

## **Finding Aid to the Robin White Papers, 1987-1994 (1993-26)**

### **Extent:**

1 box (.2 Linear Feet)

### **Acquisition:**

Gift of Robin White on December 23, 1993

### **Access:**

Collection is open for research with the following exception: FaerieStock '92 directory is restricted. Please contact the Managing Archivist for more information.

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Robin White Papers, 1993-26, The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

### **Processed by:**

Jason Goldstein, April 1997; finding aid revised by Marjorie Bryer, July 2011. Funding for processing this collection was provided by National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

### **Creator:**

White, Robin

## **Scope and Content of Collection**

Robin White, a member of the local Santa Cruz Coordinating Council (CoCo) of Nomenus has gathered the minutes of the various councils. Nomenus, as Article III of its by-laws state, "exists to create, preserve and manage places of cultural/spiritual sanctuary for radical faeries and their friends to gather in harmony with nature, for renewal, growth and shared learning."

It is difficult to characterize a group which in its very nature resists definition. Though there are many urban Faeries, country life and the pursuit of a harmonious relationship with Nature and its forces are important for many Radical Faeries. To help achieve this relationship, many gatherings of Radical Faeries incorporate ritual, often Pagan, in their program. The Faeries attempt thus also to create a tribal consciousness.

Though there is much group activity, there is little if any need to conform. To the contrary, the Faeries are just as serious about getting in touch with their individual inner natures as they are to harmonize themselves to outside natural forces. Members are open and experimental in dress and gender identity, wearing jewelry, make-up, etc. in styles of both genders. This fluid aspect extends to the group's meetings, where members speak from "the heart," with very few rules of organization or debate limitations. The Radical Faeries have been publishing a magazine (RFD) since 1974 providing insight into their activities and philosophy.

Minutes from the San Francisco, Santa Fe, Santa Cruz and Wolf Creek Councils of Nomenus (1989-1992) are included in the papers. Coordinating councils were formed as “branches” of Nomenus whose home location is San Francisco. The minutes of the various coordinating councils were distributed monthly, along with notices of gatherings and other information of interest to the membership. After 1992 please see the periodical “Rad dish” for the CoCo minutes. An interesting aspect of these mailings was the sometime inclusion of an open “letter” or “essay” for general consideration and discussion. For instance, the essay, “Farewell to Childhood” (in file: Minutes and Correspondence, 1989) by Ben Gardiner raises the issues of whether the land trust is realistic given financial, inter-personal, and resource (e.g. water well) problems. The membership response which followed demonstrates the tone and interest in the issues presented in the correspondence. The written discussion and responses are lengthy and sometimes verbatim. Given the individualistic and independent disposition of most of the membership, this system of communication worked surprisingly well. Issues were always discussed at length, though not always resolved.

In addition, there are files containing planning notes for the Radical Faerie gatherings, and pamphlets, flyers, etc. related to the Faeries and other activities. Finally, there is a long (65 pages) essay or narrative entitled, “Who are the Radical Faeries and What do They do in the Woods,” which gives one member’s rather personal view on the major issues and challenges of the organization.

### **Related Materials at the GLBT Historical Society**

Will Roscoe papers and Gay American Indian records, 1987-04  
Walter "Butterfly" Blumoff papers and photographs, 1991-22  
Bradley Rose papers, 1996-49  
John Kyper collection of gay liberation ephemera and publications, 2005-19  
“RFD,” “Nomenews,” “The Rad dish: The News of the Minutes” and “The Faery Land News” in the Periodical Collection

### **Container List**

#### **Nomenus**

By-Laws, 1987  
Minutes, Correspondence, 1989-1992

#### **Radical Faeries**

Planning Notes for Gatherings  
Flyers, Invitations, etc.  
Pamphlets

Directory of Gay & Lesbian Public Access Broadcast Programming (Wilkins, John), 1991  
“Who Are the Radical Faeries” thesis  
Notes related to Walter Blumoff  
Men’s Network, Nomenus, Billy’s Winter Wilding, 1993-1994, undated  
FaerieStock ’92 Directory [**RESTRICTED**]

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GLBT Historical Society

1993-26  
<http://www.glbthistory.org/research/index.html>