

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# **Guide to the Collection of materials relating to Liberace**

**GEN MSS 1528**



by Jessica Tai

January 2019

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1528

**TITLE:** Collection of materials relating to Liberace

**DATES:** circa 1940s-1990s

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 20.94 linear feet (6 boxes) + 6 broadside

**LANGUAGE:** Chiefly in English, some material in French, Italian, German and Spanish.

**SUMMARY:** Contains photographs, printed material, scripts, posters, phonograph records, and ephemera relating to Liberace.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.liberace>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.liberace>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Walter Reuben, 2012.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 5 (phonograph records): Restricted fragile material. Consult Access Services for further information.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Collection of materials relating to Liberace is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Collection of materials relating to Liberace. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

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This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Liberace

Władziu Valentino Liberace (1919-1987) was an American pianist, singer, and actor. Liberace was born in West Allis, Wisconsin on May 16, 1919. His father, Salvatore Liberace, was an immigrant from Italy. His mother, Frances Zuchowska, was Polish. From the 1950s to the 1970s, Liberace was the highest-paid entertainer in the world, noted for his signature performance style and elaborate costumes. In addition to his music career, Liberace also appeared in several television programs and films, including *South Sea Sinner* (1950), *The Liberace Show* (1952), and *Sincerely Yours* (1955). He died on February 4, 1987.

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## Content Description

This collection documents the American pianist, singer and actor, Liberace, largely between the 1950s and 1980s. Material includes photographs, printed material, scripts, posters, phonograph records, and ephemera relating to Liberace and his career.

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## Arrangement

Collection is arranged roughly in the order received, with materials grouped together by format.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1	Photographs (3 folders)	circa 1940s-1970s
b. 2	Ephemera	circa 1960s-1980s
b. 2	Liberace: Complete Life Story periodical	1954
b. 2	Screenplay for <i>South Sea Sinner</i>	1949
b. 2	Screenplay for <i>Liberace</i>	1988
f. 3 (Broadside)	Theatrical release and musical performance posters	1953, 1960, 1965
b. 4 (Oversize)	Theatrical release and musical performance posters	1955, 1965
b. 4 (Oversize)	Photograph of Liberace and his mother, Frances	1954
b. 4 (Oversize)	Periodicals and publicity material	1950-1954
b. 4 (Oversize)	Lobby cards for <i>Sincerely Yours</i> , <i>When the Boys Meet the Girls</i> , and <i>South Sea Sinner</i>	1950, 1955, 1965
f. 6 (Broadside)– 7 (Broadside), 8 (Broadside oversize), 9 (Broadside)–10 (Broadside)	Posters for <i>Sincerely Yours</i> (5 folders)	1955
b. 5	Liberace phonograph records  Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1952-1964
b. 5	<i>Sincerely</i> , Liberace (4 phonograph records)	1955
b. 5	<i>It's Shadow Time/Velvet Moon</i> (1 phonograph record)	1952
b. 5	<i>As Time Goes By</i> (2 phonograph records)	1960
b. 5	<i>The Magic Pianos of Liberace and Gordon Robinson</i> (2 phonograph records)	1960
b. 5	<i>Rhapsody by Candelight</i> (2 phonograph records)	1962
b. 5	<i>My Inspiration</i> (2 phonograph records)	1960
b. 5	<i>Piano Song Book</i> (2 phonograph records)	1959

b. 5	Liberace Plays Golden Themes from Hollywood (1 <i>phonograph record</i> )	1964
b. 5	Liberace at the London Palladium (2 <i>phonograph records</i> )	1961
b. 5	My Parade of Golden Favorites (2 <i>phonograph records</i> )	1961
b. 11	Flabber Talking Doll Flabber, who bears resemblance to Liberace, is a character from the American live-action television series, Big Bad Beetleborgs, which aired for two seasons on Fox Kids between September 7, 1996, and March 2, 1998.	circa 1990s

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Occupations**

Actors -- United States -- 20th Century  
Pianists -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Subjects**

Advertising -- Motion pictures -- Posters  
Entertainers -- United States

### **Genres / Formats**

Audiovisual materials  
Phonograph records

### **Names**

Liberace, 1919-1987