



## Guide to the Liberace Fan Memorabilia Collection

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This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 28, 2022. Please contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1ks4t>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Johnson, Karl B.
<b>Title:</b>	Liberace Fan Memorabilia Collection
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00622
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1944 to 2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.34 Cubic Feet (3 boxes, 1 oversized folder)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.71 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Liberace Fan Memorabilia Collection (1944-2004) consists of fliers, brochures, newspaper articles, show programs, and collectibles chronicling the life and career of famed Las Vegas, Nevada entertainer Liberace. Materials from the Liberace Foundation, various fan clubs, and the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas comprise the bulk of the collection.

### Preferred Citation Note

Liberace Fan Memorabilia Collection, 1944-2004. MS-00622. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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Famed Las Vegas, Nevada pianist and entertainer Liberace (1919-1987) was born Wladziu Valentino Liberace in West Allis, Wisconsin. A gifted pianist, Liberace began his career in the 1930s and achieved success between the 1950s and 1970s. Often nicknamed "Mr. Showmanship," he was the highest-paid entertainer on the Las Vegas Strip for several years during the height of his popularity. In addition to his music, he was known for his distinctive showmanship and flair. He continued to entertain audiences until 1987, when he passed away in Palm Springs, California from AIDS-related complications.

Source:

Biography. "Liberace." Last modified October 28, 2019. <https://www.biography.com/musician/liberace>

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Liberace Fan Memorabilia Collection (1944-2004) consists of fliers, brochures, newspaper articles, show programs, and collectibles chronicling the life and career of famed Las Vegas, Nevada entertainer Liberace. There is a set of vinyl records signed by Liberace, and an auction book and appraisals of his estates. Materials from the Liberace Foundation, various fan clubs, and the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas comprise the bulk of the collection.

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## Arrangement

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Materials are in original order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2012 and 2015 by Karl B. Johnson; accession numbers 2012-025, 2015-099.

## Processing Note

Material was processed by Joyce Moore in 2012. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid project, Ian M. Baldwin revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently, Ian M. Baldwin entered information into ArchivesSpace. In 2019, Lauren Paljusaj updated the inventory in ArchivesSpace and revised the finding aid.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Entertainers
- photographs
- Memorabilia
- Liberace, 1919-1987

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Fliers and brochures for Liberace events, approximately 1952 to 2004	box 01
Liberace event invitations, 1989 to 2004	box 01
Photographs, 1965 to 2004	box 01
Liberace postcards, approximately 1958 to 2004	box 01
Show tickets, 1944 to 1977	box 01
Liberace sheet music order forms and promotional items, 1954 to 1993	box 01
Liberace memorial card, 1987	box 01
Liberace show programs, 1963 to 1984	box 01
Newspaper articles: photocopies, 1953 to 1999	box 01
<i>Liberace</i> "Complete Life Story," 1954 and <i>National Enquirer</i> "Liberace Bombshell," 1982 November 2, 1954 to 1982	box 01
<i>Liberace and His Priceless Piano</i> bound record set, signed by Liberace to Karl and Dorothy Johansson, 1948 December 16	box 01
Liberace press manual, 1984 to 1985	box 02

Screenplay for <i>Liberace</i> , an ABC-TV Movie of the Week: photocopy, 1988 May 23	box 02
Liberace Club of Wichita newsletters, 1961 to 1962	box 02
Liberace Clubs International newsletters, 1974 to 2001	box 02
<i>Keyboard Magic</i> , Liberace Fan Club magazine, 1979 to 2003 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 02
Christie's auction book, "The Liberace Collection", 1988 April 09	box 03
Appraisals by Tait Appraisal Co. of two of Liberace's properties: The Lancaster, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1979 August 16; and 15th Street and Bonita, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1978 November 8, 1978 to 1979	box 03
<i>A Collecting Guide to the Recordings of Liberace, and His Brother George</i> by Karl B. Johnson, Ph.D, 1994	box 03
Liberace show programs, 1966 to 1985	flat file 04