

# Guide to the Photographs and Postcards of Women Collection, circa 1900-1960

Collection Number: 7678

Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections  
Cornell University Library

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Sarah Keen, January  
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## DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

**Title:**

Photographs and postcards of women collection, circa 1900-1960

**Collection Number:**

7678

**Quantity:**

50 photographs and 1 album.

**Forms of Material:**

Photographs, postcards.

**Repository:**

Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library

**Abstract:**

A collection of photographs and postcards from various sources, primarily of unidentified women by unidentified photographers that show women in various homosocial poses or in gender transgressive dress or behavior. Some images may be of sisters, relatives, or female friends; some are explicitly lesbian in nature. Together, they give visual documentation of women's relationships, body language, and dress. Specific descriptions follow.

**Language:**

Collection material in English

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## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

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## SUBJECTS

### Subjects:

Female friendship.

Lesbians--Germany--Caricatures and cartoons.

Lesbians--United States--Caricatures and cartoons.

Transsexuals--Travel--Italy.

Women--United States.

### Form and Genre Terms:

Postcards.

Photographs.

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## INFORMATION FOR USERS

### Cite As:

Photographs and postcards of women collection, #7678. Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library.

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## RELATED MATERIALS

Collecting program: Human Sexuality Collection.

Photographs and postcards of gender collection, #7717.

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## CONTAINER LIST

Date	Description	Container
circa 1900-1950	up of 10 postcards and 3 photographs  13 images on a variety of themes, all unidentified, and not necessarily related to each other. Two are of solitary women, one of which is a woman sitting on a log in a forested area, wearing a long skirt, cardigan, and blouse with man's tie. A few photos show groups of women wearing ornate hats. One may be a valentine. Several look like family pictures, of sisters, or mother and daughter.	Box 1 Folder 1
	:cards	Box 1 Folder 2
	German postcard, two women on porch, two women within arms of third.	

circa early 1900's	ally formatted American postcard	Box 1 Folder 3
	Postcard showing two young women sitting on a rail of a deck with their arms around each other. The text reads: "She squeezed her and kissed her without any joy, ..'It's the masculine fervor you lack,' said she, "'Tis easy to tell you are far from a boy, By the soft-pedal tone of the smack, you see.'" Formerly #7646	
	nude or semi-nude images of women together.	Box 1 Folder 4
circa 1910-1957	se photos, creator unknown	Box 1 Folder 5
	Advertised on eBay as "Lesbian Interest, Old Photo Album All Women," the album is indeed entirely photographs of girls and women, both young and old, dating from circa 1910-1957. Their relationships are unknown. Ten photos are of two women together. Others are possibly mothers and daughters, grandmothers and daughters, and groups of friends, as well as photos of individuals. They are mostly informal shots; just a few are studio portraits. One is marked "Black's Studio, Wewoka, Okla." Names are written on the back of only a few photographs. They are: Mary L. Irwin, Jan Rorke?, and Mrs. Brenner.	
	album containing 27 photos, corresponding to the photos in Box 1 Folder 5	Box 1
	k and white photo	Box 1 Folder 6
	Small photo of 2 women standing next to each other, hugging and looking at each other. Described on eBay as "GIRLFRIENDS Hug and LOOK in Eyes LESBIAN Int."	
circa 1905	graphic postcard showing a woman in man's clothing sitting on a porch rocker with her arm around another woman in more traditional female clothing.	Box 1 Folder 7
	On the verso is written: "Dear friend: Will send you a card. Do you know either one in the picture? I make a pretty good looking boy don't I? The other is a girl friend of mine. We had them taken on our porch just for the fun of it. Your friend Ella." Above the inscription is written: "Did you ever see the suit before is it C.B. they fit me pretty good."	