Finding Aid of the Abraham Z. Hoffman papers 7090

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URL: http://libraries.usc.edu/locations/special-collections
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Title: Abraham Z. Hoffman papers
creator: Hoffman, Abraham
Identifier/Call Number: 7090
Physical Description: 7.77 Linear Feet 13 boxes
Date (inclusive): 1960-2019

Biographical Note
Historian and author Abraham Hoffman is currently an adjunct professor at Los Angeles Valley College, but has also taught history courses at Los Angeles City College, UCLA Extension, USC, Chapman University, Immaculate Heart College, and the Los Angeles Unified School District. His research interests include minorities in the West, early motion picture history, and Western water resource development among other subjects-- and are evidenced by the many historical organizations to which he belongs and the number of books and articles he authored.

Hoffman served as “Sheriff” of the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners in 1997; he had earlier served as the organization’s editor of The Branding Iron and, in 2016, was named the Corral’s Living Legend No. 61.

Hoffman is the author of numerous books and essays on the West including, Unwanted Mexican-Americans in the Great Depression: Repatriation Pressures, 1929-1939; California’s Deadliest Earthquakes: A History; and Mono Lake: From Dead Sea to Environmental Treasure, among many others.

Content Description
Dr. Hoffman’s papers include many historical organization journals and books, many including essays by Hoffman; his research materials, much literature related to the society E Clampus Vitus, newsletters and ephemera pertaining to Hollywood’s Magic Castle, and a small trove of underground comic books (“comix”). There are also some materials pertaining to the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners, of which Dr. Hoffman is a prominent member.

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Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], Abraham Z. Hoffman papers, Collection no. 7090, Regional History Collection, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Related Materials
Los Angeles Corral of Westerners records, Collection no. 0117, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Subjects and Indexing Terms
West (U.S.) -- History -- Archival resources
West (U.S.) -- History -- Periodicals
Alternative comics
Books
Certificates
Comic books
Crumb, R. -- Archives
E Clampus Vitus (Fraternal order). Platrix Chapter 2 (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Archives
Hoffman, Abraham -- Archives
Magic Castle (Club) -- Archives
Transierra Roisterous Alliance of Senior Humbugs -- Archives
Westerners. Los Angeles Corral -- Archives
Academy of Magical Arts 1963-2019

Scope and Contents
The Academy of Magical Arts, Inc. publishes a monthly newsletter which, in the early years, did not appear to have a title other than the logo at the top of the newsletter which contained all of the phrases Hollywood/Magic Castle/The Academy of Magical Arts, Inc. within its design. Hoffman's 1963-1983 notebook of newsletters are an example of the earlier style.

(Hoffman's collection does not include newsletters for the years 1984-1993.) The individual newsletters from 1994 through 1999 are longer than the earlier ones (11-12 pages as opposed to 4), and are now called The Magic Castle Newsletter.

The newsletters contain performance schedules, membership rules, and articles of interest pertaining to the Magic Castle.

Box 6 1963-1999
Box 7 2000-2011
Box 8 2012-2015; 2017-2019
Box 9 2016

General Note
The newsletters for this year were published in a larger format which is the reason that this group is in a different size box. Each issue is approximately 30 pages. Only the months January through June are represented for this year.

Box 9 Magic Castle Souvenir Book 1989

Publications

Box 12 Apwa Reporter (American Public Works Administration) 1980 May
Box 12 Arizona and the West 1977 Winter

General Note

Box 13 Articles, Essays, and Reprints 1972-2015

Scope and Contents
This folder contains many copies of photocopied articles, essays, and published reprints of articles chiefly by Abraham Hoffman.

Box 12 California Historical Society Quarterly 1961 September

General Note

Box 12 California History Winter 1997/98
Box 12 California Territorial Quarterly, The 2012-2018

Scope and Contents
Fall 2012, Winter 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2018

Box 12 Historical Society of Southern California 2001-2003

Scope and Contents
4 single-title issues by Abraham Hoffman.
Box 12  **History Teacher, The**  
**General Note**  

Box 12  **Journal of the West 1973-2018**  
**Scope and Contents**  

Box 5  **National Tombstone Epitaph, The 1987-1996**  
**Scope and Contents**  
The National Tombstone Epitaph is an Arizona-based newspaper centered on the history and culture of the Old West, with particular interest in the infamous Gunfight at the OK Corral involving Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, among others. Founded in 1880, it's the oldest continually published newspaper in Arizona.  
This collection includes nine full issues of the monthly publication, and several photocopied articles. Some of the articles are authored by Dr. Hoffman.

Box 12  **Pacific Historian, The 1976 Summer**

Box 12  **Roundup, The 1985-2012**  
**Scope and Contents**  

Articles by Abraham Hoffman are in each of the issues.

Box 12  **Teaching History: A Journal of Methods 2015 Spring**

Box 12  **Valley, The 1997 October**  
**General Note**  
Journal of the San Fernando Valley Historical Society

Box 12  **War Chief, The 1972 September**

Box 13  **Western States Jewish History 2007-2013**  
**General Note**  
6 issues.

Box 10  **Comic Books 1967-1987**  
**General Note**  
The comic books in this collection are known as "underground comix." Unlike typical children's comic books such as Archie or Spiderman, underground comix are geared to an adult audience, portraying themes that are socially relevant or satirical in nature. Unlike mainstream comics, underground comix often depict explicit drug use, sexuality, and violence-- content forbidden to mainstream publications by the Comics Code Authority. These titles were termed "comix" in order to differentiate them from mainstream publications. The "x" also emphasized the x-rated contents of the publications. This "genre" of comic book was most popular in the United States between 1968 and 1975, and in the United Kingdom between 1973 and 1974. Well-known comix creators included Robert Crumb, Gilbert Shelton, Trina Robbins, Spain Rodriguez, among others. Dr. Hoffman's collection of 53 comix includes titles published by Last Gasp, Print Mint, etc., and feature the works of Robert Crumb, Gilbert Shelton, and other well-known comix artists. The files are arranged in alphabetical order by title.

Box 10, Folder 1  **Alien Encounters #11 1987**

Box 10, Folder 2  **Alien Encounters #12 1987**

Box 10, Folder 3  **Alien Encounters #13 1987**

Box 10, Folder 4  **Armageddon #1 1972**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 10, Folder 5</th>
<th>Armageddon #2 1972</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 6</td>
<td>Armageddon #3 1973</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 7</td>
<td>Bakersfield Kountry Komics 1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 8</td>
<td>Big Ass Comics 1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 9</td>
<td>Bijou #3 1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 10</td>
<td>Bijou #4 1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 11</td>
<td>Bijou #8 1972</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 12</td>
<td>Captain Guts #2 1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 13</td>
<td>Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers 1972</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 14</td>
<td>Feds 'N' Heads 1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 15</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! 1976</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 16</td>
<td>It Aint Me Babe 1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 17</td>
<td>Jesus Comics #2 1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 18</td>
<td>Mom's Homemade Comics #2 1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 19</td>
<td>Mother's Oats Comix 1969</td>
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<td>Motor City Comics #2 1970</td>
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<td>Mr. Natural 1970</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 23</td>
<td>Real Pulp Comics #2 1973</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 24</td>
<td>Ric Sloane Comics #1 1969</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 25</td>
<td>Ruby the Dyke 1968</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 26</td>
<td>San Francisco Comic Book #2 1970</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 27</td>
<td>Skull Comics #1 1970</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 28</td>
<td>Skull Comics, Vol. 1, #2 1970</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 29</td>
<td>Slow Death #1 1970</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 30</td>
<td>Slow Death #2 1970</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 31</td>
<td>Slow Death #3 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 32</td>
<td>Slow Death #5 1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 33</td>
<td>Star Reach #1 1974</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 34</td>
<td>Star Reach #2 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 35</td>
<td>Star Reach #3 1975</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 36</td>
<td>Star Reach #4 1976</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 37</td>
<td>Tales from the Ozone #2 1970</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 38</td>
<td>Tuff Shit 1972</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 39</td>
<td>Uneeda Comix 1970</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 40</td>
<td>White Lunch Comix #1 1972</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 41</td>
<td>Yellow Dog Comics, Vol.2, #13 1969</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 42</td>
<td>Yellow Dog Comics #17 1969</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 43</td>
<td>Yellow Dog Comics #18 1970</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 44</td>
<td>Young Lust #1 1970</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 45</td>
<td>Young Lust #2 1971</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 46</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 47</td>
<td>Zap Comix #1 1967</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 51</td>
<td>Zap Comix #5</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 52</td>
<td>Zap #7 1974</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 53</td>
<td>Zap Comics #8 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Research Materials 1967-1989

Scope and Contents

This series is comprised of five three-ring binders of photocopied articles, abstracts, and book reviews of various history topics, presumably for Dr. Hoffman's history courses.
Los Angeles Corral of Westerners 1981-1999

Scope and Contents
This series is comprised of Abe Hoffman's meeting notes, correspondence, and Round-up notices of the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners. Also included in this series are Hoffman's Los Angeles and the Owens Valley: Essays on a Century-Long Water Dispute (Keepsake 48 of the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners) and Cowboy Poetry (Keepsake 2016).

E Clampus Vitus 1987-2018

Scope and Contents
E Clampus Vitus (ECV) is a fraternal organization dedicated to the preservation of the heritage of the American West, especially the history of the Mother Lode and gold mining regions of the area. There are chapters in California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Outposts in other western states. Members call themselves "Clampers." (More information on the organization and its history can be found at one of the chapter websites: http://www.eclampusvitus.net/history.htm.)

As a Southern California Clamper, Hoffman belongs to two chapters--Platrix Chapter #2 and Billy Holcomb Chapter. He is also a member of T.R.A.S.H.--the Trans Sierra Roisterous Alliance of Senior Humbugs. This series consists of publications, correspondence, and ephemera regarding E. Clampus Vitus and its chapters.

Trans-Sierra Alliance of Senior Humbugs (T.R.A.S.H.) 1990-2016

Scope and Contents
The Trans-Sierra Roisterous Alliance of Senior Humbugs (T.R.A.S.H.) is an independent, at-large affiliate of E Clampus Vitus which was created to promote and foster the cultural heritage and history of the West, and to seek and explore the trails and towns of the past. Created in 1974 by Marshall Fey, Julia C. Bulette, and Carl Briggs, TRASH's first trek included the Dog Valley portion of the Donner Trail in the summer of 1975. Treks have been conducted every year since then; guidebooks have been published every year since 1979.

Dr. Hoffman's papers include eleven TRASH guides spanning twenty years, most of them published after 2000. The TRASH guides are arranged chronologically.

Box 3, Item 1
James P. Beckwourth, Pathfinder 1990
Box 3, Item 2
Owens Valley, The 1996
Box 3, Item 3
Ghost Towns, Mining, Pony Express and Railroads in White Pine County, Nevada 2005
Box 3, Item 4
Johnson Pass Route from Lake Bigler to Old Hangtown 2006
Box 3, Item 5
Hastings Cutoff (with maps and handouts) 2008
Box 3, Item 6
Rails and Tales of Southwest Nevada 2009
Box 3, Item 7
Beale Wagon Road, The 2010
Box 3, Item 8
Portola Expedition Through the Central Coast, The 2011
Box 3, Item 9
Walker Pass and the Kern River Valley 2013
Box 3, Item 10
Portola Mission to Paradise 2015
Box 3, Item 11
Mojave Road and Lanfair Valley 2016

Box 4
Billy Holcomb Chapter 1069 1995-2018

Scope and Contents
Billy Holcomb 1069 is a chapter of the Ancient and Honorable E Clampus Vitus located in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Founded in 1969, the chapter is dedicated to the preservation of history of the old West through plaque dedicating and education of its members.

The materials in this box consist of articles on the west prepared for "clampouts," picnics, and other events and cover topics such as saving the Salton Sea, pocket mining in the San Jacintos, Saratoga Springs, etc.
Box 5

**Platrix Chapter No. 2 1997-2019**

**Scope and Contents**

Platrix Chapter No.2 is the chapter of E Clampus Vitus covering the areas of Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties, including Catalina Island. The materials in this box contain the "clamper" publications of this chapter as well as ephemera related to clampouts and other activities. Also included in this box is B.T. Fripps's *The Secret History of Southern California*, edited by Abraham Hoffman. A folder of correspondence and membership information is part of these materials.

Box 5

**E Clampus Vitus: Miscellaneous**

**Scope and Contents**

This file includes general information on E Clampus Vitus, as well as ephemera and correspondence from chapters other than Billy Holcomb 1069 or Platrix No. 2. Some of the flyers are for events which include more than one chapter.

**Personal Papers 1976-2018**

**Box 5**

**Awards and Certificates 1977-2018**

**Scope and Contents**

This file includes several of Hoffman's certificates of recognition and awards including those from the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners, Westerners International, Los Angeles Valley College, etc. Many of the awards are for books or poetry published.

**Books 1981-2018**

**Box 11**

- McClure, Paul et al. *A Swingin' Tragedy Starring Spade Cooley* 2018
- Whitnah, Donald R., ed. *Government Agencies* 1983
- Brigandi, Paul, ed. *An Orange Shelf: Sixty Books about the History of Orange County, California* 2018
- James, Cheewa. *The Modoc War* 2013