



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the American Wine Documentation Project

NMAH.AC.0817

Cindy Ott and John Fleckner

2002

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# Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Collection Overview .....   | 1  |
| Administrative Information .....  | 1  |
| Arrangement.....  | 2  |
| Scope and Contents.....   | 2  |
| Biographical / Historical.....  | 2  |
| Names and Subjects .....  | 3  |
| Container Listing .....   | 4  |
| Series 1: Red, White and American: Wine in American History and Culture Records,<br>1976-1996 (bulk 1996-1996)..... | 4  |
| Series 2: Collections Event, 2001 March.....  | 6  |
| Series 3: Reflections: A Day in the Life of a Wine Writer Event, 2002 May<br>24-25.....                             | 10 |
| Series 4: Interviews, 1997 - 2001.....  | 12 |
| Series 5: Printed Materials, 1997 - 2002.....   | 17 |
| Series 6: Visual Materials, undated.....  | 18 |
| Series 7: Interviews, 2013.....   | 19 |

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## Collection Overview

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives Center, National Museum of American History   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | American Wine Documentation Project  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1976-2005<br>(bulk 1996-2001)  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | NMAH.AC.0817   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Edwards, Nanci (Interviewer)<br>Fleckner, John A., 1941- (Interviewer)<br>Green, Rayna, 1942- (Curator) (Interviewer)<br>Johnson, Paula, Curator (Interviewer)<br>National Museum of American History (U.S.) |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 3 Cubic feet (10 boxes)  |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Some of the materials were generated by the Smithsonian Institution, such as those in series 1 through 3. Others were given by separate donors between 1996 and 2002.

### Provenance

A project conducted by the National Museum of American History, 1996-2002, to document the growth and development of the American wine industry. Done in conjunction with a symposium held at the Museum in 1996 entitled "Red, White and American".

### Processing Information

Processed by Cindy Ott, 2002 and John Fleckner, 2015

### Preferred Citation

American Wine Documentation Project, 1976-2002, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

The American Wine History Project began in 1996 with the intention to document the history of American winemaking, mainly for the post-1950 period. While the project includes winemaking areas around the country, the focus has been on northern and central California. The Project explores the convergence of craft, culture, science, technology, and the environment in modern American winemaking. In conjunction with the project, the Smithsonian held a 2-day symposium, "Red, White and American," with a small accompanying exhibition, entitled, "Doubtless as Good: Jefferson's Dream for American Wine Fulfilled," in 1996 and began gathering objects and other documentation.

Since 1997, National Museum of American History staff members have traveled to California to conduct interviews, take photographs and video footage, and gather materials for the Smithsonian collection from grape growers, winemakers, winery owners, and others important to the business, including wine writers and chefs. Some of the materials were generated from events in Napa, such as the collectors and wine writers events, that were held specifically for the purpose of adding documentation to the Smithsonian project. The documentation project is on-going so materials will continue to be added to the collection.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection is divided into six series. It includes mostly printed materials and interviews, and dates from approximately 1976 to 2005. There are wine-related event materials, interview transcripts and audiotapes, printed material and histories from people and institutions representing a wide spectrum of the wine business. Wine-related objects, such vineyard and winery tools, are stored with the Museum's artifact collections; documentary materials are held in the Archives Center. Materials from each special event are organized into separate series, which contain records generated at the events and interviews. Series one contains the "Red, White and American Records," series two the "Collectors Event," and series three the "Wine Writers Event." Interviews conducted independently of these events are included in series four. All of the interviews have been partially transcribed and include an abstract and various forms of audiotapes and discs. Series five is composed of printed materials that relate to both specific individuals in the wine business and to more general American wine topics. Most of this material consists of photocopies of original articles. There are also files with materials by and about specific wine writers, such as Anthony Dias Blue, William Heinz, and Dick Rosano. Series five also contains an original telex of George Taber's article about the 1976 Paris Tasting. Series six consists of visual materials, including two landscape photographs of an vineyard in Oregon and two videotaped documentaries on Napa.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into seven series.

Series 1: Red, White, and American : Wine in American History and Culture Records, 1976-1996

Series 2: Collections Event, 2001

Series 3: Reflections: A Day in the Life of a Wine Writer Event, 2002

Series 4: Interviews, 1997-2001

Series 5: Printed Materials, 1997-2001

Series 6: Visual Materials, undated

Series 7; Interviews, 2013

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

Wine and wine making  
Wine industry

### Types of Materials:

Audiotapes -- 1990-2000  
Interviews -- 1980-2000  
Photographs -- 1950-2000  
Print advertising  
Programs -- 1980-2000  
Videotapes -- 1990-2000

### Names:

Abreu, David  
Barrett, James L. , 1926-2013  
Black, Hollis  
Black, Pat  
Black, Tom, 1959-  
Brambila, Gustavo  
Browning, Keith  
Crew, Spencer R., 1949-  
DePuy Dickenson, Joanne, 1927-  
Dias Blue, Anthony  
Draper, Paul, 1936-  
Foley, Dennis  
Gallagher, Patricia  
Gates, David S.  
Grgich, Mike (Miljenko), 1923  
Herrera, Rolando  
Kinzbrunner, Rick  
Kuhn, Ron  
Levenstein, Harvey A., 1938-  
Mandy, Steven , Dr.  
Orr, James  
Red, White, and American (symposium, Washington, D.C. 1996).  
Robledo, Reynaldo  
Schuster, Danny  
Spurrier, Steven  
Taber, George  
Winiarski, Warren, 1928-

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Red, White and American: Wine in American History and Culture Records, 1976-1996 (bulk 1996-1996)

Scope and Contents: This series contains materials relating to "Red, White and American: Wine in American History and Culture," a Smithsonian symposium that commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the 1976 Paris Tasting, which brought international recognition to American wines. The event was accompanied by an exhibition, "Doubtless as Good: Jefferson's Dream for American Wine Fulfilled," a wine tasting, and a symposium with wine and food historians, wine makers and other experts in the field. The series is divided into subseries 1.1, which contains a brochure from the event, and a history and bibliography of American wine making from 1773 to 1911 by James Garber, and subseries 1.2, which consists of 18 cassette tapes that record the event's keynote speaker, Harvey Levenstein, the tasting, and symposium proceedings.

#### Subseries 1.1: Printed Materials, 1976-1996

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Source material on Paris Tasting from Warren Winiarski (photocopies), 1986-1995  |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Red, White and American symposium brochure, 1996   |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | James Garber, "Of Commercial Grape Growing and Wine Making in the United States, 1773-1911: A Chronological History and Bibliography, 1996 |

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#### Subseries 1.2: Audiotapes of symposium proceedings and events

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Box 6, Item OT 817.11 | Keynote Address: Spencer Crew and Harvey Levenstein, 1996-05-10 |
| Box 6, Item OT 817.12 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10  |
| Box 6, Item OT 817.13 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10  |
| Box 6, Item OT 817.14 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10  |
| Box 6, Item OT 817.15 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10  |
| Box 6, Item OT 817.16 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10  |

|                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Box 6, Item OT<br>817.17  | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10            |
| Box 7, Item OTC<br>817.18 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-11            |
| Box 7, Item OTC<br>817.19 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-11            |
| Box 7, Item OTC<br>817.20 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-11            |
| Box 7, Item OTC<br>817.21 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-11            |
| Box 7, Item OTC<br>817.22 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-11            |
| Box 7, Item OTC<br>817.23 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10-1996-05-11 |
| Box 7, Item OTC<br>817.24 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10-1996-05-11 |
| Box 7, Item OTC8<br>17.25 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10-1996-05-11 |
| Box 7, Item OTC<br>817.26 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10-1996-05-11 |
| Box 7, Item OTC<br>817.27 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10-1996-05-11 |
| Box 7, Item OTC<br>817.28 | Wine Tasting, 1996-05-10-1996-05-11 |

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### Subseries 1.3: Photographs, 1996

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Box 4, Folder 4 | Photographic Prints, 1996          |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | Negatives and Contact Sheets, 1996 |

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*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Collections Event, 2001 March

Scope and Contents: This series contained printed materials and interviews pertaining to "Collections," a two-day event held in Napa, California on March 30-31, 2001. The event included dinners, tastings, and group interviews with ten American wine collectors from across the country. The interviews were divided into two groups of five and were conducted by the Smithsonian's American Wine History Project staff. The series has four subseries. Subseries 2.1 includes printed material. It contains, a guest list, tasting booklet with lists of wines, menus (some hand-painted), a souvenir booklet describing the event and its participants, and a photo album. Subseries 2.2 includes the abbreviated transcripts and abstracts of the interviews. Subseries 2.3 contains the original DAT recordings of the interviews. Subseries 2.4 contains the reference cassette tapes (3 per interview).

### Subseries 2.1: Printed Materials, 2001

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Guest List with addresses for "Collections" Event, 2001-03-30   |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Booklet containing lists of wines in each tasting flight at March 31, 2001 dinner and tasting (2 copies, annotated by SI staff) |
| Box 3, Folder 1 | Souvenir booklet from event with bibliographic essays of participants and description of event,, 31 Mar 01 (2 copies)           |
| Box 2           | Photo album from "Collections" weekend events (2 copies)  |
| Box 3, Folder 2 | Different menus from "Collections" dinners, including one hand-painted by Victoria Foley (2 copies of each menu)                |

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### Subseries 2.2: Interviews and Abstracts, 2001-03-30

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 4; | Partial transcription and abstract of group interview of wine collectors conducted by Smithsonian's Nanci Edwards and Paula Johnson, 2001-03-30  |
| Box 1, Folder 8  | Notes: This interview with five of the ten collectors present at the event was conducted by Smithsonian's National Museum of American History staff Nanci Edwards and Paula Johnson on March 30, 2001. (1 of 2) Partial transcription and abstract by Cindy Ott. |

#### **Abstract**

Over the weekend of March 30-31, 2001 the Stag's Leap Wine Cellars organized a wine tasting to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the "Paris Tasting," in which American wines stunningly upstaged European vintages in a blind tasting by experts in the field. Participants of the 2001 event included some of the top American wine collectors. Coming from a broad range of professions, including dentistry, international business, and the movie industry, the group was brought together by their passion for wines and their reputation as collectors. The ten individuals were selected by Dennis Foley, participant and wine auctioneer, who stated that he chose people he knew who lived in different parts of the country.

Among the myriad of weekend activities, which included the tasting of contemporary wines donated by producers as well as wines from the "classic" period in California winemaking, dating from 1933 to 1985, donated by the collectors themselves, were interviews conducted by Smithsonian staff. They form a part of the National Museum of American History's project to document the history and culture of American wine. The interviews were held at the Culinary Institute of America's Greystone campus at St. Helena, California in Napa Valley, the site of most of the weekend activities. The collectors were divided into two groups of five. This group included the collectors Dennis Foley, Tom Black, Keith Browning, Dr. Steven Mandy, and James Orr. Ron Kuhn, who participated in the event as a winning bidder of the SLWC lot at the 2000 Napa Valley Wine Auction, sat in on the second part of the discussion. A short biography of each participant is provided in one of the event booklets that form part of this sub-collection. The fact that only men were among the collectors is a reflection of the nature of the business, which is currently almost solely a male domain. Smithsonian curator Paula Johnson and museum project manager Nanci Edwards led these interviews.

The discussions, spurred by questions posed by the Smithsonian staff, centered around the origins, intentions and styles of the participants' wine collections and collecting habits. Topics addressed include forms of documentation used to track their holdings, acquisition and storage methods, and the most significant bottles in their collections. The groups also raised issues relating more broadly to the wine industry, including the influence of wine critics (which one participant refers to as "wine critic's fascism"), the importance of wine's heritage and history, the effects of re-corking older wines, the social and gender aspects of wine collecting, the impact of terroirs, the differences between old and current wines (especially in regard to the New World "fruit bombs"), and the relationship between American wines and national identity. The conversations provide insights into patterns of American consumerism, recreation, and product marketing.

Box 1, Folder 5,  
Item 817.1

Partial transcription and abstract of group interview of wine collectors conducted by Smithsonian's Rayna Green and John Fleckner, 2001 March 30  
2 Copies (derivative objects)

Notes: This interview with five of the ten collectors present at the event was conducted by Smithsonian's National Museum of American History staff Rayna Green and John Fleckner on March 30, 2001. (2 of 2) Partial transcription and abstract by Cindy Ott.

#### **Abstract**

Over the weekend of March 30-31, 2001 the Stag's Leap Wine Cellars organized a wine tasting to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the "Paris Tasting," in which American wines stunningly upstaged European vintages in a blind tasting by experts in the field. Participants of the 2001 event included some of the top American wine collectors. Coming from a broad

range of professions, including dentistry, international business, and the movie industry, the group was brought together by their passion for wines and their reputation as collectors. The ten individuals were selected by Dennis Foley, participant and wine auctioneer, who stated that he chose people he knew who lived in different parts of the country.

Among the myriad of weekend activities, which included the tasting of contemporary wines donated by producers as well as wines from the "classic" period in California winemaking, dating from 1933 to 1985, donated by the collectors themselves, were interviews conducted by Smithsonian staff. They form a part of the National Museum of American History's project to document the history and culture of American wine. The interviews were held at the Culinary Institute of America's Greystone campus at St. Helena, California in Napa Valley, the site of most of the weekend activities. The collectors were divided into two groups of five. This group included the collectors Stephen Kaplan, Frank Komorowski, Ron Light, George Linton, and Stan Winston. Ron Kuhn, who participated in the event as a winning bidder of the SLWC lot at the 2000 Napa Valley Wine Auction, sat in on the first part of the discussion. A short biography of each participant is provided in one of the event booklets that form part of this sub-collection. The fact that only men were among the collectors is a reflection of the nature of the business, which is currently almost solely a male domain. Smithsonian curator Rayna Green and archivist John Fleckner led these interviews.

The discussions, spurred by questions posed by the Smithsonian staff, centered around the origins, intentions and styles of the participants' wine collections and collecting habits. Topics addressed include forms of documentation used to track their holdings, acquisition and storage methods, and the most significant bottles in their collections. The groups also raised issues relating more broadly to the wine industry, including the influence of wine critics (which one participant refers to as "wine critic's fascism"), the importance of wine's heritage and history, the effects of re-corking older wines, the social and gender aspects of wine collecting, the impact of terroirs, the differences between old and current wines (especially in regard to the New World "fruit bombs"), and the relationship between American wines and national identity. The conversations provide insights into patterns of American consumerism, recreation, and product marketing.

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### Subseries 2.3: AT Recording Tapes, 2001-03-30

Box 8, Item OT  
817.9-1 - 2;  
Box 10, Folder 8

Group interview of wine collectors, 2001-03-30  
Notes: Interviews conducted by National Museum of American History staff Paula Johnson and Nanci Edwards.

Box 8, Item OT  
817.10-1 - 2;  
Box 10, Folder 9

Group interview of wine collectors, 2001-03-30  
Notes: Interviews conducted by National Museum of American History staff Rayna Green and John Fleckner.

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#### Subseries 2.4: Reference Tape Cassettes, 2001-03-30

Box 6, Item RTC  
817.9-1 - 3

Group interview of wine collectors, 2001-03-30  
Notes: Interview conducted by National Museum of American History staff Nanci Edwards and Paula Johnson.

Box 6, Item RTC  
817.10-1 - 3

Group interview of wine collectors, 2001-03-30  
3 Cassette tapes  
Notes: Interview conducted by National Museum of American History staff Rayna Green and John Fleckner..

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*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

**Series 3: Reflections: A Day in the Life of a Wine Writer Event, 2002 May 24-25**

**Scope and Contents:** This series contains printed materials and interviews created at "Reflections: A Day in the Life of a Wine Writer," a two-day event held in Napa, California on May 24-24, 2002. The event included dinners, tastings, and interviews with the wine writer Anthony Dias Blue and the chef Gary Danko (who prepared one of the meals), and the winemakers Danny Schuster and Warren Winiarski. Interviews were conducted by the Smithsonian's American Wine History Project staff. The series is divided into four subseries. Subseries 3.1 consists of printed materials, including two menus, a tasting booklet with lists of wines, and a souvenir booklet with an overview of the event and biographical essays on the participants. Subseries 3.2 includes the abbreviated transcripts and abstracts of the three interviews. Subseries 3.3 contains the original DAT recordings. Subseries 3.4 contains the reference cassette tapes.

**Subseries 3.1: Printed Materials, undated**

Box 4, Folder 1      Booklet containing lists of wines in each tasting flight at one of the Wine Writer Event dinners and tastings (annotated by J. Fleckner, SI staff)

Box 2      Souvenir booklet with description of event and biographical essays of participants

Box 3      2 menus from dinners at event

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**Subseries 3.2: Interviews and Abstracts, 2002-05-24-2002-05-26**

Box 1, Folder 7      Anthony Dias Blue, 2002-05-24

Box 5, Item RTC  
817.4.1-2      Gary Danko, 2002-05-26

Box 9      Danny Schuster and Warren Winiarski (4 tapes), 2002-05-26

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**Subseries 3.3: DAT recording tapes, 2002-05-24-2002-05-26**

Box 8, Item OT  
(DAT) 817.3      Anthony Dias Blue, 2002-05-24

Box 8, Item OT  
(DAT) 817.4      Gary Danko, 2002-05-26

Box 8, Item OT  
(DAT) 817.8      Danny Schuster and Warren Winiarski, 2002-05-26

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### Subseries 3.4: Reference Tape Cassettes, 2002-05-24-2002-05-26

Box 5, Item RTC  
817.3                      Anthony Dias Blue, 2002-05-24  
2 Copies

Box 5, Item RTC  
817.4                      Gary Danko, 2002-05-26  
2 Copies

Box 6, Item RTC  
817.8                      Danny Schuster and Warren Winiarski, 2002-05-26

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*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 4: Interviews, 1997 - 2001

**Scope and Contents:** This series includes interviews with growers and winemakers of California. They include the growers David Abreu and Hollis Black, Paul Draper and David Gates of Ridge Winery, and Michael Grgich, co-founder of Grgich Hills Winery. The interviewees discuss the cultural and environmental history of region, the changes they have witnessed in the California wine industry in the last forty years, and their personal viewpoints on California wine and winemaking. The series is divided into three subseries. Subseries 4.1 includes the abbreviated transcripts and abstracts. Subseries 4.2 contains the original DAT recordings. Subseries 4.3 contains the reference cassette tapes.

### Subseries 4.1: Interviews and Abstracts, 2001

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 10 | <p>David Abreu, March 30, 2001</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> The interview was conducted by members of the American Wine &amp; Food History Project, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, including Nanci Edwards, Rayna Green, John Fleckner, and Paula Johnson, as they walked around Ridge's Monte Bello vineyards and winery in the Santa Cruz Mountains, California on March 27, 2001.</p> <p>This recording was made on a DAT recorder until the batteries gave out and the interviewers switched to a cassette tape recorder, which also malfunctioned. No further recording was possible. The first part of the recording was made outside the winery and the blowing wind sometimes obscures the sound. Later, the interview moved into the barrel room of the winery. Total: Originals: 2 DAT tapes, 1 cassette tape; Copies: 3 master 5-inch reels (transcriber could not locate), 4 cassettes</p> <p><b>Abstract &amp; Historical Overview</b></p> <p>Ridge winery is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains of central California. It was established by four electrical engineers from the Stanford Research Institute in 1959 when they bought the old and neglected Monte Bello vineyards with the plan to make it a weekend retreat and retirement destination. A casual winemaking experiment by Dave Bennion, one of the owners, spurred them into the winemaking business, however. Ridge's '71 Monte Bello Cabernet placed a respectable fifth in the 1976 Paris Tasting and the winery has been producing premium wines ever since.</p> <p>Paul Draper began working at Ridge in 1969 and has been its winemaker since 1971. After graduating from Stanford University, he lived in Italy and France, which honed his interest in fine wines. He gained his first practical experience when he and a colleague established a winery in Chile as a way to improve the local economy of a community where they lived.</p> <p>Draper's wine-making philosophy is summed up in his phrase, "wine makes itself." Rather than depending on modern, so-called industrial technologies and methods, Draper relies more on traditional and natural processes. This outlook is reflected in Ridge's "hands-off" winemaking processes, which entails</p> |
|------------------|--|

allowing the distinct character of a wine to develop on its own with little use of manual blending or additives. Draper stated that he relies on taste rather than scientific measurements to gauge good wine. Rather than seeing this method as anti-modern, Draper believes it produces the best wine. Following this conservative mode of winemaking, Draper discusses how he places high value on historic native California winemaking practices and varietals.

With intricate detail, Draper covers topics ranging from the cultural and geological history of Ridge's vineyards, landscape preservation issues, varietal differences, and specific aspects of the winemaking process from pruning to pressing. His in-depth knowledge of the local climate and geology is related, in part, to his strong belief in terroir and its contribution to the distinct character of Ridge wines. Draper provides an excellent historic survey of the historic developments in California winemaking.

Box 1, Folder 11

Hollis and Pat Black, 2001-03-28

Notes:

The interview was conducted at Black Ranch near Healdsburg, California by Paula Johnson, Rayna Green, Nanci Edwards and John Fleckner, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. Those present included Hollis and his wife Pat, and their children, Nelson, Ron Black, Harry Black, and June Kincaid. There is one original DAT and two reference cassette tapes. **Abstract** This interview with Hollis and Pat Black and their children chronicles the lives of one of the few remaining multi-generational Napa Valley families. It is both a family history and a local history, providing a personal view of Napa before the wine industry took over in the Sixties and how it changed the farming culture in the region. The Black family has been farming in Sonoma County since the 1860s. Black describes working on the family ranch over the course of the twentieth century. He discusses the federal government-sponsored brassero system that hired Mexican laborers due to the shortage of American men during World War II. He also mentions the use of German POWs at local farms.

He describes various aspects of commercial prune growing, which was the dominant business before grapes took over. He compares and contrasts the production and economic value of prunes and other cash crops with the much more lucrative business of growing grapes for winemakers. He mentions the production of grapes for the Italian-American home market before Napa became well-known as a wine region. The Black's offer an important perspective on the great transformations in Napa Valley in the twentieth century.

Box 1, Folder 12

Paul Draper, 2001-03-27

Box 1, Folder 13

David S. Gates, 2002-03-28

Notes:

Vineyard Manager, Ridge Vineyards, Cupertino, California. Interview was conducted on March 28, 2001, by Nanci

Edwards, John Fleckner, Rayna Green, and Paula Johnson for the American Wine and Food History Project, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. Abstract and transcription by Cindy Ott.

The interview took place on the grounds of the Lytton Springs vineyard outside Healdsburg, in Sonoma County, California. A strong wind sometimes obscures the recording. Nearby construction on the winery, including heavy machinery operations, also are heard. A video recording was done for portions of the interview. None of the interview questions are included in the interview notes below. Brackets indicate transcriber's paraphrasing. One original 60-minute cassette; side B partially recorded.

### **Abstract**

David S. Gates, Jr. was trained in vineyard management at the University of California, Davis. Before he arrived at Ridge in 1989, he worked for a vineyard management company in Napa Valley. In the interview, Gates described grape production, including the forms of work and the obstacles to be overcome to produce successful harvests year after year. He discussed the differences between grape varieties (including Petit Sirah, Zinfandel, and Cabernet), and the treatment and temperament of old and new plants. Because Lytton Springs vineyard is located both in the Santa Cruz Mountains and lowlands, he addressed the interrelationships between different microclimates and soils, unpredictable weather, and the vines. He also described techniques and theories relating to pruning, to the pros and cons of manual labor vs. mechanization, and to the difficult decision of when to harvest. "Basically," he said, "it's trying to steer an even course between the extremes of weather and trying to make the grapes behave enough so that they can get ripe and taste good."

Box 1, Folder 14

Michael Grgich, 1997-09-07

Notes:

### **Abstract**

Michael Grgich (b.1923) is one of the most renowned winemakers in Napa. His life and work mirrored, and sometimes propelled, the vast changes that took place in the region's wine business since the late 1950s. Over the course of his long career, Grgich worked with Napa's most legendary winemakers and received some of the world's most prestigious prizes for his wines. He has been on the cutting edge of technological innovations in the field, including advances in cold sterilization and malolactic fermentation. Since 1977, he has been co-owner, with Austin Hills, of Grgich Hills winery in Napa Valley.

In the interview, Grgich recounts his early influences, including stomping grapes to make wine as a child on his family's farm in Croatia and taking classes in enology and viticulture at the University of Zagreb. Throughout the interview, he discusses how wine is an integral part of family life and the European culture in which he was raised.

Through the sponsorship of Lee Stewart, Grgich arrived in Napa in 1958. He describes his tenures under Andre Tchelistcheff at Bealieu Vineyard, where he served as chief chemist from 1959 to 1968 and with Robert Mondavi from 1968 to 1972, when he joined with Jim Barrett to form Chateau Montelena winery. Grgich addresses the top prize his 1973 Chateau Montelena Chardonnay received at the 1976 Paris Tasting, the prize's impact on his life, and its historic significance for Napa Valley.

He also addresses the operations of Grgich Hills, his efforts to start a winery in Croatia, and, more generally, about his favorite wines and the act of wine tasting. He concludes with a discussion of the purchase of land in neighboring American Canyon, a topic which touches on water issues in the arid West. Grgich stated, "Everybody asked me, 'When are you going to retire?'," and I say, "When I make perfect wine.' I know nobody can make perfect wine."

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### Subseries 4.2: Original Recording Tapes (DAT)

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Box 8, Item OT<br>(DAT) 817.1-1 - 2 | David Abreu, 2001-03-30                          |
| Box 8, Item OT<br>(DAT) 817.2       | Hollis and Pat Black, March 28, 2001<br>2 Copies |
| Box 8, Item OT<br>(DAT) 817.5-1 - 2 | Paul Draper, 2001-03-27                          |
| Box 8, Item OT<br>(DAT) 817.7       | Michael Grgich, 1997-09-07                       |
| Box 9, Item OT<br>(DAT)             | Herrera Brothers, 2005-04-27                     |
| Box 9, Item OT<br>(DAT)             | Rick Kinzbrunner, 2003-02-03                     |
| Box 9, Item OT<br>(DAT)             | Reynaldo Robledo, 2005-04-28                     |
| Box 9, Item OT<br>(DAT)             | Gustavo Brambila, 2005-04-29                     |

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### Subseries 4.3: Cassette Tapes

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Box 5, Item RTC<br>817.1-1 - 3 | David Abreu, March 30, 2001 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|

|                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Box 5, Item RTC<br>817.2-1 - 2 | Hollis and Pat Black, March 28, 2001 |
| Box 5, Item OT (CT)<br>817.5-4 | Paul Draper, March 27, 2001          |
| Box 5, Item RTC<br>817.5-4     | Paul Draper, 2001-03-27              |
| Box 5, Item OT (CT)<br>817.6   | David S. Gates, March 28, 2001       |
| Box 5, Item RTC<br>817.6       | David S. Gates, 2001-03-28           |
| Box 9, Cassette<br>817.7       | Michael Grgich, 1997-09-07           |
| Box 9                          | Reynaldo Robledo, 2005-04-28         |

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*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 5: Printed Materials, 1997 - 2002

Scope and Contents: This series contains articles and other printed materials relating to the American wine industry. It contains files on wine writers, including Anthony Dias Blue, William Heintz (including a copy of his book, *California's Napa*), and Dick Rosano, with articles by and about the subjects. It includes an original telex of George Taber's *Time* article about the Paris Tasting, dated May 5, 1976. It also includes files on the chef Gary Danko, the winemaker Paul Draper, the collector Steve Mandy's 1990 tasting of 1974 California Cabernets, on the winemaker Daniel Schuster, and a file containing general wine-related articles.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 15 | George Taber's original telex of <i>Time</i> article about the Paris Tasting results, 27905   |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Anthony Dias Blues - articles by and about Blues  |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Gary Danko - business card and articles by and about Danko  |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Paul Draper - article about Draper, 2000  |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | William Heintz: Inventory of the author's wine history archives (bound volume)  |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | William Heintz, <i>California's Napa Valley: One Hundred Sixty Years of Wine Making</i> (San Francisco: Scottwell Associates, 1999) signed copy, 1990 |
| Box 2, Folder 1  | Steve Mandy - Tasting programs and 3 articles regarding collector Steve Mandy's 1990 tasting of 1974 California Cabernets,, 1995-2002                 |
| Box 2, Folder 2  | Dick Rosano - articles about Italian-American winemakers by Rosano, 2002  |
| Box 2, Folder 3  | Daniel Schuster - article from Daniel Schuster Wines Ltd. Website, 1997-2002  |
| Box 2, Folder 4  | Articles relating to American wine culture - general, 1995 and undated  |

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 6: Visual Materials, undated

Scope and Contents: The series consists of two subseries. Subseries A consists of two panorama color photographs of a vineyard in Oregon, undated. Subseries B consists of two videotapes of about California winemaking, including an interview with the Congressman/winemaker George Radanovich (CA-R-19) on "Equal Time" talk show, Feb 14, 1995. The Radanovich winery is located in Mariposa County, California. The second videotape is a documentary on Napa called "Secrets of the Wine Country," undated.

Box 2, Folder 5          Panorama landscape photographs of a vineyard in Oregon

Box 2, Folder 6          Videotape of the "Equal Time" talk show with Mary Matalin interviewing Rep. George Radanovich (CA-R-19), undated

Box 2, Folder 6          Videotape of a documentary on Napa Valley entitled, "Secrets of the Wine Country"

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 7: Interviews, 2013

Scope and Contents: Includes transcripts and DVDS.

|                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Box 10, Folder 1 | Jim Barrett, 2013            |
| Box 10, Folder 2 | Joanne DePuy Dickenson, 2013 |
| Box 10, Folder 3 | Patricia Gallagher, 2013-04  |
| Box 10, Folder 4 | Michael Grigich, 2013        |
| Box 10, Folder 5 | Steven Spurrier, 2013        |
| Box 10, Folder 6 | George Taber, 2013-07        |
| Box 10, Folder 7 | Warren Winiarski, 2013       |

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*