Finding aid to the Robert F. Craig papers and photographs, 1934-2000
Coll2012.177

Finding aid prepared by Loni Shibuyama and Monica Ramsy
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Title: Robert F. Craig Papers and Photographs
Identifier/Call Number: Coll2012.177
Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 7.8 linear feet. 1 archive box + 1 archive binder + 6 archive shoeboxes + 2 flat archive boxes.
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1980-2000
Date (inclusive): 1934-2000
Abstract: Personal and professional papers, photographs, negatives, slides, film, audiocassettes, a videocassette, and other material from businessman, publisher, and gay activist, Robert F. Craig, 1934-2000. Perhaps best known as owner of the Los Angeles-based gay newsmagazine, [Frontiers], Craig was also instrumental in organizations such as Christopher Street West, Valley Business Alliance, Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE AIDS Lobby), and the West Hollywood Incorporation Committee. Materials document his activism in the gay community, personal life, military service, personal relationships, travels, and businesses he operated.
creator: Craig, Robert F., 1934-2000

Biography
Robert F. Craig was a longtime gay political activist, businessman, and owner of the Los Angeles-based weekly newsmagazine, [Frontiers].

Born on May 22, 1934, Craig is a Los Angeles native who attended North Hollywood High School. He served four years in the US Air Force and was assigned to the military police, before entering the University of Southern California where he majored in accounting. He ran businesses, including a flower shop and a messenger service. By the 1970s, Craig became owner of the Hayloft, a Studio City gay bar.

In 1978, Craig co-founded the Valley Business Alliance, which serves as a chamber of commerce for gay and lesbian business owners. By the 1980s, he served as president of Christopher Street West, which organizes the Los Angeles gay pride parade and festival. In 1982, Craig helped found [Frontiers] with Greg Carmack and Jerry Hyde. Craig eventually became the sole owner, expanding the publication from a 16-page tabloid to a 168-page magazine that had as of 2000 a circulation of more than 86,000 in Southern California, San Francisco and Las Vegas.

Shortly after starting [Frontiers], Craig joined the drive to incorporate the West Hollywood neighborhood into a city, and in 1984, he was elected chairman of the West Hollywood Incorporation Committee. In 1986, Craig helped establish the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (also known as LIFE AIDS Lobby) to fight in Sacramento for gay civil rights. The group successfully battled for increased AIDS funding and extension of protections under the state hate crime law to gays and lesbians.

A long time resident of the San Fernando Valley, Craig died of complications from AIDS on April 28, 2000.

Sources:

Conditions Governing Access
The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

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Acquisition Information
Donor and date of acquisition unknown.

Preferred Citation
[Box/folder #, or item name] Robert F. Craig Papers and Photographs, Coll2012-177, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

Processing Information

Scope and Content
The collection comprises personal papers, photographs, negatives, slides, film, audiocassettes, a videocassette, and other material from businessman, publisher, and gay activist, Robert F. Craig, 1934-2000. The papers include Craig's administrative records from *Frontiers*, LIFE AIDS Lobby, Californians Against Prop 22, and Christopher Street West. The papers also document Craig's personal life, including his education, military service, personal relationships, travels, businesses he operated, and other interests. The photographs and audiovisual material includes hundreds of photographs and negatives documenting events such as gay pride parades, LIFE AIDS Lobby fundraisers, drag queen pageants, parties; as well as his military experience and international travel. The realia includes items such as Craig's military uniform service ribbons and insignias, name badges, a Masonic Lodge apron, and Craig's leather vest from the gay bar he owned, Hayloft.

**Arrangement**

This collection is arranged in the following series:

**Series 1. Personal and professional papers**

**Series 2. Photographs and audiovisual materials**

**Series 3. Realia**

**Separated Materials**

The following publications have been separated from the collection and cataloged into ONE Archives' periodicals collection or monograph library:

- Christopher Street West Gay Pride Celebration, Bicentennial issue, July 4, 1976.
- Sinatra 80 Years My Way [benefitting AIDS Project Los Angeles and Barbara Sinatra's Children's Center] program, 1995.
- Stoney Awards 1997 program.
- Stoney Awards 1999 program.
- Super-men 80, Hollywood, California, August 24, 1980 program.

The following items have been separated from the collection and added to ONE Archives' t-shirt and garments collection:

- Ask Me About Life AIDS Day [white t-shirt]
- Christopher Street West Los Angeles 1982; A New Gay Dawning; Bob, CSW Official [pink t-shirt]
- Christopher Street West; Pride=Power '92 [hat]
- Come and Celebrate; See You in 1992; Long Beach; IAL/GPC [white t-shirt]
- Community Yellow Pages [yellow t-shirt]
- Dive!: The Incredible Skydive For Youth Services at the LA Gay & Lesbian Center; Saturday, August 19th, 1995 [white t-shirt]
- Hayloft [leather vest]
- I do; Freedom to Marry [gray t-shirt]
- Pioneer Days; Valley Business Alliance [blue t-shirt]
- Series 16; LA 92; NAGAAA Softball World Series [gray t-shirt]
- Southern California Gay & Lesbian Exposition; Expo 94 [white t-shirt]
- Together in Pride [white t-shirt]

In addition, 1 bumper sticker, 5 matchbook covers and 115 buttons have been separated from the collection and placed in ONE Archives' ephemera collection.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Christopher Street West Association.
Frontiers Publishing.
Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality.
AIDS activists--California--Los Angeles
Correspondence
Drag shows
Gay activists--California--Los Angeles
Gay pride parades
Gays in the military--United States
Photographs

**Personal and professional papers** Series 1. 1934-2000

**Series Description**
The personal and professional papers series, 1934-2000, comprises correspondence, manuscripts, administrative records, family-related material, notes, financial records, clippings, calendar and other materials. This series includes Craig's administrative records from organizations such as *Frontiers*, LIFE AIDS Lobby, Californians Against Prop 22, and Christopher Street West. The papers also document Craig's personal life, including his education, experience in the military, personal relationships, travels, businesses he operated, and other interests.

**Arrangement**
This series is arranged alphabetically.

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Box 1, Folder 1  *All-American Gigolo* screenplay drafts 1981
Box 1, Folder 2  *(2nd Annual) American Cinema Awards program* 1984
Box 1, Folder 3  Astrological profiles 1993
Box 1, Folder 4  Birth certificates 1934
Box 1, Folder 5  Business cards and contact information Undated
Box 1, Folder 6  Californians Against Prop 102 1988
Box 1, Folder 7  Christopher Street West 1992-1993
Box 1, Folder 8  Clippings 1963,1984
Box 1, Folder 9-12  Correspondence and greeting cards 1995-1998
Box 1, Folder 13  Family-related flyers Undated
Box 1, Folder 14  Financial records 1970-1997
Box 1, Folder 15  *Frontiers* administrative records 1990-1999
Box 1, Folder 16  Greater LA AIDS Hospice Foundation proposal 1984
Box 1, Folder 17  Handwritten notes Undated
Box 1, Folder 18  In Memorium Ron Stone 1988
Box 1, Folder 19  Lease agreement 1991
Box 1, Folder 20-21  *The Lightfoot Lad* storyboard 1983
Box 1, Folder 22  Messenger, delivery service and flower shop 1969-1973
Box 1, Folder 23  Military 1951-1960
Box 1, Folder 24  Name tags and identification cards Undated
Box 1, Folder 25  Other LGBT organizations 1981-1997
Box 1, Folder 26  Parks Air Force Base 1955
Box 1, Folder 27  Pet dog records 1993-1999
Box 1, Folder 28  School report cards and certificates 1941-1950
Box 1, Folder 29  *Soul Survivor*, script by Anthony Bruno 1986
Box 1, Folder 30  Travel records 1992-1993
Box 1, Folder 31  Weekly calendar 2000
Box 1, Folder 32  Miscellaneous 1970-1999
Photographs and audiovisual material Series 2. 1955-2000

Series Description
The photographs and audiovisual material series, 1955-2000, comprises photographs, negatives, slides, audiocassettes, 16mm film reels and a videocassette. This series includes hundreds of photographs and negatives documenting events such as parties, drag queen pageants, gay pride parades, LIFE AIDS Lobby fundraisers; as well as his military experience, home life, and international travel. Many of these photographs appear to have been taken by Craig's partner, Joel. This series also includes audiocassettes from a Gay Press Association conference, as well as amateur home movies.

Arrangement
Material in this series are grouped by format. Photographs, negatives and slides are at the beginning of this series, followed by audiocassettes, film and a videocassette.

Box 2-6
Photographs, negatives and slides 1955-2000

Scope and Contents note
Many of the photographs appear to have been taken by Craig's partner, Joel, and many of the descriptions written on the photograph envelopes are written in French.

Box 3
Birthday parties circa 1990-2000
Box 3
Christmas 1996, undated
Box 9
Robert Craig circa 1970-2000
Box 3
Dentist circa 1990-2000
Box 3
Drag pageants, coronations circa 1990-2000
Box 3
Drag performances and events, unidentified 1996, undated
Box 3
Frontiers office and unidentified social event circa 1990-2000
Box 4
Gay and lesbian pride parades
Box 4
Christopher Street West Los Angeles pride parade 1996
Box 4
Christopher Street West Los Angeles pride parade, Trilogy photos 1996
Box 4
Christopher Street West Los Angeles pride parade, gay and lesbian marriage circa 1990-2000
Box 4
Long Beach Gay Pride 1996, undated
Box 4
Paris, France pride parade 2000
Box 2
Robert Craig at gay pride parades circa 1970-2000
Box 4
Unidentified pride event circa 1990-2000
Box 3
Halloween Night circa 1990-2000
Box 3
Leather party circa 1990-2000
Box 3
Life AIDS Lobby circa 1990-2000
Box 3
General, events 1996, undated
Box 3
Bonaventure Hotel circa 1990-2000
Box 3
Box 3
San Francisco circa 1990-2000
Box 2
Military March 1955
Box 2
Pearson-Moffatt wedding 1970
Box 3
Stonewall Democratic Club event 1996
Box 5
Barbra Streisand impersonator 1988
Box 5
Travel and vacation circa 1990-2000
Box 2, 6
Miscellaneous circa 1980-2000

Audiocassettes 1983, undated
Item AC1820-AC1823
Gay Press Association Convention 1983
Box 7
[Untitled audio recording of answering machine message] Undated
Box 7
Film (16mm) 1959-1961
Box 7
Barbeque 1960
Box 7
Connection De Malay 1959
Box 7
De Molay Day at Disneyland 1959
Box 7
My gout day
Box 7
Shrine dance 1960
Box 7
Swim party at Howard Faddis's 1959
Photographs and audiovisual material Series 2.1955-2000

Box 7
[Untitled] August 1960
Box 7
[Untitled] November 1960
Box 7
[Untitled] June 1961
Box 7
Untitled videocassette (VHS-C) circa 1982-2000

Realia Series 3. circa 1950-1993

Series Description
The realia series, circa 1950-1993, includes items such as Craig's military uniform service ribbons and insignias, name badges, a Masonic Lodge apron, and Craig's leather vest from the gay bar he owned, Hayloft.

Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 8
Christopher Street West Festival Games medal 1983
Box 8
Christopher Street West name tag: Bob Craig Undated
Box 8
Christopher Street West pens 1983, 1988
Box 8
Christopher Street West wristwatch Undated
Box 10
Hayloft leather vest Undated
Box 8
March on Washington media badge 1993
Box 8
Military and ROTC ribbons, insignias and dog tag circa 1950-1960
Box 9
North Hollywood Lodge No. 542, [Free & Accepted Masons] apron 1958
Box 8
Pioneer Days Country Fair ribbon 1982
Box 8
Pioneer Days staff ribbon circa 1982