

Edna St. Vincent Millay Collection
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2007

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79000677>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010230>

Prepared by Donna Ellis

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Collection Summary

Title: Edna St. Vincent Millay Collection

Span Dates: 1919-2001

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1928-1985)

ID No.: MSS677

Creator: Millay, Edna St. Vincent, 1892-1950

Extent: 135 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: .4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79000677>

Summary: Author and poet. Correspondence, literary drafts, photographs, and family papers relating to Millay's life and literary career.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Boissevain, Eugen, 1880-1949--Correspondence.
Bronstein, Lola--Correspondence.
Bynner, Witter, 1881-1968--Correspondence.
Dillon, George, 1906-1968--Correspondence.
Dillon, George, 1906-1968.
Hamilton, Charles, 1875-1961--Correspondence.
Hodges, Alice Baur, 1899-1983--Correspondence.
Lanfranchi, Anne--Correspondence.
Lanfranchi, Nino--Correspondence.
Milford, Nancy--Correspondence.
Millay, Edna St. Vincent, 1892-1950.
Millay, Kathleen, -1943. Kathleen Millay short stories. 1934-1976.
Millay, Norma--Correspondence.
Oliver, Mary, 1935-2019. Blue pastures. 1995.
Shay, Frank, 1888-1954--Correspondence.
Sussmann, Nan--Correspondence.
Taylor, Deems, 1885-1966--Correspondence.
Wylie, Elinor, 1885-1928.

Subjects

American literature.
American poetry.
Operas.

Titles

King's henchman: a play in three acts.

Occupations

Authors.
Poets.

Provenance

The collection of Edna St. Vincent Millay, author and poet, consists of three gifts to the Library of Congress from Nan Bright Sussmann between 2001 and 2004, as well as three purchases between 1994 and 2000.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edna St. Vincent Millay is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The collection of Edna St. Vincent Millay are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Edna St. Vincent Millay Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1892, Feb. 22	Born, Rockland, Maine
1912	Published "Renascence," in <i>The Lyric Year</i> , One Hundred Poems. New York: Mitchell Kennerley
1913	Attended Barnard College, New York, N.Y.
1917	Graduated, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Published <i>Renascence, and Other Poems</i> . New York: Mitchell Kennerley
1917-1920	Published poetry in magazines and newspapers
1923	Awarded Pulitzer Prize for Poetry Married Eugen Boissevain (died 1949)
1925	Moved to "Steepletop" farm, Austerlitz, N.Y.
1927	Debut of <i>The King's Henchmen</i> opera, Metropolitan Opera House, New York, N.Y. Published <i>The King's Henchmen: A Play in Three Acts</i> . New York: Harper & Brothers
1931	Published <i>Fatal Interview, Sonnets</i> . New York: Harper & Brothers
1936	Published with George Dillon <i>Flowers of Evil</i> , from the French of Charles Baudelaire. New York: Harper & Brothers
1940	Elected to American Academy of Arts and Letters
1950, Oct. 19	Died, Austerlitz, N.Y.
1950	Norma Millay (sister, died 1986) named literary executor of Millay's estate and inheritor of "Steepletop" farm
1952	Posthumous publication of <i>Letters</i> , edited by Allan Ross Macdougall in cooperation with Norma Millay. New York: Harper
1954	Posthumous publication of <i>Mine the Harvest</i> , compiled by Norma Millay. New York: Harper
1959	Posthumous publication of <i>Collected Poems</i> , edited by Norma Millay. New York: Harper

Scope and Content Note

The collection of Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950) spans the years 1919-2001, with the bulk of the material dating from 1928 to 1985. The papers consist of correspondence, poetry, plays, and miscellaneous items.

Early correspondence, 1919-1950, contains letters of Millay and her husband, Eugen Boissevain, to Lola Bronstein (translator of Millay's poetry into German), George Dillon, Anne Lanfranchi, Nino Lanfranchi, and Deems Taylor. Incoming letters are from Witter Bynner and Frank Shay. Subjects include poetry, operas, producing *The King's Henchmen*, Millay's relationship with George Dillon, the death of Elinor Wylie, and social activities. Later correspondence, 1950-2001, concerns the disposition of Millay's papers and writing her biography. Chief correspondents are Norma Millay, Charles Hamilton, Alice Baur Hodges, Nancy Milford, and Nan Sussmann.

The collection contains Millay's poems "I Like Americans," "The Rabbit," "Ebb," an untitled poem written in 1939, sixteen sonnets included with an undated letter to George Dillon, and a typescript of her play, "The Princess Marries the Page." Also included are two short stories written by her sister Kathleen Millay and an excerpt from *Blue Pastures* by Mary Oliver regarding her association with the poet's family after her death. Miscellaneous items consist of photographs, newspaper clippings, and Millay's monogrammed handkerchief.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1919-1943, 1954-1985, 1995-2001, undated (11 folders)
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1927-1931, 1952, undated
BOX 1	Writings
BOX 1	By Millay, Edna St. Vincent, 1932, 1939, undated
BOX 1	By Millay, Kathleen (sister), 1934, 1943, 1976, undated