



## MAURICE & LA MONTE PAPERS

Coll2008-033

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June 27, 2008



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## Descriptive Summary

### Title

Maurice & La Monte Papers

### Creators

Jouron, Henry Joseph (Maurice), 1930-2006  
Kugler, William Stewart (La Monte), 1912-1993

### Extent

Number of containers: 2 archive cartons, 1 oversize archive box  
Linear feet: 0.75 linear foot

### Date

1937-2005 (bulk circa 1955-1980)

### Repository

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

### Abstract

Audio recordings, programs, photographs, and ephemera relating to female impersonators and pantomime artists Henry Jouron and William "Billy" Kugler (known theatrically as Maurice & La Monte). The bulk of the collection consists of sound recordings used for Maurice & La Monte's "Off the Record" pantomime act. The collection also contains photographs of celebrities and other female impersonators, some of which are signed.



## Administrative Information

### Access

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

### Publication Rights

Researchers wishing to publish material must obtain permission in writing from ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives as the physical owner of the material. Note that permission to publish does not constitute copyright clearance. ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives can grant copyright clearance only for those materials for which we hold copyright. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance for all other materials from the copyright holder(s).

### Preferred Citation

Box #, folder #, Maurice & La Monte Papers, Coll2008-033, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

### Indexing Terms

This collection is indexed under the following terms:

Female impersonators—United States  
Jouron, Henry Joseph (Maurice), 1930-2006  
Kugler, William Stewart (La Monte), 1912-1993  
Pantomime—United States

### Acquisitions Information

Gift of Robert Tymchuck, June 6, 2008

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Johanna Michael, June 27, 2008.

## Biography

William Stewart Kugler was born Aloysius Kenney on June 22, 1912 in Buffalo, New York. He was adopted at a young age and given the name William Stewart Kugler. He performed as a female impersonator in New York and Chicago in the 1930s.

Henry Joseph Jouron was born in Chicago on August 13, 1930. He also became involved in the performing arts.

Kugler and Jouron met in the late 1940s while they were each performing separately in Florida. They became a romantic couple, and shortly afterward decided to begin performing together. They created the Maurice & La Monte "Off the Record" pantomime act and staged their first shows in Florida. The act paired music made famous by other performers (and used in the act with their permission) with visual jokes and physical comedy. Maurice & La Monte wore simple black costumes to emphasize the individual costume pieces they used to create different characters (a colorful scarf, for example). Jouron made all of the costume pieces for the shows (he also made costumes for other female impersonators); they did each other's make-up.

The act toured in gay night clubs across the nation, with Kugler and Jouron working their way north from Florida to New York, then west to Chicago, and even further west to San Francisco and Los Angeles. Performing was difficult for the duo because of laws against female impersonation, particularly in California. Kugler and Jouron were plagued by police; they were even jailed briefly for impersonating females.

In 1965, Maurice & La Monte performed with Judy Garland in her last performance in Las Vegas, at the Thunderbird Hotel. Later, Maurice & La Monte often performed with Judy Lynn, a lesbian and Judy Garland impersonator.

Maurice & La Monte performed through the mid-1980s, mostly in California and Hawaii. Kugler died in Los Angeles on January 29, 1993. Jouron died on March 11, 2006, also in Los Angeles.

Source:

Maurice & La Monte Papers, Coll2008-033, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

## Scope and Content and Container List

This collection consists of sound recordings used for Kugler and Jouron's Maurice & La Monte acts, descriptions of those recordings, programs from their performances and from theater performances they attended, a framed collage of newspaper clippings relating to their act, a keychain-size gun that fires blank cartridges and was used in their act, photographs of celebrities and other female impersonators (some signed by the subjects), and notes from fans.

Miscellaneous materials include two publications on Mother Mason, a book of poems given to Kugler and Jouron on their 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary by Tymchuck and his partner, and a painting of a toucan, used as the backing for a framed photograph.

### Box Folder

1	1-3	"Off the Record" pantomime act. circa 1955-1970
1	1	Orders.
1	2	Order book.
1	3	Souvenir programs.
1	13	Keychain gun used in act. circa 1960
2	1-13	Audio tape recordings.
2	1-10	Maurice & La Monte Shows. 7-inch open reel; 3.75 ips. circa 1955-1970
2	1	Show #1.
2	2	Show #2.
2	3	Show #3.
2	4	Show #4. 35 minutes.
2	5	Show #5. 46 minutes.
2	6	Show #6. 47 minutes.
2	7	Show #7.
2	8	Show #8.
2	9	Show #9.
2	10	Show #10.
2	11	Maurice & La Monte Ford Show. 5-inch open reel; 12 minutes; 3.75 ips. circa 1955-1970
2	12-13	Judy Lynn
2	12	Funeral Parlor. 7-inch open reel; 7.5 ips. circa 1955-1970
2	13	Garland Medley. 5-inch open reel; 5.5 minutes; 7.5 ips. 1974
4		Collage of photographs and newspaper clippings. 36.5 x 28.5 inches; framed. circa 1965
1	4	Fan Notes. No dates
1	5-7	Photographs
1	5	Personal. 1937-circa 1980
1	6	Celebrities. circa 1950-1990
1	7	Motion picture publicity stills. 1962-1975
1	8-9	Theater programs. 1961-1994
1	8	A - I
1	9	J - Z

- 1 10-12 Miscellanea
- 1 10 Mother Mason. 1971-1973
- 1 11 Jo-Ann M. Daugherty, *Many Kinds of Love* (1974). 28th Anniversary Gift.  
February 14, 1978
- 1 12 Drawing of Tyrannosaurus Rex. To Henry Jouron from Mathew Decker.  
October 2005
- 3 1 Painting of toucan. Signed: P. Stright, 1966. 17 x 14 inches.