

**The New York Public Library  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**George Stambolian Papers  
1955-1992**

**Alix Ross  
March 2004**

**This version produced April 2004**

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## Summary

<b>Main entry:</b>	Stambolian, George
<b>Title:</b>	George Stambolian Papers, 1955-1992
<b>Size:</b>	5.8 linear feet (17 boxes)
<b>Source:</b>	Donated by Michael Hampton, January 1998.
<b>Abstract:</b>	The George Stambolian Papers (1955-1992) document Stambolian's work as a writer, editor and professor, and reflect his interest in gay literature and culture. The bulk of the material dates from the late 1970s through 1991.
<b>Access:</b>	Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.  Service copies must be used in lieu of original sound and video recordings. All audiotapes are unavailable pending duplication and review.
<b>Preferred citation:</b>	George Stambolian Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
<b>Special formats</b>	Sound recordings, video recordings, photographs, manuscripts for publication.

## Biographical note

George Stambolian, writer, editor, college professor, was best known as the editor of the *Men on Men* anthologies of gay fiction. Stambolian was born in 1938, the son of Armenian immigrants. He graduated from Dartmouth College and received a Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1969. From 1966 until his retirement in 1991, Stambolian was a professor in the Department of French at Wellesley College. He taught courses in French literature, and wrote and edited three academic works: *Marcel Proust and the Creative Encounter* (1972); *Twentieth Century French Fiction: Essays for Germaine Brée* (1975); and, with Elaine Marks, *Homosexualities and French Literature* (1979).

As an early proponent of gay literature and gay studies, Stambolian also taught such interdisciplinary courses as "The Art and Politics of the Nude" and "New Literatures: Lesbian and Gay Fiction in America."

Stambolian's first writing venture outside of the academy was "We are History: An Interview with Eric Bentley" which was published in *Christopher Street* magazine in 1977. By 1980 Stambolian's interviews appeared frequently in *Christopher Street* and in 1983, "First Person," his autobiographical column on gay life, became a regular feature in the *New York Native*. Several of the interviews initially published in *Christopher Street*, became the basis of Stambolian's *Male Fantasies/Gay Realities* (1984), a collection of interviews with ten gay men on topics ranging from masochism and masturbation to fatherhood.

*Men on Men: Best New Fiction*, edited and including an introduction by Stambolian, was published by NAL (Plume) in 1986. The anthology featured the work of some of the most prominent gay authors as well as those less established. The critical and popular success of the initial volume led to three other editions which Stambolian also edited and introduced; the fourth anthology was released after his death.

Stambolian died late in 1991 from complications related to AIDS.

## Scope and content note

The George Stambolian Papers (1955-1992) document his work as a writer, editor and professor, and reflect his interests in gay literature and culture. The bulk of the material dates from the late 1970s through 1991.

The majority of the papers concern Stambolian's work as a writer and an editor, including drafts of published and unpublished work, correspondence with authors, editors, and reviewers, transcripts and tapes of interviews conducted by Stambolian, and copies of his essays as they appeared in print. The *Men on Men* anthologies, *Homosexualities and French Literature*, and *Male Fantasies/Gay Realities* are well represented in the collection, as are published and unpublished drafts of shorter pieces by Stambolian.

Stambolian's academic career is documented in the Wellesley College series. Correspondence and related materials reveal both the administrative and creative work inherent in developing and teaching three of his courses: "The Art and Politics of the Nude," "New Literatures: Gay and Lesbian Fiction in America," and "The Red and the Black."

The remainder of the collection consists of his personal papers and subject files. The personal papers include a small amount of correspondence, daily planners, an audiotaped interview with his parents, and some memorabilia. The subject files contain copies of writings by gay authors, Richard Umans' unpublished journal, a videotaped interview with Stambolian concerning gay life at the University of Wisconsin in the 1960s, and clippings on gay literature and related topics.

## Arrangement note

The George Stambolian Papers are organized in the following series:

- Series I. Writings and Lectures, 1960-1991
- Series II. Wellesley College, 1964-1991
- Series III. Personal Files, 1955-1992
- Series IV. Subject Files

## Series descriptions and container list

### Series I. Writings and Lectures, 1960-1991

9 boxes

Stambolian wrote for a variety of audiences and in a variety of formats. Materials in this series document the preparation of his books: *Homosexualities and French Literature* (1979), *Male Fantasies/Gay Realities* (1984), the four *Men on Men* anthologies, as well as his essays, lectures and interviews. Materials include manuscripts, audiotapes, videotapes, notes, drafts, correspondence, contracts, and reviews.

#### A. Homosexualities and French Literature, 1979

Stambolian co-edited and wrote the introduction to *Homosexualities and French Literature*, published in 1979, with Elaine Marks. The documents in these folders chart the path of a book from concept to publication and promotion. The files include correspondence with Marks, contributors and potential contributors, and readers. Correspondents include Susan Sontag, Iris Murdoch, Eugene Ionesco and Roland Barthes. Included are typescripts of interviews with noted French intellectuals as well as an audiotaped interview with Felix Guattari. The typescripts include handwritten edits and annotations.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Aron, Jean-Paul Interviewed by Roger Kempf
	2	Cixous, Hélène Interviewed by John Clafin
	3	Contributors, 1975-1977 and n.d.
	4	Cornell University Press, 1977-1990 (includes contract and promotional material)
	5	Guattari, Felix Interviewed by George Stambolian
<u>Unit ID</u>		
---		Guattari, Felix (audiotape unavailable pending duplication)
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	6	Introduction (Written by George Stambolian and Elaine Marks)
	7	Leclaire, Serge Interviewed by Helene Klibbe
	8	Reviews Reviews of <i>Homosexualities and French Literature</i> , and Stambolian's <i>Twentieth Century French Fiction</i> , and <i>Marcel Proust</i> .
	9	Robbe-Grillet, Alain Interviewed by Germaine Brée
	10	Stockinger, Jacob (Two papers by Stockinger)
	11	University of Chicago Press, 1975-1977; n.d.
	12	Wittig, Monique (Copy of letter and paper by Wittig)

### **B. Male Fantasies/Gay Realities: Interviews with Ten Men, 1984**

This subseries includes audiotapes, transcripts and drafts of interviews conducted by Stambolian. Several of the interviews in *Male Fantasies/Gay Realities* were published originally in *Christopher Street*.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
2	1	Introductions to interviews
	2	A Self-Made Man
	3	A Father
	4	A Handsome Man
	5	A Soprano
	6	A Romantic
	7	A Black Man
	8	An Analyst
	9	Contract and Reviews
---	---	Interview tapes
		A Masochist, a Fetishist, the Entrepreneur, Masturbation and Erotic Fantasy, a Father, a Handsome Man, a Soprano, a Romantic, a Black Man

Audiotapes are closed pending duplication and review.

### **C. Men on Men, 1986-1991**

This subseries includes the master copy of each of the four Men on Men: Best New Fiction anthologies, submissions, notes, contracts, reviews, and correspondence between Stambolian and the publishers, contributors and reviewers. Correspondents include Dennis Cooper, Christopher Davis, Robert Gluck, Felice Picano, Larry Kramer, Edmund White, Richard Hall, James Purdy, Doris Grumbach, Ned Rorem and Robert Ferro, among others. The files also include several publicity photographs of Stambolian.

#### *Men on Men 1, 1986*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
3	1	Correspondence, 1985-1987
	2	Contracts, royalties, permissions, 1985-1989
	3	Reviews and related articles
	4	Introduction
	5-7	Master Copy
		<i>Men on Men 2, 1988</i>
4	1	Correspondence and reviews, 1987-1988
	2-4	Master Copy
		<i>Men on Men 3, 1990</i>
	5	Correspondence and submissions, 1988-1990
	6	Reviews
5	1-4	Master Copy
		<i>Men on Men 4, 1992</i>
	5	Correspondence and submissions, 1991-1992
6	1-3	Master Copy
	4	NAL 4 Stories
	5	Publicity photographs of Stambolian

### D. Shorter Works

This subseries contains pieces of Stambolian's writing, fiction and nonfiction, in all stages of completion: notebooks, fragments, handwritten and typed drafts of unpublished work, and individual drafts of published pieces.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
7	1	Beach <i>Christopher Street</i> articles, 1977-1987 Interviews for articles in <i>Christopher Street</i>
	2	Clippings (Clippings of published articles )
	3	Correspondence, 1979-1980; 1984 Correspondence related to Stambolian's work for <i>Christopher Street</i> , including a transcript of an interview, in French, with Jean Genet. Interviews (Unavailable pending duplication)
---		Sam Hardison, 1979 Nov 12 The Art and Politics of the Male Image: A Conversation between Sam Hardison and George Stambolian. <i>Christopher Street</i> , 1980
---		Jacqueline Livingston, 1980 Creating the New Man: A Conversation with Jacqueline Livingston. <i>Christopher Street</i> , 1980 May
---		Lawrence Mass, M.D., 1981 Nov 23 The Unkindest Cut of All. Circumcision: facts and fantasies. <i>Christopher Street</i> , 1982 Sept.
---		Michael Denny, 1988 Sep 10
---		Paul Sharits (A discussion of Sharits' film <i>Third Degree</i> . )
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
7	4-5	College essays.
	6	Drafts and fragments
	7	Dreamwork
	8	Eli, Eli First Person (Stambolian's column in the <i>New York Native</i> .)
	9	Proposal and drafts of articles
14	1	Clippings of columns, 1983-1985
7	10	Flight
	11	French Lessons
	12	The Greek Head
	13	Here Comes the Sleaze
	14	<i>The Homoerotic Photograph</i> Stambolian's draft of the forward to Allen Ellenzweig's book, with a letter from the author.
	15	My Fair Ladies
	16	Meeting
	17	Miracles
	18	Miscellaneous published articles (Clippings)
14	2	Miscellaneous published articles (Oversized clippings)
8	1-3	Notebooks (3 vols.)
	4	Sartre
	5	Self-Portrait with Larry and Cecil
	6	Resurrection
	7	The Runner
	8	Things Lost in Silence
	9	Valium



**E. Lectures and Talks, 1980-1990**

Stambolian presented papers at professional meetings beginning in 1972. From the mid-eighties until only a few months before his death, he gave lectures and book talks, sat for interviews or participated in panel discussions, particularly relating to gay fiction, art or culture, several times a year.

This subseries contains copies of Stambolian's papers, lectures and talks; notes and background articles; conference materials; and video and audiotapes of lectures.

<u>Box</u> 8	<u>Fol</u> 10 11  12 13  <u>Fol</u> 14	<p>Armenia, 1990 Apr 8 (Discovering an Armenian Identity) Chicago</p> <p>    "Theorizing Literary Fictions of AIDS: Edmund White's 'An Oracle'"</p> <p>Lectures     Lectures delivered at Oberlin, Albany and The New York Public Library</p> <p>MLA Paper     "From Homosexuality to Homosexualities: Two Rules of Discourse"</p> <p>OUT/Write '90</p>
<u>Unit ID</u> --- --- --- --- ---		<p>Keynote address Allen Ginsberg and July Grahn</p> <p>Plenary session: "AIDS and the Responsibility of the Writer"     Essex Hemphill, Pat Califia, Susan Griffin, John Preston, Roberto Bedoya--moderator</p> <p>Panel: "Novels, Characters and Audiences"     Willyce Kim, Valerie Miner, Donald Windham, David Feinberg, Fenton Johnson, George Stambolian - moderator</p> <p>Panel: "Scholarship and Community: Constructing Gay and Lesbian Studies"     Margaret Cruikshank; John deCecco, Jack Collins, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Merle Woo, David Halperin, David Thomas--Moderator</p> <p>Southampton College, 1980 Aug 15     The Politics of Sodomasochism. EEGO (East End Gay Organization).</p>
<u>Box</u> 8	<u>Fol</u> 15	<p>University of Wisconsin, 1987 Apr 4     Stambolian's lecture on gay fiction delivered at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and an interview with Stambolian.</p>
<u>Unit ID</u> 01451- 01452		<p>University of Wisconsin, 1987 Apr 4     "New Gay Fiction in America" videotape of Stambolian's lecture.</p>

## Series II. Wellesley College, 1964-1991

2 boxes

Stambolian was a professor at Wellesley College for twenty-five years from 1966 to 1991. As a member of the French department, he taught French literature as well as several inter-disciplinary courses including "The Art and Politics of the Nude" and "New Literatures: Lesbian and Gay Fiction in America."

The Wellesley series includes administrative correspondence regarding Stambolian's salary and status, letters to and from Stambolian regarding positions at Wellesley and other colleges, materials related to the development and teaching of various courses and memorabilia. Syllabi produced by colleagues of Stambolian and collected within the New Literatures materials reveal the development of gay and lesbian writing as an area of academic interest.

The materials contained in the course folders reveal the administrative work necessary to create a new course. The creative work inherent in teaching, however, can also be uncovered through the articles Stambolian chose to keep in his course files, and the syllabi he gathered from colleagues teaching similar courses.

Stambolian's 1991 curriculum vitae provides a thorough overview of Stambolian's professional life.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
9	1	Administrative and official correspondence and paperwork, 1964-1975 and 1990-1991
	2	Curriculum vitae and biography
	3	Memorabilia
		Courses
		The Art and Politics of the Nude
	4	Administrative and teaching
	5-6	Articles and clippings
		New Literatures: Lesbian and Gay Fiction in America
	7	Administrative and teaching
	8	Articles and clippings
10	1-2	Articles and clippings
	3	Sample syllabi and reading lists
		The Red and the Black
	4	Lecture and reading notes

### Series III. Personal Files, 1955-1992

2 boxes

This series includes correspondence from friends and fellow writers, fans, students and others; daily planning calendars, 1981-1991 (1983 and 1987 missing); diplomas and high school yearbooks; miscellaneous personal mementos; and copies of the program from Stambolian's memorial service. Of special interest is "Mom and Dad," a 1985 audiotape on which Stambolian converses with his parents about his parents' experiences growing up in Armenia.

The bulk of the correspondence is from Eric Garber. Other writers represented include Edmund White, Allan Gurganus, Christopher Bram, and Dennis Cooper.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
		Correspondence, 1967-1991
	5	Fan letters, 1983-1991; n.d.
	6	General, 1967-1991; n.d.
	7	Garber, Eric, 1985-1991; n.d. Correspondence consisting of over 50 letters and cards from Garber to Stambolian and one letter from Stambolian to Garber with comments on a story, included, by Garber.
	8	Gurganus, Allan, 1987-1989; n.d.
	9	Robbins, Jerome, 1972 Includes one letter from Stambolian to Robbins and Robbins' reply
	10	White, Edmund, n.d.
		Daily planners, 1981-1991
	11-14	1981-1982; 1984-1985 (Four vols.)
11	1-5	1986; 1988-1991 (Five vols.)
	6	Memorial service, 1992 Feb 18
	7	Miscellany
<u>Unit ID</u>		
----		Mom and Dad, 1985 Oct 9 (Audiotape)
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
11	8	Scholastic records (Diplomas, transcripts, etc.)
	9-10	Yearbooks from Warren Harding High School, 1955-1956 (2 vols.)

## Series IV. Subject Files

2 boxes

This series contains Stambolian's topical files, related chiefly to gay literature. These include copies of published and unpublished writing, articles and reviews of works by gay authors, many of whom were Stambolian's friends, articles on Stambolian, video and audiotapes, and clippings of articles on AIDS and homosexuality.

Of particular note are the oral history videotapes on which Stambolian describes the "Great Purge of '62" and gay life in the 1960s at the University of Wisconsin; and the file on Robert Umans, containing his journal kept for a few months before his death.

12	1	AIDS (Clippings, chiefly from French publications )
<u>Unit ID</u>		
---		Artaud (Wisconsin conference audiotape; unidentified speaker
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
12	2	Delany, Samuel R. (Copy of <i>New Moon</i> with a story by Delany)
	3	Ferro, Robert ( <i>Second Son</i> : articles and reviews)
<u>Unit ID</u>		
01446		Ferro, Robert, 1988 Mar 15 <i>Second Son</i> : Channel 5 KPIX TV San Francisco Eyewitness News Interview with Ferro
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
14	3	Gay literature, 1985-1989 Includes clippings of articles on Stambolian's work
12	4	Gay macho
	5	Gay purge of 1962, 1982-1985 Three letters from the editors of <i>OUT</i> , Wisconsin's Lesbian/Gay Newspaper regarding republication of Stambolian's essay dealing with the "Great Purge of '62," and a copy of <i>OUT</i> .
<u>Unit ID</u>		
01449- 01450		Gay purge of 1962 interview, 1987 Apr 4 A video interview with George Stambolian by Ron McRae, Jacob Stockinger, and James Steakley for the Wisconsin Gay Oral History Archives and the Wisconsin State Historical Archives, Madison.
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
12	6	Homosexuality articles: Bataille and Foucault (Clippings)
	7	Homosexuality, misc. (Clippings, some in French)
	8	Grumley, Michael Draft of <i>Life Drawing</i> with Stambolian's edits and annotations.
	9	Gurganus, Allan ( 4 short stories.)
<u>Unit ID</u>		
01448		Haring, Keith <i>Drawing the Line: A Portrait of Keith Haring</i> (videotape)
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
12	10	Lynch, Michael Program from Lynch's memorial service, a letter from Jack Richtman to Stambolian, enclosing a note to Richtman with a essay about Lynch by Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick.
	11	Mapplethorpe, Robert (Clippings)

Unit ID  
01447

Mapplethorpe, Robert Television documentary (videotape)

Box  
13

Fol  
1  
2

Parr, Wallace (Drafts of ten short stories)

Umans, Richard

Contains a journal kept by Umans from Oct. 1984-Jan 1985 describing his battle with AIDS; a letter from Michael Brennen announcing Umans' death, a photo of Umans, several pieces of Umans' writing and a trust agreement for the Robert S. Umans Foundation for which Stambolian was a trustee from 1985 until his own death.

3 Weltner, Peter

Three stories and a letter regarding Weltner's work.

4 White, Edmund. (Sacred Satire)