



MEL REEVE COLLECTION

(MRC)

MRC

Mel Reeve Collection

1986-2021

Name of Creator: Reeve, Mel (b.1990) archivist and writer

Extent: 2 Boxes, 4 oversized items

Administrative/Biographical History: Mel Reeve is an archivist and writer living in Glasgow. She started the Bi History project several years ago after working in archives and heritage, and realising there was a real lack of information about bisexual+ history. Her initial goal was to do research and share it on social media (@bihistory), and she assumed that she would find plenty of examples of bisexual+ archive collections in the UK. Mel ended up discovering that there was a real gap in the preservation of bisexual+ histories, and decided to use the platform she'd developed on social media to create an archive collection of bisexual+ history, and to offer education and advice about how archives work to encourage people to feel confident donating or doing their own archiving of their activism and lives. The collection was also used for a series of workshops and it was an amazing opportunity to see how impactful engaging with bisexual+ history can be for bisexual+ individuals. For many of the attendees this was the first time they'd ever seen their community's history being valued and discussed. Mel decided to donate the collection to the Bishopsgate institute because she wanted more people to be able to access and use the collection, because being able to engage with records of your community can have a tangible impact on feeling more confident and comfortable in your own identity.

Custodial History: Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute by Mel Reeve, July 2021.

Scope and Content: Flyers, zines, leaflets, booklets, journals, t-shirts, bunting, badges, postcards and banner celebrating bisexuality, pansexuality, queerness and the Bi History Project, [1986-2021].

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.

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Bi History

Publications created by the Bi History project

Includes:

- It's Radical to Exist: a zine about archives, queer history, + preserving a record of your community's existence* *specifically designed for the bisexual+ and LGBT+ community (12 pp) (2 copies)
- flyer, The Ultimate Bisexual T-shirt/Poster/Comeback, listing slogans created by Susan Kane, Ann Arbor (Michigan)
- Bi History: A zine of resources about bisexuality (16pp) (2 copies)
- circular @BIHISTORY sticker (5cm diameter), Bisexuality Is Freedom (9 copies)
- acknowledgement flyer, Thank you for ordering your Bi History zine bundle!
- It's Radical to Exist: A zine about archives, queer history, and preserving a record of your community's existence* *specifically designed for the bisexual+ and LGBT+ community (16 pp) (2 copies)
- Actively Bisexual: A zine about bisexual activists and their contributions to the LGBTQ+ community (20pp) (2 copies)
- rainbow lanyard
- flyer with a quote from June Jordan
- papers from a Bi History workshop
- A4 poster: Bisexuality Is Freedom

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Biscuit

Papers regarding organisations including biscuit ... for women who won't pick a side, [2017-2019]

Includes:

- typescript Code of Conduct for volunteers and attendees helping out with the biscuit stall and float at Pride (3pp)
- typescript information sheet for biscuit Wheel stewards
- typescript information sheet for biscuit Stall volunteers
- typescript minutes of Bi's at Pride meeting, with additional notes in pen (26 March 2018)
- printed [Pride] parade day schedule
- business card for biscuit ... for women who won't pick a side (2 copies)
- business card for London BiFest (2 copies)
- Bisexual Identification Card (3 copies)
- business card, London Bisexuals
- postcard for BiCon 2019, Lancaster University (3 copies) (01-04 August 2019)
- postcard for biscuit (3 copies)
- postcard, 'humps' in black on a white background, with directional arrows pointing right and left (2 copies)
- postcard produced by bisexualindex.org.uk (2 copies)
- flyer for Biche Bisexual Dance Party, The Apple Tree, Farringdon (07 September 2019) (3 copies)
- flyer, Stitch Bi Stitch free crafternoons (3 copies)
- sheet of press-on tattoos with the Bisexual Pride flag in various sizes and messages including 'Pride' and 'Not a Phase'
- sticker, Bisexuals Against Brexit
- flyer, BIBQ in the Park (2 copies) (04 August 2018)
- booklet, World of Bi (24pp) (July 2017)
- A5 flyer, Bisexual Survivors Network (2 copies)
- A4 price list for biscuit events including workshops and inclusivity training

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Zines, [2015-2020]

Includes:

- Versions of Violence: Queer Women and Femmes on Heterosexism (Autumn 2016)
- Exploring Bisexuality: A zine by Laura Saunders
- The Queer Lonely Diaries (Spring/Summer 2020)
- handwritten letter describing and accompanying a collection of flyers from Nottingham BiTopia (2015), Big Bi Fun Day (2019), and other events, along with the business cards of Hannah, the person who sent these to Mel Reeve, and of Jenny, who sent some items to Hannah
- sticker, Support working class artists
- sticker, Northwest Zinefest 2019
- sticker, Glasgow Zine Library
- sticker, Salford Zine Library
- flyer for the Bisexual History Project, Putting the 'B' into LGBT history
- flyer for BiTastic!
- leaflet for bi community news
- The Bisexuality Report: Summary Flyer (2012)
- booklet, Bi's of Colour History Survey Report, by Jacq Applebee (32pp) (June 2015)

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Forty-four badges and pins

Includes:

- The Bi-ble pin (2.5cm long, attached to a business-card sized card for The BI-BLE), with two shapes - a deep navy and a pink rough-edged rectangle, resembling strokes of a paintbrush, overlapping to create a purple section where they overlap
- circular badge (2.5cm diameter) in the colours of the Pansexual flag (pink, yellow, blue)
- circular badge (2.5cm diameter) in the colours of the Bisexual flag (pink, purple, blue)
- circular badge (2.5cm diameter) in the colours of the Non-binary flag (yellow, white, purple, black)
- circular badge (2.5cm diameter) in the colours of the Non-binary flag (yellow, white, purple, black) and the word Sie in black
- blue rectangular badge (7x4.5cm) with 'They/Them' in black
- blue rectangular badge (7x4.5cm) with 'He/Him' in black
- blue rectangular badge (7x4.5cm) with 'Ze/Zir' in black
- pink circular badge (2.5cm diameter) with 'staff' and the logo of the Glasgow Zine Library in navy blue
- black circular badge (2.5cm diameter): Not everyone is bisexual
- black circular badge (3cm diameter): Gold Star Bisexual
- red and yellow circular badge (3.5cm diameter): Stop & Scrap Universal Credit
- black circular badge (5.75cm diameter): Support Women Writers
- white circular badge (3.8cm diameter): ArchI've Learnt
- black-and-white circular badge (3.8cm diameter): I'm bisexual and I'm not attracted to you
- yellow circular badge (4.5cm): I'm with Nicola #BothVotesSNP
- black circular badge (2.5cm): bi babe
- white circular badge (2.5cm): Straight White Men Aren't Punk
- pink circular badge (2.5cm): Straight White Men Aren't Punk
- two white circular badges (2.5cm): biscuit ... for women who won't pick a side
- lavender circular pin (1.5cm): Bi and Mighty
- white circular badge (2.5cm): FOMA Forever
- black circular badge (2.5cm): "No, I'm Bisexual, *you're* confused"
- black circular badge (2.5cm): Queer
- purple circular badge (2.5cm): Embrace the Power of 'And'
- white circular badge (2.5cm): liberté, égalité, bisexualité
- blue circular badge (2.5cm): #Do Better Bi Us

- fabric applique patch (4x4cm at its widest points): a dog's head and neck in pinks and reds
- hot pink circular badge (2.5cm): Shy Girls Gone Wild
- white circular badge (2.5cm): On And Ever Onwards
- pink, purple and blue circular badge (2.5cm): visi Bi lity
- pink, purple and blue circular badge (2.5cm): VISI BI LITY
- pink, purple and blue circular badge (3.5cm): visi BI lity
- pink, purple and blue circular badge (2.5cm): proudly bisexual
- white circular badge (3.5cm): visi bi lity
- black circular badge (3.5cm): "do you like boys or girls?" YES!
- black circular badge (3.5cm): "do you like boys or girls?" YES! (and more!)
- red, yellow and blue circular badge (3.5cm): pansexual
- rainbow-colours circular badge (2.5cm): Perfectly Pansexual
- pink, purple and blue circular badge (3.5cm): Badass Bisexual
- pink, purple and blue circular badge (3.5cm)
- pink, purple and blue circular badge (2.5cm): Purple Prose
- black circular badge (3cm): Bisexual Pride
- black circular badge (3.5cm): The LGBTQIA+ is not silent

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Clothing, bunting and ephemera

Includes:

- white cotton sleeveless t-shirt from Primark (M), with a design of a triangle in pink, pale purple and pale turquoise and the (iron-transfer) words Bisexual Pride! in black on the front, and Actively Bisexual in blue on the back
- purple polyester vest/tabard (M) with grey hi-vis vertical and horizontal stripes and Velcro closures; on the back is printed BI VIS in white capital letters
- white polyester t-shirt (S) printed DoBetterBiUs in black on the front, and with the logos for London Bisexual Network (in black, white and purple), biscuit ... for women who won't pick a side (in purple), Macquarie (in black) and Simmons & Simmons (in black) on the back
- two purple fabric lanyards, each with a white plastic ID badge (8cm x 7cm) reading 'biscuit ... for women who won't pick a side' in purple lettering and 'Volunteer' in black
- bunting: 27 cotton triangles in nine repeating sets of three in the colours of the pansexual flag - pink, yellow and turquoise - attached to green cotton ribbon
- bookmark (17.5cm x 5cm) advertising The Bi-ble vol. 1 and The Bi-ble: New Testimonials vol.3. On the reverse is the logo for Monstrous Regiment
- four stickers in the colours of BI Pride (deep pink, mauve and blue), featuring: the Bi Pride flag, the word Visi-BI-lity, the word Love, the word Superqueero
- three white plectrums, decorated with images in the colours of the Bi Pride flag: the flag itself, a raised fist, three lightning bolts
- postcard with the logo of The Bi-ble: a deep navy and a pink rough-edged rectangle, resembling strokes of a paintbrush, overlapping to create a purple section where they overlap
- A5 postcard, with an outline drawing in black of two genderless faces in profile, about to kiss, and the words (in inverted commas) "I didn't pick a side. I picked a person." – Lisa Marie Fera

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Journals, [1986-2021]

Includes:

- Bi Community News, issues 153-167 (February 2019-June 2021)
- Somewhere: for us, issues 1-3 (Winter 2020-Summer 2021)
- six postcards and two A4 posters for Somewhere: for us
- Anything That Moves, issues 5-6, 10 and 16 (1993-1998)
- True Detective [features the story 'How Many Victims for the Bisexual Killer?'] (May 1986)
- Bi'cause, no 1 [in French] (Winter 1996)

- Bi Tribune, volume 3, issue 4 (February-April 2006)
- Diva, issue 105 (February 2005)

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Posters, banner and drawings, [2019]

- A3 paper with four hand-drawn sketches in coloured pens of the Pride float for London Bis (n.d.)
- A3 printed poster for BICHE Bisexual Dance Party, at The Apple Tree, Farringdon (07 September 2019)
- A3 printed poster for BIJOU Bisexual Dance Party, at The Apple Tree, Farringdon (29 June 2019)
- fabric banner (W90cm x H50cm) reading 'biscuit ... for women who won't pick a side', with social media contact details (website, Twitter, Tumblr, Patreon) for biscuit printed below this (n.d.)