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Collection number: 1796

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Descriptive Summary

Title: E Clampus Vitus Records,
Date (inclusive): 1935-1970
Collection number: 1796
Creator: E Clampus Vitus (Fraternal order)
Extent: 2 boxes (1 linear ft.) 1 oversize box
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles, Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Abstract: The revival of E Clampus Vitus was begun by Carl I. Wheat and others around 1931 as a parody of mining fraternities of the nineteenth century. E Clampus Vitus events were organized around historical anniversaries or in a place of historical significance. The collection consists of correspondence, membership rosters, and artifacts related to events and activities of the California chapters of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus.
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Gift of Lindley Bynum.
Gift of Andrew Horn.
Gift of Estate of W.W. Robinson.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], E Clampus Vitus Records (Collection 1796). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

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Biography
Revival of E Clampus Vitus was begun by Carl I. Wheat and others around 1931 as a parody of mining fraternities of the nineteenth century; E Clampus Vitus almost always organized its events around historical anniversaries or in a place of historical information; a history of the organization can be found in the book, Credo Quia Absurdum (Placerville, California: Onager Press, 1949).

Biographical Narrative
The history of the Ancient & Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus is given in the book Credo quia absurdum (Placerville, California, 1949). The present social organization is a revival of mining fraternities of the nineteenth century, parodies of the then-popular mysterious fraternal orders. The present organization delights in the mock-serious aspects of the originals. E Clampus Vitus almost always organizes its events around historical anniversaries or in a place of historical importance, so that keepsakes and announcements offer historical information, as well as providing records of the club’s activities. Often the keepsakes are printed by noted California printers, such as Lawton Kennedy.
Prominent Californians were involved with the revival of the organization in the early nineteen-thirties, so that the history and papers of the organization are important in a study of California. Carl I. Wheat was one of the first to start the revival, around 1931. The present collection is made up of items donated by Lindley Bynum, Andrew Horn and Ward Ritchie; and of items from the W.W. Robinson collection.

Note
note: Because of the completeness of materials collected by W.W. Robinson held in the UCLA Library Special Collections, items taken from that collection have been stamped with his name. Other items not pertaining to the individuals above have been distributed throughout this collection without indicating the donor.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of correspondence, membership rosters, and artifacts related to events and activities of the California chapters of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Materials with notes to or by W.W. Robinson, Lindley Bynum, Andrew Horn, and Ward Ritchie (Box 1).
2. Statewide (Box 1).
3. Platrix (Los Angeles) chapter (Box 1).
4. Other chapters (Box 2).
5. Events (Box 2).
6. General publications and newsletters (Box 2).
7. Oversize documents and keepsakes (Box 3).

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

Subjects
E Clampus Vitus (Fraternal order)--Archives.

Materials (Memorabilia, Notes, Correspondence, etc.)
Note
With notes to or by the following:
| Box 1, Folder 1 | W.W. Robinson, 1949-51 and n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Lindley Bynum (Officer of Platrix Chapter), 1949-57 and n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Lindley Bynum. Correspondence, much of it dealing with the workings of the organization, 1943-58 and n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Andrew Horn, 1950 and n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Ward Ritchie. Early membership mailings, 1935-36. |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Ward Ritchie, 1949-50 and n.d. |

**Statewide**

| Box 1, Folder 7 | Rosters, n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Printed items, reports, announcements, etc. 1947, 1955, mostly n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Clippings. 1940, 1948, 1953 and n.d. |

**Platrix (Los Angeles) Chapter**

| Box 1, Folder 11 | Rosters. Mimeographed, 1950-51 and n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Petition for membership forms. n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Letterhead samples, printed envelopes. n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Letterhead mailings, 1949-57. |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Announcements of events, mimeographed or small. 1935-49 and n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Announcements of events, 1949-58 and n.d. |

**Physical Description:** Legal size or larger.

| Box 1, Folder 18 | Announcements of events, using old newspaper mastheads, 1954-61 and n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | Reservation forms for events, 1950-55 and n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Miscellaneous enclosures sent with announcements. Mimeographed maps, historical notes relevant to sites visited, etc. n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Postcard announcements, 1936-39. |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | Postcard announcements, 1941-44; 1946-49. |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | Postcard announcements, 1950-55. |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | Postcard announcements, 1956- and n.d. |
| Box 1, Folder 25 | Keepsakes. 1960-61, 1970. |

**Other Chapters**

| Box 2, Folder 1 | Hangtown (Placerville). Printed roster, letterhead sample, announcements, etc. 1938-58 and n.d. |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Yerba Buena (San Francisco). Letterhead samples, newsletters, keepsakes, etc. 1936-57, 1962. Includes items printed by Lawton Kennedy. |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Las Plumas del Oro. Announcement, 1954 (County Centennial) and 1956. |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Downie. Membership application, n.d. |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Matsuca. Announcement, 1949. |

**Specific Events**

| Box 2, Folder 6 | Coloma celebration, 100th anniversary of the discovery of gold, 1948. Announcements, programs, newspaper, etc. |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Mariposa Centennial. 1954. Announcement, reservation forms, brochures, newspapers. |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Fresno. 100th anniversary of Fresno County, 1956. Announcements. General Publications, Newsletters |
Box 2, Folder 10  The Clamper: Official Publication of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus. Stockton, California, 1961-.

Scope and Content Note
vol.1 no.1-6; vol.2 no.1-5; vol.3 no.1-4; vol.4 no.1,2,4.


Box 2, Folder 13  The Placer Herald: Official Organ, Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus. Auburn, Placer County, California, Saturday, June 1, 1935. vol.83 no.40.

Box 3  The Pony Express: Stories of Pioneers and Old Trails. Placerville, 1934(?)-.

Scope and Content Note
vol.16 no.8-9; vol.17 no.2,8-9; vol.18 no.2,11; vol.20 no.3 (These issues 1950-53).

Oversize Announcements, Keepsakes, etc.

Various chapters, v.d.