

Finding Aid to the Alan Selby Collection

(#1999-63)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Alan Selby collection

Collection Number: 1999-63

Physical Description: 10 linear feet (six cartons, one oversized box, and two large art pieces)

Creator/Collector:

Selby, Alan

Koester, Tony

Tackitt-Jones, Jordy

Date (inclusive): circa 1965-2015

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Alan Selby was a leader in the San Francisco leather community. Known as “Daddy Alan,” he owned Mr. S Leather, organized numerous fundraising events and campaigns, and volunteered regularly for service organizations, including those related to HIV/AIDS. This collection consists largely of Selby’s personal items and memorabilia, with a limited amount of materials on paper.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Alan Selby collection (1999-63), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research, with the exception of one folder in Carton 5 which contains mailing lists, and which has been restricted until 2024, twenty years after their last plausible date of creation.

Publication Rights:

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given on behalf of the GLBT Historical Society as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society in several different accretions by several different individuals: Alan Selby in 1994, 1999, and 2002; Tony Koester in 2008; and Jordy Tackitt-Jones in 2018.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Isaac Fellman in 2019, based partly on earlier catalog entries.

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 Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves.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: Alan Selby was a leader in the San Francisco leather community. Known as “Daddy Alan,” he owned Mr. S Leather, organized numerous fundraising events and campaigns, and volunteered regularly for service organizations, including those related to HIV/AIDS. Selby was born in London, served in the Second World War as a medic and nurse, and became a gentlemen’s clothier before a 1969 visit to San Francisco helped him to recognize his personal and professional interest in leather. He and his partner, Peter Jacklin, established a small factory and retail outlet called Leather Unlimited before moving to San Francisco together in 1979 and founding Mr. S. Leather in the SoMa district. Selby died in 2004.

Scope and Content: This collection consists largely of Selby’s personal items and memorabilia, with a limited amount of materials on paper (see container listing for details). It also includes a leather vest owned by Mason Cartmell and a sign for Pride parade leather marshal, as well as two large art pieces created as tributes to Selby: a decorated leather jacket by Bill Bowers, and Danyol Leon’s piece “Daddy Alan in Belts.”

Indexing Terms:

Gay men
Leather lifestyle

Container Listing

Carton 1: Photographs and leather artifacts, including caps, bow ties, a teddy bear with nipple clamps, a collar, and a leather patch bearing the slogan “Love Hurts” as well as nametags labeled “Daddy’s Boy” and “Johnnie.”

Carton 2: Assorted awards and personal memorabilia, including Pride parade ribbons and a rose from Selby’s memorial service. Also contains a smaller box containing business cards, buttons, badges, passports, a rubber stamp, small heart-shaped art pieces representing Alan Selby and his lover Jordy Jones, and other smaller personal items.

Carton 3: Textiles, including t-shirts, denim, and bandannas of the sort used for flagging.

Carton 4: Personal items, organizational items, and personal files, including Selby’s address books, audio tapes of interviews with Selby, small framed photographs, unknown materials on floppy disks, small files of love letters and greeting cards, and a guestbook. There is also a copy of Jordy Jones’ biography of Selby, *The Mayor of Folsom Street*. Also included in this box is material pertaining to John “Johnnie” Garcia, one of Selby’s lovers, including a binder of personal papers and an envelope which is labeled as having originally held copies of Garcia’s death certificate, and which now holds business cards, identification cards, passports, and similar items. A small collection of buttons is also included.

Carton 5: Materials on paper, including correspondence, interviews with Alan Selby, vital records, leather ephemera, a few catalogs, photographs and videos on DVD, and clippings. Some materials relate to Selby’s lover and business partner, Peter Jacklin.

Carton 6: Assorted awards, plaques, and certificates of appreciation.

Oversized box: Leather vest belonging to Mason Cartmell

Costume and art storage: “Daddy Alan in Belts” art piece and tribute jacket