
Loni Shibuyama
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URL: http://one.usc.edu
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Title: Richard Denton papers
creator: Denton, Richard
Identifier/Call Number: Coll2014-033
Physical Description: 4.8 Linear Feet3 boxes, 2 cartons, 1 flat box.
Date (inclusive): 1931-1988
Abstract: Avengers Motorcycle Club administrative records, subject files on gay and lesbian organizations, and personal papers, 1931-1988, from Richard Denton. Denton worked as a minister and librarian for Presbyterian churches throughout California. In the 1970s he became a member and officer of Avengers, a gay motorcycle club.
Storage Unit: Acc0000.028*

Biography
William Richard Denton grew up in Seattle, Washington, and graduated from Queen Anne High School in 1947. Denton worked as a minister and librarian for Presbyterian churches in Reno, Nevada, and throughout Southern California. In the 1950s-1960s, Denton was married to a woman named Margie, and they had three children. In the 1970s he became a member and officer of Avengers, a gay motorcycle club.

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

Conditions Governing Use
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the ONE Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at USC Libraries 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.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Date and method of acquisition unknown.

Preferred Citation

Processing Information
Formerly boxes #103-282, 103-307, 104-004, 104-037, and 104-038. Collection processed by Loni Shibuyama, August 2014.

Scope and Contents
The collection consists of Avengers Motorcycle Club administrative records, correspondence, subject files, publicity material, manuscripts, notes, photographs, and other documents from Richard Denton. The Avengers administrative records were compiled in scrapbooks and include meeting minutes and publicity material documenting Avengers' activities and that of other gay motorcycle clubs from 1977 to 1981. Subject files on gay and lesbian organizations and leather/BDSM clubs are also included. Denton's personal papers document his career as a librarian and former minister in Presbyterian churches throughout California and Nevada; his family, including his wife Margie and three children; and his interest in campanology, the study of bells.

Arrangement
This collection is divided into two series:
Series 1. Avengers Motorcycle Club and subject files
Series 2. Personal papers

Separated Materials
The following have been separated to the ONE newsletter collection:
Cheery Chalkboard: Gay Teachers of Los Angeles, October 1978.
The Empty Closet, Iss. 70 (March 1977).
Focus: Gay Community Center of Orange County, February-April 1976.
The Informant, a Consumer Newsletter for Gays, January 1976.
Neighbors newsletter, January 1976.
The Way Out Scene, September 1975.
The West Sider, 1974-1975.
The following items have been separated from the collection:
"Florida Orange Juice is Hazardous to Your Existence" poster, 1977.
Official Gay Freedom Day Program (San Francisco), 1976.
Playgirl Calendar, 1976.

Related Materials
#AC2562, Dick Denton at his office in Claremont [sound recording], Brian James Miller Papers, Coll2014-010, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Bells
Christian gays
Gay motorcycle clubs -- California -- Los Angeles
Gays -- Religious life
Leather lifestyle
Denton, Richard

Box 1-2, 4  Avengers Motorcycle Club and subject files  Series 1 1957-1984
Scope and Contents
This series comprises Avengers Motorcycle Club administrative records, clippings, merchandise catalogs, publicity material, bibliographies, flyers, and other material, 1957-1984, collected by Denton. The Avengers administrative records were compiled in scrapbooks and include meeting minutes and publicity material documenting Avengers' activities and that of other gay motorcycle clubs from 1977 to 1981. The remaining subject files include materials from gay and lesbian organizations and leather/BDSM clubs.
Arrangement
Avengers Motorcycle Club administrative records are at the beginning of this series. The remaining folders are arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 1-19  Avengers Motorcycle Club administrative records 1977-1981
Box 1, Folder 20  Avengers Motorcycle Club flyer draft Undated
Box 4, Folder 1  Advocate publicity material 1975-1977
Box 1, Folder 21 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California publicity material 1977
Box 1, Folder 22-26 Bibliographies 1971-1982
Box 1, Folder 27-31 Catalogs, clothing and products 1957-1959
Box 2, Folder 1-2 Catalogs, miscellaneous 1957-1970
Box 2, Folder 4-6 Clippings 1965-1977
Box 2, Folder 7  Edward Barron catalog 1975
Box 2, Folder 8  Festive Enterprises order forms 1974
Box 5, Folder 3-5  Fetish book: Male II circa 1980-1988
Box 2, Folder 41  Fetish book: Masks circa 1980-1988
Box 6, Folder 4-6  Fetish book: S & M [sadomasochism] I 1983
Box 4, Folder 2  Flyers 1970-1979
Box 2, Folder 9  Forestt of Brooklyn Heights catalog 1974
Box 2, Folder 10  Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center 1974-1976
Box 2, Folder 11  GSF Organization flyers 1975
Box 2, Folder 12  Homophile Effort for Legal Protection (HELP) 1974-1977
Box 2, Folder 13  Leather and motorcycle accessory catalogs 1970-1979
Box 2, Folder 14  Leather organizations 1974-1977
Box 2, Folder 16-18  Mail order erotica and BDSM (bondage, discipline, and sadomasochism) accessories circa 1970-1979
Box 2, Folder 19  Mattachine Society 1975
Box 2, Folder 15  Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Pomona Valley 1976-1984
Box 2, Folder 20  One, Inc. 1966-1981
Box 2, Folder 21  Richards Alan Company 1957
Box 2, Folder 22  Society for Individual Rights (SIR) 1973
Box 2, Folder 23  Society of Pat Rocco Enlightened Enthusiasts (SPREE) 1975-1977
Box 2, Folder 24  Sun Coral newsletter and flyers 1977
Box 2, Folder 25  Tail correspondence 1974-1978
Box 2, Folder 26  Village People 1978-1979
Box 2, Folder 27  Whitman Radclyffe Foundation 1974
Box 2, Folder 28  World Organization Against Evil Undated
Box 2, Folder 29  Zero to Success 1973-1974
Box 2, Folder 30-34  Unsorted 1970-1979

Personal papers Series 2 1931-1988

Scope and Contents
This series comprises correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, employment documents, clippings, newsletters, and other personal papers, 1931-1988, documenting Richard Denton's life and interests. The bulk of the materials document his career as a librarian and former minister in Presbyterian churches throughout California and Nevada; his family, including his wife Margie and three children; and his interest in campanology, the study of bells.

Arrangement
Clippings about Richard Denton are at the beginning of this series, followed by correspondence. The remaining folders are arranged alphabetically.

Box 2, Folder 35  Clippings about Denton and family members 1943-1979
Box 2, Folder 36  Correspondence 1950-1984
Box 2, Folder 37  Correspondence, G. Rudy 1974
Box 2, Folder 38  Correspondence, Marcus Sen 1957
Box 2, Folder 40  Award certificate and name plate Undated
Box 3, Folder 1  Baby books Undated
Box 3, Folder 2-8  Bells
Box 3, Folder 2  American Bell Association convention materials and photographs 1969
Box 3, Folder 3  American Bell Association correspondence 1958-1972
Box 3, Folder 4-6  Bells and campanology 1950-1975
Box 3, Folder 7-8  Southern California Campanologist Club 1958-1973
Box 3, Folder 12-14  Bible scripture and sermon notes 1951-1960

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<td>Boy Scouts service record 1968-1974</td>
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<td>Christian periodicals 1972-1979</td>
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<td>4, 3</td>
<td>Christmas greeting cards 1955-1966</td>
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<td>3, 10</td>
<td>Denton, Margie 1961-1974</td>
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<td>Denton's Belfry newsletter 1970--1979</td>
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<td>Finding Our Own Ways newsletter 1987-1988</td>
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<td>Notes and diary entries 1984-1986</td>
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<td>Southern California School of Theology at Claremont 1959-1985</td>
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<td>Synod of California 1954-1958</td>
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<td>3, 27</td>
<td>Travel documents, &quot;Dick's Trip; Business Convention and Visits&quot; 1984</td>
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<td>3, 28</td>
<td>University of Southern California (USC) School of Library Science 1959-1964</td>
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<td>Westminster and Seattle churches 1931-1947</td>
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<td>Westminster Marriage Service 1948-1960</td>
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<td>3, 31</td>
<td>Whitworth College 1951</td>
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