

# Merle Armitage:

## An Inventory of his Literary File Photography Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Armitage, Merle, 1893-1975
- Title:** Merle Armitage Literary File Photography Collection
- Dates:** 1936-1970, undated
- Extent:** 700 items (3.7 linear feet)
- Abstract:** The Merle Armitage Literary File consists of approximately 700 photographs, many of which are images of books written, edited, and/or designed by Armitage. Also included are portraits of Armitage and various other people, as well as views of the Grand Canyon and various places in Europe. In addition, there are numerous images of petroglyphs, as well as some pertaining to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroad system.
- Call Number:** Photograph Collection PH-02681
- Language:** English
- Access:** Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials. Please note: Transparencies may be accessed but require 24 hours advance notice. Negatives cannot be accessed without curatorial approval. Light sensitive materials must be viewed under low-level lighting. Some materials may be restricted from viewing. To make an appointment or to reserve photography materials, please contact the Center's staff at [photography@hrc.utexas.edu](mailto:photography@hrc.utexas.edu).
- Use Policies:** Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.

**Restrictions on Use:** Authorization for publication is given on behalf of the University of Texas as the owner of the collection and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder which must be obtained by the researcher. For more information please see the Ransom Centers' Open Access and Use Policies.

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## **Administrative Information**

**Acquisition:** Internal transfers

**Processed by:** HRC Staff

**Repository:** [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

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## Scope and Contents

The Merle Armitage Literary File consists of approximately 700 photographs, many of which are images of books written, edited, and/or designed by Armitage. Also included are portraits of Armitage and various other people, as well as views of the Grand Canyon and various places in Europe. In addition, there are numerous images of petroglyphs, as well as some pertaining to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroad system. An index at the end of this guide lists photographers whose work is featured in this file. Further descriptions of some items are available in a card catalog in the repository.

This collection forms a part of the Literary File Photography Collection, which is comprised of photographs and albums withdrawn from the libraries and/or papers of literary figures, and generally include portraits and images collected by or of those figures.

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## Related Material

The Ransom Center also holds manuscript material in the Merle Armitage Papers.

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## Index Terms

### People

Armitage, Isabelle.  
Armitage, Merle, 1893-1975.  
Kent, Rockwell, 1882-1971.  
Stravinsky, Igor, 1882-1971.  
Wells, Cady, 1904-1954.

### Organizations

Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad Company.

### Subjects

Petroglyphs.

### Places

London (England).  
Ramsgate (England).

Switzerland.

**Document Types**

Photographic prints.

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**Accession Number: P1-P6** Portraits of Armitage alone at various ages throughout his adult life, undated.

**Location**  
Armitage,  
M., Lit  
File Box  
1

**Accession Number: P7** Portrait (silkscreen print) of Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P8** Group portrait of Armitage at age 3 with his parents and sister, undated.

**Accession Number: P11-P14, P15A-P15B, P16A-P16B, P17-P21** Photographs of Armitage as an adult with various people, undated.

**Accession Number: P22-P33** Portraits of various people; all signed and inscribed to Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P34** View of a crowd in an airplane hangar (during World War II?), undated.

**Accession Number: P35-P48, P49A-P49B, P50-P63** Portraits of various people, including Joan Crawford (P53), Ira Gershwin (P59), Rockwell Kent (P48), Igor Stravinsky (P35, P61), Arturo Toscanini (P60), Edgar Varèse (P40-P43), and Joseph von Sternberg (P44); most signed and inscribed to Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P64A-P64B** Photographs of Igor Stravinsky at a rehearsal, undated.

**Accession Number: P65** Group portrait of 8 unidentified people (members of a family?) at a resort (in Monte-Carlo?), undated.

**Accession Number: P66A-P66B** Photographic reproductions of the cover and title page of *The Aristocracy of Art* by Armitage, undated.

**Location**  
Armitage,  
M., Lit  
File Box  
2

**Accession Number: P67A-P67D** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, and other pages (page 1 and an illustration) of *Warren Newcombe* by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P68A-P68C** Photographic reproductions of the cover, page 1, and plate 13 of *The Work of Maier-Krieg* by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P69A-P69B** Photographic reproductions of the cover and page 1 of Rockwell-Kent by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P70A-P70D** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, and other pages (page x and an illustration) of The Lithographs of Richard Day by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P71A-P71D** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, and other pages (including an illustration) of Napolitano by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P72A-P72G** Photographic reproductions of the cover, lining papers, title page, and other pages of Lovet-Lorski by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P73A-P73D** Photographic reproductions of the cover, lining papers, title page, and other pages of So-Called Abstract Art by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P74A-P74B** Photographic reproductions of the cover and title page of Post Caviar by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P75A-P75E** Photographic reproductions of the cover, lining papers, title page, and other pages (including an illustration) of U.S. Navy by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P76A-P76E** Photographic reproductions of the cover, lining papers, title page, and other pages (including an illustration) of Accent on America by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P77** Photographic reproduction of the title page of Dance Memoranda by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P78A-P78D** Photographic reproductions of the cover, front lining papers, and title page of Operations Santa Fe by Armitage, as well as an image of a metal ornament bearing the Santa Fe logo (used as illustration?), undated.

**Accession Number: P79A-P79B** Photographic reproductions of the title page and 8 other pages of Brett Weston: Photographs by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P80A-P80E** Photographic reproductions of the cover and various pages (including illustrations) of Henrietta Shore by Armitage, as well as a silhouette of a cactus (used as illustration?), undated.

**Location**  
Armitage,  
M., Lit  
File Box

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**Accession Number: P81A-P81E** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, and other pages (including an illustration) of Zarathustra Jr., with a foreword by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P82A-P82D** Photographic reproductions of the title page and other pages (including illustrations) of Elise by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P83A-P83B** Photographic reproductions of the cover of The Capture of Inspiration, produced, designed, and with a foreword by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P84A-P84E** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, and other pages (including illustrations) of Millard Sheets, edited by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P85A-P85D** Photographic reproductions of the cover (negative only), lining papers, title page, and page iii of Igor Stravinsky (New York, 1936), edited and with an article by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P86A-P86D** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, and other pages (including an illustration) of Picasso: 2 Statements, with a "comment" by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P87A-P87E** Photographic reproductions of the cover, front lining papers, title page, and other pages (including an illustration) of Hollywood Bowl, with a foreword by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P88A-P88D** Photographic reproductions of the cover, frontispiece, title page, and other pages (including illustrations) of The Psychologist Looks at Art, edited and with a foreword by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P89A-P89B** Photographic reproductions of the cover and page 1 of Martha Graham, edited and with a foreword by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P90A-P90F** Photographic reproductions of the cover, front lining papers, title page, and other pages (including illustrations) of George Gershwin, edited, designed, and with an article by Armitage, undated.

**Location**

**Accession Number: P91A-P91D** Photographic reproductions of the cover, lining papers, preliminary pages, and page 41 of *Designed Books*, including articles about and reproductions of books designed by Armitage, undated.

Armitage,  
M., Lit  
File Box  
4

**Accession Number: P92A-P92D** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, and other pages (including an illustration) of *Have We an American Art*, designed and with an article by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P93A-P93B** Photographic reproductions of the title page and page 17 of *Private Enterprise and Democracy*, with a foreword by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P94A-P94D** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, and other pages (including an illustration) of *Personal Revolution and Picasso*, edited and with a foreword by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P95A-P95G** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, and other pages (including illustrations) of *Edward Weston and 50 Photographs* (by Edward Weston), both books designed and with text by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P96A-P96B** Photographic reproduction of the title page of *Igor Stravinsky* (New York, c1949), by Armitage, and a silhouette of a grand piano (used as illustration?), undated.

**Accession Number: P97A-P97F** Photographic reproductions of preliminary pages and other pages (facsimiles of Klee's signature) of *Five Essays on Paul Klee*, edited and with an essay by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P99A-P99E** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, and other pages of *Picture Book*, designed by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P100A-P100C** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, and another page of *Valdemar*, designed by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P101A-P101D** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title page, frontispiece, and other pages of *Advanced Modern Navigation*, designed by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P102A-P102E** Photographic reproductions of the cover, lining papers, title page, and other pages of Looking Backward, designed by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P103A-P103C** Photographic reproductions of the cover, illustrated lining papers, and title page of Russell Cowles, designed by Armitage, undated.

**Location**  
Armitage,  
M., Lit  
File Box  
5

**Accession Number: P104A-P104B** Photographic reproductions of the cover and title page of Navajo Textile Arts, designed by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P105** Photographic reproduction of the cover of The Smile at the Foot of the Ladder, designed by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P106** Photographic reproduction of the title page of Murder and Mystery in New Mexico, designed by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P107A-P107B** Photographic reproductions of pages of the brochure Rosa Ponselle, designed by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P108A-P108F** Color negatives of desert paintings by Armitage, 1955.

**Accession Number: P109A-P109L** Images of an exhibition of books and typography by Armitage, presented by Gardner Cowles for Look Magazine, undated.

**Accession Number: P111A-P111I** Photographic reproduction of a map (4 prints taped together) and 8 variant contact prints of the same maps inscribed (by Armitage?) "desert book 1952," 1952.

**Accession Number: P112A-P112J** 10 different contact sheets of 35mm negatives of desert scenes, and views of various other places, 1953.

**Accession Number: P113-P129** Petroglyph photographs, undated.

**Accession Number: P130-P189** Petroglyph photographs, undated.

**Location**  
Armitage,  
M., Lit File  
Box 6

**Accession Number: P190-P220** Views of the Grand Canyon, undated.

**Accession Number: P221-P229** Views of the Grand Canyon, undated.

**Location**  
Armitage,  
M., Lit File  
Box 7

**Accession Number: P230** View of Athens, Greece (the Parthenon?), undated.

**Accession Number: P231** View of a crowded plaza in Salamanca, Spain, on the occasion of the installation of Fascist leaders during the Spanish Civil War, 1938.

**Accession Number: P232** Photograph of a small group of refugees crossing the mountains into France to escape Franco, 1938.

**Accession Number: P233** View of a crowd gathered in Vienna to watch Hitler review the troops, 1938.

**Accession Number: P234A-P234B** Stills from the film "The Big Lift," 1950.

**Accession Number: P235** Photograph of people in traditional dress in Valais, Switzerland, 1938.

**Accession Number: P236A-P236C** Views of Switzerland (6 pages of half-tone prints apparently removed from a book), undated.

**Accession Number: P237-P239** Views of various places in Switzerland, including the Matterhorn (P238); P239 dated 1936.

**Accession Number: P240-P242** Views of various places in Poland, including the border city of Vilna (P241), 1938-1939.

**Accession Number: P243-P246** Views of various places in Italy; P244 and P246 are dated 1947 and 1944 respectively.

**Accession Number: P247** View of Paris (the Arc de Triomphe?), 1946.

**Accession Number: P248** Photograph of 8 women kneeling before a large crucifix on an outer wall of a building,

**Accession Number: P249-P250** Views of the Café de Flore (P249) and the Palais de Chaillot (P250) in Paris, undated.

**Accession Number: P251** View of Saint Moritz, Switzerland, undated.

**Accession Number: P252** View of a town on the border between France and Italy, 1938.

**Accession Number: P253** View of a crowd in front of a train station in Paris, 1938.

**Accession Number: P254-P258** Views of London; P257-P258 dated 1939.

**Accession Number: P259** View of Ramsgate, England, 1939.

**Accession Number: P260** Photograph of "about one half of the total 106 Merle Armitage books, in a case especially built at Manzanita Ranch," undated.

**Accession Number: P262-P263, P265-P295** Photographs of locomotives, other train cars, and various scenes pertaining to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railway system, undated.

**Accession Number: P297** Photographic reproduction of a silhouette of a rooster perched on a circle with Armitage's stylized initials inside (original print and negative), undated.

**Accession Number: P298** Photographic reproduction of a letter to Armitage from A. Thangal Kunju Musaliar, letter dated 16 January 1950.

**Accession Number: P299-P303** Photographs of Kachina dolls, undated.

**Location**  
Armitage,  
M., Lit File  
Box 8

**Accession Number: P304-P332** Photographic reproductions of Cady Wells paintings, undated.

**Accession Number: P333** Stereograph of Armitage in an old car with Gardner Cowles (behind the wheel) and 3 unidentified men, undated.

**Accession Number: P334** Portrait of Armitage in a military uniform (same image as P4 and 998:0049:0001), undated.

**Accession Number: P335A-P335E** Photographic reproductions of the cover, title pages of 2 editions, illustrated lining papers, and other pages of Fit for a King by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: 997:0105:0457** Scene from a production of Porgy and Bess presented by Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: 998:0049:0001** Portrait of Armitage in military uniform (same image as P4 and P334), undated.

**Accession Number: 998:0049:0002** Portrait of Armitage, November 1970.

**Accession Number: 998:0049:0003** Portrait of Picasso in an arena (at a bull fight?), undated.

**Accession Number: P9** Portrait of Merle and Isabelle Armitage; handwritten on lower mount recto: "For the University of Texas / from Isabelle / and Merle Armitage / 1961;" photographer's initials ("B.W.") also handwritten on mount recto, below right corner of image, 1961. 24 x 19 cm (image); 40.8 x 35.2 cm (mount). **Location**  
Lit File  
OV Box  
Medium

**Accession Number: P10** Portrait of Merle and Isabelle Armitage, undated.

**Accession Number: P296** "Natural mosaic and weather vane at Margarita Ranch. W[ynn] B[ullock]"; title handwritten with red marker, lower mount recto; signed on mount recto, beneath lower right corner of print: "Wynn Bullock '56;" handwritten on lower right mount verso: "for Merle, Isabelle, and Lucy - / Thanks for a stimulating week-end. / This was on subject the mind couldn't move. / Wynn Bullock, undated. Gelatin silver print, 19.4 x 14 cm (image); 35.9 x 39.4 cm (mount). **Location**  
Lit File  
OV Box,  
Medium

**Accession Number: 998:0049:0004-0020** Images of snow-covered (Alpine?) ski slopes and trees, as well as skiers, icicles, and snow sculptures, undated. **Location**  
Lit File  
OV Box,  
Large  
Armitage  
1

**Accession Number: 998:0049:0021-0034** Images of snow-covered (Alpine?) ski slopes and trees, as well as skiers, icicles, and snow sculptures, undated. **Location**  
Lit File  
OV Box,  
Large  
Armitage  
2

**Accession Number: P110** 15 photographic prints, from an exhibition of books and typography by Armitage, undated. **Location**  
Armitage,  
M.,  
Album 1

**Index of Photographers**

- Associated Press--P231, P257-P258
- Barba, Raoul J.--P65
- Blanche, J. E.--P61
- Bullock, Wynn--P296
- Cada--P193, P194, P224
- Davis, Wyatt--P40
- Dick, Gretchen--P57
- Fairchild, Charlotte--P63
- Frank, S. Edward & Associates--P21
- French Government Tourist Office--P249-P250
- Harris & Ewing--P24
- Harvey--P225
- Hutchinson--P45
- International News Photos--P232-P233, P240-P242, P252-P253
- Kettel, Max--P235
- Keystone View Co.--P239, P333
- Knee, Ernest: --P330-P332
- Look Pix--P259
- McConkey, Alton B.--P47
- Meyer, Charles--P18-P20
- Mishkin, Herman--P62
- Richee, Gene Robert--P51
- Santa Fe Railway--P266-P271
- Schattenstein, Nikol--P58
- Seymour, Maurice--P36
- Stein, Marcia--P26
- Theisen, Earl--P49A-P49B
- U.S. Navy--P246
- Weston--P46
- Weston, Brett--P9-P10, P272
- Woodbury--P52