Descriptive Summary

Title: Ralph G. Moritz papers

Dates: 1967-1985

Collection number: Coll2008-040

Creator: Moritz, Ralph G., 1912-1998

Collection Size: 1 archive carton. 0.4 linear foot.

Repository: ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives.

Los Angeles, California 90007

Abstract: Travel diaries of librarian and classical music enthusiast Ralph G. Moritz (1912-1998), listing the sights he saw, the concerts he attended, and his sexual encounters on his travels from the late 1960s to the early 1980s. The bulk of the collection consists of letters Moritz received from the mid 1970s to the early 1980s from Samuel Potter, aka "Octavian", Brown (1916-1995), an expatriate American living in Rome, who in the 1970s and early 1980s ran a small bed and breakfast and male bordello, that Moritz frequented, out of his apartment. The letters detail the trials, tribulations, and pleasures of life in Rome, and are filled with gossip about the lives of his "boys" and his clients, from the unnamed to the famous.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Publication Rights

Researchers wishing to publish materials must obtain permission in writing from ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives as the physical owner. Researchers must also obtain clearance from the holder(s) of any copyrights in the materials. Note that ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives can grant copyright clearance only for those materials for which we hold the copyright. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance for all other materials directly from the copyright holder(s).

Preferred Citation


Acquisition Information

Date and method of acquisition unknown.

Processing Information
Biography
Ralph G. Moritz was born in Waterloo, Iowa, on November 16, 1912. He attended the University of Northern Iowa, in Cedar Rapids, in the 1930s. He became a librarian; his last known position was Chief Catalog Librarian at California State University, Los Angeles. His special interests were travel and music, and from at least the 1960s onwards he made several trips a year to music festivals and performances both in the United States and Europe. He died in Los Angeles on June 19, 1998.

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection consists of Moritz's travel diaries and the letters he received from Octavian Brown. Moritz traveled extensively to Europe, where he attended music festivals and performances. The diaries consist largely of typewritten outlines of Moritz's daily activities—including, from the late 1970s, his sexual encounters—on his travels. The letters from Brown form the bulk of the collection. Samuel Potter, aka "Octavian", Brown (1916-1995) was an expatriate American living in Rome, who in the 1970s and early 1980s ran a small bed and breakfast and male bordello, that Moritz frequented, out of his apartment. The letters, written in an engaging, breezy style, detail the trials, tribulations, and pleasures of life in Rome, and are filled with gossip about the lives of his "boys" and his clients, from the unnamed to the famous. In 1982, Brown moved to Santa Barbara, California, where he died in 1995. The miscellaneous materials include a letter on family matters from C. E. Moritz, of Denver, Colorado, a 1985 letter to Los Angeles Times columnist Jack Smith, concerning one of the latter's columns, several typed pages of notes for a "philosophy essay" and an autobiography, and two maps of Rome from a late 19th/early 20th century Baedeker.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Brown, Octavian (Samuel P.), 1916-1995
Europe--Voyages and travels
Italy--Voyages and travels
Male prostitution--Italy
Moritz, Ralph G., 1912-1998
Voyages and travels

Box 1 : 1-2  Travel Diaries 1967-1984
   Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 1 : 1  1967-1979
Box 1 : 2  1980-1984
Box 1 : 3-6  Octavian Brown Correspondence 1972-1983
Box 1 : 3  1972-1979
Box 1 : 4  1980
Box 1 : 5  1981
Box 1 : 6  1982-1983
Box 1 : 7  Miscellaneous circa 1978-1984