Jay Ruby Collection on Coffee House Positano, circa 1950-1960s LSC.2214

Finding aid prepared by Scott Reed, August 2016; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.

UCLA Library Special Collections
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Online finding aid last updated 14 August 2017.
Title: Jay Ruby Collection on Coffee House Positano
Identifier/Call Number: LSC.2214
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 4.2 linear feet (1 half box, 1 oversize flat box, 1 painting, 1 table)
Date (inclusive): circa 1950-1960s
Abstract: Coffee House Positano was a Malibu café and performance space (1957-1963) operated by Mike Dutton and Lorees Yerby off the Pacific Coast Highway. The café was known as a center of Bohemian life in Southern California. Collection was assembled by Jay Ruby and contains photographs, original and photocopies/printed scans of Positano bulletins and announcements, correspondence of waitress Joan Laine, and various ephemera related to the Positano and Malibu bohemian community.

Language of Materials: Materials are in English.
Physical Location: Portions of the collection stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information. Chess table held in map room on B-level; painting held in Cashin storage area on B-level
Creator: Jay Ruby

Conditions on Access
PORTIONS OF COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Conditions on Use and Reproduction
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Jay Ruby Collection on Coffee House Positano (Collection 2214). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Processing Information
Processed by Scott Reed in 2016 under the supervision of Courtney Dean in the Center for Primary Research and Training (CFPRT).

Biography/History
Coffee House Positano was a Malibu café and performance space (1957-1963) operated by Mike Dutton and Lorees Yerby off the Pacific Coast Highway. The café was known as a center of Bohemian life in Southern California and was frequented by notable Los Angeles artists, writers, and entertainment industry types including Allen Ginsberg, Ray Bradbury, and Keith Finch. Jay Ruby was an undergraduate at UCLA and worked as a dishwasher at Positano while living on the property from 1957-1959, in addition to participating in the community. After the closing of the café, the property transformed into the Budwood artists colony until the 1993 Malibu fire consumed the property.

Ruby later became a professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Temple University, and has researched and wrote extensively on Positano. Joan Laine was a waitress at Coffee Shop Positano (1957-1959).
Source: http://www.malibutimes.com/malibu_life/article_3d0d3bdf-4267-50fb-a6c8-6d6fee3654e4.html

Scope and Content
Collection consists of materials compiled by Jay Ruby documenting the history of Coffee House Positano and its related community of artists and patrons. Included are photographs, original and photocopies/printed scans of Positano bulletins and announcements, art and performance ephemera, correspondence, artworks, and furniture.

Organization and Arrangement
The materials have retained their original folder organization from Jay Ruby.

Lorees Yerby papers

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 8027818
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Coffee House Positano.
Artists--California--Los Angeles.
Bohemianism--California--Malibu.
Coffeehouses--California--Malibu.
Counterculture--California--Malibu
Malibu (Calif.)--Social life and customs--20th century.

Series 1: Coffee House Positano and Malibu Bohemia circa 1950s-1960s
Scope and Content
Contains photographs of Jay Ruby and others, original and photocopies/printed scans of Positano bulletins and announcements, copies of clippings/articles, script for Desire Trapped by the Trail, exhibit invitation for Ed Pagac and Ruth Levy at Keith Finch Studio, assorted printed digital maps.

Box 1, Folder 1 Photographs circa 1950s-1960s
Scope and Content
Four photographs: 3 Jay Ruby, 1 group shot Jay Ruby and others.

Box 1, Folder 2 Positano and Malibu Ephemera 1956-1966
Box 1, Folder 3 Desire Trapped Script 1959
Scope and Content
Also contains photograph with Colleen Guadelouple, Jay Ruby, Bill Otto, and others unidentified.

Box 1, Folder 4 Playhouse 1958-1959
Box 1, Folder 5 Old Maps undated
Box 1, Folder 6 Positano Bulletins circa 1950s-1960s
Scope and Content
Materials are photocopies and printed scan copies.

Box 1, Folder 7 Miscellaneous Articles undated
Box 1, Folder 8 Cafe Espresso Kick Article undated
Box 1, Folder 9 Initial Announcement 1959
Box 1, Folder 10 Raitt Poems undated
Box 1, Folder 11 Property Maps undated

Series 2: Joan Laine materials circa 1959-1963
Scope and Content
Contains a selection of letters to Joan Laine, a waitress at Coffee House Positano, 1957-1959, including letters from Ed Pagac, an artist who was active at Positano from its beginning to its end, Positano co-owner Lorees Yerby, and Positano waitress Shirley Jonas.

Box 1, Folder 12 Correspondence circa 1959-1963

Series 3: Artworks and Furniture Approx 1950s-1960s
Scope and Content
Series contains artworks and furniture associated with Coffee House Positano.

Box 2 Oil painting by Edward Pagac undated
Physical Description: Unframed, Approx. 40"x30", by Edward Pagac, a painter who frequented Positano.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th><strong>Concrete Crucifix undated</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Approx. 17&quot;x15&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 4</th>
<th><strong>Chess Table undated</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Wooden table, Approx. 41&quot;x24&quot;x28&quot;</td>
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