



Guide to the Erotica Collection, 1940s-1960s

This collection guide was produced in .

This PDF version was created on **April 2, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

askRL@duke.edu

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Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Administrative Information	4
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	6
Correspondence, 1947-1950s	6
Sketchbooks and Drafts, undated	6
Miscellaneous Drawings, undated	7
Images, 1940s-1960s and undated	7

Summary

Collection Title:

Erotica collection, 1940-1969

Abstract:

Creator of this archive is unknown. An archive of original illustrations, sketchbooks, and erotic stories, depicting transgressive sex acts including (but not limited to) lesbian and heterosexual sex, incest, pedophilia, sadomasochistic behavior, and copulation with objects as varied as sex toys, produce, and household appliances. The stories and illustrations appear to be the work of a single individual, with nearly all narrative told from a female's point of view. Also includes some amateur pornographic photography and magazine clippings.

Extent:

0.75 Linear Feet

400 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00365

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/eroticacollection/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Erotica Collection, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

This collection contains an archive of original illustrations, four sketchbooks, and erotic stories, depicting transgressive sex acts including (but not limited to) lesbian and heterosexual sex, incest, pedophilia, sadomasochistic behavior, and copulation with objects as varied as sex toys, produce, and household appliances. The stories and illustrations appear to be the work of a single individual, with nearly all narrative told from a female's point of view. Also includes some amateur pornographic photography and magazine clippings.

The stories included in the collection range in length from one page to 46 pages. Two of the four sketchbooks include drafts of multiple storylines. Most stories are handwritten in the style of a graphic novel; some are typed. All include accompanying hand-drawn illustrations. There are also loose, miscellaneous illustrations in the collection with no correlating story. The collection's photographs and magazine clippings appear to have been used as models for some of the sketches and artwork. The photographs include at least one image of a hermaphroditic woman who appears in some of the accompanying stories.

Biographical/Historical

The creator of this archive is unknown, although one could speculate that the author and illustrator was Mercedes Miller of Seattle, Washington. Two pieces of correspondence addressed to her, dating from 1947 and the 1950s, were found inlaid in one of the collection's sketchbooks. This is strictly a circumstantial speculation; there is no way to match the handwriting style of the erotica with Miller's handwriting, and none of the stories or illustrations are autographed or signed with any identifying information.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48-hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Erotica Collection were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2013.

Processing Information

Processed by Meghan Lyon, March 2014

Encoded by Meghan Lyon, March 2014

Accession(s) described in this collection guide: 2013-0204

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Pornography
- Gay pornography

- Photography, Erotic
- Women and erotica
- Erotic art
- Gay erotica
- Erotica

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1947-1950s

Physical Description: 1 folder

Incoming letters for Mercedes Miller, Seattle,
Washington, 1947 and undated

Box 1

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Sketchbooks and Drafts, undated

Physical Description: 7 folders

Scope and Contents note

Four sketchbooks and other loose notebook pages of drafts including both text and hand-drawn illustrations. Titles are included when provided; some stories are untitled. Other portions appear to have just been rough drafts or drawings of various characters or sexual positions. Two of the four sketchbooks include multiple storylines.

Small spiral-bound sketchbook

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Includes illustrated draft of "Hot Tips from an Old Hand, starring Shy Ann and Leslie Bean."

Sketchbook with boards

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Includes various drawings titled "Lesbian Lust by Sappho," as well as the illustrated draft, "Uncle Jim."

Loose pages with illustrated draft of "Uncle Jim
Part 2"

Box 1

Loose pages with untitled illustrated draft, featuring an electrician fantasy with Sandra, Rod, and Sue Box 1

Loose pages with untitled illustrated draft, featuring an "Intimate Lady" fantasy with Susan and Anne Box 1

Spiral-bound sketchbook Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Includes sketches and an untitled illustrated story about a virgin lesbian maid.

Sketchbook with boards Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Includes various untitled illustrated draft excerpts and many other drawings.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Miscellaneous Drawings, undated

Physical Description: 3 folders

Scope and Contents note

Pencil drawings and sketches of sex acts on loose notebook paper, unattached to a particular story.

Miscellaneous lesbian sex scenes Box 1

Soo Li and Leslie Box 1

Stan the Handyman; hermaphrodite; lesbian sex scenes; other miscellaneous sketches Box 1

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Images, 1940s-1960s and undated

Physical Description: 2 folders

Scope and Contents note

Includes amateur pornographic photographs and magazine clippings, some with additional doodled enhancements.

Magazine photographs	Box 1
Photographs	Box 1

[Return to Table of Contents](#)