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### Order of the Alamo Records, 1909-1990

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## Order of the Alamo Records, 1909-1990

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Order of the Alamo
<b>Title:</b>	Order of the Alamo Records
<b>Dates:</b>	1909-1990
<b>Creator Abstract:</b>	Formed in 1909 by John B. Carrington, the Order of the Alamo was created to formalize the selection of royalty for Fiesta San Jacinto.
<b>Content Abstract:</b>	Consisting of correspondence, minutes, financial records, printed material and photographs, the records of the Order of the Alamo provide a glimpse of the organization of the coronation of the Queen of Fiesta, a part of the annual Fiesta San Antonio.
<b>Identification:</b>	Col 6096
<b>Extent:</b>	14 document boxes, 5 oversize boxes
<b>Language:</b>	Materials are in English
<b>Repository:</b>	DRT Collection at Texas A&M University-San Antonio

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### Biographical Note

Originating as part of the early development of San Antonio's Spring carnival, Fiesta San Jacinto, the Order the Alamo was created to formalize the selection of royalty for the event. The brainchild of local businessman John B. Carrington, its membership consisted of socially prominent local men, who chose the queen and duchesses for Fiesta beginning in 1909, shortly after the creation of the Order of the Alamo.

The pattern for the selection and coronation of the Queen was established at the beginning: a queen, princess, and duchesses were selected by Order members from prominent local families. Several young women from around the state were chosen as the visiting court, representing their hometowns. The pageantry of the coronation was completed by attendants to the queen and duchesses, and others playing various courtly roles. A Mistress of the Royal Robes, appointed by the Order, became responsible for the increasingly elaborate coronation gowns. Each coronation court was organized around a theme, usually with historical or literary ties.

As the annual coronation became established, the organization formed committees to handle various aspects of the event, such as selection of duchesses, social events associated with the coronation, and functions like finance and publicity. Several individuals were hired each year to provide services, including the design and creation of costumes, construction of stage sets, writing of the coronation script, and choreography for the event. Music was also part of the pageant, and a featured performance was usually included.

The Order of the Alamo's coronation ceremony has been part of every Fiesta since the inception of the organization, other than the years during the two world wars, when the festivities were cancelled.

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## **Scope and Content Note**

Consisting of correspondence, minutes, financial records, printed material and photographs, the records of the Order of the Alamo provide a glimpse of the organization of the coronation of the Queen of Fiesta, a part of the annual Fiesta San Antonio. While far from complete, there is a concentration of records for certain time periods and activities.

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## **Restrictions**

### **Access Restrictions**

No restrictions. The collection is open for research.

### **Usage Restrictions**

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Order of the Alamo Records, 1909-1990, Col 6096, DRT Collection at Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of the Order of the Alamo 1990, 1993

## Processing Information

Processed by Warren Stricker, 2003, April.

Edited by Rebeka Delgado, 2020 June.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Order of the Alamo Records, 1909-1990

The records have been organized into six series:

#### I. General organization records

The bulk of this series is made up of general correspondence and minutes of the meetings of the membership and the board of directors. The minutes are fairly complete from the late 1910s through the early 1920s, the mid 1930s until the onset of World War II, and the mid-1960s through the early 1970s. Those from other time periods are fragmentary or missing entirely. Also included here are bylaws, lists of members, and other lists.

Box	Folder	
		Articles of incorporation, 1914, 1963-1964 (photocopies)
1	1	Bylaws, 1923-1973, n.d.
1	2	Correspondence
1	3	1916-1921
1	4	1931-1936
1	5	1937
1	6	1938-1939
1	7	1940
1	8	1941
1	9	1944
1	10	1945
1	11	1946-1947
1	12	1963, 1969
1	13	1972-1974

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
1	14	1975
1	15	1976
		Minutes
1	16	1913
1	17	1916-1918
1	18	1919-1920
1	19	1920-1921
1	20	1921-1922
1	21	1923
1	22	1935-1936
1	23	1936-1937
1	24	1937-1938
2	25	1938-1939
2	26	1939-1940
2	27	1940-1941
2	28	1965-1966
2	29	1966-1967
2	30	1967-1968
2	31	1968-1969
2	32	1969-1970
2	33	1970-1971
2	34	1971-1972
		Lists
		General membership
2	35	1909-1915
2	36	1916-1917
2	37	1920-1924
2	38	1932
2	39	1933

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
2	40	1936
2	41	1940
2	42	1941
2	43	1944 military list
2	44	Officers and committees
2	45	Mistresses of the Royal Robes
2	46	Queen
2	47	Press releases
2	48	Notes

## II. Officers and committees

Organized into subseries by the elected officials and appointed committees of the Order, found here are a variety of records associated with the activities of each. In the case of officers, documentation is generally limited to those records retained by individuals who held the position, usually representing one or two specific terms of office. In some cases, committee records are more extensive; in the case of the Coronation Committee, the records from the 1930s provide much detail on the organization of the event, particularly the selection of a featured musical performer for the coronation. From that same time period, the records of the Out-of-town Court Committee provide correspondence and notes on the selection of duchesses from outside San Antonio. Several notebooks and files of officers and committee chairs dating from the mid-1970s also provide a thorough, if brief, record. In all cases, the records consist of correspondence, financial documents, notes, and various other items.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
		President
3	49	Notes and instructions
3	50	General notebook, 1974-1975
3	51-52	Subject notebook, 1974-1975
3	53-56	General file, 1975-1976
		Treasurer
3	57	Notes and instructions
3	58	Tax-related information, 1931-1939

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
3	59	Account and investment information, 1936-1938
		Secretary
3	60	Notebook, 1969-1971
		Coronation committee
		General files
3	61	1916
3	62	1917
3	63	1920
3	64	1923
3	65	1924
3	66	1932
4	67	1933
4	68	1935
4	69	1936
4	70-71	1937
4	72-73	1938
4	74	1939
4	75	1941
Oversize box 17		Costume designs, 1937, 1938
		Chairman's notebook
4	76	1973-1974
4	77	1973-1974, bills etc.
4	78	Coronation script, 1974
4	79	Chairman's notebook, 1974-1975
4	80	Coronation script, 1975
5	81	Featured entertainment: printed material
5	82	Featured entertainment: photographs
		In-town court committee
5	83	Notes and instructions

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
5	84	General material, 1974-1975
		Out-of-town court committee
		General material
5	85	1916
5	86	1917
5	87	1930
5	88-92	1931
5	93-95	1932
6	96-98	1933
6	99-103	1934
6	104-106	1935
6	107-108	1936
7	109	1937
7	110	1938
7	111	1939
7	112-113	1972
		Public Relations Committee
7	114	Notes and instructions
		General material
7	115	1957-1958
7	116	1961
7	117	1962
		Queen's Ball committee
7	118	Notes and instructions
		General material
7	119	1936
7	120	1937



<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
		Fiesta Committee
7	121	Notes and instructions
		Mistress of the Robes
		Schedule and instructions
7	122	1968-1969
7	123	1970-1971

### III. Financial records

This series contains a fairly complete set of audit reports and brief budgetary statements dating from about 1930-1946, and scattered examples from other dates. Bills and checks provide a detailed record of expenditures from coronations of the 1930s. Ledgers gather general income and expense documentation from 1959-1972.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
		Audits, budgets, statements, etc.
8	124	1915-1916
8	125	1930-1931
8	126	1931-1932
8	127	1933-1934
8	128	1934-1935
8	129	1935-1936
8	130	1936-1937
8	131	1937-1938
8	132	1938-1939
8	133	1939-1940
8	134	1940-1941
8	135	1941-1942
8	136	1942-1945
8	137	1945-1946
8	138	1968-1969
8	139	1972-1973

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
8	140	1973-1974
8	141	1975-1976
8	142	Expense accounts and memoranda
		Bills
8	143	1932
8	144	1934
8	145	1935
8	146	1936
8	147	1937
8	148	1938
8	149	1939
8	150	1941
		Checks
9	151	1932
9	152	1933
9	153	1934
9	154	1935
9	155	1936
9	156	1938
9	157	1939
9	158	1941
		Ledgers
Oversize Box 16		1959-1967 1967-1972
		Insurance
9	159	1934, 1943
		Accounts
9	160	Account books, 1930, 1940

#### IV. Printed material

Found here is an extensive selection of coronation programs dating from 1920-1990. In most cases, these are souvenir programs that include photographs of the queen and duchesses and a description of the coronation. Also in the series are examples of invitations to Order of the Alamo events, newspaper clippings and newspapers, and the organization's annual yearbook, fairly complete from 1954-1974.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
		Programs
		Coronation
10	161	1920
10	162	1924
10	163	1927
10	164	1928
10	165	1929
10	166	1930
10	167	1931
10	168	1932
10	169	1933
10	170	1934
10	171	1935
10	172	1936
10	173	1937
10	174	1938
10	175	1939
10	176	1940
10	177	1941
10	178	1946
10	179	1949
10	180	1954
10	181	1955
10	182	1958

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
10	183	1959
11	184	1960
11	185	1961
11	186	1962
11	187	1963
11	188	1964
11	189	1965
11	190	1966
11	191	1967
11	192	1968
11	193	1969
11	194	1970
11	195	1971
11	196	1972
11	197	1973
11	198	1974
12	199	1975
12	200	1976
12	201	1979
12	202	1985
12	203	1990
		Invitations
		Sent
12	204	1910s
12	205	1930s
12	206	1940s
12	207	1950s
12	208	1960s
12	209	1970s

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
12	210	Received
Oversize box 17		Received (oversize)
12	211	Tickets
		Dance card
12	212	1920
		Clippings
12	213	1923
12	214	1924
12	215	1930
12	216	1931
12	217	1933
12	218	1964
12	219	1967
12	220	1976
		Newspapers and oversize clippings
Oversize box 18		1916-1964
Oversize box 19		1966-1983
12	221	Court calendars and instruction sheets
12	222	Book (printer's dummy)
		Yearbooks

Box	Folder	
Oversize box 15		1928 1945-1946 1948-1949 1953-1954 1954-1955 1955-1956 1956-1957 1957-1958 1958-1959 1959-1960 1960-1961 1961-1962 1963-1964 1964-1965 1965-1966 1966-1967 1967-1968 1968-1969 1969-1970 1970-1971 1971-1972 1972-1973 1973-1974
12	223	Miscellaneous printed

## V. Photographs

Photographs in the records are generally studio portraits of the queen and duchesses, and professionally produced photographs of the coronation. Only a few photographs date from early coronations, with the bulk from the 1970s and 1980s. Most of these later photographs are proofs, transparencies and color separations used in the production of the coronation programs. Photographs are also found in other series; those submitted one year with nominations of visiting duchesses are found in series II,

Out-of-town court committee; photographs of potential coronation performers are in series II, Coronation committee.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
		Coronation, queens, duchesses
13	224	1929
13	225	1930
13	226	1934
13	227	1936
13	228	1937
13	229	1938
Oversize box 17		1939 (oversize) 1946 (oversize)
13	230	1962
13	231	1967
13	232	1968
13	233	1969
13	234	1970
Oversize box 17		1971 (oversize)
13	235	1974
13	236- 237	1978
13	238	1979
Oversize box 17		1979 (oversize) 1980 (oversize)
13	239- 241	1981
Oversize box 17		1981 (oversize) 1982 (oversize)
13	242- 243	1983

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
Oversize box 17		1983 (oversize)
13	244- 245	1984
Oversize box 17		1984 (oversize)
14	246- 247	1985
Oversize box 17		1985 (oversize)
14	248	1986
Oversize box 17		1986 (oversize)
14	249	1987
Oversize box 17		1987 (oversize)
14	250- 251	1988
Oversize box 17		1988 (oversize)
14	252	People  Richard Coiner, ca. 1979  Jack R. Locke, 1920s  Carl Venth, 1930s

## VI. Artifacts

Included in this series are samples of ribbons used by Order members and committee chairs.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
Oversize box 16		Ribbons