
Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore Papers

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San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center

San Francisco Public Library

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2016

Descriptive Summary

Title: Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore Papers

Dates: 1990-2011 (bulk 1996-2011)

Collection Number: GLC 110

Creator/Collector: Sycamore, Mattilda Bernstein.

Extent: 3 cubic feet, 1 oversized flat box, 1 map folder

Repository: San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center
San Francisco, California 94102

Abstract: Mattilda is a writer and activist concerned with various issues within the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. The major subjects include assimilation, gender, identity, and politics. The collection contains manuscripts, 'zines, published articles and books, photographs and audiovisual materials.

Language of Material: English

Access

The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours.

Publication Rights

Copyright retained by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore.

Preferred Citation

Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore Papers. San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center

Acquisition Information

Donated by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore in three accessions, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Biography/Administrative History

Mattilda has been known by various names throughout her life: Matt Bernstein Sycamore, Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, and just Mattilda. Mattilda was the editor of her high school yearbook and its literary magazine, and has been involved with activism for GLBT issues, AIDS, and politics. She participated with ACT UP and was the co-founder of "Gay Shame" with one other person. She's an avid diarist and writer, and has lived in a variety of cities including New York and San Francisco. She is the author of "The End of San Francisco" (2013), two novels "So Many Ways To Sleep Badly" (2008) and "Pulling Taffy" (2003), and the editor of five anthologies: "Tricks and Treats: Sex Workers Write About Their Clients" (2000); "That's Revolting: Queer Strategies for Resisting Assimilation" (2004); "Nobody Passes: Rejecting the Rules of Gender and Conformity" (2006); "Dangerous Families: Queer Writing on Surviving" (2004); "Why Are Faggots So Afraid of Faggots? Flaming Challenges to Masculinity, Objectification, and the Desire to Conform" (2012).

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection is roughly grouped into series: Manuscripts and Writing; Subject Files; 'Zines; Photographs; Yearbook; Diaries / Journals; Books and Magazines; Audiovisual Materials; and, Realia. Roughly half is heavily edited drafts of "The End of San Francisco" and the submitted and edited drafts and correspondence for the anthology "Why Are Faggots So Afraid of Faggots?" It also contains a number of 'zines, such as "Gay Shame" and "Swallow Your Pride," which Mattilda produced, articles and reviews written by Mattilda, and several published interviews of Mattilda.

Indexing Terms

Assimilation (Sociology).

Conformity.

Gays--Identity.

Gender Identity.

Masculinity.

Sycamore, Mattilda Bernstein--Archives.

Zines.

[Collection inventory](#)
