

Arthur Miller:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Miller, Arthur, 1915-2005
- Title:** Arthur Miller Collection
- Dates:** 1947-2020, undated
- Extent:** 2 document boxes (0.84 linear feet) and 43 electronic files (195.1 MB)
- Abstract:** This collection consists of Arthur Miller related acquisitions that illuminate both personal and professional activities of the author.
- Call Number:** Manuscript Collection MS-05350
- Language:** English
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Administrative Information

- Preferred Citation:** Arthur Miller Collection (Manuscript Collection MS-05350). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
- Acquisition:** Purchases and Gifts, 1991-2020 (R12466, R13344, R13800, 03-02-014-P, 05-12-022-G, 07-12-002-P, 12-07-015-P, 12-08-004-P, 13-10-005-P, 13-10-016-P, 14-10-001-P, 15-02-005-P, 15-03-024-G, 16-03-008-P, 16-08-018-P, 17-11-003-P, 18-01-010-P, 18-05-008-P, 18-06-008-P, 18-08-014-P, 19-07-002-G, 19-10-004-P, 19-12-008-G, 20-10-005-G, 20-10-010-P)
- Processed by:** Amy E. Armstrong, 2021 Born digital materials processed, arranged, and described by Brenna Edwards, 2022.
- Repository:** [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)
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Biographical Sketch

Arthur Asher Miller was born in New York on October 17, 1915, to Augusta and Isidore Miller. His father owned Miltex Coat and Suit Company, a manufacturer of garments for women. The Millers lived in Harlem until the Great Depression when the family moved to Brooklyn in 1928. Miller graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in Brooklyn in 1932 before taking a job in an auto-parts warehouse. In 1934, he enrolled in the journalism program at the University of Michigan. His play *No Villain* won the university's Hopwood Award in Drama in 1936. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1938 with a B.A. in English, and took a job writing radio plays for the Federal Theatre Project in New York. After the Federal Theatre Project closed in 1939, Miller worked with the folk division of the Library of Congress, recording dialects in North Carolina before returning to New York to continue work writing and adapting radio plays. He published his first novel, *Focus*, in 1945. In 1947, *All My Sons* premiered and won the New York Drama Critic's Circle Award for Best Play. Miller received the Pulitzer Prize in 1949 for *Death of a Salesman*, along with the Tony Award for Best Play.

In 1954, Miller was invited to Belgium to attend a production of *The Crucible* but was denied a passport by the US government, due to suspicions of Communist sympathies. The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) subpoenaed Miller to testify in 1956. Refusing to provide names of suspected Communists, he was convicted of contempt of Congress but was later exonerated by the United States Court of Appeals.

From 1965 to 1969, Miller served as president of International PEN, and travelled internationally advocating for free speech and the release of imprisoned dissident writers.

Throughout his career, Miller penned dozens of award-winning plays and films including *The Misfits*, *After the Fall*, *The Price*, and *Incident at Vichy*. His essays appeared in a wide range of publications and anthologies, and he was frequently asked to speak publicly on topics related to social justice and morality. His memoir, *Timebends*, was published in 1987.

Miller married his first wife, Mary Grace Slattery (1915-2008), in 1940. They had two children: Jane, who was born in 1944, and Robert, born in 1947. Arthur and Mary divorced in 1956. Later that year, Miller married the actress Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962). They were together five years, divorcing in 1961. He married photographer Inge Morath (1923-2002) in 1962. Their daughter Rebecca was born later that year, and their son Daniel was born in 1966.

Arthur Miller died at his Connecticut home on February 10, 2005, at the age of 89.

Sources:

Miller, Arthur. *Timebends: A Life*. (New York: Grove Press, 1987)

Bigsby, Christopher. *Arthur Miller*. (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2009)

Bigsby, Christopher. *Arthur Miller, 1962-2005*. (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2011)

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of Arthur Miller related acquisitions that illuminate both personal and professional activities of the author. The materials are arranged similarly to the arrangement of the Arthur Miller Papers. There are five series including: I. Works, II. Correspondence, III. Personal and Professional, IV. Works About Miller, and V. Photographs.

Series I. Works is further subdivided into two subseries: A. Plays, Screenplays, Radio Plays, Books and B. Short Works. Titles are listed alphabetically within each subseries.

Series II. Correspondence is listed alphabetically by correspondent's last name.

Series III. Personal and Professional Material includes documents relating to Miller's career, personal life, and political activism. It is organized alphabetically by theme or topic.

Series IV. Works About Miller contains writings about Miller and may include scholarly works, interviews, profile articles and clippings. It is arranged in alphabetical order by the author's last name.

Series V. Photographs may contain family photos and portraits of Miller.

Further acquisitions related to Arthur Miller are expected.

Related Material

For additional materials related to Arthur Miller at the Ransom Center, see the Arthur Miller Papers, Joseph Abeles Studio Collection, Stella Adler and Harold Clurman Papers, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. Records, Maxwell Anderson Literary Photography File, Boris Aronson Scenic Design Papers, John Russell Brown Papers, *Commentary* Magazine Archive, Pascal Covici Correspondence, Robert Downing Papers, English Stage Company at the Royal Court Theatre Correspondence, Elliott Erwitt Photography Collection, Fred Fehl Theater Collection, Mel Gussow Collection, John Gassner Collection, Anne Jackson and Eli Wallach Papers, James Jones Papers, Willard Maas Collection, *Mad Men* Collection, Norman Mailer Papers, David Mamet Papers, Ian McEwan Papers, Nicolas Nabokov Papers, PEN Records, Peter Blum Edition Art Collection, Elmer Rice Papers, Samuel French, Inc. Correspondence, Edith Sitwell Collection, Warren Skaaren Papers, and Edward Weeks Papers.

Separated Material

Published volumes have been transferred to the HRC Library.

Unpublished, non-commercial audio recordings were transferred to the Center's Sound Recordings Collection.

Index Terms

People

Monroe, Marilyn, 1926-1962

Subjects

Dramatists.

Plays.

Theater.

Series I. Works, 1947-2002, undated

Series A. Plays, Screenplays, Radio Plays, Books, 1947-1996, undated

All My Sons (play)

Typescript with handwritten revisions, undated. 'Version before final rehearsal.' Includes note from Miller, 6 May 1947 **Container**
1.1-3

Photocopy of above typescript before HRC treatment, 1996 **Container**
1.4

The Archbishop's Ceiling (play)

Typescript with edits, undated **Container** 1.5

Death of a Salesman (play)

Set design by Jo Mielziner. Color sketch, undated **Container** 1.6

Death of a Salesman (film adaptation)

Screenplay by Stanley Roberts. Typescript with revisions and revised pages, First Draft, 12 July 1951 **Container**
1.7

Everybody Wins (film)

Revised ending. Partial typescript with edits as of 1 August 1988. Includes note from Miller, August 1989 **Container**
2.1

Focus (novel)

Gollancz (1949). Publisher file that includes correspondence and contracts, 1949-1975 **Container**
2.2

'Juvenile Delinquency Film' (film project about juvenile delinquency and the NYC Youth Board)

Minutes of Meeting of the New York City Youth Board, Statement of Arthur Miller, Memos, Correspondence, 'Memorandum on Juvenile Delinquency Film by Arthur Miller'. Photocopies (1955), undated **Container**
2.3

A View from the Bridge (one-act play)

A View from the Bridge: Two One-Act Plays (Viking, 1955). Items removed from book include photograph of Mary Slattery and Robert Miller (undated), A View from the Bridge program (Director Peter Brook, New Watergate Theatre Club, London, 1956), clippings (1956-1957, 1969), In Russia catalog advertisement (undated) *Book Separated to HRC Library **Container 2.4**

You're Next (play)

Typescript, undated **Container 2.5**

Series B. Short Works, 1958-2002, undated

Castro (essay published as the Epilogue in Cuba on the Verge: An Island in Transition, Edited by Terry McCoy, 2003). Typescript, outgoing letter, 2002 *Book separated to HRC Library **Container 2.6**

The King's Way (essay about the 1988 U.S. Presidential election, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, and Michael Dukakis). Typescript with edits, 1988 **Container 2.7**

The Misfits (short story) (Esquire, October 1957). Typescript drafts [subtitle 'or Waiting for Guido' crossed out on one], undated **Container 2.8**

My Wife Marilyn: Playwright Pays Affectionate Tribute to Her Feat (essay, accompanying Richard Avedon's Marilyn Monroe: Fabled Enchantresses, Life, 22 December 1958). Typescript with copy edits, undated. Includes outgoing letter from Miller, 31 October 1958 **Container 2.9**

Series II. Correspondence, 1954-2002

- Adams, Cindy. Letter from Miller, 1968 **Container 2.10**
- Aubi, Eileen. Carbon letter to editor of NY Times Book Review from Aubi, article, letter from Miller, 1986 **Container 2.11**
- Buchanan, Cynthia. Letters from Miller, 1973-1975, 1988 **Container 2.12**
- Cole, H. Letters to and from Miller, 1970 **Container 2.13**
- Covici, Pascal. Letter, postcard, 1954, undated **Container 2.14**
- Dean, Mrs. Letter, undated **Container 2.15**
- Gould, Raphael ("Ray") (Fellowship of Reconciliation). Letters from Miller, 1967, 1970-1971. One letter includes copy of script for the play The Reason Why **Container 2.16**
- Hartley, Wesley. Letters to and from Miller, 1957, 1975, 1995 **Container 2.17**
- Spira, Robert, Letter from Miller, 1957 **Container 2.18**
- Stieglitz, Meir. Letters to and from Miller, 1987-2002 **Container 2.19**
- Stone, Mr. Letter from Miller, 1987 **Container 2.20**
- Van Thal, Dennis. Items removed from book include letter from Van Thal to Alec Guinness and copy of letter from "Binkie" of the Globe Theatre regarding Incident at Vichy, 1965 *Book Incident at Vichy separated to HRC Library **Container 2.21**
- Walter, Erich (University of Michigan). Letters to and from Miller, 1961-1963, 1968, 1971 **Container 2.22**

Series III. Personal and Professional Material, 2005

Memorial. In Celebration Arthur Miller (Majestic Theatre, 9 May 2005). Program, **Container**
2005 2.23

Studio

Architecture plans. 1 electronic file: Adobe PDF, 2018

Disk-ID-No.
2004003G_001

Desk reference photographs. 19 electronic files: JPG, 2001-2012

Relocation documentation. 23 electronic files: Apple QuickTime Movie,
JPG, MP4, 2018-2020

Series IV. Works About Miller, 1964

Wilkinson, Richard Thomas. Arthur Miller Manuscripts at the University of Texas. **Container**
Thesis, 1964 2.24

Series V. Photographs, 1956

Portraits of Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe. Included in one photo are Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh, 1956 **Container**
2.25