
Society for Individual Rights Collection

Finding aid created by James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center staff using RecordEXPRESS

San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center

San Francisco Public Library

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2016

Descriptive Summary

Title: Society for Individual Rights Collection

Dates: 1960-1969

Collection Number: GLC 80

Creator/Collector:

Extent: 0.75 cubic feet (in 2 boxes)

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

Abstract: Meeting minutes, flyers, bylaws, press releases, proposals, policy statements, articles, pamphlets, surveys, advertisements, clippings, event programs, constitution, and other material documenting the activities of the Society for Individual Rights (SIR), a homophile organization. Founded in San Francisco in 1964, SIR's goals included public affirmation of gay and lesbian identity, elimination of victimless crime laws, providing a range of social services (including legal aid) to "gays in difficulties," and promoting a sense of a gay and lesbian community.

Language of Material: English

Access

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

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.

Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information

The collection combines 2 folders of SIR material that the library owned with two small accessions received from Lou Harrison and from Robert Berner before 1996. Harrison was a member of SIR and his donation did not contain any personal material. Berner was on the Publications Committee and some of the material he donated relates to drafts of SIR-published materials.

Biography/Administrative History

Founded in San Francisco in 1964, the Society for Individual Rights (SIR)'s goals included public affirmation of gay and lesbian identity, elimination of victimless crime laws, providing a range of social services (including legal aid) to "gays in difficulties," and promoting a sense of a gay and lesbian community. SIR demanded equal rights and decried government-sanctioned discrimination.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains meeting minutes, flyers, bylaws, press releases, proposals, policy statements, articles, pamphlets, surveys, advertisements, clippings, event programs, constitution, and other material documenting the activities of the Society for Individual Rights (SIR). The publications include brochures and two editions of the S.I.R. Pocket Lawyer which contained instructions on one's rights if arrested. Also of note are: the SIRlebrity Capades programs from the mid-1960s with photos and short biographies of performers; the Dorian Book Service catalogs from 1960; and, early issues of Vanguard.

[Finding aid](#)
