



RALPH G. MORITZ PAPERS

Coll2008-040

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Descriptive Summary

Title

Ralph G. Moritz Papers

Creator

Moritz, Ralph G., 1912-1998

Extent

Number of containers: 1 archive carton
Linear feet: 0.4 linear foot

Date

1967-1985

Repository

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

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.

Administrative Information

Access

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

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Ralph G. Moritz Papers, Coll2008-040, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Indexing Terms

This collection is indexed under the following terms:

- 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

Acquisitions Information

Date and method of acquisition unknown.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Michael P. Palmer, June 24, 2008.

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 and Container List

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.

Box Folder

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