

Guide to the Liberace Fan Memorabilia Collection

This finding aid was created by Joyce Moore and Ian M. Baldwin on September 04, 2018.
Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1ks4t>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Johnson, Karl B.
Title:	Liberace Fan Memorabilia Collection
ID:	MS-00622
Date [inclusive]:	1944-2004
Physical Description:	1.32 Cubic Feet (3 boxes, 1 oversize folder)
Physical Description:	2.72 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Liberace Fan Memorabilia Collection (1944-2004) consists of fliers, brochures, news clippings, and ephemera chronicling the life and career of famed Las Vegas, Nevada entertainer Liberace. Materials from the Liberace Foundation, various fan clubs, and the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas comprise the bulk of the collection. There are also several pieces of ephemera in the collection, including items purchased from the Liberace Museum. Additionally, there are several Las Vegas souvenir sound recordings included in the collection.

Preferred Citation Note

Liberace Fan Memorabilia Collection, 1944-2004. MS-00622. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Famed Las Vegas, Nevada pianist and entertainer Liberace (1919-1987) was born Wladziu Valentino Liberace in West Allis, Wisconsin. A gifted pianist, Liberace began his career in the 1930s and reached impressive levels of success from the 1950s through the 1970s. Often nicknamed "Mr. Showmanship," he was the highest-paid entertainer on the Las Vegas Strip for several years during the height of his popularity. In addition to his music, he was known for his distinctive showmanship and flair. He continued to entertain audiences until 1987, when he passed away in Palm Springs from AIDS-related complications.

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Scope and Contents Note

Liberace Fan Memorabilia Collection (1944-2004) consists of fliers, brochures, news clippings, and ephemera chronicling the life and career of famed Las Vegas, Nevada entertainer Liberace. Materials from the Liberace Foundation, various fan clubs, and the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas comprise the bulk of the collection. There are also several pieces of ephemera in the collection, including items purchased from the Liberace Museum. Additionally, there are several Las Vegas souvenir sound recordings included in the collection.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2012 by Karl B. Johnson; accession number 2012-025.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Joyce Moore in 2012. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid project, Ian M. Baldwin revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently, Ian M. Baldwin entered information into ArchivesSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Entertainers
- Liberace

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Liberace flyers and brochures, undated	box 01	folder 01
Liberace event invitations, 1988-2004	box 01	folder 02
Liberace Club of Wichita materials, 1961-1962	box 01	folder 03
Liberace memorial card and ephemera, 1987	box 01	folder 04
Liberace postcards, 1957-1996	box 01	folder 05
Liberace photographs, undated	box 01	folder 06
Ephemera, undated	box 01	folder 07
Newspaper articles, 1953-1999	box 01	folder 08
Las Vegas souvenir sound recordings, 1960	box 01	folder 09
Show tickets, 1944-1977	box 01	folder 10
Christie's auction book: Liberace estate, 1988	box 02	folder 01
Liberace show programs, 1963-1984	box 02	folder 02
"Western High School Music Department": long-playing record, undated	box 03	
"Night-Club Music: Las Vegas and Country Western": long-playing record, undated	box 03	
"The Las Vegas Youth Band": long-playing record, 1967 April 23	box 03	
"The Las Vegas Youth Band": long-playing record, 1968 March 17	box 03	
"How to Beat the Dealer": long-playing record, undated	box 03	