Finding Aid to the Knights of the Clocks Collection, 1950-2012 Coll2014.087

Loni Shibuyama
Processing this collection has been funded by a generous grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.
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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Title: Knights of the Clocks collection
creator: Knights of the Clocks
creator: Byrd, Merton L.
Identifier/Call Number: Coll2014.087
Physical Description: 0.1 Linear Feet1 folder.
Date (inclusive): 1950-2012
Abstract: Articles of incorporation, event invitations, and meeting notes, circa 1950-2012, from Knights of the Clocks, an interracial homophile social organization founded in 1951 by Merton Byrd.

Administrative History
The Clocks, more commonly known as the Knights of the Clocks, was founded by Merton Byrd, Louis Wells, and Donald Grant, and incorporated in California in June 1951. The group formed as an interracial homophile group in Los Angeles with rituals and an organizational structure inspired by Freemasonry. The collection documents indicate that the organization was also known as The Cloistered Loyal Order of Conclaved Knights of Sophisticracy.

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

Conditions Governing Use
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Immediate Source of Acquisition
A photocopy of the Articles of Incorporation were acquired from the California Secretary of State Business Programs Division in 2012 by Charles Schewene. Donor and date of remaining materials unknown.

Preferred Citation
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Processing Information
Collection processed by Loni Shibuyama, October 2014.

Related Materials
W. Dorr Legg Personal Papers, Coll2010-004, ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California
AC0412, W. Dorr Legg speech at meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) [sound recording], 1982 http://digitallibrary.usc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p15799coll4/id/1464/rec/1

Scope and Contents
The collection comprises articles of incorporation, event invitations, and notes, circa 1950-2012, from Knights of the Clocks, an interracial gay men's social organization founded in 1951. The notes describe procedures for the installation of officers, an oath repeated by members during meetings, membership dues, and an historical sketch of the organization.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
African American gay men
Los Angeles -- Gay clubs
Social aspects -- Homosexuality
Knights of the Clocks
Byrd, Merton L.

Folder 1
Knights of the Clocks collection