



ORESTE F. PUCCIANI PAPERS

Coll2008-059

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Descriptive Summary

Title

Oreste F. Pucciani Papers

Creator

Pucciani, Oreste F., 1916-1999

Extent

Number of containers: 10 archive cartons + 1 archive half-carton
Linear feet: 4.3 linear feet

Date

Circa 1890-1998 (bulk 1950-1985)

Repository

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Abstract

This collection contains materials relating primarily to the private life of Oreste Pucciani (1916-1999), UCLA Professor of French and Sartre scholar, documenting in particular his relationship with his long-time lover, Rudi Gernreich, and his close friends, art director Jacques Faure (1926-1986), poet Stanley Kuniholm (1912-1984), and Lionel Mailles (born 1951). The bulk of Pucciani's personal writings consists of erotic short stories written most probably between 1975 and 1980. The bulk of the materials relating to Rudi Gernreich consists of condolence letters to Pucciani after Gernreich's death, together with a small number of cards and letters addressed to Gernreich, letters to Pucciani from Gernreich's mother, and a videocassette recording of a talk given by Pucciani on his late partner in 1993. The bulk of the materials relating to Faure, Kuniholm, and Mailles consists of letters received by Pucciani; however, the Mailles files include copies of letters, poems, and essays addressed by Pucciani to Mailles. The materials received from Kuniholm include a large number of poems, short stories, and essays documenting the poet's creative processes. The collection also contains a small number of subject files, publications, and miscellaneous memorabilia and ephemera.



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 #, Oreste F. Pucciani Papers, Coll2008-059, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Indexing Terms

This collection is indexed under the following terms:

- Designers
- Fashion designers
- Faure, Jacques, 1926-1986
- Gay erotic literature
- Gay men's writings, American
- Gay men's writings, French
- Gays' writings, American
- Gays' writings, French
- Gernreich, Rudi, 1922-1985
- Kuniholm, Stanley, 1912-1984
- Mailles, Lionel, 1951-
- Poets, American—20th Century
- Poets, French—20th Century
- Poetry
- Pucciani, Oreste Francesco, 1916-1999
- Short stories



Oreste F. Pucciani Papers, Coll2008-059

Separated Materials

Additional papers of Oreste Pucciani constitute the Oreste Pucciani Papers (Collection 585), Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Acquisitions Information

Circumstances of acquisition unknown.

Processing Information

Formerly boxes 103-338, 103-339, 103-345, and 103-349. Collection processed by Michael P. Palmer, November 4, 2008.

Biography

Oreste Francesco Pucciani was born in Cleveland on April 7, 1916, the son of a candy manufacturer. He attended the Cleveland public schools and graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Adelbert College, Western Reserve University (now Case Western University) in 1939. He took his doctorate in Romance languages from Harvard in 1943. In 1946-47, Pucciani studied in France and Italy on a Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, meeting Sartre and his companion Simone de Beauvoir. Returning to the United States in 1947, Pucciani lectured at Harvard, before joining the faculty of the University of California Los Angeles as an Assistant Professor of French in 1948. He became an Associate Professor in 1954, and a full Professor in 1960. He was chairman of the French department from 1961 to 1966, and became emeritus in 1979.

Pucciani's scholarly interests were diverse. His doctoral dissertation was devoted to the reception of Walt Whitman in France. *The French Theater since 1930* (1954) remains a useful anthology of French theater in the years between the world wars. He also published a well regarded translation of Racine's masterpiece *Phédre* in 1961. But Pucciani is best known as an interpreter of the philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre, and pioneered in teaching courses on Sartre at UCLA before the philosopher's works were translated into English.

In addition to his work on Sartre, Pucciani was well known as a theorist on methods of language acquisition. He had studied with Emile B. de Sauzé at Western Reserve in the 1930s, and was an ardent champion of Sauzé's "direct method" of language teaching, in which all instruction, including explanations of grammar and vocabulary, is given in the target language. In the late 1950s, Pucciani pioneered in adapting the direct method (still little known outside the Cleveland public schools) to the UCLA French Department's language program. The highly successful and influential textbook, *Langue et Langage*, published by Pucciani and Jacqueline Hamel in 1967, described the department's experience with the direct method, and revealed the advantages of immediate and total immersion in a foreign tongue.

For his services to French language and culture, Pucciani was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Legion of Honor by the French government in 1965.

Pucciani was the long-time lover of fashion designer Rudi Gernreich. In 1988, after Gernreich's death, he established the ACLU Rudi Gernreich-Oreste Pucciani Endowment Fund to support the fight for GLBT rights.

He died in Los Angeles on April 28, 1999.

Source: 1999, University of California: In Memoriam,
<http://content.cdlib.org/xtf/view?docId=hb267nb0r3&brand=calisphere> (accessed November 2, 2008).

Scope and Content and Container List

This collection contains materials relating primarily to the private life of UCLA Professor of French and Sartre scholar Oreste Pucciani, documenting in particular his relationship with his long-time lover, Rudi Gernreich, and several of his close friends. The collection is arranged in the following series: 1. Oreste Pucciani; 2. Rudi Gernreich; 3. Friends; 4. Subject Files; 5. Publications; 6 Audio Visual; and 7. Miscellanea. The bulk of Pucciani's writings consists of erotic short stories written most probably between 1975 and 1980. The writings also include a number of poems, possibly translations of works by Stanley Kuniholm. The bulk of the materials relating to Rudi Gernreich consists of condolence letters to Pucciani after Gernreich's death. Other materials include a small number of cards and letters addressed to Gernreich, and letters to Pucciani from Gernreich's mother. The Friends Series documents in particular Pucciani's relationship with three men, Jacques Faure, Stanley Kuniholm, and Lionel Mailles. The bulk of the materials consists of letters received by Pucciani; however, the Mailles files include copies of letters, poems, and essays addressed by Pucciani to Mailles. The materials received from Kuniholm include a large number of poems, short stories, and essays. The collection also contains a small number of subject files, publications, a videocassette recording of a talk given by Pucciani on Rudi Gernreich in 1993, and miscellaneous memorabilia and ephemera.

Series 1. Oreste Pucciani

Date: circa 1947-1990

Extent: 0.6 linear foot

This series contains writings by Pucciani, including his curriculum vitae, a 1970 appreciation of the photographer George Hoyningen-Huene, a 1990 article on Jean Genet and Sartre, and a number of poems, probably translation of works by Stanley Kuniholm (see below, Series 3, Subseries 2), published in the French periodical *La Nef* in 1947 and 1949. The majority of the writings are erotic, undated, but most probably written between 1975 and 1980; two of the stories are in French, the remainder in English.

Box Folder

		Biographical Information
1	1	Curriculum Vitae, circa 1987
		Academic Writings
1	2	<i>The 'Infernal Dialogue' of Jean Genet and Sartre</i> , 1990
1	3	George Hoyningen-Huene, 1900-1968, 1970
1	4	Poems [probably translations of Stanley Kuniholm poems published in <i>La Nef</i> , nos. 29 and 57 (1947, 1949)]
1	5	Notes
		Erotic Writings
1	6	<i>Bien</i> (manuscript)
1	7	<i>Daddy's Boy</i> (manuscript)
1	8	<i>Dear Jim</i> (manuscript)
1	9	<i>Dressing Room</i> (corrected typescript)

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| 1 | 10 | <i>A Drink of Water</i> (manuscript) |
| 1 | 11 | <i>Encounter</i> (manuscript) |
| 1 | 12 | <i>Feel It Up, Charlie!</i> (manuscript) |
| 1 | 13 | <i>Fraternity</i> (manuscript) |
| 1 | 14 | <i>High Fashion</i> (manuscript), 1978 |
| 1 | 15 | <i>Honey Ass</i> (manuscript/typescript) |
| 1 | 16 | <i>Hospital</i> (manuscript/typescript), 1977 |
| 1 | 17 | <i>Housemen</i> (manuscript) |
| 1 | 18 | <i>Initiatique</i> (French; manuscript) |
| 1 | 19 | <i>Jeff & Yuki</i> (manuscript) |
| 1 | 20 | <i>Jock</i> (manuscript) |
| 1 | 21 | <i>Law and Order I</i> (edited typescript) |
| 1 | 22 | <i>Mike I, II, III</i> (edited typescript) |
| 2 | 1 | <i>Next Door</i> (manuscript) |
| 2 | 2 | <i>Night Shift (1)</i> (manuscript) |
| 2 | 3 | <i>Night Shift (2)</i> (manuscript) |
| 2 | 4 | <i>The Old, Old South</i> (manuscript) |
| 2 | 5 | <i>Old South</i> (manuscript) |
| 2 | 6 | <i>One Night Stand</i> (manuscript) |
| 2 | 7 | <i>Par Pitié!</i> (French; manuscript) |
| 2 | 8 | <i>Paul—Lance</i> (manuscript) |
| 2 | 9 | <i>The Rig</i> (manuscript) |
| 2 | 10 | <i>Romance</i> (corrected typescript) |
| 2 | 11 | <i>Telefonata</i> (manuscript) |
| 2 | 12 | <i>Trucking</i> (manuscript) |
| 2 | 13 | Untitled (4 items, manuscript/typescript, found loose, possibly incomplete) |
| 2 | 14 | <i>Utopia</i> (manuscript) |

Series 2. Rudi Gernreich

Date: 1959-1986

Extent: 0.5 linear foot

Rudi Gernreich (1922-1985), Pucciani's long-time lover, was born in Vienna, and fled Austria at age 16, settling in Los Angeles. His first career was as a dancer; he later became a fabric designer, before moving into fashion design. He was known for pushing the boundaries of the "futuristic look" in clothing in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, and is most notorious for inventing the first topless women's swimsuit. However, most of Gernreich's creations created a brief stir, and then quietly disappeared. Gernreich was also a gay activist and a founder of the Mattachine Society. The small group of papers in this series consists primarily of condolence letters sent to Pucciani after Gernreich's death in April 1985. The series also contains a small number of cards and letters addressed to Gernreich, papers relating to Pucciani's efforts to obtain a parking variance for Gernreich's design studio, a handwritten account by Gernreich of an injury to his hand, and a series of letters from Gernreich's mother, Elisabeth, to Pucciani during one of his sabbaticals in Europe.

Box	Folder	
2	15	Acceptance speech by Oreste Pucciani for the "Special Tribute" award to Rudi Gernreich from the Council of Fashion Designers of America, January 19, 1986
2	16-19	Condolence letters to Oreste Pucciani (folders 1-4), April-May 1985
3	1	Condolence letters to Oreste Pucciani (folder 5), April-May 1985
3	2	Condolence letters to Oreste Pucciani, 1986
3	3-4	Correspondence (letters to), 1982-1985
3	5	Design studio, 1966
3	6	Injury to hand, February 7, 1982
3	7	Gernreich, Elisabeth. Letters to Oreste Pucciani, October 1959-June 1960

Series 3. Friends

Date: circa 1890-1998

Extent: 2.25 linear feet

This series contains papers relating to several of Pucciani's long-time friends, several of whom he supported financially in some degree.

Subseries 3.1. Jacques Faure

Date: 1953-1986

Extent: 0.3 linear foot

Jacques Faure was born in Lyon, France, on May 22, 1926. His family later moved to Paris, where he appears to have met Pucciani in 1946, during the latter's year on the Sheldon Traveling Fellowship. The two began an affair, and Faure moved to California to be with Pucciani. When the affair ended in the early 1950s Pucciani remained a friend, both to Faure and to his mother. In 1959, Faure took the position of art director at French *Vogue*, published by Conde Nast, in Paris, marrying Patricia Enk a few days before returning to France. He and his wife remained in France 12 years; their daughter Zazu was born in 1965. Faure lost his position with Conde Nast and the family returned to California in 1970; Faure and Patricia were divorced shortly afterwards (Patricia later became a prominent Los Angeles art dealer). Faure spent the rest of his life working as a free-lance designer, living next door to Pucciani, who supported him during hard financial times. He died in hospital in Torrance, California, on August 1, 1986. The subseries includes letters to Pucciani from both Faure and his wife during their years in Paris, drawings by Faure separated from the letters in which they were originally sent, an account by Patricia Faure of the deterioration of their marriage, a 1984 book typescript by Faure, and papers relating to his last illness and estate, of which Pucciani served as executor.

Box	Folder	
3	8	Letters to Oreste Pucciani (bulk 1960-1968), 1953-1975
3	9	Diana Newman lawsuit, 1986
3	10	Drawings, circa 1960-1969
3	11	Estate, 1986-1987
4	1	Last Illness, 1986
4	2	Miscellaneous

- 4 3 *The Red Star*, 1984
- 4 4 Taxes, 1972-1983

Subseries 3.2. Stanley Kuniholm

Date: circa 1890, 1936-1984

Extent: 0.75 linear foot

Stanley Kuniholm was born in Massachusetts on June 9, 1912, of Scandinavian and New England ancestry. He graduated from Gardner High School in 1929, and appears then to have become a factory worker. He began writing poetry seriously in 1932. He later attended Tufts College, where he was associate editor of the college literary magazine, *The Tuftonian*, in 1938, and editor-in-chief in 1940. He later taught high school in North Brookfield and later at Manter Hall School, in Cambridge. He fell in his apartment, and was not discovered for several days, in July 1982; he never fully recovered, and died in Boston in February 1984. Kuniholm and Pucciani met in the 1930s, and remained close friends until Kuniholm's death; from at least the early 1950s Pucciani also provided Kuniholm with financial assistance. The papers in this subseries consist primarily of Kuniholm's letters to Pucciani from December 1951 to January 1953, and copies of Kuniholm's poems, short stories and essays written between 1932 and 1954. Kuniholm's letters and essays give considerable insight into his creative processes.

Box Folder

Correspondence

- 4 5 Letters to Oreste Pucciani (all but 2 from December 1951 to January 1953), September 1950-January 1954
- 4 6 Letters to Oreste Pucciani. Poems & essays, September 1950-January 1954
- 4 7 Letters to Oreste Pucciani, 1960-1982
- 4 8 Last illness, 1983-1984

Poems

- 4 9 *Amanda* (manuscript, composition book), 1939
- 4 10 *The Failure* (typescript)
- 4 11 *The Great Cave* (typescript), 1953-1954
- 4 12 *The Living Mask* (typescript)
- 5 1 *The Murderer* (typescript), 1949
- 5 2 *Romantic Landscape* (typescript), 1950
- 5 3 *Uncollected Poems and Papers* (typescript)
- 5 4 *The Unfinished God* (typescript) (2 copies)
- 5 5 *The Warlock* (typescript) (with other poems and correspondence), 1948
- 5 6 Untitled Collection (first poem: "Hyla") (typescript)
- 5 7-8 Untitled Collection (1 poem for each day of the year) (typescript) (2 folders), Sunday, October 4, 1953 - Monday, October 4, 1954
- 5 9 Miscellaneous Poems (typescript) (found loose)

Essays & Short Stories

- 5 10 *The Classic Americans* (typescript) (found loose)
- 5 11 *The Divine Ship* (typescript) (2 copies), 1936
- 5 12 *Jenny the Hawk* (typescript), 1953

5	13	Short Stories (typescript) (1. The Funeral; 2. The Bachelor; 3. The Saint; 4. The Man of Decision)
5	14	<i>Through a Glass</i> (typescript)
5	15	Untitled Essay (typescript), 1953
Publications		
6	1	<i>Tuftonian</i> , 1938, 1940
Photograph		
6	2	Photograph, circa 1890

Subseries 3.3. Lionel Mailles

Date: 1975-1989, 1998

Extent: 0.86 linear foot

Lionel Mailles was born on November 19, 1951, and lives in 32170 Laas, France; he also maintains a website, telepathes.org, possibly using the name "Lionel Oreste". He and Pucciani had an intense affair in the mid-1970s, often writing to each another several times a day. Pucciani also provided extensive financial support for Mailles between from 1975 through 1977. The papers in this subseries, all written in French, consist of Mailles' letters to Pucciani from 1976 through 1979, with a few letters through the 1980s, and a single letter from 1998; and of Pucciani's letters and other writings addressed to Mailles from 1975 through 1977. The first three folders of Mailles' letters to Pucciani and all folders of Pucciani's letters to Mailles retain the titles given them by Pucciani. The majority of folders also retain Pucciani's original reverse chronological order.

Box Folder

Mailles to Pucciani		
6	3	1976 Depuis Laas (found loose at front of binder), April-June 1976
6	4	1976 Depuis Laas (binder; arranged in reverse chronological order), August 1976-March 1977
6	5	1976 Depuis Laas (found loose in binder), March 1977
6	6	September-November 1976
6	7	February-May 1977
6	8	June-December 1977
6	9	January-March 1978
6	10	May-July 1978
7	1	August-September 1978
7	2	October-December 1978
7	3	1979
7	4	<i>Philippe Fabrique</i> , 1982
7	5	1983-1989, 1998
Pucciani to Mailles		
7	6	Veilleur. Texte. 1 (arranged in reverse order), May 12-25, 1975
7	7	Veilleur. Texte. 2 (arranged in reverse order), May 26-27, 1975
7	8	Lionel, June 1975-April 1976
7	9	Poème pour Lionel, June 1976

7	10	Paris 22.vi.76 au 4 août 1976
7	11	Journal pour Lionel, August 10-25, 1976
8	1	Deuxième journal pour Lionel (arranged in reverse chronological order), September 1976-February 1977
8	2	L[ionel] depuis Paris 1977, July-November 1977
8	3	Chronologie pour le 3 août '77, August 3, 1977

Subseries 3.4. Other Correspondents

Date: 1970-1991

Extent: 0.3 linear foot

This subseries contains letters and other materials from other friends of Oreste Pucciani. The correspondents include graphic artist and designer Paul Batoon, born in Texas of Filipino parents, who studied at UCLA and became a protégé of Rudi Gernreich; Viennese-born abstract expressionist painter and graphic artist Lilly Fenichel; E. Dale Saunders (1919-1995), professor of Japanese at the University of Pennsylvania, whose friendship with Pucciani dated from their undergraduate days at Western Reserve; and French artist Raymond Voinquel (1912-1994). The letters from Batoon to Pucciani are in French.

Box Folder

		Batoon, Paul
8	4	Letters to Oreste Pucciani, 1977-1979
8	5	Letters to Oreste Pucciani, 1980-1990
8	6	Fashion pictorials, 1984
8	7	Photographs, 1977-1980
8	8	Bauer, George, Jr., 1987-1988
8	9	Fenichel, Lilly, 1980-1985
8	10	Rezu, Luc-Olivier, 1977-1978
8	11	Saunders, E. Dale, 1970-1991
8	12	Voinquel, Raymond, 1989-1990
8	13	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1977-1990

Series 4. Subject Files

Date: circa 1971-1991

Extent: 5 folders

This series contains a small number of subject files formed from miscellaneous materials found loose among Pucciani's papers.

Box Folder

9	1	ACLU Rudi Gernreich-Oreste Pucciani Endowment Fund, 1988
9	2	AIDS, 1986-1988
9	3	DeBrier, Sampson, 1987
9	4	Foucault, Michel, 1977-1991
9	5	Gay literature, 1988

9 6 Genet, Jean. *Le Balcon*, post 1971

Series 5. Publications

Date: 1937-circa 1971

Extent: 0.6 linear foot

This series includes several publications found among Pucciani's papers. These include four yearbooks from Pucciani's alma mater, Adelbert College, Western Reserve University; a copy of Whit and Hallie Burnett's *Things With Claws* (1961), containing a short story by Pucciani; uncorrected galley proofs of Gene Horowitz's *Mr. Jack and the Greenstalks* sent to Rudi Gernreich; and a typescript work on homosexuality and the church, title and author unknown, possibly written in conjunction with the work of the Metropolitan Community Church, with annotations possibly by Pucciani.

Box Folder

- 9 7 Burnett, Whit & Hallie, ed. *Things With Claws* (contains short story "Butch" by Pucciani), 1961
- 9 8 Homosexuality and the Church (no title page, author unknown). Typescript with manuscript notes, possibly by Pucciani, circa 1971
- 9 9 Horowitz, Gene. *Mr. Jack and the Greenstalks*. Uncorrected galley proof sent to Rudi Gernreich, 1969
Nihon (Adelbert College, Western Reserve University yearbook)
- 10 1 1937
- 10 2 1938 (junior class)
- 10 3 1938 (upperclassmen)
- 10 4 1939

Series 6. Audio Visual

Date: 1993

Extent: 1 videocassette

This series contains a single videocassette recording of a talk Pucciani gave on Rudi Gernreich at ONE, Inc., on November 7, 1993.

Box Folder

- 11 1 Oreste Pucciani on Rudi Gernreich. ONE, Inc. 8mm videocassette, November 7, 1993

Series 7. Miscellanea

Date: circa 1946-1990

Extent: 0.2 linear foot

This series contains miscellaneous memorabilia and ephemera found among Pucciani's papers. These include an address book from 1958; four passports for Pucciani; a Christmas stocking designed by Paul Batoon; a "Hello" card with a racy pickup line; a 1974 map of Paris and environs; and a notepad itemizing Pucciani's financial support for Lionel Mailles from 1975 through 1977. Pucciani's relationship with Catherine and Joseph Icide may derive ultimately from Patricia (Enk) Faure, whose father was also a drop forger.

Box Folder

11	2	Address book 1958
11	3	Batoon, Paul. Christmas stocking
11	4	"Hello" card
11	5	Idice, Catherine. Record book of Oreste Pucciani with financial accounts for. July 1988-May 1990
11	6	Idice, Joseph. Identification card from International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers & Helpers, circa 1946
11	7	Mailles, Lionel. Memo notepad of Oreste Pucciani with notes on his financial support for. 1975-1977
11	8	Paris. Michelin map of the environs of. 1 : 100 000. 1974
11	9-12	Passports for Oreste Pucciani, 1951, 1970, 1975, 1988