



# **Preliminary Guide to the Julia Penelope Papers, 1966-1999**

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Duke University

Durham 27708

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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Julia Penelope papers, 1966-1999

**Creator:**

Penelope, Julia, 1941-2013

**Source:**

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

**Abstract:**

Julia Penelope (1941-2013) was a lesbian feminist linguist, educator, and activist. Collection consists of writings and published works, subject files, correspondence, and other materials related to Penelope's career and activist work. These materials document feminist linguistics, lesbian culture, and lesbian history and publishing. Acquired as part of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture.

**Extent:**

40 Linear Feet

**Language:**

English.

**Collection ID:**

RL.01010

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1r06c>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Julia Penelope Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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**Scope and Content**

Collection consists of writings and published works, subject files, correspondence, and other materials related to Penelope's career and activist

work. These materials document feminist linguistics, lesbian culture, and lesbian history and publishing.

The History of Lesbianism series contains files created by Penelope while working on a book for Blackwell Publishers on this topic. The files contain rich and diverse information on lesbian individuals, groups, events, and issues throughout history. An unverified inventory is available for this series is available at <https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m19b3n>.

Work related to Penelope's writing and teaching career can be found in both the Articles, Essays, and Papers Delivered series and the Manuscripts series. These files contain drafts of writings leading up to publication. Files in the Manuscripts series also contain significant materials that were not included in final publications, such as stories submitted to the Coming Out anthologies.

Correspondence documents Penelope's personal relationships and professional work as a writer and faculty member. Penelope corresponded with numerous friends, activists, writers, and published, including Adrienne Rich, Mary Daly, and Joanna Russ.

Printed materials and Personal materials contain items related to lesbianism and language, as well as videotapes, photographs, and other items related to Penelope's life and career.

Accession 2000-0374 continues to document Penelope's life as a lesbian and feminist activist and academic. Materials include correspondence and financial records; lecture notes and writings by Penelope dealing with subjects that include linguistics, lesbian communities, lesbian separatists, and coming out; subject files; and book reviews of works by Penelope and others.

## **Biographical/Historical**

Julia Penelope (1941-2013) was a lesbian feminist linguist, educator, and activist. She was expelled from Florida State University in 1959 for suspected lesbianism, as well as from the University of Miami in 1960 for having men in her room. Penelope eventually obtained her B.A. from the City College of New York in 1966 and her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1971. She was a founding co-coordinator of the Southeastern Gay Coalition (1972-3) and a founding member of the Lesbian Herstory Archives (1974). She published widely in lesbian, feminist, and academic journals and anthologies.

Sources: Susan J. Wolfe, "Julia Penelope," in *Lesbian Histories and Cultures: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Bonnie Zimmerman (New York: Garland Pub., 2000), 577-578; Wikipedia, accessed 2023 August 30.

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## Arrangement

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Arranged into the following series: History of Lesbianism; Articles, Essays, and Papers Delivered; Correspondence; Manuscripts; Printed Materials; Personal Materials; and Accession 2000-0374.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive  
Duke University  
Durham 27708

[askRL@duke.edu](mailto:askRL@duke.edu)

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

### Access Restrictions

Access note. Some materials in this collection are fragile audiovisual formats that may need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

Access restricted. Correspondence in Accession 2000-0374 is restricted. Researchers must sign release form agreeing to not reveal personal information.

### 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 Julia Penelope papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 1995 and a gift in 2000 from Julia Penelope.

## Processing Information

This collection is minimally processed: materials may not have been ordered and described beyond their original condition. An unverified inventory is available for boxes 1-12 is available at <https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m19b3n>.

Accession 95-059 processed by Diane McKay and Ginny Daley, 1995.  
Description added to collection guide by Leah Tams, August 2023.

Accession 2000-0372 processed and encoded by Ruth E. Bryan, January 2001.  
Revised by Leah Tams, August 2023.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 95-059, 2000-0374.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Lesbians' writings, American
- Feminists -- United States
- Lesbians -- United States
- Coming out (sexual orientation) -- United States
- Lesbian community -- United States
- Women -- United States
- Linguists-United States
- Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

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## Collection Inventory

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### History of Lesbianism, circa 1966-1995

Identified lesbians (dead), circa 1966-1995

Box Acc. 95/059: Box 1

#### Scope and Contents

3x5 card file.

Newsletters, groups, conferences, and contemporary lesbians, circa 1966-1995 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 1

**Scope and Contents**

3x5 card file.

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References, books, articles not found in libraries or not checked, circa 1966-1995 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 1

**Scope and Contents**

3x5 cards.

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Books/articles not yet read, circa 1966-1995 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 1

**Scope and Contents**

3x5 card file.

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Books/articles read and notecards taken, circa 1966-1995 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 1

**Scope and Contents**

3x5 card file.

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Note cards, A - C, circa 1966-1995 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 6

**Scope and Contents**

5x8 card file.

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Note cards, D - G, circa 1966-1995 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 6

**Scope and Contents**

5x8 card file.

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Note cards, H - P, circa 1966-1995 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 35

**Scope and Contents**

5x8 card file.

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Note cards, Q - Z, circa 1966-1995 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 35

**Scope and Contents**

5x8 card file.

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Alicen, D. - Crosland, M., circa 1966-1995 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 3

Cutler, W.J. - Harris, Bertha, circa 1966-1995	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 4
Harris, Bertha - Margins, circa 1966-1995	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 5
Matrices - Out and About, circa 1966-1995	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 7
Penelope - Raging Women, circa 1966-1995	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 10
Review Symposium - Women's Media directory, circa 1966-1995	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 11
Articles and interviews to be filed (see inventory), circa 1966-1995	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 1 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 2
Unorganized articles and files (see inventory), circa 1966-1995	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 6 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 7 Box 8 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 9 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 12

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### Articles, essays, and papers delivered, circa 1970s-1990s

Arranged alphabetically.

A - H, circa 1970s-1990s	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 13
I - M, circa 1970s-1990s	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 14
N - S, circa 1970s-1990s	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 15
T - Z, circa 1970s-1990s	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 16

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### Correspondence, 1966-1989

Correspondence, 1966-1977	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 17
Correspondence, 1978 January - 1980 June	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 18
Correspondence, 1980 July - 1983 December	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 19

Correspondence, 1984-1989 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 20

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### **Manuscripts, 1970s-1990s**

Dykes and Gorgons, 1973 May-June Box Acc. 95/059: Box 21

**Scope and Contents**

Volume 1, issue 1.

Finding the Lesbians, circa 1990 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 21

Found Goddesses files, circa 1988 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 22

Proposed anthology, circa 1970s-1990s Box Acc. 95/059: Box 22

For Lesbians Only files, circa 1988 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 22

For Lesbians Only original manuscript, galleys, etc., circa 1988 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 23

For Lesbians Only original manuscript, circa 1988 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 24

Manuscripts dropped from For Lesbians Only, circa 1988 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 33

Lesbian Culture anthology files, circa 1993 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 25

Lesbian Culture final manuscripts, circa 1993 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 26

Copies of Hot Wire used for Lesbian Culture, circa 1993 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 26

Sexual Practice/Textual Theory manuscripts: Allen - Fetterly, circa 1993 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 26

Sexual Practice/Textual Theory manuscript files, circa 1993 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 27

Sexual Practice/Textual Theory final manuscripts, circa 1993 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 27

International Feminist Theory, circa 1970s-1990s Box Acc. 95/059: Box 27

Call Me Lesbian (Lesbian Lives/Lesbian Issues), circa 1992	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 27
Speaking Freely, circa 1990	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 28
"The Lesbian Perspective" drafts, circa 1990	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 28
"Language and Women" anthology (MLA Forum), 1978	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 29
The Coming Out Stories contributor drafts, correspondence, consents to publish, etc., 1980	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 29 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 30
The Original Coming Out Stories contributor drafts, correspondence, consents to publish, etc., 1988	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 29 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 30
The Original Coming Out Stories galleys, 1988	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 31
On Strike Against God page proofs, circa 1980	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 31
Susan Leigh Star poetry, circa 1970s-1990s	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 31
"Cultural History of Lesbianism" LLL slide show, circa 1970s-1990s	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 31
English 310N: "Twentieth Century Lesbian Novelists", 1978-1981	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 31
<p><b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>Course taught at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.</p>	
Women and Class anthology manuscripts, circa 1970s-1990s	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 32
Porn and Violence (unpublished), circa 1970s-1990s	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 33
<p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>With Sarah Hoagland.</p>	
Why Women Marry Men (unpublished), circa 1970s-1990s	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 33

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**Scope and Contents**

With Susan Wolfe.

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Book covers, circa 1970s-1980s Box Acc. 95/059: Box 33

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Lesbian Choices (Claudia Card) unproofed galleys, 1994 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 37

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**Printed materials, circa 1966-1995**

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Gay Slang: Data Analysis, 1972 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 34

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Journals and publications, circa 1966-1995 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 34

**Scope and Contents**

Includes "Mother Jones Gazette," "Windy City Times," "Dyke: A Quarterly," "The Dyke's Digest," "Body Politic," and "Lesbian Contradiction."

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Cobb County anti-gay ordinance news clippings, 1993-1994 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 37

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Lesbian Herstory Archives newsletters, circa 1970s-1990s Box Acc. 95/059: Box 37

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**Personal materials, circa 1966-1995**

**Access Restrictions:**

Access note. Some materials in this series are fragile audiovisual/photographic formats that may need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

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"W" women's files, circa 1966-1995 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 36

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Julia's date books, 1973-1989 Box Acc. 95/059: Box 36

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Videotapes, circa 1970s-1990s Box Acc. 95/059: Box 36

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Female Studies I-IV course syllabi, circa 1970s-1990s Box Acc. 95/059: Box 37

**Scope and Contents**

Syllabi from KNOW, Inc.

Photographs by Debbie Alicen: Lincoln, Nebraska, 1978-1984	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 37
Photographs by Debbie Alicen: Vermont, 1984-1990	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 37
Photographs by Debbie Alicen: East Coast Lesbian Festivals, 1989-1990	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 37
Papers from Julia's office, 1995	Box Acc. 95/059: Box 37

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**Accession 2000-0374, 1986-1999**

**Processing Information:**

Some of the materials in this collection are not immediately accessible, because they require further processing before use. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection. Technical Services staff need to reformat newsprint; remove rusty fasteners. See notes in container list below.

**Access Restrictions:**

Attention: Correspondence is restricted. Researchers must sign release form agreeing to not reveal personal information.

Book reviews, circa 1986-1999	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
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**Scope and Contents**

Reviews for Out of the Class Closet and Style.

Income taxes, 1992-1994	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Appointment Book, 1994	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Press Contracts, circa 1986-1999	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Contracts for "Learning to Live with my Body," "Passing Lesbians," Xword Book, Anthology of Penelope's essays, For Lesbians Only, New Victoria Press, Finding the Lesbians, International Feminist Fiction, Speaking Freely, Women

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and Class Anthology, Anthology of Lesbian/Feminist Literary Criticism, Lesbian Passages, History of Lesbianism, and Lesbian Culture Anthology.

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Milada Marsalka's Memoirs	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Review Copies Address List	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Copyright materials	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
"Lesbian Intervention"	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
NEH Research Grant	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
History of Lesbianism book grant proposal	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Notes, Language and the Gateways of Consciousness	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Course Materials, Lesbian Novels (Washington University, Fall 1986)	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Biography of Penelope	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Materials for Appeal of Non-promotion, University of Nebraska	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
New Found Goddesses	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Campfest, 1999	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Lesbian Culture	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Carytis Cardea	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Photocopies from books and magazines	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Notecards on Contributors to Out of the Class Closet	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1

**Scope and Contents note**

Attention: May be restricted: If correspondence, then users must sign release form.

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Sojourner, 1996 January	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Grade Book, University of Massachusetts, 1988	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1

Picture, Two Young Women Reading a Book Together	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 1
Hol 1: Antiquity	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Kamasutra of Vaysayana	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Near East Archeology	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
International Feminist Fiction Anthology (First Choice Stories)	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
[Verbal Self Defense] (online item available) <b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">[Verbal Self Defense]</a>	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Lesbian Language (online item available) <b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">Lesbian Language</a>	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Consent to Publish Agreements	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Request for Permission to Reprint	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Bookstores and Addresses (U.S)	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Carol Barret's poem	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Skanking	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Homosexuality and Citizenship in Florida	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Johnson, Linnea, Analysis of Rosenwasser Letter	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Sexual Practice/Textual Theory, Letter File	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Class Discussion	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
My Horoscope	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Dream and Disappointment	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Marcia Gagliardi, Poems	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Review Copies, Address List	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Article on St. Louis, Notes	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
SEPS	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2

Naiad Press Incorporation Papers	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
WomaNews Response	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
List of Lesbian Myths	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Morgan Grey, "Purple Dragon Song"	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Book on Lesbian Etiquette	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Crossing Promo Flyers	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
SEP Workshop, Michigan '89	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
The Sexist Tradition: Words and Meaning	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Speaking Freely: Teachers College Press Reprint (1992)	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
1998 Poetry Book	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Blackwell, Hobby and White Proposal	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Julia at Mountain Moving Coffee House	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
[Unidentified Manuscript]	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
"On the Creation of Errors in Student Writing" <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
"Dyke Arrogance: Self-Righteousness, Trashing, and Cheap Thrills"	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
"My Life, A Cartesian Model" (online item available) <b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">My Life, A Cartesian Model</a>	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
"Language and Women's Oppression" (online item available) <b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">"Language and Women's Oppression"</a>	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
UPTIME Interview	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Letter to Newspapers: Kate and Julia (online item available) <b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">Letter to Newspapers: Kate and Julia</a>	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2

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Letters to be Answered <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Gearhart Correspondence (1989)	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Personal Papers Correspondence and Contents Lists	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Book reviews, circa 1986-1999 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Reviews for You Just Don't Understand (D. Tannen), Lesbian Culture, and Sexual Practice/Textual Theory.	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2
Feminist crossword puzzle book (online item available) <b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">Feminist Crossword Puzzle Book</a>	Box Acc. 00/374: Box 2

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