
Imperial Courts Collection, 1973-1994 Coll2012.130

Finding aid prepared by Marc LaRocque

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

909 West Adams Boulevard

Los Angeles, California, 90007

(213) 741-0094

askone@ONEarchives.org

(c) 2012

Title: Imperial Courts Collection

Identifier/Call Number: Coll2012.130

Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.6 linear feet.1 archive box + 2 archive cartons.

Date (inclusive): 1973-1994

Abstract: Photographs and negatives, flyers, organizational correspondence, court lists, polling sheets, clippings, notes, manuscripts, annual reports, ephemera, and other material documenting activities of Imperial Courts, primarily in Southern California and San Francisco, 1973-1994. The Imperial Courts originated in San Francisco in 1965 as gay community social and fundraising events with a camp Imperial theme; the annual main event featured the coronation of elected monarchs (a king and queen) who in turn selected a royal court.

creator: Imperial Courts.

Historical Note

According to a short history from the collection, the Imperial Courts (or the "Imperial Court system") originated in San Francisco in 1965 as gay community social events with a camp Imperial theme; the annual main event featured the coronation of elected monarchs (a king and queen) who then selected a royal court. Imperial Court events soon assumed a more serious purpose (community-oriented fundraising), while retaining their irreverent and festive spirit.

Access

Contact ONE archivists regarding access restrictions.

Publication Rights

Contact ONE archivists regarding publication and use restrictions.

Preferred Citation

Box #, folder #, Imperial Courts Collection, Coll2012-130, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Processing Information

In order to provide access to this collection, minimal processing on this collection was expedited in 2011. Date spans were given whenever possible, but do not reflect the most accurate inclusive dates.

Scope and Content

Photographs and negatives, flyers, organizational correspondence, court lists, polling sheets, clippings, notes, manuscripts, annual reports, ephemera, and other material documenting activities of Imperial Courts, primarily in Southern California and San Francisco, 1973-1994. According to a short history from the collection, the Imperial Courts (or the "Imperial Court system") originated in San Francisco in 1965 as gay community social events with a camp Imperial theme; the annual main event featured the coronation of elected monarchs (a king and queen) who in turn selected a royal court. Imperial Court events soon assumed a more serious purpose (community-oriented fundraising), while retaining their irreverent festive spirit. The collection documents fundraisers and other events staged by both local and cooperating courts.

Acquisition Information

Date and donor(s) of materials unknown.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Cross dressing--Competitions--United States

Drag balls

Drag shows

Gay clubs--California--Los Angeles

Gay men--Societies and clubs
