

2017

Finding Aid to Ric and Billie Barbara Masten Papers

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ArchivesSpace

Masten (Ric and Billie Barbara) papers

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

California State University, Monterey Bay Archives and Special Collections

California State University, Monterey Bay
Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library
100 Campus Center
Seaside, CA 93955

archives@csumb.edu

URL: <https://csumb.edu/library>

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Summary Information

Repository:	California State University, Monterey Bay Archives and Special Collections
Source - dnr:	Masten, Billie Barbara
Source - dnr:	Masten, April F.
Creator - cre:	Masten, Ric
Title:	Ric and Billie Barbara Masten papers
ID:	MS.7
Date [inclusive]:	1894, 1929-2008
Physical Description:	10.42 Linear Feet 6 record cartons, 3 flat boxes, 1 oversize folder
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Writings, correspondence, clippings, photographs, business records, fliers, posters, artwork, notes, scrapbooks and other personal papers, 1894, 1929 to 2008, of Ric and Billie Barbara Masten. The bulk of the collection documents Ric's career as a poet and performer and includes performance materials, promotional items, photographs, and published works. Additional items include materials documenting Billie Barbara's work as a poet, artist, and performer and collaborations between the Mastens.

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Biographical

Ric Masten was an artist, songwriter, folksinger, poet and Unitarian minister. He was born in Carmel, California on June 20, 1929. Ric graduated from Montezuma High School in Los Gatos, California in 1946, and attended several colleges, but never received a degree. Ric studied painting in Paris at the Institut des Beaux Arts, but upon returning to Carmel, began writing and producing musical comedies at the Forest Theater, where he met his future wife, Billie Barbara. He settled with his family in Palo Colorado Canyon, the area of Big Sur which was often the subject of his 23 books and other performance pieces. Ric started songwriting and eventually began performing his own poetry. Beginning in 1966, he traveled extensively, performing at hundreds of conferences, colleges, schools, and churches. Through the years, Ric received numerous awards and honors, both nationally and internationally. In 2007, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from CSUMB. Ric Masten died May 9, 2008 of prostate cancer.

Billie Barbara Masten was an actress, poet and artist. She was born Billie Barbara Bolton in San Bernardino, California in 1932 and moved with her parents to Carmel five years later. Billie Barbara studied voice and theatre at Monterey Peninsula College. An aspiring actress, Billie Barbara married Ric Masten after they met at Carmel's Forest Theatre. After raising their family, Billie Barbara joined her husband on tour in the mid-seventies and began performing with him and on her own at universities, churches, prisons, women's shelters, and retirement homes. Billie Barbara died December 4, 2012 from a stroke.

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Scope and Contents

Writings, correspondence, clippings, ephemera, photographs, business records, notes, scrapbooks and other personal papers of Ric and Billie Barbara Masten. The bulk of the collection documents Ric's career as a poet and performer from the 1959 until his death in 2008 and includes photocopied sheet music of Ric's songs, correspondence, business records from Sunflower Ink Publishing, contracts, touring calendars, performance materials, promotional items, photographs, artwork, published works, and audio recordings. The collection includes materials related to Ric's early education and career, as well as materials documenting Ric's involvement with the Unitarian Universalist Association. It also contains personal documents, correspondence, photographs, and a few items from Ric's father and grandfather, which date back to 1894. Additional items include materials documenting Billie Barbara's work as a poet, author, artist, and performer, as well as more personal items of Billie Barbara's, such as her dream logs and journals.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged in 7 series:

Series 1: Music and Sun Ink Publishing, 1959-2007

Series 2: Performances and touring, 1959-2008

Series 3: Publications, 1970-2007

Series 4: Billie Barbara Masten, 1932-2008

Series 5: Personal, 1894, 1929-2008

Series 6: Clippings, 1952-2008

Series 7: Oversize and artifacts, 1947-2008

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Billie Barbara Masten and April F. Masten, 2010.

Conditions Governing Access

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

Conditions Governing Use

California State University, Monterey Bay does not hold copyright to all materials in this collection. Archives and Special Collections recognizes that it is incumbent upon the researcher to procure permission to publish information from this collection from the owner of copyright.

Processing Information

This collection was processed with the assistance of Josiah Peralta and Peter Alvarez.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Health
- Middle age
- Popular music -- Writing and publishing
- Poetry
- Monterey Peninsula (Calif.) -- Poetry
- Wit and humor
- Masten, Billie Barbara
- Masten, April F.
- Masten, Billie Barbara
- Masten, Ric

Collection Inventory

Music and Sun Ink Publishing, 1959-2007

Date [inclusive]: 1959-2007

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Performances and touring, 1959-2008

Date [inclusive]: 1959-2008

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Publications, 1970-2007

Date [inclusive]: 1970-2007

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Billie Barbara Masten, 1932-2008

Date [inclusive]: 1932-2008

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Personal, 1894, 1929-2008

Date [inclusive]: 1894, 1929-2008

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Clippings, 1952-2008

Date [inclusive]: 1952-2008

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Oversize and artifacts , 1947-2008

Date [inclusive]: 1947-2008

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