

UCLA

CSW Update Newsletter

Title

Grier Periodical Collection and Diana Press Records

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/26h9g1xt>

Author

Dean, Courtney

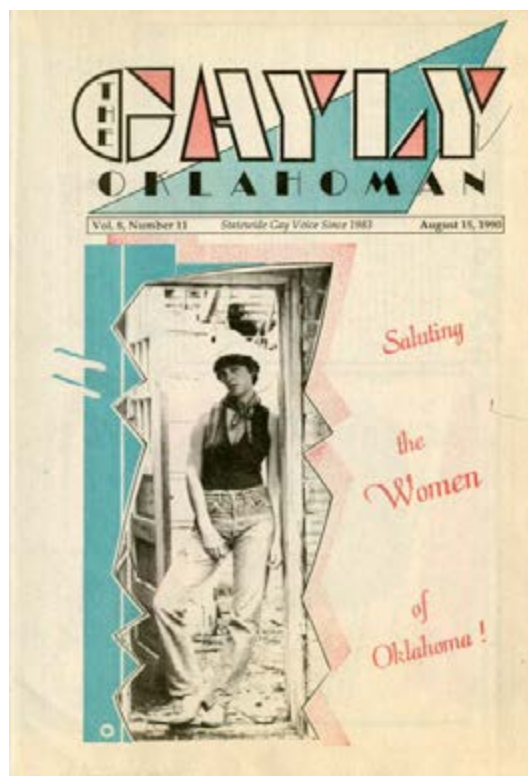
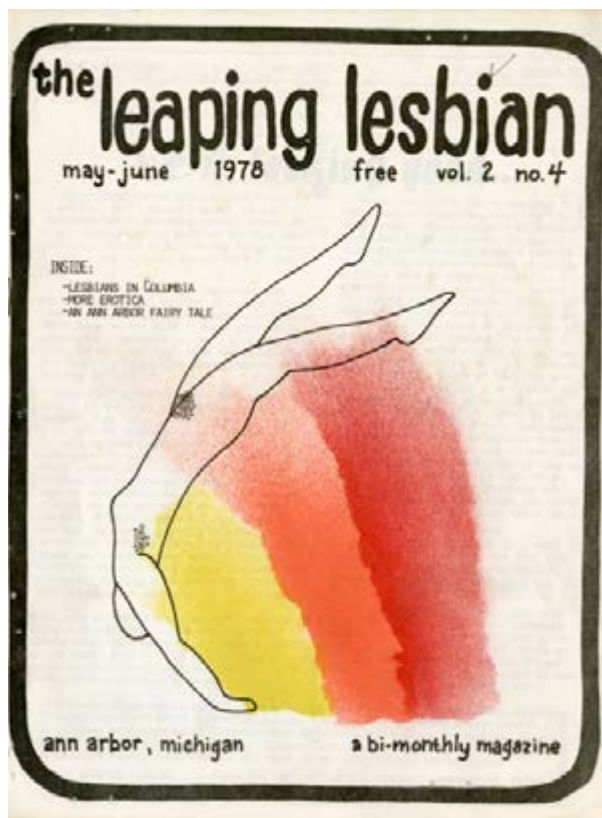
Publication Date

2013-03-01

Copyright Information

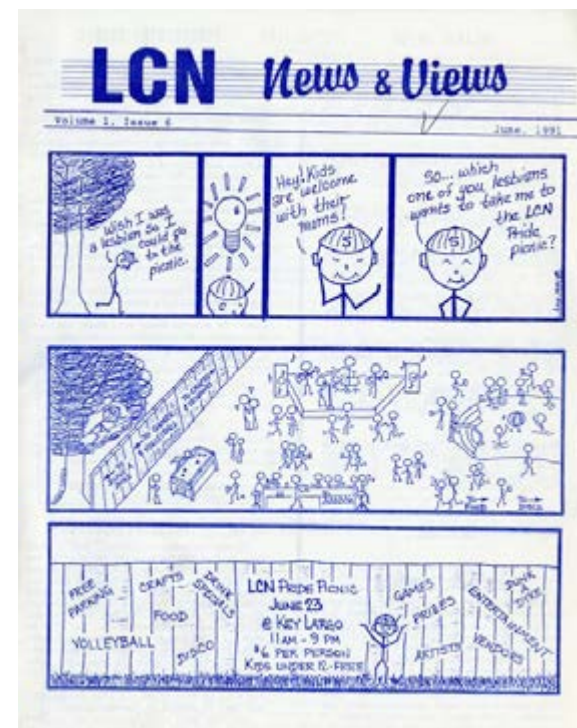
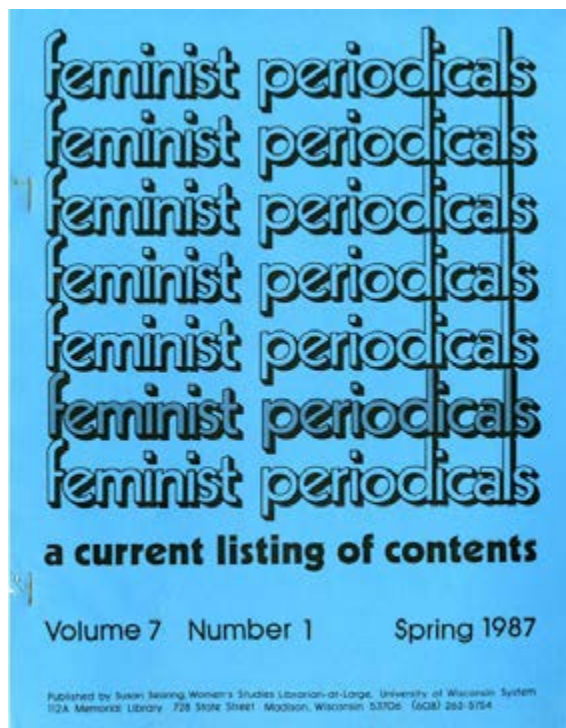
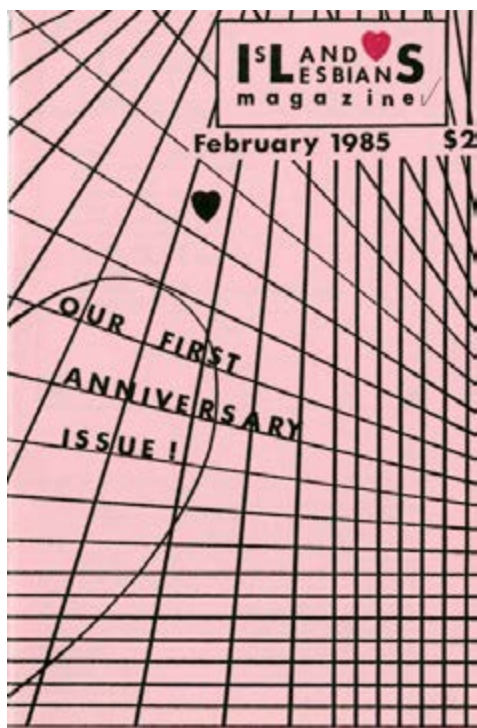
This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

GRIER PERIODICAL COLLECTION AND DIANA PRESS RECORDS



Over the course of the winter quarter I had the opportunity to work with two different collections from the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives. The first collection I processed was the Barbara Grier Periodical Collection. Barbara Grier (1933-2011) was a lesbian-feminist activist, writer, and publisher. She is perhaps best known for her work with *The Ladder*, the monthly magazine published by the Daughters of Bilitis, the first national lesbian organization in the United States. Writing under the pseudonyms Gene Damon, Vern Niven, and Lennox Strong, Grier began contributing copy to *The Ladder* in 1957, and continued until 1968 when she assumed the role of editor, and then publisher, in 1970. In 1973,

MAKING INVISIBLE HISTORIES VISIBLE
collection notes from the NEH/Mazer project



Grier co-founded Naiad Books, which later became Naiad Press, the preeminent lesbian book publisher that opened up lesbian writing to the world.

The Barbara Grier Periodical Collection represents a rich assemblage of feminist and lesbian themed newspapers, magazines, journals, and small press publications

amassed by Grier over the years. Spanning from 1969 to 1992, the bulk of the material is from the 1980s and features periodicals from large United States metropolitan areas as well as smaller towns. A notable strength of the collection is the range in type of periodical- ad heavy weekly LGBT newspapers such as Pittsburgh's *Out*, news-

letters from organizations like Seattle's Lesbian Resource Center, bibliographic resources including the University of Wisconsin's *Feminist Periodicals*, and personal publications such as Dorothy Feola's *Women's Network*. The second collection, which is still being processed, is the Diana Press Records. Diana Press was a lesbian-



4400 Market St., Oakland, Ca. 94608 (415)444-7666

feminist printing and publishing house which was started by Coletta Reid and Casey Czarnik in Baltimore, Maryland in 1972, then relocated to Oakland, California in 1977. Most notably, Diana Press published titles by the likes of Rita Mae Brown and Judy Grahn, and reprinted Jeannette Foster's pioneering *Sex Variant Women in Literature*. However, the press was also plagued by a series of misfortunes including a fire in 1975 and a crippling incident of vandalism in 1977. Economic setbacks, coupled with disagreements amongst leadership, led to a cease in publication in the late 1970s.

The Diana Press collection contains an assortment of administrative materials, author files, unpublished manuscripts, press materials, and a substantial amount of correspondence. The correspondence is fascinating in terms of its scope and content, documenting everything from simple requests for catalogs to major business disagreements with authors. The assemblage of letters of support following the 1977 vandalism of the Diana Press office is a particular highlight of the collection, featuring

