John R. (Jack) Collins Papers

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2019
Descriptive Summary

Title: John R. (Jack) Collins Papers


Collection Number: GLC 134

Creator/Collector: Collins, John R. (Jack).

Extent: 5 cartons (5 cubic feet) + 1 oversized framed broadside

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

Abstract: Collins was a professor at City College of San Francisco. The collection documents the courses Collins taught there, and the establishment of its gay and lesbian studies department. There are also catalogs from his work for an antiquarian book dealer. There is significant correspondence between Collins and writer James Purdy, and copies of Purdy's books and original writing.

Language of Material: English

Access
The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Copyright and literary rights are retained by Collins.

Preferred Citation
John R. (Jack) Collins Papers. San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center

Acquisition Information

Biography/Administrative History
Jack Collins was a literature professor at City College of San Francisco, the department chair of the gay and lesbian studies program at CCSF, and an antiquarian book cataloger with John Howell Books (San Francisco). He also wrote many journal articles on literature and teaching. For several years he was the caregiver to a partner dying of AIDS.

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection documents the courses Collins taught at City College of San Francisco, and the establishment of the gay and lesbian studies department there. There are also catalogs from his work at John Howell Books, an antiquarian book dealer. The papers also includes his thesis and academic journal articles. A significant portion of the collection is the correspondence between Collins and writer James Purdy, and copies of Purdy's books and original writing. A poignant journal details the care that Collins tendered to his partner who died of AIDS. The oldest item is a broadside from 1698 that documents a sodomy case in England.

Indexing Terms
Gay and lesbian studies
Purdy, James, 1914-2009.
City College of San Francisco.

Partial collection inventory