
The Finding Aid of the Robert Lawrence Balzer Papers 0014

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The processing of this collection and the creation of this finding aid was funded by the generous support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

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Title: Robert Lawrence Balzer Papers

Creator: Balzer, Robert Lawrence

Identifier/Call Number: 0014

Contributing Institution: California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Special Collections and Archives

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 70.27 Linear Feet(73 boxes, 3 flat file drawers, 2 Imperial-sized wine bottles)

Date (inclusive): circa 1900-2011

Abstract: Robert Lawrence Balzer was a wine writer, wine educator, and restaurateur. The collection contains correspondence, photographs, writing drafts, news clippings, awards and certificates, artwork, and assorted materials relating to wine. There are also documents focusing on the country of Cambodia and Balzer's study of Buddhism.

Conditions Governing Access

Advance notice required for access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

[Box/folder# or item name], Robert Lawrence Balzer Papers, Collection no. 0014, Southern California Wine and Wine Industry Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection was donated to California State Polytechnic University, Pomona by Robert Lawrence Balzer and his heirs between 2008 and 2012. Additional materials were donated by Balzer biographer Christine Graham in 2017.

Biographical / Historical

Robert Lawrence Balzer was a noted writer, author, and instructor on the subject of wine, as well as a restaurateur. Balzer was born on June 25, 1912 in Des Moines, Iowa and was the youngest child of Albert, a grocer, and Selma Balzer. Balzer had one sister, Helen, who was born in 1909. In 1917, Selma and her children traveled to Long Beach, California, where they spent the winter on advice of their doctor. The family eventually moved to Long Beach permanently in 1919.

After graduating from Los Angeles High School in 1930, Balzer attended Stanford University, which was then known as Leland Stanford Junior University. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in English in 1935. Balzer attended the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London from 1935-1936 and, in late 1936, married Academy classmate Emily Abel. They were married for nine years until divorcing in 1946. After the wedding, Balzer began working as a wine buyer at Balzer's, his father's upscale grocery store in Los Angeles.

As part of his work at the store, Balzer started writing a column called "Highlights" for the store's mailer. The column included information about recipes and wine, but also touched on politics and other topics. In January of 1939, Balzer also started writing a weekly wine column "Concerning Wines and Foods" for the *Beverly Hills Citizen*.

Balzer later turned to radio, co-hosting a weekly radio show on KMPC titled "What Shall I Have for Dinner?" on KMPC. In 1940, Balzer began contributing a monthly feature of contributed recipes for *Sunset* titled "Chefs of the West."

In September of 1942, Balzer enlisted in the Army and served as a pilot and flight instructor in the U.S. Army Air Force until 1944. After leaving the military, Balzer went back to work at his father's grocery store and writing the "Highlights" column. The next year, in 1945, Albert Balzer turned over management of the business to his son. In April of 1948, Balzer's first book was published: *California's Best Wines*.

In 1951, Balzer began practicing Buddhism and, five years later, he was ordained as a Buddhist monk and spent two weeks in a monastery in Phnomh Penh, Cambodia. Around that time, Balzer also began writing for the United Press and covered the 1956 coronation of Norodom Suramarit as King of Cambodia. Balzer went on to become longtime friends with the Suramit's predecessor and son, Norodom Sihanouk.

In 1959, Balzer sold the Balzer's grocery store to Jurgensen's grocery chain. Later that year, he bought property in Idyllwild, California with the purpose of turning it into a Zen meditation center called Zenzan-ji. From 1963 to 1966, Balzer ran a restaurant in Idyllwild called The Tirol. During that time, Balzer published two more books: *Beyond Conflict* (1963) and *The Pleasures of Wine* (1964). Balzer also began writing a wine column for the *Los Angeles Times Home Magazine*. He continued to write for the *Los Angeles Times* until 1996. After the closure of The Tirol in 1966, Balzer briefly took over management of the Villa Fontana restaurant in Orange, California.

Balzer also taught wine courses at the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of California, Irvine. Later, he taught students at Lawry's California Center, a complex of restaurants and shops. He continued teaching the wine classes

until 2008 and, each year, took students to Europe.

In 1970, Balzer began publishing his newsletter: *Private Guide to Food and Wine*, which may have been the first newsletter focusing on wine. From 1972 to 1990, Balzer served as Food and Beverage editor for the magazine *Travel Holiday*.

Other publications Balzer wrote for include *Wine Enthusiast* and the Pacific Southwest Airlines magazine *PSA Flighttime*. Balzer also continued to author books, including *Robert Lawrence Balzer's Book of Wines and Spirits* (1973) and *Wines of California* (1978), which was later published as *The Los Angeles Times Book of California Wines* (1984).

In 1981 and 1985, Balzer served as Chairman of Food and Wine for presidential inauguration events called "A Taste of America" in Washington D.C. The events coincided with the inaugurations of President Ronald Reagan. The president of the Wine Institute, John de Luca, recommended Balzer for the position to the Presidential Inaugural Committee. Balzer also served as chairman of wine selection for a food and wine festival coinciding with the inauguration of President George H.W. Bush in 1989.

Balzer received numerous honors during his lifetime. He was named "Wine Writer of the Year" by *Wines and Vines* magazine in 1986 and received a Wine Literary Award from the Wine Appreciation Guild in 2004. In 1989, Balzer was recognized for "17 years of loyal support" by Lawry's California Center, where he taught wine classes. In 2000, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Los Angeles County Fair Wines of the Americas competition. The Cambodian government also awarded Balzer with honors for contributing to greater friendship between the United States and Cambodia. Balzer received the Royal Order of Sahametrei in 1957, the Royal Order of Sowathara in 1961, and the Royal Order of Monisaraphorn in 1999.

Along with connections in the wine industry, Balzer also made many connections in Hollywood throughout his lifetime. He had initially planned on being an actor and did play roles in a few movies, including the role of a priest in the 1975 film *Day of the Locust*. Balzer's Hollywood connections included Olivia DeHavilland and Gloria Swanson, who were longtime friends of the wine author.

Balzer died on December 1, 2011 in Orange, California at the age of 99.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, photographs, writing drafts, news clippings, awards and certificates, artwork, and assorted wine materials from wine writer and educator Robert Balzer. In addition to wine-related materials, there are also materials related to Balzer's study of Buddhism and documents focusing on Cambodia, including correspondence and photographs of former King Norodom Sihanouk. Other notable items include autographed pictures of Ronald Reagan and Dwight Eisenhower and a United States Senate Chamber card signed by then-United States Senator Richard Nixon.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into the following series: Series 1. Correspondence; Series 2. Photographs; Series 3. Writings and Publications; Series 4. Professional Activities; Series 5. Wine Materials; Series 6. Personal; Series 7. Art and Realia.

Separated Materials

The following items have been removed from the collection and added to the University Library's circulating collection and the Special Collections and Archives Rare Books Collection.

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Processing Information

This collection was processed by Rob Strauss, Elainna-Marie Herrera, and Alex Dan in September 2018.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Balzer, Robert Lawrence

Wine writers

Wine and wine making

Restaurateurs

Cambodia

box 1-4, 39

Series 1: Correspondence circa 1933-2011

Scope and Contents

The series contains correspondence to and from Robert Balzer from various people and organizations and on various topics. The series includes letters from President Ronald Reagan, President George H.W. Bush, former United States Senator Henry Hollis, and R. Michael Mondavi. There is also a copy of a letter that Robert Balzer wrote to President George W. Bush following the 2001 terrorist attacks. Additionally, there is a letter from Beatrice Wood, an artist whose biography helped inspire the character of Rose in the 1997 film *Titanic*.

The Cambodia correspondence includes letters from Norodom Sihanouk, former King of Cambodia, and Carl Strom, United States Ambassador to Cambodia.

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

box 1

Abel, Emily (Photocopies) 1944 October

box 1	Allen, Jack before 2011
box 1	American Express Company 1990
box 1	Balzer Tribute 1982
box 1	Bell and Stanton Public Relations 1971-1972
box 1	<i>Beyond Conflict</i> 1963-1964
box 1	Birthday Celebration 2002
box 1	<i>The Boston Globe</i> 1971
box 1	Bran, Mary 1960
box 1	Brando, Marlon (Partial Letter) before 2005
box 1	British Museum 1962
box 1	Bush, George H. W. 1992 June 23
box 1	Bush, George W. 2001 October 9
box 1	Cambodia 1957-1997
box 1	Champagne News and Information Bureau - Correspondence and Pamphlets 1975
box 1	The Connoisseur's Gala Guidebook 1972
box 1	Dieterle, Bill and Charlotte 1959
box 1	Distinguished Restaurants of North America (D.R.N.A.) Hall of Fame 2002
box 1	<i>Donna</i> Magazine 1995-1996
box 1	Envelope Addressed to Robert Lawrence Balzer 1947 August 27
box 1	Envelope with Robert Lawrence Balzer's Address Label before 2012
box 1	Family Correspondence 1936-1951
box 2	Field, Michael (Royal Hotel, Phnom Penh) 1960
box 2	Flights of Fancy circa 1951
box 2	Friends and Personal Correspondence 1951-2011
box 2	Harry N. Abrams, Inc. 2008 October-November
box 2	Hearst Magazines 1986
box 2	"Highlights" - <i>Balzer's Bulletin</i> circa 1944
box 2	<i>Holiday</i> Magazine 1974
box 2	Hollis, Henry 1939-1940
box 2	<i>House Beautiful</i> 1971-1972
box 2	King Features 1959
box 2	Long Beach Grand Cru Wine Competition 2003-2004
box 2	<i>Los Angeles Times</i> and Times Mirror Company 1990-1998
box 2	Military Correspondence 1933-1944
box 2	Mondavi, R. Michael 1994-2003
box 2	National Orange Show 1990-1991
box 2	<i>Nutrition Today</i> 1981
box 2	Officers' Wives Club - March Air Force Base 1964 December 10
box 2	Olafson, Stanley 1955 October 15
box 2	Olenick, Julian 1964 February 3
box 2	Penton, Hugh V 1992-2001
box 2	Playboy Enterprises 1996
box 2	Reagan, Ronald 1982 August 2
box 2	Sasaki, Ruth F. 1958-1963
box 2	Stanford University 1954, 1982-1991
box 2	Stolkin, Ralph 1964-1965
box 2	Stories - Assignments 1956-1957
box 2	<i>Sunset</i> - "Chefs of the West" 1944-1948
box 3	<i>Sunset</i> - "Chefs of the West" - Book 1946-1947
box 3	Talbot-Martin, Elizabeth 1953 December 19
box 3	"A Taste of America" Presidential Inauguration Event 1984-1985
box 3	Tchelistcheff, Dorothy 1994 April
box 3	The Tirol Restaurant circa 1963-1966
box 3	<i>Town and Country</i> Wine Trip 1949
box 3	<i>Travel Holiday</i> 1989-1990
box 3	Travel-Related Correspondence 1988-2002
box 3	Tremaine, Virginia 1957
box 3	Twentieth-Century Fox 1944

box 39	United Press International (U.P.I.) 1957-1963
box 3	Wedding of Grisel Sanabria and Roger Stern - Correspondence and Speech 1995
box 3	Whalen, Thomas M. 1993
box 3	Willett, James A. 1970-1990
box 3	Wine and Asbestos Filters - Correspondence and Notes 1977
box 3	Wine Enthusiast 1993
box 3	Wine Museum of San Francisco circa 1974
box 3	The Wine Spectator 2002
box 3	Wine and Wine Events 1947-2002
box 3	Wineries 1978-2001
box 3	Wood, Beatrice - Correspondence and Obituary 1998
box 4	World Tour 1961

box 4-17, 41-47,
Oversize Flat File
4: drawer 6

Series 2: Photographs circa 1916-2011

Scope and Contents

The series contains photographic prints and negatives of Robert Lawrence Balzer and his family; Balzer's travels to other countries; and Balzer's friends and dignitaries, including Dwight Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan, and former King of Cambodia Norodom Sihanouk. There are also photographic slides of wineries and wine regions in the United States and other countries. Some of the photographs in the series are photocopies.

Arrangement

The series includes the following subseries: Subseries 2.1: Photograph Albums; Subseries 2.2: Photographic Slides; Subseries 2.3: Prints and Negatives; and Subseries 2.4: Photocopies.

box 4-9, 41-43

Subseries 2.1: Photograph Albums circa 1983-2011

Arrangement

The subseries is arranged alphabetically by folder title but does not reflect physical arrangement.

Scope and Contents

The subseries contains photographs from 12 albums. The photographs are from trips that Robert Lawrence Balzer took to various locations, including France, Cambodia, China, and Hawaii. One album contains photographs of the 1956 coronation of the King of Cambodia, Norodom Suramarit.

Some of the photographs have been rehoused into folders. The photographs from Balzer's 1983 trip to China were initially in two separate albums. Some of the photographs from China were with pictures from a trip to France that was likely taken around the same time.

box 41	Asia 1984
box 4	Cambodia 1999
box 41	Cambodia and Birthday Photographs 1999
box 42	Cambodia - Coronation 1956
box 4, box 5	China 1983
box 43	Detroit 1989 June
box 5, box 6, box 7, box 8, box 9	France circa 1983-2001
box 9	Hawaii before 2011
box 9	Italy 1997 September
box 9	Japan before 2011

box 9-12

Subseries 2.2: Photographic Slides circa 1973-2011**Scope and Contents**

The subseries contains photographic slides of various wineries in California and wine regions in France, Germany, and Portugal. There are also photographic slides related to Robert Lawrence Balzer's 1992 audiobook *Wines of the World*. Correspondence filed with the slides indicates that Balzer intended to use the photographs as potential illustrations for a print version of the book. It does not appear that book was ever published.

Arrangement

The subseries is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

box 9	Adler Fels Winery 1989
box 9	Alexander Valley Vineyards circa 1982-1989
box 9	S. Anderson Vineyard 1993
box 9	Arciero Winery 1986-1991
box 9	Arrowood Winery circa 1988-1997
box 9	Atlas Peak Winery before 2011
box 10	Au Bon Climat Winery 1993
box 10	Australia before 2011
box 10	Babcock Winery 1989
box 10	Beaulieu Vineyard 1976-1989
box 10	Belvedere Winery 1993
box 10	Benziger Winery 1987-1997
box 10	Beringer Vineyards 1975-1991
box 10	Boeger Winery 1991
box 10	Bonny Doon Vineyard 1987
box 10	Bouchaine Vineyard 1979-1990
box 10	Brander Vineyard 1986-1994
box 10	Buehler Vineyards 1984
box 10	Buena Vista Winery 1979-1988
box 10	Byington Vineyard 1991
box 10	Byron Winery 1986-1999
box 10	Cain Cellars 1987-1989
box 10	Cakebread Cellars 1981-1986
box 10	California circa 1973-1982
box 10	Callaway Winery 1978-1986
box 10	Cambria Winery 1993-1999
box 10	Carmody-McKnight Winery before 2011
box 10	Carneros Creek - Belvedere Winery 1986-1989
box 10	Caymus Vineyards 1989
box 11	Chalk Hill Winery 1993
box 11	Chappellet Winery 1982-1990
box 11	Chateau de Baun 1990
box 11	Chateau Montelena Winery 1976-1989
box 11	Chateau Potelle Winery 1990-1995
box 11	Chateau Souverain 1976-1990
box 11	Chateau Woltner 1993
box 11	Chimney Rock Winery 1987-1993
box 11	Chamisal - Claiborne and Churchill 1991
box 11	Christian Brothers Winery 1977-1988
box 11	Claiborne and Churchill 1991-1999
box 11	Clos Pegase Winery 1987-1994
box 11	Clos Du Val Winery 1999
box 11	Codorniu Winery 1993
box 11	Concannon Vineyard 1985
box 11	Conn Creek Winery 1981-1990
box 11	Creston Winery 1975-1991
box 11	Culbertson Winery 1985-1989

box 11	Cuvaison Winery 1986-1988
box 11	Davis Bynum Winery 1989-1993
box 11	France - Alsace before 2011
box 11	France - Bordeaux 1973-1991
box 12	France - Burgundy circa 1973-1991
box 12	France - Champagne 1976-1991
box 12	France - Loire 1983-1988
box 12	Germany 1976-1985
box 12	Introduction 1975-1986
box 12	Portugal - Madeira 1977
box 12	Spain circa 1973-1980
box 12	Washington 1982-1985
box 12	<i>Wines of the World</i> 1992 February 7

box 13-17, 44-47,
Oversize Flat File
4: drawer 6-8

Subseries 2.3: Prints and Negatives 1916, circa 1930-2011

Scope and Contents

The subseries contains photographic prints of Robert Lawrence Balzer, including portraits; photographs from Cambodia and other trips; photographs of Balzer's friends, including Olivia DeHavilland and Edith Head; and autographed photographs of Ronald Reagan, Dwight Eisenhower, and former King of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk. There is also a photograph of Balzer taken by Ansel Adams.

Arrangement

The subseries is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title but does not reflect physical arrangement.

Oversize Flat File
4, drawer 6

Abel, Emily before 1950

box 44

Artifacts circa 1945-1960

box 13, box 45,

Balzer, Robert Lawrence circa 1950-2011

box 46

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence (Photograph by Ansel Adams) 1959

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence (Signed "To Marjo From Bob") circa 1930-1950

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - 80th Birthday Celebration 1992

box 46

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Albert Balzer 1942

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Ann Stone (Sterling Vineyards) before 2011

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Aviation Uniform circa 1942-1944

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Buddhist Monk circa 1956

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - *Cavalcade of Books* Television Show 1964 November 8

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Dick Maher (Napa Valley Vineyards) before 2011

Oversize Flat File

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - "Doing the Paronetto" Wine Exercise before 2011

4, drawer 8

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Donald Sutherland - *The Day of the Locust* 1974

box 44

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Dwight Eisenhower (Signed Photograph) circa 1963-1966

box 47

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Framed Photograph (Signed with Birthday Messages) 2007

box 13

Balzer Robert Lawrence - *Holiday Magazine* in San Antonio circa 1972-1977

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - *Home Magazine* circa 1964-1985

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Judging with Mike Roy, Paul Schwagler, and Walter Pidgeon circa 1950-1970

box 13

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - L' Ordre des Coteaux des Champagne 1976

Oversize Flat File

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Mickey and Minnie Mouse before 2011

4, drawer 8

box 47

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Norodom Sihanouk 1999

box 45

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Olympiad of Beer 1984

Oversize Flat File

Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Riding on Ostrich circa 1916

4, drawer 8

box 13, box 46	Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Portraits circa 1999
box 13	Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Receiving Commandeur d'Honneur Title 1976
box 13	Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Roddy MacDowell before 1998
box 13	Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Stacked Wine Bottles (Large Photographic Negatives) before 2011
box 45	Balzer, Robert Lawrence - The Tirol 1963 April
box 46	Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Travel Holiday circa 1988
box 14, box 45	Balzer, Robert Lawrence - Unidentified Individuals before 2011
box 47	Balzer, Robert Lawrence and Friends - Photograph Montage and Menu 1986 October 31
box 14	Balzer, Robert Lawrence, James Willett and Unidentified Individuals before 1990
box 14	Balzer, Robert Lawrence, Olivia DeHavilland and Raul Rodriguez (Rose Float Designer) before 2011
box 14	Balzer, Robert Lawrence, Ona Munson and George Fisher at <i>A Star is Born</i> Premiere 1954
box 46	Balzer, Robert Lawrence and Ronald Reagan at the Tirol circa 1963-1966
box 14	Balzer, Robert Lawrence and Unidentified Individuals at Ma Maisson Restaurant before 1986
box 14	Balzers Signs before 2011
box 14, box 15	Balzer's Store before 1959
box 15	Balzer's Store - 35th Anniversary circa 1958
box 15	Borman, Frank and Concorde before 2004
box 15	Cambodia - Angkor 1999
box 15	Cambodia - Demonstration at Royal Palace in Phnom Penh circa 1950-1959
box 15, box 45	Cambodia - General 1999 May
box 15	Cambodia - Signed Photograph from an Unidentified Individual circa 1950-1959
box 15	Cambodia and Japan 1999
box 15	DeHavilland, Olivia circa 1945-2012
box 46	Devi, Buppha 1956 March
box 15	Dharmawara, Vira before 1999
box 47	Dharmawara, Vira (Signed Photograph) 1951
box 15	Dogs before 2011
box 15	Ernie's Restaurant before 2011
box 15	France - Wine Tour before 2011
box 15	Hawaii before 2011
box 15	Head, Edith before 1981
Oversize Flat File 4, drawer 6	Kaiser Cookout - Framed Photograph and Check 1960 October 8
box 15	Lake and Mountains (With Envelope Labeled "Eucalyptus") before 2011
box 15	Le Marquis de Lur-salcues before 2011
box 15	Maldonado, Larry circa 1945-1960
box 15	Mask of Robert Lawrence Balzer by Frances Rich before 2007
box 16	Napa Valley and Burgess Cellars 2000
box 16	Observation Car in Vancouver, B.C. - Photograph and Itinerary 1930 July 20
box 16	Ocean and Coast before 2011
Oversize Flat File 4, drawer 7	Photograph Panels for World of Wines Lifetime Achievement Award circa 1935-1991
box 16	Princess Cruises before 2011
box 16	Rodriguez, Raul (Rose Float Designer) before 2011
box 16, box 44	Sihanouk, Norodom circa 1955-1970
box 44	Sihanouk, Norodom (Signed Photographs) circa 1958
box 16	Stone Figure before 2011
box 16	Talbot-Martin, Elizabeth circa 1930-1950
box 16	Tang Dynasty Horse (Replica) before 2011
box 16	Tchelistcheff, Andre before 1994
box 16	The Tirol circa 1963-1966
box 16	Travel Holiday Magazine - New Orleans Reunion 1989
box 16	Unidentified Building before 2011

box 16	Unidentified Houses before 1980
box 16	Unidentified Individuals before 2011
box 16	Unidentified Individuals at Lomas Del Rio Ranch in Apple Valley, California after 1945
box 16	Willett, James circa 1930
box 16	Wine - Barnwood, Bilo Zarif, Claiborne and Churchill 1999 April
box 16, box 17	Wine - Firestone and Sanford Wineries 1999
box 17	Wine Glasses before 2011
box 17	Wine Museum before 2011
box 17	Wine and Wine Events before 2011
box 17	Yurka, Blanche before 1974

box 17 **Subseries 2.4: Photocopies circa 1916-2011**

Scope and Contents

The subseries contains photocopies of photographic prints, including photographs of Robert Lawrence Balzer with friends and various people in the wine industry, photographs of actresses Gloria Swanson and Olivia De Havilland, and of winemakers Ernest Gallo, Robert Mondavi, and Baron Philippe de Rothschild.

Arrangement

The subseries is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

box 17	Balzer, Albert circa 1941
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence circa 1916
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence with Andre Tchelistcheff before 1994
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence with Ben Lane before 2011
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence with Bernard and Hubert Trimbachat before 2011
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence with Claude Taittinger and Wine Class before 2011
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence with Christianne Latour and Guests at a Gala at Romanoff's circa 1955
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence and Emily Abel before 1947
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence with Etienne Hagel before 2011
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence with Fred Brander 1971
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence with Jeanne Cagney at the Masque Ball on the S.S. Virginia 1935
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence and Lamberto Paronetto before 2011
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence with Norodom Sihanouk and Norodom Monineath Sihanouk 1961
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence with Olivia DeHavilland before 2011
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence at Rancho Lomas Del Rio circa 1945-1951
box 17	Balzer, Robert Lawrence with Unidentified Individuals before 2011
box 17	Balzer's Store before 1959
box 17	Bryenner, Yul 1956
box 17	Cambodia - General circa 1956-1970
box 17	Chappellet, Donn and Molly before 2011
box 17	DeHavilland, Olivia circa 1935-1945
box 17	Duke, Doris before 1993
box 17	Gallo, Ernest before 2007
box 17	Lungarotti, Giorgio before 1999
box 17	Manning, Irene 1942
box 17	Mondavi, Robert and Baron Philippe de Rothschild before 1988
box 17	Photograph Montages of Robert Lawrence Balzer, Friends, and Wine Events before 2011
box 17	Stevens, Dennis F. circa 1977
box 17	Strong, Rod before 2006
box 17	Swanson, Gloria before 1983
box 17	Unidentified Individuals before 2011
box 17	Yurka, Blanche 1941

box 18-19, 39, 48

Series 3: Writings and Publications circa 1940-2011**Scope and Contents**

The series includes Robert Lawrence Balzer's articles and drafts of articles and notes and notebooks for various publications including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Holiday Magazine*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Wine Spectator*, and a publication titled *PSA Flighttime* for the former airline Pacific Southwest Airlines. There are also materials related to Balzer's 1961 book *Beyond Conflict*, a draft copy of Balzer's 1964 book *The Pleasures of Wine*, and an excerpted story from his autobiography.

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically by folder title but does not reflect physical arrangement.

box 18

Assorted Publications - Articles and Drafts circa 1939-1995

box 18

***Beyond Conflict* - Clipping and Mailing List 1963**

box 18

Dedication to Andre Tchelistcheff circa 1994

box 18

Draft Sections of Robert Lawrence Balzer's Autobiography before 2012

box 18

***A Flip-Up Guide to Discovering the Pleasures of Wine and Best Buys* - Draft circa 2000**

box 18

***Holiday* - Drafts of Articles 1977**

box 18

***Holiday* - Notebook 1973**

box 18

***Los Angeles Times* - Drafts of Columns circa 1979-1995**

box 18

***Los Angeles Times Home* - Advertising Pamphlet for Wine Issue 1972**

box 18

***Los Angeles Times Home* - Notebook circa 1960-1969**

box 39

***Los Angeles Times* Wine Columns and Articles circa 1978-1994**

box 18

Notes for Writings and Publications before 2011

box 18

***Outlook* - Articles 1996**

box 48

***The Pleasures of Wine* - Working Copy 1963 September**

box 19

***PSA Flighttime* - Draft Articles 1967-1969**

box 19

***Robert Lawrence Balzer's Book of Wines and Spirits* - Copy of Excerpt 1973**

box 19

***Sunset - Chefs of the West - The Art of Cooking...By Men...For Men* - Draft circa 1951**

box 19

United Press - Drafts circa 1957

box 19

***Wine Enthusiast* - Drafts of Articles circa 1995-1997**

box 19

***Wines of the World* Audio Program - Press Release 1992**

box 19

Writing Notebook with Story Ideas 1972

box 19

***Wine Spectator* - Chardonnay Story - Correspondence, Computer Disc and Photographs 1995 September 18**box 19-26, 39,
49-51**Series 4: Professional Activities circa 1940-2008****Scope and Contents**

The series contains materials documenting the professional activities of Robert Lawrence Balzer. The materials include records, newsletters, and menus from his restaurant ventures, the Tirol in Idyllwild, California and Villa Fontana in Orange, California; a badge, program, and other materials from the "A Taste of America" Presidential Inauguration events; scripts and promotional materials from his radio shows, his Screen Actors Guild contract, course plans for his wine classes; itineraries and notes from his wine tours in France and Italy, and the "Highlights" columns that Balzer wrote in the advertising mailers for his family's grocery store. The advertising mailer was later called "Balzer's Bulletin."

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically by folder title in the finding aid but does not reflect physical arrangement.

box 19

Balzer's Store - 35th Anniversary Program (Photocopy) 1958 November 17

box 19, box 20

Balzer's Store - Advertising Mailer and "Highlights" Column 1940-1945

box 49, box 50,

Balzer's Store - "Balzer's Bulletin" and "Highlights" Column 1951-1958

box 51

box 20

Balzer's Store - Christmas Catalogs 1953-1958

box 20

Balzer's Store - Clippings 1947-1951

box 20	Food and Beverage Connoisseur's VIP Odyssey Through the People's Republic of China 1983
box 20	Food and Civilization Conference - Program and Clippings 1967
box 20	Holiday Magazine Awards - Hawaii 1972-1973
box 20	Holiday Magazine Award Winners Reunion in Mexico 1974
box 20	KCET Auction 1975-1976
box 20	Notes - Day of the Locust Role circa 1975
box 20	Photograph Captions - Cambodian Coronation Ceremonies 1956
box 21	Radio - KMPC - "What Shall I Have for Dinner" - Informational Folder circa 1940
box 21	Radio - "What's Cookin' on Wine" Scripts and Notes 2005-2007
box 21	Radio - "What's Cookin' on Wine" - Partial Scripts and Notes 2005-2007
box 21	Radio - "The Word on Wine" Recipes 1994-1998
box 22	Radio - "The Word on Wine" Scripts circa 2003-2004
box 22	Robert Lawrence Balzer Restaurant Awards circa 1993
box 22	Screen Actors Guild Television Agency Contract 1960
box 22	"A Taste of America" Presidential Inauguration Events 1981-1985
box 39	The Tirol Restaurant - Menus and Clippings 1961-1965
box 39	The Tirol Restaurant - Financial Statements and Company Records 1964-1965
box 22	Travel-Holiday Fine Dining Awards 1989
box 22	Travel-Holiday Magazine 1988-1989
box 39	Villa Fontana Restaurant - Newsletters, Clippings, and Menu 1966
box 22	Wine Classes and Seminars 1977-2008
box 22	Wine and Culinary Cruises - California Wine Appreciation Cruise 1995
box 22	Wine and Culinary Cruises - "Call of the Vintage" Cruise 1978
box 22	Wine and Culinary Cruises - Other 1973-1991
box 39	Wine and Culinary Cruises - S.S. Mardi Gras 1978
box 22	The Wine Press Ltd. - Financial Statements 1973-1974
box 22, box 23, box 24	Wine Tour - France 1973-2001
box 25	Wine Tour of Germany and France - Notes 1985
box 25, box 26	Wine Tour - Italy 1972-1997
box 39	Zenzan-Ji Meditation Center 1960
box 26-28, 39, 52, Oversize Flat File 4: drawer 6	Series 5: Wine Materials circa 1940-2011 Scope and Contents The series contains materials about wineries and wine, including pamphlets, newsletters, wine labels, news clippings, and other informational materials. There are also folders containing materials from wine tastings and wine competitions in which Robert Lawrence Balzer served as a judge. Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by folder title in the finding aid but does not reflect physical arrangement.
box 26	Balzer, Robert Wine Tour - Name Tags before 2011
box 26	The California Wine Perspective - Booklet 1986
box 26	Champagne Jacquart - Informational Materials circa 1985
box 26	The Champagne Road - Map and Guides before 2011
box 26	Charles Heidsieck Champagne - Informational Materials before 2011
box 26	Charles Krug Wines - Informational Materials circa 1965-1978
box 26	Chateau Mouton Rothschild - Imperial-size Wine Bottle 1975 Physical Description: This item is on display in Special Collections and Archives on the fourth floor of the University Library at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.
Oversize Flat File 4, drawer 6	Chateau Mouton Rothschild - Wine Labels on Foam Board 1945-1970
box 39	Dom Ruinart Champagne - Informational Materials 1975 September 4
box 26	G.H. Mumm - Informational Materials and Label circa 1966-1972
box 52	Kendall Jackson - Wine Bottle (Signed by Robert Lawrence Balzer) 1994

box 26	Korbell Champagne - Informational Materials and Label 1985, circa 2010 Physical Description: (Includes one compact disc)
box 27	Krug Champagne - Informational Materials and Label circa 1964-1971, 1985-1988
box 27	Labels - Schloss Vollrads and Bacardi Rum circa 1971-2011
box 27	Moet and Chandon - Informational Materials circa 1971-2011
box 27	News Releases and Clippings - Champagne 1981-1986
box 27	News Releases and Clippings - Wine and Food 1957, 1972-2008
box 27	Notes for Slideshow on Wine - Travel Holiday 1988 September 8
box 27	Notes on Wine circa 1970, 1980-1989
box 39	Opus One - Informational Materials and Wine Tasting Notes 1999 Opus One - Imperial-size Wine Bottle 1990 Physical Description: This item is on display in Special Collections and Archives on the fourth floor of the University Library at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.
box 27	Tribute Remarks for Andre Tchelistcheff 1991 December 7
box 27	Wine Box - Chinese White Wine before 2011
box 27	Wine and Culinary Events - Menus and Programs circa 1940-1994
box 28	The Wine Museum of San Francisco - Informational Materials 1974
box 28	Wine Newsletters and Catalogs circa 1976-2011
box 28	Wine Talk by Frank Prial - Promotional Card and Pocket-Sized Wine Guide circa 1978
box 28	Wine Tastings and Judging 1954, 1978-2005
box 28	Wines and Wineries - Pamphlets and Informational Materials before 2011
box 28	Women for Winesense - Los Angeles Chapter - Hall of Fame Awards - Informational Folder 1999
box 28-38, 43, 46-47, 53, Oversize Flat File 4, drawer 6-7	Series 6: Personal circa 1930-2011 Scope and Contents The series contains Robert Lawrence Balzer's notes on various subjects, newspaper and magazine clippings, programs for various events, Robert Balzer's high school and college diplomas, scrapbooks with clippings and photographs related to Balzer and his activities, Balzer's military records, biographical information about Balzer, and other personal records and materials. Notable items in the series include a United States Senate Chamber Card from 1951 that is signed by then-United States Senator Richard Nixon. Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by folder title in the finding aid but does not reflect physical arrangement.
box 28 Oversize Flat File 4, drawer 7	Authenticity Certificate for Papier-Mache Item - Sergio Bustamante 1979 July 13 Award - Los Angeles County Fair Wines of the Americas Lifetime Achievement 2000
box 28	Award - Royal Order of Monisaraphorn 1999
box 28	Biographical Information circa 1999-2001
box 39	Booklet - Cambodia by Pictures circa 1956-1960
box 29	Bulletin - '76 Club 1953 October 15
box 29	Business Cards from Various People before 2001
box 29, box 30, box 31, box 32	Calendars and Planners 1957-2005
box 47	Certificate - Cordon Bleu 1939 May 17
box 47	Certificate - <i>Holiday</i> Magazine Honors The Tirol 1965
box 33	Certificate - Help Hospitalized Veterans Donor of the Year 2005
box 47	Certificate - Southern California Restaurant Hall of Fame before 2011
box 33	Certificates of Membership - Khemara Buddhikaram and The Khemara Buddhikaram 1981, 1992
box 33	Clippings - Assorted Topics circa 1957-1966, 1999
box 40	Clippings - Cambodia and Southeast Asia 1956-1965, 1990-2011
box 33	Clippings - Robert Lawrence Balzer 1956-1999
box 40	Clippings for Writings 1991-2003

box 33	Clippings and Awards Ceremony Program - Dalai Lama 1991-2008
box 33	Clippings and Informational Material - Buddhism circa 1957-1994
box 46	Commission Naming Robert Lawrence Balzer as Kentucky Colonel 1981 October 28
box 33	Diploma - Leland Stanford Junior University 1935
box 33	Diploma - Los Angeles High School 1930 January 31
box 33	Excerpts of William Shakespeare before 2011
box 33	Family Genealogy - Robert Lawrence Balzer 1856, 1910-1956, 1981-2005
box 33	Financial Materials circa 1998
box 34	Guest Books - Birthday Guests 2000-2009
box 34	Informational Card - Decorator's Exchange before 1970
box 34	Informational Materials - Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles 2003
box 46	Invitation - "Merry Unbirthday Party for Robert Balzer" 1980
box 34	Invitation - Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Chief of State of Cambodia 1960 October
box 34	Invitation - Robert Lawrence Balzer's 94th Birthday 2006
box 34	Invitation and Notes - Los Angeles World Affairs Council Luncheon for Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu 1963
box 34	Invitation and Order Forms - Robert Lawrence Balzer 90th Birthday Celebration 2002 June
box 34	Invitations circa 1953-1958
box 34	Itinerary - Overseas Trip circa 1962
box 34	Letterhead - Au Chic Magnifique before 2011
box 34	Luggage Tag and Travel Holiday Business Card after 1977
box 34	Magazine - Royal Air Cambodge 1997 October-November
box 34	Menu - Birthday Dinner (Signed by Various People) 1985 June 25
box 40	Menu - Campagnie Generale Transatlantique - French Line 1973 November 5
box 46	Menu - "Le Dinner des Amis En L' Honneur de Robert Lawrence Balzer" before 2011
box 34	Military Records 1942-1944
box 34	News Release and Booklet - Cambodia Observes 2500th Anniversary of Buddha circa 1957
box 34	Notebooks - Asia Trip circa 1953
box 34	Notebooks - Buddhist Monk Ordination Ceremony circa 1956-1999
box 34	Notebooks - "California Wines" 1971
box 35	Notebooks - Europe Trip 1951
box 35	Notebooks - France and Germany Trip 1988
box 35	Notebooks - France and Italy Trip 1973-1983
box 35	Notebooks - Germany Trip 1984 May
box 36	Notebooks - Italy Trip 1976
box 36	Notebooks - Japan Trip 1959, 1986
box 36	Notebooks - Poland and Spain Trip 1990
box 36	Notebooks - Spain Trip 1971
box 36	Notebooks - Switzerland Trip 1990 October
box 37	Notebooks - "Wines of France" 1971-1973
box 37	Notes for Autobiography before 2011
box 37	Notes on Events in Cambodia and Southeast Asia before 2011
box 37	Notes on Communication, Knowledge, and Other Topics before 2011
box 37	Notes for "Men and their Philosophies" - Beverly Hills University Club 1959 February 2
box 37	Notes - Names and Phone Numbers before 2011
box 37	Notes on Religion before 2011
box 37	Notes on Rudolph Valentino before 2011
box 37	Notes for "World Philosophies Yesterday and Today" - Santa Monica Auxiliary of Children's Hospital 1959 March 5
box 37	Official Notice of Theravada Buddhism Board 1956 March 12
box 37	Pamphlet - Idyllwild Area Historical Society Museum before 2011
box 37	Pamphlets - Robert Lawrence Balzer Speaking Events 1959-1964
box 37	Pamphlet - Zuma Canyon Orchids before 2011
box 37	Passes - United States Senate and House of Representatives (Senate Chamber Card Signed by Richard Nixon) 1951 January 16

box 38	Program - Ambassador Hotel Event with King and Queen of the Hellenes 1953 November 14
box 38	Program - Ambassador Hotel - Event with Crown Prince of Japan 1953 October 1
box 38	Program - The Devil Mountain Hellraisers and Motorcycle Riding Club (Photocopy) before 2011
box 38	Program - Virginia Follies of 1935 (Photocopy) 1935 August 29
box 38	Program and Clipping - Lilian Fontaine Memorial Service 1975
box 38	Program and Directory - The Opera Guild of Southern California 1953-1954
box 38	Program and Schedule - Cambodia Prince Norodom Sihanouk Visit to Kent State University 1960 October
box 38	Portion of the Text of a Speech to the United Nations circa 1961
Oversize Flat File 4, drawer 6	Project Designs - Room Addition for Robert Lawrence Balzer Residence 1972 March 6
box 38	Recipe Booklet - Villa D' Este 1991 December
box 38	Recipes before 2011
box 46	Resolution Congratulating Robert Lawrence Balzer on 75th Birthday - Sonoma County Board of Supervisors 1987 June 30
box 53	Scrapbooks - News Clippings and Photographs of Robert Lawrence Balzer circa 1947-1958
box 43	Sign - "Balzer! Santa Ana...United States...Liechtenstein...and Next the World!" before 2011
box 46	State of California Resolution Honoring Robert Lawrence Balzer 1986 October 30
box 38	Transcript - Robert Lawrence Balzer Oral History 2002 March
box 46	Winning Recipe - Hawaiian Kaiser Fall Cookout 1960
box 38, 40, 44, 46-47, 54-73, Oversize Flat File 4	Series 7: Art and Realia circa 1900-2011 Scope and Contents The series contains artifacts that Robert Lawrence Balzer purchased in other countries; plaques, medals, and medallions that were presented to Balzer; paintings by Balzer; and paintings and sketches of Balzer. The medals includes ones given to Balzer by the government of Cambodia. The dates of many of the artifacts are unknown. The replica Tang Dynasty Horse sculpture was purchased by Robert Lawrence Balzer in Hong Kong through an antiquarian in 1953. Balzer purchased the Etruscan Chalice in Rome in 1951. Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.
box 40	Artwork - <i>Fantasia</i> before 2011
box 54	Chinese Jue before 1900
box 38	Drawing - "Contraception" before 2011
box 47	Drawing of Crane before 2011
Oversize Flat File 4, drawer 6	Drawing of Emily Abel by Robert Lawrence Balzer 1937 October
box 44	Drawing of Robert Lawrence Balzer in Aviator Uniform 2004 June
box 38, box 44	Drawing of Robert Lawrence Balzer - Pierre Faig 1978
box 38	Drawing of Stanford Classmate by Robert Lawrence Balzer 1935
box 38	Drawing of a Woman before 2011
box 38	Drawings of Homes and Church before 2011
box 55	Etruscan Chalice before 1951
box 56	Glass Case - Napa Valley Wine Symposium 1981
box 38	Graphic Art - "Balzer Vineyards" before 2011
box 38	Graphic Art - "Robert Lawrence Balzer - World Traveller" before 2011
box 38	Illustration - Jars in a Basket before 2011
box 40	License Plate - "50th American Presidential Inaugural" 1985
box 57	Medal - Royal Order of Sahametrei 1957
box 57	Medal - Royal Order of Sowathara 1961
box 57	Medal - Special Achievement - <i>Holiday</i> in New Orleans before 1978
box 57	Medal - USIFS 85 "Le Prix d'Honneur" 1985

box 58	Medal and Brooch in Case - Royal Order of Monisaraphorn 1999
box 38	Medallion - Brotherhood of the Knights of the Vine 1998 October 24
box 38	Medallion - Champagne Bollinger 1978
box 38	Medallion - Riunite Wine 1980
box 38	Medallion - Sonoma County Harvest Festival Fair 1975
box 38	Medallion - <i>Travel Holiday Magazine</i> Honors 1978
Oversize Flat File 4, drawer 6	Painting - Robert Lawrence Balzer at Ritz-Carlton 1991
Bay A-L	Painting of Robert Lawrence Balzer by Blanche Yurka before 1974
box 38	Pin - Los Angeles County Fair Judge before 2011
box 59	Plaque - City of Los Angeles 1971
box 60	Plaque - City of Los Angeles in Recognition of Robert Lawrence Balzer's 70th Birthday 1982 August 10
box 58	Plaque - Giovanni's on the Hill 1980 March 4
box 61	Plaque - "Il Papa" Robert Lawrence Balzer 1972 December 7
box 62	Plaque - Irvine Friends of the Library Annual Book and Author Award 1970
box 62	Plaque - Les Amis du Vin Los Angeles Chapter 1972 September 21
box 61	Plaque - Midwest International Wine Exposition 1992 October 17
box 63	Plaque - Mutual Wholesale Company 1985 November 2
box 61	Plaque - Robert Lawrence Balzer - "Opus 93" 2006 May
box 64	Plaque - San Pedro Peninsula Hospital Friends of Hospice - Robert Lawrence Balzer Fine Wine Auction 1988
box 64	Plaque - The Society of California Winegrape Growers - Certificate of Ownership 1982 July 1
box 65	Plaque - A Taste of America 1981
box 59	Plaque - A Taste of America for the 50th America Presidential Inaugural 1985 January
box 66	Plaque and Medal - A Taste of America 1981
box 63	Plaque on Plate - Wine Literary Award 2004 April 30
box 66	Plaque for Robert Lawrence Balzer and James Willett 1993 May 10
box 62	Plate - Chateau Greysac 1983 June 11
box 38	Postcards before 2011
Oversize Flat File 4, drawer 6	Poster - The Napa Valley (Signed by Wineries) 1975
box 38	Print from Louvre - <i>Mona Lisa</i> 1989
box 67, box 68, box 69	Roman Glass before 1900
box 46	Sketch of Robert Lawrence Balzer 1958
box 47	Sketch of Robert Lawrence Balzer for Birthday 2001
	Tang Dynasty Horse Sculpture (Replica) before 1953
	Physical Description: This item is on display in the Library Administration office on the fourth floor of the University Library at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.
box 70, box 71	Tastevins before 1900
box 72	Wine Barrel circa 1978-1981
box 73	Wine Bucket with Crest before 2011