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# Suzanne Petrucci Avatar Collection

1967-1972

1 box (1.6 linear feet)

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## Background on Suzanne Petrucci

Suzanne Petrucci (néé Karson/Beardsley) was the Distribution Secretary for the Boston underground newspaper, Avatar, which was published out of the Fort Hill Commune in Roxbury and led by Mel Lyman, the controversial folk musician, spiritual leader, and writer. The initial run of Avatar ran from 1967-1968 and published 24 issues until a split developed amongst the staff. The Avatar offices moved from Fort Hill to Rutland Street in the South End. A 25th issue was published and partially distributed before the remaining copies were stolen by the Fort Hill contingent. Shortly after this incident an Avatar board member, David Wilson, of the music publication Broadside, and Charles Giuliano, a writer for the paper, resumed publication during the summer of 1968. Eventually, Lyman resumed publication of a new American Avatar which ran through 1969. A New York edition also ran simultaneously in 1968 and 1969. Petrucci donated a complete run of volume one of the newspaper in 2023.

## Scope of collection

The collection consists of an entire run of volume 1 of Avatar, consisting of issues 1-24 and the “lost” issue 25. Also included are a selection of issues from volume 2 as well as issues from the New York edition. Issues of the Los Angeles Free Press and Rolling Stone that contain stories about Mel Lyman and the Fort Hill Commune are also included.

## Inventory

American Avatar

1968 Aug.

Number 7

Box 1

American Avatar

1968 Nov.

Unnumbered

Box 1

American Avatar

1969 Oct.

Third cycle, first edition

Box 1

American Avatar  
1969  
Fourth cycle, issue 1  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Jun. 9  
Volume 1, number 1  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Jun. 23  
Volume 1, number 2  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Jul. 7  
Volume 1, number 3  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Jul. 21  
Volume 1, number 3  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Aug. 4  
Volume 1, number 5  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Aug 18  
Volume 1, number 6  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Sep. 1  
Volume 1, number 7  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Sep.  
Volume 1, number 8  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Sep. 29  
Volume 1, number 9  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Oct. 13  
Volume 1, number 10  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Oct. 27  
Volume 1, number 11  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Nov. 10  
Volume 1, number 12  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Nov. 24  
Volume 1, number 13  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Dec. 8  
Volume 1, number 14  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Dec. 22  
Volume 1, number 15  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1967 Jan. 5  
Volume 1, number 16  
Box 1

Avatar  
1967 Jan. 19  
Volume 1, number 17  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1968 Feb. 2  
Volume 1, number 18  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1968 Feb. 16  
Volume 1, number 19  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1968 Mar. 1  
Volume 1, number 20  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1968 Mar. 15  
Volume 1, number 21  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1968 Mar. 29  
Volume 1, number 22  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1968 Apr. 12  
Volume 1, number 23  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1968 Apr. 26  
Volume 1, number 24  
Box 1  
Avatar  
1968 May 9  
Volume 1, number 25  
Box 1  
Avatar New York  
1968 Mar. 29  
Number 1  
Box 1  
Avatar New York  
1968 Apr. 26  
Number 3  
Box 1  
Avatar New York  
1968 May 10  
Number 4  
Box 1  
Avatar New York  
1968 Jun. 1  
Number 5  
Box 1  
Avatar New York  
1968 Jun.  
Number 6  
Box 1  
Los Angeles Free Press  
1971 Jul. 30  
Volume 8, number 31, issue number 367  
Box 1  
Rolling Stone  
1971 Dec. 21  
Number 98  
Box 1  
Rolling Stone  
1972 Jan. 6  
Number 99  
Box 1

# Administrative information

## Access

The collection is open for research.

## Provenance

Gift of Suzanne Petrucci, 2023.

## Processing Information

Processed by Jeremy Smith, August 2024.

## Language:

English

## Copyright and Use ([More information](#))

Cite as: Suzanne Petrucci Avatar Collection (MS 1233). Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

### Subjects

- Counterculture--Boston (Mass.)
- Lyman, Mel
- Underground newspapers--Boston (Mass.)

### Contributors

- Petrucci, Suzanne [main entry]
- Lyman, Mel
- Avatar Incorporated (Boston, Mass.)

### Genres and formats

- Magazines (periodicals)
- Newspapers

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