
Tom of Finland Drawings

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San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Tom of Finland Drawings

Dates: 1962, undated

Collection Number: GLC 108

Creator/Collector: Tom, of Finland, 1920-1991.

Extent: 6 items (in 1 oversized folder)

Repository: San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center
San Francisco, California 94102

Abstract: Five drawings by Tom of Finland depicting groups of two, three, and four men in erotic situations that feature leather and naval uniforms. The collection also includes a photocopied photograph of Tom Nicoll.

Language of Material: English

Access

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

Publication Rights

Copyright held by Tom of Finland Foundation, Los Angeles, California.

Preferred Citation

Tom of Finland Drawings. San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center

Acquisition Information

Donated by Thomas C. Nicoll, June 9, 2015.

Biography/Administrative History

Tuoko Laaksonen (1920-1991), better known as Tom of Finland, was an artist best known for his gay erotic art. His drawings feature hyper-masculine subjects who often wear uniforms or leather. His work was first published by "Physique Pictorial" by Athletic Model Guild in 1957. Tom Nicoll was a London-based physique photographer for the Scott studio. He was also a leading member of the city's leather crowd and, in the summer of 1957, he encouraged Tom of Finland to purchase his first black leather jacket.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains five original drawings by Tom of Finland. The drawings depict men wearing leather or naval uniforms in erotic situations with other men. One of the drawings is reproduced in "Tom of Finland: retrospective" (Los Angeles: Tom of Finland Foundation, 1989). It also includes a photocopied photograph of Tom Nicoll.

Indexing Terms

Gay erotic art.

Gay men in art.

Leather lifestyle--Pictorial works.

Nicoll, Thomas C.
