
Finding Aid to the Collection of Joaquin Miller Papers, 1871-1967, bulk 1871-1913

Finding aid written by Alison E. Bridger

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Finding Aid to the Collection of Joaquin Miller Papers, 1871-1967, bulk 1871-1913

Collection Number: BANC MSS C-H 58

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University of California, Berkeley
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Date Completed:

March 2006

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Collection of Joaquin Miller Papers

Date (inclusive): 1871-1967,

Date (bulk): , bulk 1871-1913

Collection Number: BANC MSS C-H 58

Creator : Miller, Joaquin, 1837-1913

Extent: Number of containers: 5 boxes and 2 cartons
Linear feet: 4.5

Repository: The Bancroft Library

Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Abstract: Contains correspondence, to and from Miller; manuscripts of writings, including poetry; clippings by and about Miller, many about his death. Also includes a small amount of legal and financial records, tributes, programs and souvenirs, and other miscellaneous items. Some correspondents include Andrew Carnegie, Ina D. Coolbrith, Jack London, James D. Phelan, George Sterling and Charles Warren Stoddard.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Collection of Joaquin Miller Papers, BANC MSS C-H 58, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available

There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Related Collections

Joaquin Miller papers: to various individuals, (BANC MSS 88/36 c)

Joaquin Miller letters and manuscripts, (BANC MSS 2005/250 c)

Ina Donna Coolbrith Collection of Letters and Papers, (BANC MSS C-H 23)

Ina Donna Coolbrith Papers: Additions, (BANC MSS 70/117 c)

Yone Noguchi Papers: Additions, (BANC MSS 71/39 c)

Charles Warren Stoddard Collection of Papers, (BANC MSS C-H 53)

Partington Family Papers (BANC MSS C-H 84)

Partington Family Papers: Additions (BANC MSS 81/143 c)

Juanita Joaquina Miller Papers (BANC MSS C-H 147)

Separated Material

Photographs have been transferred to the Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library. (BANC PIC 1963.014-.015)

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Miller, Joaquin, 1837-1913--Archives

Cook, Ina Peterson--Correspondence

Wagner, Harr, 1857-1936--Correspondence

Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919--Correspondence

Coolbrith, Ina D. (Ina Donna), 1842?-1928--Correspondence

London, Jack, 1876-1916--Correspondence

Phelan, James D. (James Duval), 1861-1930--Correspondence

Sterling, George, 1869-1926--Correspondence

Stoddard, Charles Warren, 1843-1909--Correspondence

Rossetti, Dante Gabriel, 1828-1882--Correspondence

Boughton, George Henry, 1834-1905--Correspondence

Poets, American--19th century

American poetry--California

Authors, American--19th century

Poems

Manuscripts for publication

Honeyman, Robert B.--Robert B. Honeyman, Jr. collection

Norris, Thomas W. (Thomas Wayne).--Thomas W. Norris collection

Acquisition Information

The Collection of Joaquin Miller Papers were given to and/or purchased by The Bancroft Library at various times. Some folders are annotated with information with respect to provenance. Most of the original materials were acquired in the T.W. Norris Collection and the Robert B. Honeyman Collection. Additions were made in October 1962, a gift of his daughter, Juanita Miller. Additions in the form of purchases were made in February 2006.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

Processing Information

Processed by Alison E. Bridger and Brian Plimley in 2006.

Biographical Information

Born Cincinnatus Heine (or Hiner) Miller on September 8, 1837, near Liberty, Indiana. In 1852, his family moved to the Oregon Territory and two years later at the age of 17 he went to the California gold fields. At the urging of Ina D. Coolbrith, he changed his name to Joaquin Miller sometime around 1870.

Best know as a poet, Miller also worked as a mining camp cook, a lawyer and a judge, a newspaper writer, a conservationist, and a Pony Express rider. Miller proclaimed himself the "Poet of the Sierras," and the "Byron of the Rockies."

Miller took poetic license to heart and stretched many of the facts of his life, sometimes even claiming to be younger than he was. He found fame in England with many of his "tall truths."

In 1886, Joaquin began buying land above Oakland, using poetic license and naming it "The Hights." The land was later sold by his family in 1919 to the City of Oakland and named Joaquin Miller Park.

Joaquin Miller died February 17, 1913.

Scope and Content of Collection

Contains correspondence, to and from Miller; manuscripts of writings, including poetry; clippings by and about Miller, many about his death. Also includes a small amount of legal and financial records, tributes, programs and souvenirs, and other miscellaneous items. Some correspondents include Andrew Carnegie, Ina D. Coolbrith, Jack London, James D. Phelan, George Sterling and Charles Warren Stoddard.

SERIES 1 CORRESPONDENCE 1871-1913

Physical Description: Boxes 1-2

Arrangement

Arranged into 3 subseries.

Scope and Content Note

Contains incoming, outgoing letters as well as letters about Joaquin Miller.

SUBSERIES 1.1 INCOMING 1884-1913

Physical Description: Box 1; Box 2, folders 1-4

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically, some alphabetically by author.

Scope and Content Note

Contains incoming letters, see Partial List of Correspondents.

Box 1, Folders
1-21

General 1884-1913, undated

Box 2, Folder 1
Box 2, Folder 2
Box 2, Folder 3
Box 2, Folder 4

Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919 1911, undated

California Adjutant General's Office 1883

Whitaker & Ray Wiggin Co. (publishers) 1908-1912

Alphabetical by author 1890-1913

SUBSERIES 1.2 OUTGOING 1871-1913

Physical Description: Box 2, folders 5-13

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note

Contains outgoing letters, see Partial List of Correspondents.

Box 2, Folders
5-17

General 1871-1913, undated

SUBSERIES 1.3 ABOUT JOAQUIN MILLER 1903, 1913

Physical Description: Box 2, folder 14

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by author.

Scope and Content Note

Contains letters discussing Miller, see Partial List of Correspondents.

Box 2, Folder 18
Box 2, Folder 19

General 1903, 1913

Rossetti, Dante Gabriel to George H. Boughton 1871

SERIES 2 WRITINGS 1872-1936

Physical Description: Boxes 3-5

Arrangement

Arranged into 2 subseries.

Scope and Content Note

Contains poetry and other manuscripts.

SUBSERIES 2.1 POETRY 1872-1936

Physical Description: Box 3

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by title, with untitled works at the end.

Scope and Content Note

Contains manuscript poems, many untitled or fragments. Also includes preface, footnotes and appendix of Miller's complete poetical works.

Box 3, Folders
1-29

Poems by title circa 1880-1900

Box 3, Folders
30-38

Untitled and fragments circa 1872-1897

Box 4, Folder 1

Preface, footnotes and appendix of complete poetical works 1897, 1936

SUBSERIES 2.2 OTHER MANUSCRIPTS undated

Physical Description: Boxes 4-5

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by title, then by original order.

Scope and Content Note

Contains manuscripts of other Miller writings, many of the manuscripts did not have a discernable title and are fragments of larger works.

Box 4, Folders
2-19

Works by title undated

Box 4, Folder
20-39

Untitled and fragments undated

Box 5, Folder 1-20

Untitled and fragments, continued undated

SERIES 3 CLIPPINGS 1879-1967

Physical Description: Cartons 1-2

Arrangement

Arranged into 2 subseries.

Scope and Content Note

Contains works by and about Miller and his obituaries.

SUBSERIES 3.1 WORKS BY AND ABOUT JOAQUIN MILLER 1879-1967

Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 9-16; Carton 2, folders 1-4, 21-32

Arrangement

Arranged as received.

Scope and Content Note

Contains clippings of some of Miller's works and about Miller.

Carton 1, Folders
9-16

General 1879-1967

Carton 2, Folders
1-4 **General 1879-1967**
Carton 2, Folders
21-32 **General 1879-1967**

SUBSERIES 3.2 OBITUARIES 1913-1914

Physical Description: Carton 2, folders 5-20

Arrangement

Arranged as received.

Scope and Content Note

Contains obituaries in a wide variety of newspapers, collected by his daughter.

Carton 2, Folders
5-20 **General 1913-1914**

SERIES 4 LEGAL AND FINANCIAL RECORDS 1888-1919

Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 4-5

Arrangement

Arranged as received.

Scope and Content Note

Contains a small amount of legal and financial records.

Carton 1, Folder 4 **Legal files 1889-1919**
Carton 1, Folder 5 **Financial files 1888-1912**

SERIES 5 MISCELLANEOUS [circa 1888-1913]

Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 1-3, 6-8

Arrangement

Arranged as received.

Scope and Content Note

Contains tributes, programs and souvenirs, other authors works with annotations and other miscellaneous items.

Carton 1, Folder 1 **Tributes [circa 1912]**
Carton 1, Folders
2-3 **Programs and Souvenirs 1885, undated**
Carton 1, Folders
8 **Other authors published works with annotations undated**
Carton 1, Folder
6-7 **Miscellany 1888, undated**

Cawein, Madison Julius, 1865-1914

Letter(s) to Harr Wagner, Mar. 13, 1913. Typed copy.

Coolbrith, Ina Donna, 1842-1928

Letter(s), 1912-1913 (2)

Hardy, Iza Duffus, d. 1922

Letter(s), Feb. 9, 1912

Hubbard, Elbert, 1856-1915

Letter(s) to George Wharton James, Aug. 4, 1903. With forwarding note from James to Harr Wagner.

Leslie, Miriam Florence (Folline), ca. 1836-1914

4 letter(s), 1900-1910

London, Jack, 1876-1916

Letter(s), July 11, 1903

Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940

2 letter(s), 1899-1909

Miller, Abigail (Leland)

Telegram to Harr Wagner, May 11, 1903. Includes signed draft of Wagner's answer.

Miller, George Melvin

Letter(s), May 11, 1890

Phelan, James Duval, 1861-1930

Letter(s), July 9, 1903. Among letter sent by Miller is one addressed to Mr. Phelan.

Riley, James Whitcomb, 1849-1916

Letter(s), 1903 & 1913 (2). Includes copy of a letter addressed to Harr Wagner, written by Edmund H. Eitel for Riley.

Russell, Edmund

Letter(s), Aug. 1896

Sterling, George, 1869-1926

Letter(s), July 9, 1903

Stoddard, Charles Warren, 1843-1909

Letter(s), Oct. 24, 1908

Swinton, John, 1829-1901

Letter(s), May 14, 1898

Wagner, Madge (Morris) d. 1924

Letter(s), Nov. 15, 1891