

# **Henry Miller papers**

**Ms. Coll. 973**

**Finding aid prepared by Justin A. Bortnick.**

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Last updated on April 14, 2017.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2014 April 9

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	Miller, Henry, 1891-1980
<b>Title</b>	Henry Miller papers
<b>Call number</b>	Ms. Coll. 973
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1943-1952
<b>Extent</b>	0.2 linear feet (1 box, 1 oversized folder)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	Henry Miller (1891-1980) was an American author and artist best known for his controversial books such as <i>Tropic of Cancer</i> , <i>Black Spring</i> and <i>Tropic of Capricorn</i> . The collection consists of two drawings, one photograph, letters from Miller to Tambimuttu, and a small number of published writings and promotional material.

**Cite as:**

Henry Miller papers, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

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## Biography/History

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Henry Miller (1891-1980) was an American author and artist best known for his controversial books such as *Tropic of Cancer*, *Black Spring* and *Tropic of Capricorn*. Born in Manhattan, Miller spent his youth in Brooklyn, where in 1917 he married his first wife, whom he divorced in 1923. In 1928 Miller spent several months in Paris, where circumstances led to him living there until 1939. From there, he lived in Greece for a year before returning to New York in 1940. In 1942, he moved to California, where he spent the rest of his life. His most controversial books were banned for obscenity in the United States until 1961, when the Supreme Court ruled that the works were not pornographic in nature and were works of literature. Miller was a correspondent of the Sri Lankan poet, editor, critic and publisher Tambimuttu (1915-1983), who served as the publisher of Miller's *The Cosmological Eye* and *Sunday After the War* in London.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection consists of two drawings, one photograph, letters from Miller to Tambimuttu, one letter to Huntington Cairns, one letter to Judson Crews (copy sent to Tambimuttu,), one letter to Miller from Caresse Crosby (forwarded to Tambimuttu,) and a small number of published writings and promotional material. The letters were mainly written from Big Sur, California and discuss subjects ranging from art and photographs to other authors whom Miller recommends Tambimuttu to publish. The material in this collection is arranged in alphabetical order.

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## Administrative Information

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University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Finding aid prepared by Justin A. Bortnick.

### Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

### Use Restrictions

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

At Southern Illinois University: Henry Miller collection, 1965-1978, Valentine Miller collection of Henry Miller letters, 1952-1964.

At Hollins University: Henry Miller collection, 1937-1981.

At Ohio University: Henry Miller papers 1939-1966.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### FORM/GENRE(S)

- Correspondence
- Drawings (visual works)
- Paintings (visual works)
- Writings (document genre)

### PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Tambimuttu, 1915-

### SUBJECT(S)

- Artists
- Artists--United States
- Authors
- Authors, American--20th century

## Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Drawing, "Abstract from Lost Continent", 1944.	1	1
Letters to Tambimuttu, 1943 March-December.	1	2
Letters to Tambimuttu, 1944 January-July.	1	3
Letters to Tambimuttu, 1945-1952.	1	4
Letter requesting ad be published in literary magazine (2 copies), undated.	1	5
Painting, "Zombies", 1944.		Box 50

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	Box	Folder
Photograph, "Pulling the Supplies Up the Hill," (at Big Sur), 1945 March 3.	1	6
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Published writings & promotions, 1943, 1946.	1	7