Finding Aid to the Pat Milo Physique Photographs Coll2014.123

Michael C. Oliveira
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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Title: Pat Milo Physique photographs
creator: Frisby, Lyle
creator: Milo, Pat
Identifier/Call Number: Coll2014.123
Physical Description: 4.8 Linear Feet19 binder boxes2349 photographic prints
Date (inclusive): circa 1955-1969
Abstract: Physique photographic prints produced Lyle Frisby and Pat Milo. Milo sold photosets through the mail and his images appeared in physique magazines, circa 1955-1969.

Biographical Note
Pat Milo (James Patrick) was born in 1911 into a large, Irish Catholic family. At a young age, he was forced to leave school to help care for his family. On the side, Milo indulged his interest in young men by dabbling in amateur photography. When his father found some of his photographs, he was thrown out of the house and forced to venture out on his own.

He eventually found work as a short-order cook where he met Lyle Frisby. In the early 1950s the two opened a photography studio. The studio quickly failed. Undeterred, Frisby contacted Bruce Bellas (Bruce of Los Angeles), a photographer whose work he admired and wanted to emulate, for advice. Bellas advised him to move to Los Angeles. Frisby moved to Los Angeles, with Milo following a year later. Together, they again opened a storefront studio, Lyle Studio on Naud Street, just blocks from Los Angeles’ Chinatown, circa 1953. Frisby handled the photography and Milo handled the daily business. The store fronted as a commercial photography venture, but Frisby's primary business was photographing athletic male models for the physique magazines. His earliest known advertisement appears in Physique Pictorial in December 1953. Frisby and Milo sold nude photographs of physique models through mail order, as well as in person at the Naud Street storefront. It was here, circa 1956 or 1957, that Frisby was arrested for obscenity. While Frisby was incarcerated, Milo began taking extension classes at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to improve his photography skills. He met Hollywood photographer George Hurrell at UCLA and developed a similar photographic technique. Frisby experienced a rapid decline in his health during his year-long incarceration, and soon after his release he died.

Milo opened a studio of his own on Vermont Street in Los Angeles, and he began photographing male models under the Milo brand. His photographs began appearing in physique magazines in 1959. He continued selling nude photographs using Lyle Frisby’s mailing list and new clients brought in through advertisements. Over the next decade, he shot dozens of models, garnering respect from many of the models for his atypical “hands-off” approach during their modeling sessions. Although Milo photographed many models, he is perhaps best-known for his photographs of competitive bodybuilder Larry Scott.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition
Photographs aggregated from collections and donations to the archives.

Preferred Citation
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Processing Information

Names followed by the comment “questionable,” suggest available sources, but unverified sources. Names followed by the comment “doubtful,” suggest no available source for identification.

Scope and Contents
The collection consists of Pat Milo physique photographic prints.

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

Related Materials
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Physique Photographs
Coll2014.123
Hadnagy - Higgins undated
List of Models

Hornbrook - Kizer undated
List of Models
Phil Hornbrook, Phil Hornbrook and Bob Tierney, Paul Ibbetson, Brian Idol (Lance Ingram), Jeff Innes, Joe Irwin, Ed Jackson, Tom January, Jim Jones, Tony Jost, Bob Kapel, Bobby Kennedy, Wally Keza (Wally Kezer), Ron Kiliian, and Bobby-Joe Kizer

Montana - Orden undated
List of Models
Juan Montana, Del Morgan (Del Drake), Larry Morton, Willie Moore, Bill Murray, Joe Napoli, Luis Navarro, Chuck Naylor, Mike Nelson, Pat Nesbitt, Jack Newgate, Nick Nichols, Jim Nielsen, Jim Patrick, Roy Nielson, Johnny Nogar, Mike Norton, Arch Ogilvie, and Bob Orden

O’Rourke - Rival undated
Scope and Contents
Jerry O’Rourke, Sam Osborne, Keith Overton, Richie Parker, Curt Parks, Larry Pearson, Rudie Peeler, Lucky Penrose, Sam Pierre, Dale Porter, Chuck Provencier, Bob Randall, Jim Randall, Sonny Reed, Bob Reggio, Jack Reno, Robert Rex, Don Reynolds, Jim Richards, and Joe Rival

Rommel - Simmons undated
Scope and Contents

Swoboda - Walker undated
List of Models
Emil Swoboda, Ray Tenick, Keeny Teran, Richie Thayer, Bob Thompson, Bob Tierney, Kenneth Tisop, Jim Varney, Miguelito Vega, Bob Vernon, Mike Villard, Jack Virgil, Marty Vogel, Don Wagner, and George Walker

Smith - Switzer undated
List of Models
Avent Smith, Ralph Smith, Tom Smith, Wendell Smith, Walt Soper, Richie Spencer, Joe Spencer, Tony Spencer, Keith Stephan, Ralph Sterling, Ed Stevens, Steve Stevenson (questionable), Jim Stewart, Jack (John) Stone, Bob Storm, Johnny Slumps, Gerald (Jerry) Sullivan, and Bob Switzer

Unidentified models

Wall - Woods
List of Models
Al Wall (Al Walls), Bob Wattleton (doubtful), Ted Warren, Larry Webb, Gene Whitlock, Don Whitman, Richie Wigfall, Mike Wilette, Jerry Wilhide, Don Williams (doubtful), Larry Williams (doubtful), Al Wilisch, Ted Wills, Bob Wilson, Jim Wilson, Mike Wilsob, Max Wolf, and Tom Woods.
box-binder 17  
**Yardley - Zuberano, unidentified models**

List of Models
Max Yardley, Kurt Zertlin (doubtful), Doug Zarbach, Fred Zuberano, and unidentified models

box-binder 19

**Unidentified models and slides**

List of Models

box-binder 10

**Lavia - Miller undated**

List of Models
Dennis Lavia, Joe Leitel, Don Leone, Tony Lerwyn, Herb Lindsay, Dave Louvier, Chuck Mac Amish, Billy Mahrer, Bob Manners, Jim Manning (John), Marcel, Lew Marshall (Lou), Ricky Martino, Jerry Matson, Don Mayhew, Gil McDonald, Ken Meade, Johnny Menendez, Bob Merrick, and Don Miller