Guide to the Dorothy J. Gaiter and John Brecher Papers D-669

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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: University of California, Davis Library, Dept. of Special Collections
Title: Dorothy J. Gaiter and John Brecher Papers
Creator: Gaiter, Dorothy J.
Creator: Brecher, John
Identifier/Call Number: D-669
Physical Description: 15 linear feet
Date (inclusive): 1998-2009


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Biography
Award-winning journalists Dorothy J. Gaiter and John Brecher have been exploring wine together for more than thirty years. The couple met in June of 1973 while working at the Miami Herald and, thanks to a gift of Alexis Bespaloff's The New Signet Book of Wine from John's brother, soon began sampling wines and keeping track of what they had tried. Over the course of twenty-five years, the two kept notes on thousands of bottles of wine tied to large and small moments in their life.

In 1998, Gaiter and Brecher decided to integrate wine writing into their professional lives. At the time, both were working for the Wall Street Journal: Brecher was the newspaper's page-one editor and Gaiter was a news editor covering race and urban issues. Their wine column "Tastings" ran as part of a new weekend section in the Wall Street Journal and quickly became a success. Gaiter and Brecher wrote in an approachable, engaging way, rating wines "OK," "Good," "Very Good," "Delicious" or "Delicious!"

After two years of writing both hard news and about wine while also raising their daughters Media and Zoë, the couple decided to dedicate their professional time solely to wine writing. They continued to write "Tastings" until late 2009. In 2010, Dorothy J. Gaiter was named Food and Wine Editor for France Magazine. In 2013, she was named Senior Editor for the online wine magazine Grape Collective, where she and John Brecher are now both Senior Editors and continue to write about wine.

Together, Gaiter and Brecher have written the books The Wall Street Journal Guide to Wine (1999), The Wall Street Journal Guide to Wine: New and Improved (2002), Love by the Glass: Tasting Notes From a Marriage (2002), and Wine for Every Occasion: Red, White and Bubbly to Celebrate the Joy of Living (2004), made numerous television appearances, and given radio interviews. One of their most enduring legacies is Open That Bottle Night, an annual tradition they created in 1999 to encourage people to open and enjoy a special bottle of wine that they have been saving.

Sources:


Scope and Contents
and Bubbly to Celebrate the Joy of Living (2004). Letters from readers, recordings of their appearances on national television, materials related to Open That Bottle Night; and born-digital materials including email correspondence and article drafts are also represented in the collection.

**Processing Information**
Collection is unprocessed.

**Access**
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**Preferred Citation**
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**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
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Wine tasting
Wine labels
Wine and wine making
Wine and wine making -- Guidebooks
Brecher, John -- Archives
Gaiter, Dorothy J. -- Archives