

Inventory of the Matthew Brown Papers

(#2001-23)

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: Matthew Brown papers

Collection Number: 2001-23

Physical Description: One carton, one large oversize box, one extra-large oversize box, two non-archival boxes of unknown size

Creator: Matthew Brown

Date (inclusive): 1973-2014

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Matthew Brown, a longtime employee of the Community Thrift Store, was active in San Francisco gay life from 1963. As a member of the Imperial Court, he was the 14th Emperor of San Francisco. This collection contains leather vests, hundreds of buttons, a banner, programs and papers documenting his participation in the Barbary Coasters and other motorcycle clubs, the Imperial Court, the Beaux Arts Ball, South of Market and Polk Street bars, and other activities.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Matthew Brown papers (#2001-22), 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 Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves.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: Matthew Brown, a longtime employee of the Community Thrift Store, was active in San Francisco gay life from 1963. As a member of the Imperial Court, he was the 14th Emperor of San Francisco.

Scope and Content: This collection contains leather vests, hundreds of buttons, a banner, programs and papers documenting his participation in the Barbary Coasters and other motorcycle clubs, the Imperial Court, the Beaux Arts Ball, South of Market and Polk Street bars, and other activities. There is also a Harvey Milk for Supervisor campaign button and the Official Emperor Hector & Emperor Norton Birthday Paper Doll and Coloring Book. Other materials include programs, correspondence, meeting minutes, a banner, flyers, press releases, membership directories, and financial records.

Indexing Terms:

Gay men

Leather

Motorcycle clubs

Politics and elections

Imperial Court System

Container Listing

Carton 1:

Financial materials (receipts, raffle tickets, accounts)

Flyers

Meeting minutes

Programs—mostly Imperial Court-related (such as coronations and investitures), but some are from other events, such as Folsom Follies, circa 1976-1988

Materials related to the Gay Games, 1982

Materials related to the Beaux Arts Ball, 1971, 1983-1985

Materials related to Imperial Court Investiture and Coronation, 1974, 1983-1986

Materials related to In-Town Awards, 1983

Materials regarding Emperor-Empress Gala, 1982

Materials regarding Royal Romp, 1985-1986

Materials regarding California Club Gala, 1983

Materials regarding Health for Health

Materials regarding Cowboy/Girl event – Rathskelller, 1984

Materials regarding Imperial Council, 1984

Tavern Guild Board meeting materials, 1990; eligible names for voting for bars in Tavern Guild, 1973

Materials regarding Mr. & Miss Gay Contest—California Club, 1986

Materials regarding other organizations, including Emmaus Switchboard, Pride Foundation, circa 1973-1974. Includes financial records, meeting minutes, correspondence, and flyers

Empress-related financial documents

Programs for a variety of events, some Imperial Court-related, circa 1979-2000

Correspondence, circa 1966-1967—not from Brown but related to a variety of organizations, including Society for Individual Rights, Vanguard, National Legal Defense Fund

Gamecock Court meeting minutes, press releases, Council of Emperors notes, events, mailing lists, circa 1976-1976

Materials regarding Emperor Hector and the Imperial Court, including directories, flyers for events

Carton 2:

History of/timeline for the Imperial Court through 2014

Materials regarding Barbary Coasters Motorcycle Club, including short history, constitution, circa 1979, 1985

Programs, including Beaux Arts Ball, Cable Car Awards, Pride Awards, Coronation, Barbary Coasters and other motorcycle clubs, the Maggies, circa 1975-1991

Materials regarding the Forum, including History, Roll of Honor (motorcycle/leather clubs), 1995

Coronation Week pamphlets, circa 1977-1979

Materials regarding Omega SF, including charter member certificate, bylaws and charter, circa 1980

Videotapes—Mr. & Miss Gay SF, 1995

Pins and buttons, awards

The Official Emperor Hector & Emperor Norton Birthday Paper Doll and Coloring Book, undated

Carton 3:

Buttons

Oversize Box 1:

Motorcycle Club patches (large)

1984 calendar with pins and buttons

More buttons and pins

Leather Vests (5)

Sashes

Mug from SF GDI Club, 1984

Banner Box B-2 (Location: XI B1)

Barbary Coast Banner – purple and gold (39 in. (h) x 34 in. (w))

