

Gilbert Miller Papers

Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress



Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2006560744>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu009015>

Processed by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Music Division, 2009
Revised 2022 January

Collection Summary

Title: Gilbert Miller Papers

Span Dates: 1916-1981

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1932-1955)

Call No.: ML31.M55

Creator: Miller, Gilbert

Extent: approximately 4,350 items

Extent: 11 containers

Extent: 4.75 linear feet

Language: Collection material chiefly in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2006560744>

Summary: Gilbert Miller (1884-1969) was an American producer and theater owner. The collection includes correspondence, photographs, scenic renderings, contracts, and other materials that document Miller's theatrical influences, personal connections, and professional accomplishments.

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

Abbott, George, 1887-1995--Correspondence.
Anouilh, Jean, 1910-1987--Correspondence.
Chevalier, Maurice, 1888-1972--Correspondence.
Coward, Noel, 1899-1973--Correspondence.
De Liagre, Alfred, 1904-1987--Correspondence.
Derwent, Clarence, 1884-1959--Correspondence.
Gordon, Max, 1892-1978--Correspondence.
Hart, Moss, 1904-1961--Correspondence.
Hayes, Helen, 1900-1993--Correspondence.
Hayward, Leland, 1902-1971--Correspondence.
Housman, Laurence, 1865-1959--Correspondence.
Howard, Sidney Coe, 1891-1939--Correspondence.
Kaufman, George S. (George Simon), 1889-1961--Correspondence.
Kazan, Elia--Correspondence.
Lasky, Jesse L., Jr., 1910-1988--Correspondence.
Miller, Gilbert--Archives.
Miller, Gilbert--Correspondence.
Miller, Gilbert--Photographs.
Miller, Gilbert.
Miller, Gilbert.
Olivier, Laurence, 1907-1989--Correspondence.
Redgrave, Michael--Correspondence.
Roth, Wolfgang, 1910-1988--Correspondence.
Sherwood, Robert E. (Robert Emmet), 1896-1955--Correspondence.
Todd, Mike, 1909-1958.

Organizations

Henry Miller's Theatre (Organization : New York, N.Y.)

Subjects

Costume.

Musical theater--Production and direction.

Theater--Production and direction.
Theater--United States.
Theaters--Stage-setting and scenery--United States.
Theatrical producers and directors--Great Britain.
Theatrical producers and directors--United States.
Tony Awards.

Titles

Gilbert Miller collection, 1916-1981

Form/Genre

Clippings (Information artifacts)
Contracts.
Correspondence.
Drawings (Visual works)
Floor plans.
Photographic prints.
Playbills.
Programs (Documents)
Renderings (Drawings)
Scripts (Documents)
Theater programs.

Provenance

Purchase, Joseph Robinette, 2004. Additional materials were purchased in 2008.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

The Gilbert Miller Papers were processed in June 2009 by Alan Balch. Additional materials were processed by Kevin O'Connell in 2014. The finding aid was coded for EAD format by Christopher Hartten in August 2009.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Gilbert Miller Papers are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

The Gilbert Miller Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Gilbert Miller Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|-----------------|--|
| 1884, July 3 | Born, New York, to actor-manager Henry Miller and actress Bijou Heron |
| 1907 | Began theater management career as company manager of Henry Miller's touring production of <i>The Great Divide</i> |
| 1910-1915 | Managed all of Henry Miller's American productions |
| circa 1914-1918 | Served in intelligence as a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and became part of the American Expeditionary Force during the First World War |
| 1916 | Debut as producer in London with <i>Daddy Long-Legs</i> |
| 1919 | Opened first New York show, <i>Monsieur Beacuaire</i> |
| 1921 June | Took over operation of the Empire Theatre and the Frohman Corporation |
| 1932 April | Left Frohman |
| circa 1939-1944 | Served as aircraft technician aboard the aircraft carrier Shangri-La during the Second World War |
| 1950 | <i>The Cocktail Party</i> won Tony Award for Best Play |
| 1958 | <i>The Rope Dancer</i> nominated for Tony Award for Best Play |
| 1962 | <i>The Caretaker</i> nominated for Tony Award for Best Play |
| 1965 | Received special Tony Award for "having produced 88 plays and musicals and for his perseverance which has helped to keep New York and theatre alive" |
| 1968 | Sold Henry Miller's Theatre |
| 1969, January 2 | Died and buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, New York |

PRODUCTIONS: *Polly with a past* (1921), *The nervous wreck* (1924), *The captive* (1926), *Dantons Tod* (1927), *Her cardboard lover* (1927), *Interference* (1927), *Midsummer night's dream* (1927), *Jedermann* (1927), *Er ist an allem Schuld [He is to blame for everything]* (1928), *Diener zweier Herren [Servant of two masters]* (1928), *Kabale und Liebe* (1928), *The patriot* (1928, Jan. 20, Jan. 29), *Der lebende Leichnam [The living corpse]* (1928), *Olympia* (1928), *The sacred flame* (1928), *Our betters* (1928), *Peripherie* (1928), *Happy husband* (1928), *Paris* (1928), *The age of innocence* (1928), *Candle-light* (1929), *Love duel* (1929), *The skyrocket* (1929), *Journey's end* (1929), *Hundred years old* (1929), *Berkeley Square* (1929), *Marseilles* (1930, Nov. 9, Nov. 18), *Petticoat influence* (1930), *Journey's end* (1930, Aug. 5, Aug. 24), *The violet* (1930), *Tomorrow and tomorrow* (1931), *The sex fable* (1931, Nov. 15, Nov. 25), *The good fairy* (1931), *The animal kingdom* (1932, Jan. 3, Jan. 13), *Behold we live* (1932), *The late Christopher Bean* (1932), *Firebird* (1932, Sept. 25, Nov. 22), *This side idolatry* (1933), *Reunion in Vienna* (1934), *Bride of Torozko* (1934, July 10, Sept. 14), *Ode to liberty* (1934 Dec. 11, Dec. 22), *The petrified forest* (1934), *The petrified forest* (1935), *Laburnum grove* (1935), *The ringmaster* (1935), *Tovarich* (1935), *Libel!* (1935, Dec. 3, Dec. 8, Dec. 21), *Victoria Regina* (1935, Dec. 13, Dec. 27), *The country wife* (1936, Oct. 7, Dec. 2), *Pride and prejudice* (1936), *Tovarich* (1936, Oct. 16, Oct. 25), *Promise* (1936), *The amazing Dr. Clitterhouse* (1937), *Yes, my darling daughter* (1937), *Old music* (1937), *French without tears* (1937, Sept. 26, Sept. 29), *Victoria Regina* (1937), *Silent knight* (1937), *Murder in the cathedral* (1938), *Once is enough* (1938), *Victoria Regina* (1938), *I have been here before* (1938), *Ladies and gentlemen* (1939), *Geneva* (1940), *Ladies in retirement* (1940), *Delicate story* (1940), *Twelfth night* (1940, Oct. 18, Oct. 27), *Anne of England* (1941), *Lily of the valley* (1942), *Heart of a city* (1942), *Lifeline* (1942), *Flare path* (1942), *Harriet* (1943, Mar. 4, Mar. 14), *For keeps* (1944), *Harriet* (1944), *The rich full life* (1945), *Antigone* (1946), *Dear Ruth* (1946), *Candida* (1946), *Play's the thing* (1948, Apr. 29, May 9), *Edward, my son* (1948), *Montserrat* (1949), *Cocktail party* (1950), *Ring around the moon* (1950), *Caesar and Cleopatra* (1951), *Antony and Cleopatra* (1951), *Horses in midstream* (1953), *The living room* (1954), *Witness for the prosecution* (1954), *The reluctant debutante* (1956), *The sleeping prince* (1956), *Under Milk Wood* (1957), *The rope dancer* (1957), *Look after Lulu* (1959), *Golden fleecing* (1959), *The caretaker* (1961), *The White House* (1964), *Diamond orchid* (1965)

Scope and Content Note

The Gilbert Miller Papers span the period 1916-1981 with the bulk of the materials dating from 1932-1955. The collection includes correspondence, photographs, contracts, scripts, speeches, scenic floor plans, scenic and costume renderings, clippings, programs, and other materials related to Miller's life and career that provide insights into his work as a manager, producer, and advocate for the theater.

Organization of the Gilbert Miller Papers

The Gilbert Miller Papers are organized into four series:

- [Correspondence, 1916-1967](#)
- [Photographs, 1937-1981](#)
- [Technical-Related Materials, 1936-1953](#)
- [Miscellany, 1920s-1950s](#)

Description of Series

| Container | Series |
|-----------------|--|
| BOX 1-5 | <p><u>Correspondence, 1916-1967</u></p> <p>Chiefly letters, telegrams, intra-office memos, and other communications to and from Miller. Includes some related correspondence.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by last name of correspondent. Miscellaneous correspondence is arranged chronologically by year.</p> |
| BOX 5-7 | <p><u>Photographs, 1937-1981</u></p> <p>Mostly black and white photographs for plays directed or produced by Miller. Includes a small quantity of images of Miller, Jean Anouilh, and various unidentified performers.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by show title.</p> |
| BOX 7 MAPCASE 3 | <p><u>Technical-Related Materials, 1936-1953</u></p> <p>Floor plans, paint and fabric samples, scenic and costume renderings, and other materials.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by show title.</p> |
| BOX 8-11 | <p><u>Miscellany, 1920s-1950s</u></p> <p>Contracts, programs, scripts, speeches, and other assorted materials. Includes several folders of correspondence concerning the one-year anniversary party for producer Michael Todd's film <i>Around the World in 80 Days</i>. It is unclear how this material relates directly to Miller.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p> |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|------------------------|---|
| BOX 1-5 | Correspondence, 1916-1967 Chiefly letters, telegrams, intra-office memos, and other communications to and from Miller. Includes some related correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by last name of correspondent. Miscellaneous correspondence is arranged chronologically by year. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/1 | Abbott, George, 1936 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/2 | Anouilh, Jean, 1946-1948 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/3 | Aronson, Boris, 1939 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/4 | Carlisle, Kitty, 1947 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/5 | Chevalier, Maurice, 1954-1955 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/6 | Cornell, Katherine, 1930, 1944 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/7 | Coward, Noel, 1940 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/8 | De Liagre, Alfred, 1939, 1946-1947 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/9 | Derwent, Clarence, 1932-1947 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/10 | De Wolfe, Elsie [i.e. Lady Elsie Mendl], 1940-1947 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/11 | Dukes, Ashley, 1936-1953 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/12 | Empire Theatre, 1923 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/13 | Fairbanks, Douglas, Jr., 1951-1953 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/14 | Fontanne, Lynn, 1933, 1947 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/15 | Gillmore, Frank, 1936 RE: firing of Laurette Taylor |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/16 | Gordon, Max, 1934-1943, 1953 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/17 | Harrison, Rex, 1946 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/18 | Hart, Moss, 1944-1945, 1955 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/19 | Hayes, Helen, 1937-1953 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/20 | Hayward, Leland, 1931-1951 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/21 | Hecht, Ben, 1941 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/22 | Hellman, Lillian, 1949 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/23 | Hornblow, Arthur, Jr., 1934, 1944, 1952-1955 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/24 | Housman, Laurence, 1935-1939 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/25 | Howard, Sidney, 1932-1940 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/26 | Kanin, Garson, 1946-1949 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/27 | Kaufman, George S., 1934, 1941, 1948 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/28 | Kazan, Elia, 1943-1944, 1954 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/29 | Lasky, Jesse, 1931-1953 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/30 | Laughton, Charles, 1932 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/31 | Lawford, Ernest, 1932-1936 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/32 | Lion, Leon M., 1933-1936 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/33 | Luce, Clare Boothe, 1938-1951 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/34 | Lunt, Alfred, 1947 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/35 | MacArthur, Charles, 1944-1945 |

Correspondence, 1916-1967

| Container | Contents |
|--------------------|---|
| BOX-FOLDER 1/36 | Massey, Raymond, 1934 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/37-45 | Miscellany, 1916-1929 |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/1-11 | Miscellany, 1930-1940 |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/1-8 | Miscellany, 1941-1948 |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/1-10 | Miscellany, 1949-1967 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/1-2 | Miscellany, undated |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/3 | Molnár, Ferenc, 1925-1932 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/4 | Morgan, Frank, 1945 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/5 | Olivier, Laurence, 1939-1948 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/6 | Osborn, Paul, 1934-1945 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/7 | Power, Tyrone, 1944, 1952 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/8 | Queensberry, Francis Archibald Kelhead Douglas, Marquess of, 1950 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/9 | Redgrave, Michael, 1956 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/10 | Robson, Flora, 1941 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/11 | Rose, Bill, 1952 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/12 | Roth, Wolfgang, 1938-1939 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/13 | Rothschild, Henri de, 1928-1929 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/14 | Sevareid, Eric, 1941 RE: efforts to develop a play and movie based upon his war experiences |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/15 | Shaw, George Bernard, 19353 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/16 | Sherwood, Robert E., 1933-1935, 1948-1952 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/17 | Skinner, Otis, 1921-1922 Chiefly correspondence with Alf Hayman |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/18 | Sullavan, Margaret [i.e. Mrs. Leland Hayward], 1941 and undated |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/19 | Thorndike, Sybil, Dame, 1935-1936 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/20 | Tracy, Spencer, 1940 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/21 | Van Druten, John, 1940-1944 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/22 | Wilcox, Herbert, 1936 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/23 | Wooll, Edward, 1935-1936 |
| BOX 5-7 | Photographs, 1937-1981 Mostly black and white photographs for plays directed or produced by Miller. Includes a small quantity of images of Miller, Jean Anouilh, and various unidentified performers. Arranged alphabetically by show title. Stage Productions, 1937-1981 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/24 | Anne of England, 1941 |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/25 | Caesar and Cleopatra, 1951 |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/1 | The cocktail party, 1950 |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/2 | Delicate story, 1940 |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/3 | Edward, my son, 1948 |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/4 | Flare path, 1942 |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/5 | Gigi, 1951 |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/6 | Harriet, 1943/1944 |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/7 | An ideal husband, 1944 |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/8 | Ladies in retirement, 1940 |

Photographs, 1937-1981

| Container | Contents |
|-----------------------------|---|
| BOX-FOLDER 6/9 | My fair lady, 1981 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/1 | Old music, 1937 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/2 | Ring round the moon, 1950 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/3 | The sleeping prince, 1953 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/4 | Victoria Regina, 1951 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/5 | The voice of the turtle, 1947 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/6 | Unidentified, undated |
| | Miscellany, 1948 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/7 | Gilbert Miller, alone or with others, 1948 and undated |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/8 | Anouilh, Jean, undated |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/9 | Miscellaneous and unidentified people, undated |
| BOX 7 MAPCASE 3 | Technical-Related Materials, 1936-1953 Floor plans, paint and fabric samples, scenic and costume renderings, and other materials. Arranged alphabetically by show title. |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/10 | The cocktail party, 1950 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/11 | Gigi, 1953 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/12 | Harriet, 1943/1944 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/13 | An ideal husband, 1944 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/14 | Ring round the moon, 1950 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/15 | Victoria Regina, 1936, 1947 |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/16 | Unidentified, 1950 |
| MAPCASE-DRAWER 3/1 | Unidentified, undated Scenic rendering |
| BOX 8-11 | Miscellany, 1920s-1950s Contracts, programs, scripts, speeches, and other assorted materials. Includes several folders of correspondence concerning the one-year anniversary party for producer Michael Todd's film <i>Around the World in 80 Days</i> . It is unclear how this material relates directly to Miller. Arranged alphabetically by subject. |
| BOX-FOLDER 8/1-4 | Around the world in 80 days, 1957-1958 Correspondence related to Michael Todd's one-year anniversary party for the film |
| BOX-FOLDER 8/5 | Biographical materials, 1920s, 1939 Address book and passports |
| BOX-FOLDER 8/6-7, 9/1-4 | Contracts, 1952-1956 |
| BOX-FOLDER 9/5 | Miscellany, 1930s, 1947 and undated Theatrical souvenirs, musical excerpts, items inscribed to Miller, and other materials |
| BOX-FOLDER 9/6-8, 10/1-7 | Programs, 1930s-1950s and undated Miller productions |
| BOX-FOLDER 10/8, 11/1-3 | Programs, 1930s-1950s and undated Non-Miller productions |
| BOX-FOLDER 11/4 | Scripts, 1942, 1948 and undated |
| BOX-FOLDER 11/5 | Speeches, 1931, 1955 |