



## **Matt Hoffman leather collection, 1978-1993 : Ms.Coll.56**

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Finding aid prepared by Toby Makowski on December 8, 2017

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center
<b>Title:</b>	Matt Hoffman leather collection
<b>ID:</b>	Ms.Coll.56
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1978-1993
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.5 Cubic Feet (4 flat boxes and 1 hat box)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Matt P. Hoffman (1954-1995) was a gay man who worked as the general manager for the Bike Stop, "Philadelphia's Leather Bar since 1982," and who was active in gay male leather subculture. The Matt Hoffman leather collection is comprised of objects dated from 1978 to 1993, including leather clothing and accessories, pins and buttons, and kink paraphernalia.

### Preferred Citation

Matt Hoffman leather collection, 1978-1993, Ms. Coll. 56, John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia, PA.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Matthew Peter Hoffman was born in Allentown, PA on June 12, 1954. He graduated Liberty High School in Bethlehem, PA (where he was in a band with the the future actor Jonathan Frakes from Star Trek: The Next Generation) and attended West Chester University for a B.A, in political science, graduating cum laude in 1976. He worked as a bartender at the Cell Block and DCA clubs (1221 St. James Street) from 1979 to 1984, whereupon he became the general manager at the Bike Stop, a gay leather bar. He was lovingly called "Miss-Management" by his coworkers. Hoffman used his position at the Bike Stop to run fundraisers for HIV/AIDS campaigns. Hoffman was well known for his kindness and his community involvement and a Matt Hoffman Community Service Award was given in the late 1990s through the 2000s by the owner of the Bike Stop.

Outside of bartending work Hoffman was a movie projectionist for over a decade, amassing a deep love and knowledge of film which he used on theme night at the Bike Stop. He was also an avid hot-air balloonist, co-piloting in festivals with his partner, David Caswell (1954-1991). Hoffman was also very active in the gay male leather subculture and helped found the annual Philadelphia Mr. Leather Contest in 1983, which often took place at the Bike Stop. Hoffman was a member of the Companions Motorcycle Club and an associate member of the Philadelphians Motorcycle Club. He died in August 14, 1995 at the age of 41 from AIDS related complications. A community memorial was held at the Bike Stop.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection is comprised of leather gear, organized loosely by material type and purpose: clothing, paraphernalia, and buttons, pins, belt-buckles and ribbons. The collection was assembled by local activist John Cunningham after the death of Matt Hoffman. Most of the items belonged to Hoffman, though a few came from other members of the Philadelphia leather community, including Cunningham (studded leather belt, leather cap), Raymond Lapalme (black and yellow arm band), and others.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift, John Cunningham, 2014

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Some of Hoffman's leather-themed t-shirts, also donated by John Cunningham, are in the Wilcox Archive's LGBT T-shirt collection.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Gay men
- Leather bars
- Leather contests
- Motorcycle clubs
- Hoffman, Matt , 1954-1995
- The Bike Stop (Philadelphia, Pa.)

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
Leather gloves, undated	Box 1
Leather jock strap, undated	Box 1
International Male leather pants, undated	Box 1
Black On Black leather pants, undated	Box 1
Leather vest, undated	Box 1

Leather cap, undated	Box 5
Lab goggles, undated	Box 2
Leather belt holster, undated	Box 2
Metal arm band, undated	Box 2
Black bandana, undated	Box 2
Checked bandana, undated	Box 2
Studded leather and chain leg hobbles, undated	Box 2
Studded leather belt, undated	Box 2
Studded leather arm band, undated	Box 2
Black and yellow leather arm band, undated	Box 2
Leather chest harness, undated	Box 2
Chain epaulet, undated	Box 2
Leather cock ring with snap, undated	Box 2
Leather vampire mitt, undated	Box 3
Leather tawse, undated	Box 3
Leather flogger, undated	Box 3
Leather cock and ball strap, undated	Box 3
Handcuffs, undated	Box 3
Nipple clamps, undated	Box 3
Metal chain, undated	Box 3
Bag of wooden clothespins, undated	Box 3
Studded leather collar, undated	Box 3
Self-adhesive velcro strip, undated	Box 3
Spiked leather collar, undated	Box 3
Leather leash, undated	Box 3
Buttons, pins, belt buckles, name tags, spurs, keychains, awards, and prize ribbons, 1978 - 1993, undated	Box 4
Cards and ephemera, undated	Box 4