business correspondence 1989-1991

Correspondence with subscribers and with distributors, printers, advertisers and other

suppliers of goods and services to Square Peg magazine, [1989-1991]
APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

SP/6	Readership surveys	c.1988
	Readership surveys and personal ads for Square Peg magazine, [c.1988] APPLY TO ARCHIVIST	
SP/7	Magazine production	c.1987-1990
	Production flow chart, handwritten production notes, lists of print costs, mail-out lists, survey of subsidised arts magazines, income and expenditure data, and an Arts Council 'Report on a Survey of Retail Outlets for Arts Magazines' (Warren Pringle, January 1987), [c.1987-1990] OPEN	
SP/8	Square Peg magazine artwork	1984-1988
	Artwork and publicity for Square Peg magazine and events. Includes leaflets, acetates, stickers, business cards, flyers advertising issues 1-7, 12 and 27, photographs by Sunil Gupta, Colin McMorris and Jon Stark, grant application to the Greater London Council (GLC) for producing the magazine, [1984-1988] OPEN	
SP/9	Square Peg: The Movies	1988
	Flyers, leaflets and publications regarding Square Peg: the Movies at the ICA, [1988] Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Film issue (no 19) of Square Peg magazine- flyer for Square Peg: the Movies with a list of the films being shown at the ICA (29 February - 26 March)- ICA listings booklet- photocopies of press cuttings reviewing the films shown as part of 'a season of gay films in association with the magazine, Square Peg', in papers and journals including Time Out, The Independent, Spare Rib, City Limits, Gay Times, Cinematheque, Him (February-March 1988)	

OPEN

SP/10 Articles and correspondence 1984-1991

Article submissions and correspondence to Square Peg, [1984-1991]

OPEN

SP/11 Health and political activism 1985-1991

Flyers, leaflets, condoms, lubricant, press releases, press cuttings and booklets regarding gay men's health and political groups including OutRage!, the Terrence Higgins Trust, the Greater London Lesbian and Gay Working Party, Pride, Wages for Housework, GMFA (Gay Men Fighting AIDS), Women Against Rape, Switchboard, NUJ Lesbian and Gay Group, 'Equality in Housing: Lesbians and Gay Men' (Association of London Authorities, 1990), Rubberstuffers, South London Lesbian and Gay Young People's Group and Act Up, [1985-1991]

OPEN

SP/12 LGBTQ+ interest brochures and catalogues 1991-1996

Flyers, price lists, catalogues for LGBTQ-related merchandise, [1991-1996]

Includes:

- Compendium lesbian fiction booklist
- editions aubrey walter (books of gay art and photography) catalogue
- flyer for Spinnboden Lesbian Archive (Berlin)
- Freedom Fair: the gay business and consumer exhibition catalogue
- Fantasy Erotique catalogue

OPEN

SP/13 Art, theatre and cinema events 1990-2000

Flyers, leaflets and catalogues for LGBTQ-related arts and cinema exhibitions, [1990-2000]

Includes:

- photographs and press releases regarding the film 'Resident Alien' about Quentin Crisp
- flyer for event, 'One Million Years BC', Square Peg in collaboration with Compulsion

- flyer for an exhibition of the work of Max Springer
- press release for the National Theatre production of Tony Kushner's 'Angels in America'
- flyers for Watershed Media Centre
- leaflet for the Fifth Annual United States 'Dressing for Pleasure' gala
- postcards for an exhibition of photographs by David Reve
- photocopied article and flyer for an exhibition of new paintings by Steven Harwood

OPEN

SP/14

Club flyers and membership cards

1982-2009

Flyers, leaflets and booklets for club nights, party invitations, membership cards and admission tickets, [1982-2009]

Includes:

- booklet for the 2nd Pink Hippo Ball for the benefit of London Gay Switchboard (10 June 1985)
- Stonewall Equality Dinner invitation (2009)
- correspondence and flyers regarding the Sadie Maisie (SM) Disco Club
- flyer regarding 'Flesh' club night at the Hacienda, Manchester (October 1991)
- press releases from The Fridge club, Brixton
- flyer for Marvellous Sundays club at SubStation South, London SW9
- booklet, 'G! Glasgay!' (1999)
- booklet, 'Gayinfo Berlin' (2001)
- membership card for Bolts club nights (1982)
- entry ticket to Sombrero (22 July 1983)
- admission ticket to Stallions
- membership ticket for The Embassy (1985)
- flyer for Valentino's 'new gay disco'
- complimentary ticket for the Hippodrome
- membership card for the Fridge, 390 Brixton Road
- admission ticket to Time Tunnel, 259 Pentonville Road
- complimentary admission ticket to Heaven, Villiers Street
- flyer for Diamonds, 'London's newest ladies gay disco night'
- Santa's Grotto event sponsored by Square Peg
- flyer for the Asylum club

- postcard for Daisychain at The Fridge, featuring a Square Peg party (21 June 1988)
- slip of paper/'business card' for Mark - Rentboy
- postcard for Underground, 37 Wharfedale Road, London N1
- membership card for The Hoist (1996)
- Contact: the magazine for men to meet men
- invitation to Pas and Brian's silver anniversary and civil partnership (20 January 2007)
- ticket stub for Pride [London] 1998
- ticket stub for London Mardi Gras 1999
- membership card for SubStation (1994)
- membership cards, Sadie Maisie Club (1993, 1994)
- flyer and information leaflet regarding Spectrum Radio (1985)

OPEN

SP/15

LGBTQ+ books and magazines

1989-1992

Publications, [1989-1992]

Includes:

- Thing [magazine] no 5 (Fall 1991)
- postcard for a book called 'transmission' by atima srivastava (Serpent's Tail, 1992)
- Lavendar Lesbian List issues 33 (summer 1991) and 34 (autumn 1991)
- advertising press releases for GMP [the Gay Men's Press] Publishers (1991)
- new titles booklet for GMP (1991-1992)
- press release from the British Film Institute for The Gay Connoisseur home video collection (1991)
- book jacket mock-up for 'Eighty-sixed' by David B Feinberg (GMP)
- Sheba [feminist publishers] press releases
- card introducing Scarlet Press
- SM Gays programme (January-July 1989)
- International Nudist Sun magazine, no 1
- flyer for Man Alive! magazine
- Mensual (Spanish-language magazine)
- Mister X Monthly, 'a new magazine produced by female to male transexuals' (January 1991)

OPEN

SP/16	Divine David	1995-2000
	<p>Flyers, leaflets and booklets regarding appearances by performance artist Divine David, [1995-2000] OPEN</p>	
SP/17	Duckie	1998-2007
	<p>Flyers, leaflets and booklets regarding celebrations and events hosted by Duckie [club night], [1998-2007] OPEN</p>	
SP/18	Gay Christian Movement	1985
	<p>Gay Christian Movement publications, [1985] Includes: - Gay Christian: the Journal of the Gay Christian Movement, no 36 (July 1985) - booklet, 'The Other Country'; seventh Michael Harding Memorial Address, given by Jim Cotter at the Leadmill, Sheffield (23 March 1985) OPEN</p>	
SP/19	Square Peg display	1990
	<p>Display material (artwork and publicity for Square Peg magazine) used for 'a look back at the first 25 issues of Square Peg magazine, the lesbian and gay cultural quarterly. Sexy, sleazy and seriously offensive? Judge for yourself', [1990] OPEN</p>	
SP/20	Subscriptions, submissions, correspondence	1984-1986
	<p>Subscription lists, submissions and correspondence from readers, bookshops and organisations with subscriptions for or an interest in Square Peg magazine, [1984-1986] APPLY TO ARCHIVIST</p>	
SP/21	Constitution and early papers	
	<p>Correspondence, legal agreements, founding documents, press cuttings and ephemera regarding Square Peg magazine, [1985-1993]</p>	

Includes:

- rubber stamp with the words Square Peg and its address
- publisher's contract between Square Peg and Turnaround Distribution Ltd (09 September 1985)
- handwritten list of student unions and university GaySocs (6pp)
- photocopied typescript list of halls and rooms for hire (Arts and Recreation section, Westminster City Libraries) (13pp)
- photocopied typescript Guidance Note, 'Legal Responsibilities of Members of Committees of Unincorporated Voluntary Organisations' (2pp)
- photocopied typescript Constitution for Square Peg magazine (5pp)
- photocopied form, Greater London Arts Application for Financial Assistance (1987-1988)
- typescript copy (not filled in) of the Square Peg readers' survey
- handwritten draft of the readers' survey
- card with image from a Square Peg photo shoot of three people including novelist and Square Peg collective member Alex Hirst
- framed black-and-white cartoon of two policemen and a caricatured thief in black-and-white striped shirt with a bag labelled 'Swag'. On the back is a message: to Pas [Paschali] from Andrew on his birthday (1986)
- press release, 'Square Peg on the Radio' (1987)
- photocopy of the Introduction and first chapter of 'Legislation for Lesbian and Gay Rights: a Manifesto' (Labour Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights) (17pp; 1986)
- press release, 'Pravda Perverts in Bolshevik Beano'
- Christmas greetings cards to Square Peg
- poster for Fontana, 'an avant-garde pop performance tape duo'
- correspondence from Aldebaran Theatre Company, London SW9 9NY
- black-and-white photos (stills) from the 1984 documentary film 'Improper Conduct' by Nestor Almendros, exploring the Cuban government's imprisonment of homosexuals. Shown at the ICA Cinema (1984)

- press release, 'Gay Mag Banned!', about the third issue of Square Peg being banned by its Croydon printers
- issue 14 of Lesbian & Gay Youth Magazine (January 1985)
- issue 13 of Gay Youth
- Constitution of the Gay Youth Movement
- letter to Square Peg from Gayn Records, about a review copy of the song 'File Under "Gay"' recorded at the London School of Economics by Eric Presland and Norman Penney in aid of Defend Gay's the Word (1984)
- flyer regarding David Joy, Peter Bremner and Steve Smith, 'former members of PIE (Paedophile Information Exchange)'

OPEN