

Finding Aid to the M.J. Talbot Papers

(#1999-26)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: M.J. Talbot papers

Collection Number: 1999-26

Physical Description: 2.6 linear feet (4 manuscript boxes and 1 carton)

Creator: Talbot, M.J.

Date (inclusive): 1968-2002

Date (bulk): 1986-2000

Language of Material: English, Chinese

Abstract:

Papers of M.J. Talbot, an activist who played a leading role in the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA), GAPA Community HIV Project (GCHP), and the Asian Pacific AIDS Coalition. Included are organizational records and ephemera related to GAPA, GCHP, Asian Pacific AIDS Coalition and other organizations; video recordings of GAPA events; audio recordings of interviews and radio programs on gay and/or Asian American topics; papers and artifacts documenting Talbot's work life, including with the 2000 U.S. Census and China Airlines; periodicals; and a small number of folders documenting his personal relationships.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], M.J. Talbot papers (1999-26), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

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reproduction of materials protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by M.J. Talbot in 1999 and 2023.

Processing Information:

Collection reprocessed and new finding aid created by Devin McGeehan Muchmore in 2024 with funding provided by the National Archives' National Historical Publications & Records Commission.

The collection was originally arranged and described in 2001 by Willie Walker. Marjorie Bryer updated the finding aid in 2011. McGeehan Muchmore reorganized most of the materials in the organizational files and publications into new folders, and retitled a majority of files to better reflect their content. M.J. Talbot contributed to the biographical note.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical Note:

M. J. (Michael James) Talbot is a Eurasian gay man and activist who lived in San Francisco from the summer of 1967 until 2001. Born in Hong Kong in 1949, Talbot moved to the United States at 16. He graduated from Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco in 1968 and subsequently attended the University of San Francisco for 3 years. Talbot worked as a paralegal before beginning a 22 year career as a flight attendant with China Airlines. He left China Airlines in 1999 to work as a recruiter for the 2000 Census, a job he took with the goal of ensuring maximum Asian American and LGBTQ participation.

Talbot played a leading role in a number of Bay Area gay, Asian American, and HIV/AIDS advocacy organizations. He was a member of the Association of Lesbian and Gay Asians (ALGA). In 1984, he co-founded (with Rich Johnson) Pacific Friends, a mixed-race social club. Talbot was also a founding member of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA). He served as the GAPA historian during its first four years. Later he became a member of GAPA Men's Chorus and the Golden Gate Men's Chorus. Talbot was active in the GAPA Community HIV Project (GCHP - later renamed the Living Well Project) and the Asian Pacific AIDS Coalition, and also served on the board of the Asian AIDS Project.

In 2001, Talbot moved with his partner Michael Lyon to Hilo, Hawaii. In Hawaii, Talbot and Lyon volunteered for several of the now U.S. Representative Ed Case's campaigns.

Talbot and Lyon have lived in Tucson, Arizona since 2003 (as of August 2024).

Scope and Content:

The M.J. Talbot papers contain materials accumulated during his years as an activist, flight attendant, and U.S. Census worker living in San Francisco. Included are organizational records and ephemera related to GAPA, GCHP, Asian Pacific AIDS Coalition and other organizations; a file documenting the founding and early work of GCHP; and meeting agendas and minutes, event ephemera, performance recordings, and artifacts documenting the work and culture of GAPA from 1990 to 1997. The collection also contains audio recordings of interviews and radio programs on gay and/or Asian American topics; materials documenting Talbot's work life, including a thick file related to the 2000 U.S. Census and artifacts from China Airlines; periodicals and newsletters on gay and/or Asian American topics; a small number of folders documenting his personal relationships; t-shirts; and other artifacts.

Indexing Terms:

LGBTQ

Gay men

Asian Americans

Activism

AIDS (disease)

Theater

Gay Asian Pacific Alliance

San Francisco (Calif.)

Materials Separated:

The following publications were removed to the GLBT Historical Society Periodical Collection (GLBT-PER) in April 2004: *Asian + Friends* (January 1989, December 1989, January 1990, February 1990, August 1991); *Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays, Inc.* (February 1990); and issues of the Pacific Friends newsletter.

Container Listing

Series I: Personal Files, circa 1980s-2002

Physical Description: 14 folders

Scope and Content: This series includes paper materials related to Talbot's work and personal relationships, including a file of materials related to his roommate Jerry Ho, and files

documenting his work as a recruiter for the 2000 U.S. Census. Artifacts related to Talbot's work for the Census and as a flight attendant with China Airlines can be found in Carton 1.

Arrangement: alphabetical

Box 1:Folders 1-2	2000 Census, 1999-2000 <i>Scope and Content:</i> Records related to Talbot's work as a recruiter for the 2000 U.S. Census, including forms documenting site visits with dozens of LGBT, HIV/AIDS, and API-focused organizations in the Bay Area. According to a note by Talbot in this file, "I left a full time position @ Virgin Atlantic Airways to work temp @ the 2000 Census because I wanted to make sure the LGBT & API communities were not left out!"
1:3	Correspondence and other material related to Jerry Ho, 1986-1995
1:4	Correspondence, General, 1989-1994
1:5	Emails, 1997-2002
1:6	Event programs, 1985-2000
1:7-8; 2:1	Fundraising appeals to M.J. Talbot, 1991-2001
2:2	Hoover Lee and Richard Ty Hing 25th Anniversary Celebration, 1997
2:3	Membership and business cards, circa 1980s-2001
2:4	Personal ads, circa 1990s
2:5	Petition about Roberta Achtenberg's Board of Supervisors seat, 1993
2:6	Voided will, circa 1980s-1990s

Series II: Organizational Files, circa 1980s-1990s

Physical Description: 0.4 linear feet (19 folders)

Scope and Content: This series includes organizational records and ephemera accumulated by Talbot in the course of his activism with GAPA and other organizations.

Arrangement: alphabetically

Box 2:Folder 7	Asian AIDS Task Force, circa 1986-1988 <i>Scope and Content:</i> Includes Chinese-language notes for an Asian AIDS Task Force meetings handwritten on the back of a 1986 Asian Lesbians
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	and Gays Association meeting agenda and budget report.
2:8	Asian American Recovery Services, 1988
2:9	Asian Lesbians and Gays Association of Philadelphia, circa 1980s-1990s
2:10	Asian/Pacific AIDS Coalition, 1989-1996
2:11	API Quilt Panel Project, 1995
2:12	Coalition for Healthy Sex, circa 1993-1996
2:13	East Bay Asian AIDS Coordinating Committee, 1988
2:14	Filipinos and Friends, circa 1980s-1990s
2:15	GAPA 35 Plus, circa 1996-1999
2:16	GAPA Anti-Racism Task Force, 1993 <i>Scope and Content:</i> Includes several completed forms that recorded the number of “portrayal[s] of racial minorities” in the lesbian and gay press in San Francisco.
2:17	GAPA Board communications, 1990-1996
2:18	GAPA event programs and ephemera, 1990-1996
2:19	GAPA meeting agendas and minutes, 1990, 1996-1997
2:20	GAPA membership and guest lists, 1990-1996
2:21	GAPA Runway, 1996
2:22-23	GCHP, 1989-1990, 1994 <i>Scope and Content:</i> Records documenting GCHP’s founding and early work, including early meeting minutes, articles of incorporation, and funding proposals.
3:1	ILGA, 1989-1990
3:2	Pacific Friends, 1988-1998

Series III: Publications, 1968, 1982-1995

Physical Description: 0.3 linear feet (3 folders)

Box 3:Folder 3	<i>Art of Young America</i> , 1968
3:4	Magazines, 1982-1993 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rice</i>, 1987 December/1988 January; 1988 August • <i>Christopher Street</i>, vol. 6 no. 2, 1982

3:5

- *Island Lifestyle*, 1993 May

Newsletters, 1988-1995

- *BWMT Bridge*, 1989 December; 1990 January
- *Bay Area Bisexual Network Newsletter*, 1990 February/March
- Men of All Colors Together newsletter, 1989 December; 1990 January
- *The Center Voice: Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center Newsletter*, 1989 December
- *Speaking for Ourselves: Lesbian & Gay Elected and Appointed Officials and Candidates*, 1990 January-February
- *The Eye Opener: A Bi-Annual Publication of the Asian Youth Substance Abuse Project (AYSAP)*, 1989 Fall
- *Asian American Network: A Publication of the National Asian American Telecommunications Association; AsianNeighborhoodDesign Newslite*, 1990 Spring
- *InformAsian: The Voice of Gay Asian Pacific Support Network*, 1990 January; 1995 November
- *Silk Road: A Publication of Asians & Friends—Washington*, 1990 February/March
- Asians & Friends Dallas newsletter, 1991 May

Series IV: Audiovisual Recordings, 1981-1994, undated

Physical Description: 0.4 linear feet (1 manuscript box)

Box 4

Audio cassettes:

- KPFA *Lavender Air* episode, "Gay Asian Americans," 1981 April 2
Scope and Content: KPFA radio program; Side 1: Program about discrimination against Asian Americans at gay bars in San Francisco and an excerpt from the Asian American Theater Collective's Coda.; Side 2: Program that looks into the lives of five Asian American men
- BANGLE Scholarship Interview, 1991 July 1
Scope and Content: Gina, Christian, Julie, Ron, M.J. Talbot and Francisco Mattos talk about the

Bobby Griffith Memorial Scholarship, which is given to lesbian and gay students in the Bay Area who seek to make positive change for the LGBT community. Scholarship recipients speak about their experiences being out in high school, how the queer community can help queer youth and the importance of services for queer youth and families in other languages.

- Talk at Cameron House, 1991 July 1
Scope and Content: Talk at Cameron House about HIV testing and peoples' experience testing positive.
- Hoover Lee Interview, 1992 June 5
Scope and Content: M.J. Talbot and Francisco Mattos interview Hoover Lee about the GAPA (Gay Asian Pacific Alliance), empowerment, discrimination, politics in the Chinese American community in San Francisco, the history and gentrification of Chinatown, and his personal life and hope for the future.
- "Prayot Anusak," 1992 June 12
Scope and Content: Dino Duazo, Freddie Niem, and FM Francisco Mattos interview Prayot Anusak about his experience making erotic film, bigotry in the gay community and what his ideal erotic film would look like.
- "Cockumentary: The Madness And the Method" showing and talk, 1992 July 1
Scope and Content: Pablo B., Dino Duazo, Manny D., Craig Y., Prescott C., Jesse C., and Francisco Mattos share their reactions to Cockumentary: The Madness and the Method and the need to make erotic films for their community and that demonstrate safe sex.
- J. Craig Fong Interview, 1993 February 13
Scope and Content: Leo Joslin, Maurice Hoo and Francisco Mattos interview J. Craig Fong about his experience as a corporate lawyer, his transition to a civil rights lawyer at the Asian Pacific Legal

Center, his work to remove the ban on HIV positive immigrants and visitors and what it means to be a representative.

- Douglas A. Yaranon Memorial at Mission Dolores, 1994 August 14

Box 4

VHS tapes:

- “ExtravaGAPA 2,” © GAPA, undated
- “Floating Lanterns,” © GAPA, 1994
- “ExtravaGAPA,” 1990
- “GAPA Lunar New Year Dinner,” undated
- “GAPA New Year Parade ’94-Edit”/Gay Pride Parade-’94-GAPA Dragon/Rough Guide-SF Gay Community
- “Godzilla Sings,” © GAPA, 1994
- “Reflections,” © GAPA Dance Company, undated
- One unlabeled VHS

Series V: Artifacts, T-shirts, and Other Material, circa 1980s-1990s

Physical Description: 1.25 linear feet (1 carton and 4 folders)

Scope and Content: This series includes awards, t-shirts, and other objects related to Talbot’s work and activism, including GAPA and China Airlines. Also included are several clippings and ephemera folders.

Arrangement: alphabetical

Carton 1	41st birthday plaque from Lawrence Wong, 1990 May 26
Carton 1	China Airlines Plaque, 1986 <i>Scope and Content:</i> A plaque in commemoration of Talbot’s 10 years of work with China Airlines.
Carton 1	China Airlines pin and business card, circa 1980s
Carton 1	Census 2000 pin, circa 1999-2000
Carton 1	Four astrological coins, undated
Carton 1	Gilded Age box, circa 1980s <i>Scope and Content:</i> A box from the Castro Street gift shop Gilded Age.
Carton 1	GAPA Man of the Year cloth sash, 1990

	<i>Scope and Content:</i> A sash, held in wrapping paper, awarded to Talbot as GAPA's third Man of the Year.
Carton 1	Lavender Godzilla stamp, circa 1990s
3:6	Miscellaneous clippings, 1988-1995
3:7-9	Other ephemera, circa 1980s-1990s (2 folders)
Carton 1	Roi Naumer "My May Cu," undated <i>Scope and Content:</i> A handmade book by a high school student using the pen name Roi Naumer. The book includes a poem about Talbot and is illustrated by Talbot, under the name Myque.
Carton 1	Scott Hammond photograph depicting 1985 International Lesbian & Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee, 1985
Carton 1	T-shirts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GAPA/Lavender Godzilla (5 shirts), circa 1990s ● GAPA Dance Co., circa 1990s ● Pacific Friends, circa 1990s ● "Queer 'n Asian," circa 1990s ● Golden Gate Men's Chorus 10 year Anniversary, 1992 ● SF Jacks 890 Folsom, circa 1990s
Carton 1	Two gold dragon pins, circa 1990s <i>Scope and content:</i> Pins made by Kek Tee Lim for GAPA board members.
Carton 1	"Vote Suzie Wong For Empress" paper fan, circa 2000