

Inventory of the Bob Basker Papers

(#1999-55)

***Note:** This document is a preliminary inventory, not a completed finding aid. The collection is surveyed but not processed, and its organization and composition are subject to change. This inventory is intended to help researchers better understand the general scope and content of the collection.*

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Bob Basker papers

Collection Number: 1999-55

Physical Description: 4 linear feet (two cartons, one medium oversize box)

Creator: Bob Basker

Date (inclusive): circa 1947-2000

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Bob Basker (1918-2001) was a civil rights and homophile activist who was active from the 1930s until the 1990s. This collection includes materials from historian James T. Sears regarding book chapters about Basker, news clippings, personalia, subject files, audio tapes, and artifacts.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Bob Basker papers (#1999-55), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

For the status of the rights to this material, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

Acquisition Information:

For this material's acquisition information, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

Processing Information:

Inventory created by Isaac Fellman in 2020, based on a preliminary survey completed by Marjorie Bryer in 2011.

This inventory uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note: Bob Basker (1918-2001) was a civil rights and homophile activist who was active from the 1930s until the 1990s. He was a founder of Mattachine Midwest in Chicago, and also organized homophile activists in Florida.

Scope and Content: This collection includes materials from historian James T. Sears regarding book chapters about Basker, news clippings, personalia, subject files, audio tapes, and artifacts. The artifacts include t-shirts, buttons, a Kennedy armband, and a vest, pin, and hat from the Alexander Hamilton Post of the American Legion. Also included are records from the Alexander Hamilton Post and photographs of Basker with various other activists.

Indexing Terms:

Gay men

Homophile movement

Container Listing**Carton 1:**

Biographical information

copies of awards

news clippings about Basker from various newspapers and periodicals across the country
materials related to the Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion, including phone trees, membership rosters, flyers, emails, meeting minutes, mass mailings, correspondence, articles of incorporation, legal papers, press releases), circa 1986-1998

Basker's membership cards

Materials related to chapters on Basker in James T. Sears' books, including "Behind the Mask of the Mattachine: The Hal Call Chronicles and the Early Movement for Homosexual Emancipation" and "Rebels, Rubyfruit, and Rhinestones: Queering Space in the Stonewall South," including correspondence, chapter drafts, copy of chapter, 1994-2000.

Photos of Basker with Leonard Matlovich (1977), Paul Robeson, Martin Luther King, Jr. (1963)

Materials regarding African American Democratic Club (SF), circa 1998; there are also materials from various other organizations, including Harvey Milk Democratic Club, ACLU

Articles about Basker and paper submitted by him for a weekend college program that contains his autobiography and resume (1984)

More biographical materials and articles about Basker

Awards

Papers from New College of California (graduate school in psychology), including paper regarding “Birth of a Nation,” for a class in “Cross-Cultural Psychology and Mores: Racism,” 1984

More awards, articles about Basker

Correspondence—letters to publications

Presentations (also anti-racism), 1981

Photographs – with a variety of icons (Willie Brown, Del Martin), pride parades

Membership cards, name tag, 59 cent button he wore all the time, cards, cards from memorial

Carton 2:

Miscellaneous loose materials, including 45s (song “Come Out, Come Out”), mass mailings and newsletters from various organizations Basker belonged to, including gay and bisexual veterans’ groups, MACT;

Obituaries, with photos (in FedEx envelope);

Souvenir photograph from 1947 party in NY, photo from Rainbow Inn in NY;

Loose materials, including photocopies of photos, articles about Basker, thank-you letters from organizations he donated to;

Alexander Hamilton Post materials, including Planning Committee meeting minutes, phone trees, mass mailings, newsletters, circa 1999-2000;

Subject files, alphabetical

Artifacts, including Kennedy armband; vest, pins, hat from Alexander Hamilton Post; buttons (4 bags);

Day Planner, 1979, notecards for presentation;

Framed photos, including “Sadie loves Bob”

Audiotapes (12), including multiple copies of his interview on “The Gay Life” in 1982; Medical marijuana tapes regarding his trip to Cuba

Oversize Box 1:

T-shirts—including MACT; Ammiano; 13 Buttons for gay bar in Miami; Gay American Indians, et cetera.