



The New York Public Library  
Music Division

Guide to the

**Salvatore Mercuri Velvet Underground collection**

1960s-2017

JPB 19-02

Processed by Heather Lember in 2020.

## Summary

**Collector:** Mercuri, Salvatore

**Title:** Salvatore Mercuri Velvet Underground collection

**Date:** 1960s-2017

**Size:** 4.78 linear feet (13 boxes)

**Source:** Purchased from Salvatore Mercuri in 2019.

**Abstract:** Salvatore Mercuri is a collector of materials related to the Velvet Underground. The Salvatore Mercuri Velvet Underground collection contains audio and video recordings, correspondence, memorabilia, photographs, and publications related to the music and history of the band and its members.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult: <https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

### Conditions Governing Access:

Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

**Preferred citation:** Salvatore Mercuri Velvet Underground collection, JPB 19-02. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Heather Lember in 2020.

## Creator History

Salvatore Mercuri is a collector of materials related to the Velvet Underground, and founder of Fierce Pup Productions. He has worked as a producer on a number of Velvet Underground reissues and compilations including *Bootleg Series Volume 1: The Quine Tapes* (2001), *Final V.U. 1971 – 1973* (2001), *The Velvet Underground & Nico* (2002-2012), *White Light/White Heat* (2013), *The Velvet Underground* (2014), *The Complete Matrix Tapes* (2015), and *Loaded* (2015). He also produced Velvet Underground drummer Moe Tucker's *I Feel So Far Away: Anthology 1974-1998* in 2012, and collaborated with Doug Yule to self-publish a book of photographs from the Velvet Underground's 1969 tour.

## Scope and Content Note

The Salvatore Mercuri Velvet Underground collection dates from the 1960s to 2017, and contains items collected by Mercuri that are related to the music and history of the Velvet Underground and its band members. Most of the collection is devoted to the Velvet Underground and Lou Reed's solo career after he left the band, but there are also materials from the post-Velvet Underground careers of John Cale, Moe Tucker, Sterling Morrison, Doug Yule, and Nico. The collection holds audio and video recordings; correspondence; memorabilia; photographs; publications; and recording projects files.

Audio and Video Recordings comprise the bulk of the collection, which includes numerous Velvet Underground live recordings from the 1960s at such locations as Andy Warhol's Factory, the Boston Tea Party, La Cave, End of Cole Ave., and the Hilltop Pop Festival. There are also rehearsal recordings of the band playing at Max's Kansas City, in Sterling Morrison's loft, and at the Factory. Additionally, there are many live recordings from the first decade of Lou Reed's solo career, a number of Moe Tucker live performances from the 1990s, and some demo recordings Doug Yule produced in 1997. Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

The Correspondence, which dates from 1966 to 2012, details events and publications Mercuri helped produce, and recordings he worked to release. Mercuri corresponded most with Moe Tucker, where the two discussed Velvet Underground bootlegs and Tucker's solo music career. The correspondence files also hold an assortment of greeting cards that Tucker sent to Mercuri, as well as a letter from Doug Yule in which he reminisces about his time as a member of the Velvet Underground.

Flyers, handbills, posters, press clippings, programs, ticket stubs, and t-shirts comprise the Memorabilia files. The materials are grouped together by band or artist, and arranged by format. There is memorabilia present for the Velvet Underground, John Cale, Sterling Morrison, Nico, Lou Reed, and Doug Yule. There is also an assortment of Lou Reed, Velvet Underground, John Cale, and Moe Tucker CD booklets present which are autographed.

Dating from the 1960s to 2006, the Photographs mostly depict either the Velvet Underground or Lou Reed, but there are also images present from the post-Velvet Underground careers of John Cale, Nico, Moe Tucker, La Monte Young, and Doug Yule. Many of the photographs portray live performances, which includes the Velvet Underground in the 1960s, Lou Reed from the 1970s to 2006, and Moe Tucker in the 1990s. There are also many candid images of the Velvet Underground from the late 1960s to early 1970s.

The Publication files contain books, exhibition catalogs, and fanzines. This includes three independently produced books, *'69 on the Road: Velvet Underground Photographs*, which is a collection of photographs Doug Yule took on the 1969 Velvet Underground tour; *All the Pretty People*, featuring unpublished Lou Reed poetry; and *The Velvet Underground and Nico - L.A. 1966*, which is a book of photographs by Lisa Law that Mercuri edited.

Among the exhibition catalogs is a silver box from a German Jad Fair exhibition which holds a selection of Jutta Brandt photographs depicting such individuals as Lenny Kaye, Jim Carroll, Alex Chilton, Moe Tucker, Jarvis Cocker, La Monte Young, Jean Smith, Ira Kaplan, and James McNew. The fanzines found in the Publications files are mostly on the topic of the Velvet Underground, and include such titles as *Different Times*, *Feedback*, *The Velvet Underground*, *What Goes On*, and the John Cale fan club official zine called *Open House*.

Files from bootleg and reissue recording projects that Mercuri produced are held in the Recording Projects files. These files contain research, album layout notes, drafts of album sleeves, photographs, and tracklists.

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Collectors.  
Musicians.

### **Subjects**

Rock concerts  
Rock groups -- New York (N.Y.)  
Rock musicians -- New York (N.Y.)

### **Names**

Cale, John  
Mercuri, Salvatore  
Nico, 1938-1988  
Reed, Lou  
Tucker, Maureen  
Yule, Doug, 1947-  
Velvet Underground (Musical group)

## Container List

### Audio and Video Recordings

Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

### Correspondence

- b. 1 f. 1 1994-2002
- b. 1 f. 2 American Masters 1997-1998
- b. 1 f. 3 Andy Warhol Museum 1997
- b. 1 f. 4 Bernstein, Karen 1997
- b. 1 f. 5 Brandt, Jutta and Carsten 1996-1997
- b. 1 f. 6 Morrison, Sterling 1993
- b. 1 f. 7 Lis and Lau 1994-2002
- b. 1 f. 8 Paradies Warts Limited Corporation 1996
- b. 1 f. 9 Prospect Films 1996
- b. 1 f. 10-11 Tucker, Moe 1996-1997
- b. 1 f. 12 Van Tuyl, C.W 1996
- b. 1 f. 13-14 Velvet Underground Bootlegs 1997-2001
- b. 1 f. 15 Yule, Doug 1994-2000

### Memorabilia

- b. 2 f. 1-2 1993-2004  
Contains assorted flyers, handbills, programs, and an Andy Warhol Museum watch.
- b. 2 f. 3-7 Cale, John 1974-2017
- b. 13 f. 1 Contains autographed CD booklets, flyers, handbills, press clippings, press releases, a poster, and programs.
- b. 2 f. 8 Morrison, Sterling 1978-1995  
Contains press clippings.
- b. 2 f. 9 Nico 1974-1995  
Contains clippings and postcards.
- b. 2 f. 9-15 Reed, Lou 1969-2013
- b. 3 f. 1-3 Contains autographed CD booklets, flyers, handbills, posters, press clippings, press releases, programs, t-shirts, tickets stubs, and a *Set the Twilight Reeling* button.
- b. 9
- b. 13 f. 2
- b. 3 f. 4-6 Tucker, Moe 1992-2000
- b. 13 f. 3 Contains CD booklets, flyers, handbills, posters, and press releases.
- b. 3 f. 7-14 Velvet Underground 1991-2005
- b. 10 Contains CD booklets, flyers, handbills, postcards, posters, press clippings, press releases, programs, t-shirts, and an inflatable banana.
- b. 13 f. 4
- b. 4 f. 1-3 Yule, Doug 1990s-2000s  
Contains flyers, press clippings, and setlists.

### Photographs

- b. 4 f. 4 Cale, John 1960s-1990s
- b. 4 f. 5 Nico 1966-1970s
- b. 4 f. 6-28 Reed, Lou 1970s-2006
- b. 4 f. 29-33 Tucker, Moe 1970s-1998
- b. 5 f. 1-2
- b. 5 f. 3-19 Velvet Underground 1966-1999

Photographs (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 20 Young, La Monte 1995
- b. 5 f. 21-26 Yule, Doug 1970s-2000

Publications

Books

- b. 5 f. 27 *'69 on the Road: Velvet Underground Photographs [By: Doug Yule]* 1996
- b. 5 f. 28 *All the Pretty People [By: Lou Reed]* 1976
- b. 5 f. 29 *The Velvet Underground and Nico - L.A. 1966* circa 1990s  
Features photographs by Lisa Law and edited by Salvatore Mercuri.
- b. 6 f. 1-3 Exhibition Catalogs 1990s
  - b. 11 Catalogs from exhibitions related to the Velvet Underground.
  - b. 12
- b. 6 f. 4-18 Fanzines 1977-1997
- b. 7 f. 1-10 Contains an assortment of fanzines related to the Velvet Underground and its band members. Included are issues of *Different Times*, *Feedback*, *The Velvet Underground*, and *What Goes On*.
- b. 7 f. 11 Recording Projects 1995-2014
- b. 8 f. 1-8