Arthur Millier Archive

Descriptive Summary
Title: Arthur Millier Archive
Dates: 1921 - 1975
Collection number: H.Mss.1100
Creator: Millier, Arthur Henry Thomas
Extent: 2.25 Linear Feet(1 records box, 2 document boxes, 1 slim document box)
Repository: Claremont Colleges. Library. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library. Claremont, CA 91711
Abstract: This collection contains materials relating to Arthur Henry Thomas Millier, Los Angeles Times art critic, and his family. Highly active in the early twentieth century Los Angeles art scene, Millier was responsible for helping to establish the reputations of California artists such as Emil Kosa and Millard Sheets, among others. This archive contains correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, diaries, and other personal materials from the Millier family. Items of note include original etchings by Millier, extensive correspondence with the family of the famous opera singer Lawrence Tibbett, and a program from the funeral of the artist Millard Sheets.
Language of Material: English, French.
Access
Collection open for research.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to reproduce or to publish must be submitted in writing to Special Collections.
Preferred Citation
Provenance / Source of Acquisition
Accruals
No additions to the collection are anticipated.
Processing Information
Materials were placed in chronological order, letters were removed from their envelopes, unfolded, and placed in archival paper slings. Items were housed in archival folders and boxes.
Biography / Administrative History
Arthur Henry Thomas Millier (1893-1975) was a noted printmaker and art critic who helped bring national recognition to many emerging California artists in the first half of the twentieth century. Born in England, he moved with his parents to California as a teenager, attended Los Angeles High School, and continued his studies at the Los Angeles Art Students' League. He served in France in World War I, and afterward settled for a time in San Francisco, where he studied at the California School of Fine Arts, worked as a designer at the Schmidt Lithograph Company, and honed his skills as a printmaker. His early etchings focused on street scenes and urban life in San Francisco, but his interest soon turned to the California landscapes for which he would become best known. He had his first solo exhibition in 1922. Over the years, he received several awards for etching, and today his prints are included in the permanent collections of such major institutions as the Los Angeles County Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago.
In 1922, Millier returned to Los Angeles and taught at the Chouinard Art Institute, Otis Art Institute, the University of Southern California, and the Pasadena Art Institute. In 1926, he became the art critic at the Los Angeles Times, where he would remain for more than three decades. From this position of influence, Millier was among the first to promote the growth of regional California art. His association with the California Scene Painters helped to establish the national reputations of such California artists as Emil Kosa, Phil Dike, Millard Sheets, Barse Miller, and Rex Brandt. He was also very sympathetic to work by members of the Los Angeles' newly emerging modern art scene. He was friends with Edward Weston, Merle Armitage, Jake Zeitlin, Will Connell, Frank Lloyd Wright, R.M. Schindler, Richard Neutra, and other members of the Los Angeles' avant-garde, and was a frequent champion of their work in his weekly reviews.
Millier's art criticism was always respected, and he is frequently quoted in scholarly literature on the development of the California art scene, as well as the broader world of twentieth century art and design. Relatively little is known about Millier personally, and this archive contributes much to the body of knowledge about Millier's life and family.
Biographical information provided by Walkabout Books, Laguna Hills, CA.
Scope and Content
This collection contains the personal papers of Arthur Millier and his family. Materials include extensive correspondence to Millier and his wife Francine, family photographs, photo albums, scrapbooks, diaries, and original art by Millier and his friends. It also contains miscellaneous ephemera, such as invitations to art shows, magazines, musical scores, and programs. Items of note include correspondence from the composer Hugo Friedhofer, Arthur and Francine Millier's diaries, correspondence from their son Arthur Jr. ("Artie") during his service in World War II, and Millier's original etchings, and extensive correspondence from opera singer Lawrence Tibbett's wife Grace, including one letter from Tibbett himself.

Organization and Arrangement
Materials in this collection has been arranged by type, then chronologically within each type.

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

Subject Terms
Art
Artists
Art criticism
Los Angeles (Calif.)
Tibbett, Lawrence, 1896-1960
United States. Army
World War, 1939-1945

Genre and Form of Materials
Correspondence
Diaries
Etching
Photographs
Photograph albums
Scrapbooks

| Box 1, Folder 1 | Art, etchings, various artists 1931 and undated |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Article on Lawrence Tibbett by Millier (Arthur) undated |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Correspondence, announcements and cards 1926-1958 and undated |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Correspondence, Friedhofer (Hugo) to Millier (Arthur) 1921-1928 and undated |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Correspondence, Millier (Arthur) 1921-1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Correspondence, Millier (Arthur) 1935-1954 and undated |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Correspondence, Millier (Arthur Jr. and Barbara) to Millier (Arthur and Francine) 1944 Jan 7 - 1944 Mar 21 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Correspondence, Millier (Arthur Jr. and Barbara) to Millier (Arthur and Francine) 1944 Mar 26 - 1944 May 23 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Correspondence, Millier (Arthur Jr. and Barbara) to Millier (Arthur and Francine) 1944 May 25 - 1944 Jul 22 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Correspondence, Millier (Arthur Jr. and Barbara) to Millier (Arthur and Francine) 1944 Aug 13 - 1944 Dec 22 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Correspondence, Millier (Arthur Jr. and Barbara) to Millier (Arthur and Francine) 1945 Jan 15 and undated |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Correspondence, Millier (David), Kenyon College 1946-1948 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Correspondence, Millier family 1919-1940 and undated |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Correspondence, Millier (Francine) 1923-1944 |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Correspondence, Millier (Francine) undated |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Correspondence, Millier, Miscellaneous 1923-1977 and undated |
Box 1, Folder 17  Correspondence, Tibbett to Millier 1923 Mar 26 - 1923 Nov 10
General
Contains a letter written by Lawrence Tibbett dated 1923 March 26. The majority of the correspondence in this collection was written by his wife Grace Tibbett.

Box 1, Folder 18  Correspondence, Tibbett to Millier 1923 Nov 15 - 1923 Dec 21
Box 1, Folder 19  Correspondence, Tibbett to Millier 1924 Jan - 1924 Feb
Box 1, Folder 20  Correspondence, Tibbett to Millier 1924 Mar - 1924 Dec
Box 1, Folder 21  Correspondence, Tibbett to Millier 1925
Box 1, Folder 22  Correspondence, Tibbett to Millier 1926 Jan 5 - 1926 Feb 12
Box 1, Folder 23  Correspondence, Tibbett to Millier 1926 Feb 14 - 1926 Dec 9
Box 1, Folder 24  Correspondence, Tibbett to Millier 1927-1934
Box 1, Folder 25  Correspondence, Tibbett to Millier (1 of 3) undated
Box 1, Folder 26  Correspondence, Tibbett to Millier (2 of 3) undated
Box 1, Folder 27  Correspondence, Tibbett to Millier (3 of 3) undated
Box 1, Folder 28  Correspondence, Smith/Lloyd (Claire) 1921-1925 and undated
Box 4, Envelope 1  Ephemera, advertisement for Tibbett record undated
Box 1, Folder 29  Ephemera, magazines, "Scripts" 1939 Dec 9
Box 1, Folder 30  Ephemera, programs 1923-1989 and undated
Box 1, Folder 31  Ephemera, sheet music 1917-1933 and undated
Box 1, Folder 32  Journal, Arthur Millier 1919 or 1920
Box 1, Folder 33  Journal, Francine Millier 1925-1934
Box 3, Folder 1  Photo album, Millier family undated
Box 3, Folder 2  Photo album, Mojave Millier's wedding 1949 Feb 6
Box 3, Folder 3  Photo album, Mojave Millier's wedding, items laid in (1 of 3) 1956 Jul 28 and undated
Box 3, Folder 4  Photo album, Mojave Millier's wedding, items laid in (2 of 3) 1957 Jul 1 and undated
Box 3, Folder 5  Photo album, Mojave Millier's wedding, items laid in (3 of 3) undated
Box 2, Folder 1  Photographs, "Artie and Barb" 1944
Box 2, Folder 2  Photographs, friends and family (1 of 6)
Box 2, Folder 3  Photographs, friends and family (2 of 6)
Box 2, Folder 4  Photographs, friends and family (3 of 6)
Box 2, Folder 5  Photographs, friends and family (4 of 6)
Box 2, Folder 6  Photographs, friends and family (5 of 6)
Box 2, Folder 7  Photographs, friends and family (6 of 6)
Box 2, Folder 8  Photographs, "Mother's Friend Early" 1975
Box 2, Folder 9  Photographs, Mojave Millier's children 1954
Box 4, Folder 1  Scrapbook, announcements and correspondence 1925-1958 and undated
Box 4, Folder 2  Scrapbook, Millier family and friends 1924-1952 and undated