

Finding Aid to the Ron Wyatt and Stan Thomson Papers

(#2022-13)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Ron Wyatt and Stan Thomson papers

Collection Number: 2022-13

Physical Description: 1.25 linear feet (two manuscript boxes)

Creator: Ron Wyatt and Stan Thomson

Date (inclusive): 1946-2011

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Stan Thomson and Ron Wyatt were a gay couple who lived together for many years in San Francisco. Their relationship appears to have begun in the Bahamas, where they both lived in the 1950s and worked as freelance astrologers. In the early 1960s, they moved to San Francisco and bought a Victorian house at 12 Eugenia Street, which they furnished elaborately in period style. The collection contains extensive correspondence with family and friends, as well as real estate documents, legal documents, and photographs.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Ron Wyatt and Stan Thomson papers (#2022-13), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

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Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Michael Brown in October 2021.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Isaac Fellman in 2022.

This finding aid 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 Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves.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:

Stan Thomson and Ron Wyatt were a gay couple who lived together for many years in San Francisco. Their relationship appears to have begun in the Bahamas, where they both lived in the 1950s and worked as freelance astrologers. In the early 1960s, they moved to San Francisco and bought a Victorian house at 12 Eugenia Street. The house was extravagantly decorated, with ornate furniture, hardbound books, and musical instruments, including a pipe organ built into the living room wall. After Wyatt's death in the 1980s, Thomson was unable to maintain the house, and it fell into dereliction. The materials in this collection were salvaged after Thomson's death by his neighbor, Darril Hudson, whose papers are at the Historical Society as collection #2021-17.

Most of the papers in this collection pertain to Wyatt, who had a Ph.D. and literary aspirations (some of his poetry was published in the 1950s; his only known novel, *Egypt Jones, Esq.*, was never published and is presumed lost). Some of his voluminous correspondence alludes to his fiction, on which he often sought the advice of G.M. White, an assistant editor at *Psychiatric Quarterly*. It appears that Wyatt was interested in translating psychiatric concepts into his writing, in keeping with the midcentury vogue for psychiatry as a way of understanding the world; he also approached writing about homosexuality through this lens. Wyatt appears to have been born out of wedlock and adopted. Although he carried on a campy correspondence with screenwriter and Air Force reservist Margo Layne Brown, who signs herself as his mother, he also kept letters about his unsuccessful search for his birth mother. An "Ode to Bastardy," attributed to Wyatt's pseudonym "Baron Pupsick," is among his papers; it provides a glimpse of Wyatt's personality and literary style.

Scope and Content:

The collection contains extensive correspondence with family and friends, as well as real estate and legal documents, photographs, and Thomson's high school and college yearbooks. The correspondence is the most extensive part of the collection, and reveals that both men were in touch with their families, who were aware of their relationship. Other correspondence comes from both gay and straight friends, all of whom seem to have known and been comfortable with Wyatt and Thomson as a couple. Of particular note are Wyatt's correspondence with G.M. White at *Psychiatric Quarterly*, his letters from Margo Layne Brown, letters from the Bahamian

doctor and memoirist Dr. Evans Cottman, and his World War II-era correspondence with a gay serviceman friend, who signed himself “Nicolai III” and maintained the conceit that he and Wyatt were Russian noblemen in exile. A small amount of the correspondence is addressed to a gay couple, referred to as “the Davids,” whose relationship to Wyatt and Thomson is unknown. Other documents in the collection include leases, material on Thomson’s service in the U.S. Marines, business correspondence, auction receipts for the couple’s elaborate Victorian furnishings, and evidence that the two men owned their property together. The collection’s photographs consist of personal snapshots, largely from the 1950s and 1960s, as well as physique photographs and other images of men.

Indexing Terms:

Historic preservation

Literature

Long-term relationships

Non-monogamous relationships

Veterans

Container Listing

- 1:1 Bahamas property, 1961-1962, undated
- 1:2 Correspondence, 1986-circa 1990s
- 1:3 Correspondence, Margo Brown and others, 1963, undated
- 1:4 Correspondence, 1957-1986
- 1:5 Correspondence, G.M. White and others, 1949-1954
- 1:6 Correspondence, 1954-1986
- 1:7 Correspondence, “Clementine,” 1966-1967, undated
- 1:8 Correspondence, Evans Cottman, 1957-1963
- 1:9 Correspondence and business/military documents, Mary Lashock, 1964-1966
- 1:10 Correspondence, “Nicolai III,” 1943-1944
- 1:11 Don Levin Agency (insurance), 1963-1965, undated
- 1:12 Houseware auction receipts, 1963-1964, undated

- 2:1 Marine Corps materials, 1946-1958
- 2:2 Publications, 1948-2011
- 2:3 Photographs, circa 1950s-1960s
- 2:4 Photographs, circa 1950s-1960s
- 2:5 Photographs, circa 1950s-1960s
- 2:6a Real estate and legal documents, 1954-1986
- 2.6b Real estate and legal documents, including Bahamas, 1950-1960
- 2:7 Writings by Charles Cheeseman and Wyatt, 1986, undated
- 2:8 Writings by Wyatt, undated

Thomson's high school yearbook
Thomson's college yearbook