

**GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Tim Wood Papers
ca 1920 - 1991
3 Cubic Feet in Seven Boxes

ACQUISITION: The papers of Tim Wood (#96-18) were given to GLHS in segments by Wood over a period of 3-4 years as he slowly went through his papers to locate items he thought were related to sex and erotica. Papers from each deposit have been incorporated into this collection.

ACCESS: The records are open for research

COPYRIGHT: Copyright to published manuscripts is not held by GLHS. Rights to images is rather complex, as some fall under the public domain while others are held by living individuals, particularly producers or heirs to physique photographs.

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS: 34 reels of 8mm or Super 8mm Film

PROCESSED BY: Willie Walker, February 1999

Biographical Sketch

Tim Wood was born in 1924, growing up in a ranching and oil town in West Texas. After graduating High School in 1941, Wood attended the University of Texas (UT), obtaining a business degree while enrolled in the Naval ROTC program. Shortly following commencement in 1945, he was placed on active duty and was shipped to Honolulu in preparation for joining the war against Japan. The war ended shortly after he arrived in Hawaii, but Wood decided to stay and live on the island most American Servicemen couldn't wait to leave. He secured a job in retail sales with Sears in Honolulu where he worked for nearly ten years. In 1953, after being passed over for an expected promotion, he approached the head of the local store to protest. When asked what he needed to do to get a promotion, the manager "...removed his glasses, looked me straight in the eye, and stated 'Mr Wood, when you become married, we'll talk about a promotion.' Stung at this none too subtle reference to his homosexuality, a frustrated Tim Wood returned to Texas where, in a strange twist, he was again hired by the Dallas, and later the Wichita Falls Sears stores.

Fed up with the regressive political and cultural climate in Texas, a transfer was arranged to the Oakland Sears outlet and he moved to Oakland in 1958. He continued to work at that Sears store until his retirement in 1984. In 1962 he bought a home in the Berkeley Hills in the prosperous unincorporated town of Kensington, where he continues to live today.

Wood's initial entry into gay life in the Bay Area was through going to Jack's Baths on Post. He was a regular habitue of gay bathhouses until they closed in the early 1980s. When Dave, one of the more popular employees at Jack's, opened his own bathhouse on Washington Street in 1959, Wood was one of many who moved his patronage to Dave's. This bathhouse moved to the foot of Broadway in 1967, where it remained popular with many locals and, due to a European advertizing campaign, a steady stream of European visitors. Dave's closed in 1983.

Scope and Content Note

While a small number of personal documents is present, this collection is primarily focused on male/male erotica. This material was slowly collected by Wood over his lifetime, and partially represents his personal sexual interests over this span of time. In addition, it documents the type and quality of erotica that was available to an urban-based gay man over this fifty year period.

The collection contains both written and visual erotica, including promotional ads for erotica and sexual devices, both hand-typed and printed written erotica, erotic jokes and ephemera, black and white photographs, negatives, color slides, and erotic movies. The majority of photographs, both legal and illegal, were produced from the 1960s. Many of the illicit photos were taken or copied by two Bay Area photographers, Bob Gianni and Gerry Coleman, both of whom were well known by Wood.

All photos whose source is identified are so attributed. Others marked in distinct ways are also grouped together. Those remaining are located in generic folders arranged by type or activity.

Related Collections at GLHS

86-3 Bulldog Bathhouse Records
87-5 Patrick Butler Collection of Gay Male Erotica
91-26 Buzz Bense Papers
91-33 Glenn M. Turner/Guild Press - Records
93-22 Gene Weber Photographs
95-11 Bill Biglow Collection of Black Male Erotica
95-12 Orvis Bryant Erotica Collection
96-4 Fred K Erotica Collection

Materials Removed from the Collection

- Several pieces of non-erotic ephemera
- A broken set of *Guild Book Service Bulletins* (most issues from #1 to 46) which duplicate a complete set in the Fred K Erotica Collection
- Erotic novels and other books
- Erotic magazines
- Duplicate or severely blurry photographs (less than a dozen)
- Four 16 mm movies of heterosexual activities
- Non-annotated records of the Society for Individual Rights, from 1972 to 1977

Contents

Box 1

Personal Documents

Notes on This Collection
Notes from High School, 1939
Letter of Advice about Homosexuality from Buz (at Louisiana State University), 1942
Clipping “*Cops Raid House, Find 64 Men...in Queers Convention*” Keyhole [crime rag], 1953
Article about Thomas Tawzer’s Suicide Attempt, SF Chronicle 1/13/65
Cards and Notes, 1960s
Letter About Bob Gianni’s Arrest and Sequella, 1966
Note & Letter about *Society for Individual Rights (SIR)*, 1977
Printed Photo of Porn Star Richard Locke with Note from Tim Wood, 1990
“David” Goes to Dinner

Advertisements for Erotic Photos and Other Material

Ad and Drawings for *Original Glassware by Dori* [physique art on glassware], 1950s
Ad for Photos from Unidentified Los Angeles Source, 1956
Letter Advertizing Photos from Paignton Publishing, (England), 1959
Ad for Keval (book reprinting four stories from ONE magazine), 1959
Ad for Basic Approach to Drawing the Nude by A Heinecke (Lakewood NJ), 1960
Ads from Mike Gemtry (England), 1960
Ads and Booklets from Scorpio Publishing (England), circa 1960
Ad for Greeting Cards by Scan Publishing (England), circa 1960
Catalog from Physique Publishing (England), circa 1960
Ads from Continental Artists (Washington DC), circa 1960
Ad for Physique Photos from Florida Model Guild (Coconut Grove), 1960s
Ad Cards for Physique Photos from John Palatinus (New York), 1960s
Ads for Photos and Drawings from Lugar Studio (New York), 1968
Catalog Advertizing Prints of Drawings by Tom of Finland, no date (1950s?)
Ads for Other Sources of Erotica
Ads for Sex Devices and Accouterments

Erotica-Related Publications and Ephemera

“Fuck” Booklets Featuring Cartoon Characters, circa 1920s
Girl Beautiful, a Magazine Bought by TW, c. 1938
Arabian Physique Magazine, c. 1966
Prints of Physique Art
Cards of Zodiac Signs Featuring Photos of Homosex (8 of 12 held)

Humor

Written Jokes
Poetry
Humorous Cartoons & Ephemera, 1920s-1950s
Humorous Cartoons & Ephemera, 1960s-1980s
Ephemera

Written Erotica

Heterosexual

Diary of a French Stenographer (story copied by TW circa 1937) - 3 versions

Two Boys & Two Girls (story copied by TW , 1938)

Other Stories, 1920s-1960s

Homosexual

365 Days

Confessions of a Newsboy

County Jail

Diary of a Photographer

Down on the Farm - 3 Versions

Slave

Super Service

Two Untitled Homosexual Stories

Box 2 Computer Printouts of Sex Stories Collected by TW, 1990s

Photographic Images

Photos of Nude Women, circa 1900-1950

Photos From Bruce of Los Angeles, c. 1953

Photos From Athletic Model Guild

Photos From Western Photography Guild

Photos From Frontier Athletic Club

Photo of Reclining Nude Man taken by Tim Wood, ca 1954

Photos From Bob Gianni:

Photos from an Album Bought by TW circa 1965

Photo Series of Tommy & Barry

Photo Series of Unidentified Boys

Photos with Code FBG (from Bob Gianni)

Photos From Gerry Coleman (FGC)

Self Portraits

Photos of Boys Parked at Land's End

Photos with Code FGG (from Gerry Coleman)

Box 3 Photos with Code - FEW

Photos with Code - W or AW

Photos with Code - JE and/or FW

Photos with Code - FBD

Photos with Code - FTB

Photos with Code - FOAK

Photos with Code - FLES

Photos Marked with Letter A followed by 3 numbers

Photos Marked 2.00

Photos Marked with Large Numbers in Pencil

Photos Bought At SIR Auction, 7/73 (Photographer/s Unidentified)

Narrative Photo Series: Two Men Meet & Have Sex

Photos with Models Identified on Back
Photos of Sailors - From Various Sources
Generic Photos - Physique
Generic Photos - Models Draped in Transparent Plastic
Generic Photos - Genital Display
Generic Photos - Genital Display, Set Outdoors
Generic Photos - Sexual Activity - Solo
Generic Photos - Sexual Activity - Two or More

Box 4 Photos of Erotic Art
Deck of Cards Featuring Nude Men
Slides
Individual Negatives
Strips of Negatives

Photograph Albums

Box 5	<i>Red Album</i>	Nudes with Erections & Solo Sex
	<i>Blue Album</i>	Oral Sex (first page labeled "69")
	<i>Brown Album</i>	Anal Sex (first page labeled "KY")
Box 6	<i>White Album</i>	Physique and Nude (genital display)
	<i>Green Album with Gold Stars</i>	"The San Francisco We Know and Love" (outdoor shots, many taken at Bay Area beaches by Gerry Coleman. Includes Physique, Nude and Sexual Photographs)

Movie Film

Box 7 Male/Male Films (all are 8 mm or Super 8 mm)

4 Reels of 3 1/2" Film

21 Reels of 5" Film

2 Reels of 5 3/4" Film

Male/Female Films

7 Reels of 5" Film (8 mm or Super 8 mm)

2 Reels of 7" Film (16mm)