**Overview of the Collection**

**Collection Title:** H. L. Mencken Collection  
**Dates:** 1914-1968  
**Identification:** MS-0001  
**Creator:** Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956  
**Physical Description:** 21.00 items  
**Language of Materials:** English; French  
**Repository:** Special Collections & University Archives  
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050  
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050  
URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua  
Email: scref@rohan.sdsu.edu  
Phone: 619-594-6791

**Biographical Information:**

H. L. Mencken was a critical but humorous journalist, literary reviewer, and language expert. In 1899 he became a reporter for the Baltimore Morning Herald; beginning in 1906, and continuing throughout much of his life, he worked at various intervals for The Baltimore Sun. He was co-editor of The Smart Set, and was co-founder of the American Mercury. Additional publications of his were Prejudices, The American Language, and an autobiographical trilogy.

**Access Terms:**

This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

**Genre/Form of Material:**

Personal Papers  
Publications

**Personal Name:**

Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956

**Topical Term:**

Journalism -- United States  
Satire, American

**Accruals:**

1976

**Conditions Governing Use:**

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**Conditions Governing Access:**

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**Preferred Citation:**

Identification of item, folder title, box number, H. L. Mencken Collection, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.
Scope and Contents
This small collection of pamphlets, reprints, and correspondence is part of the larger collection of one hundred individually cataloged monographs and serials by and about H. L. Mencken, which is also housed in Special Collections. These small items consist of promotional materials, special event publications, letters, and one sound recording.

Box 1
A Personal Word. Description of the editorial and business organization of the Smart Set, a circulation booster. n.p., n.d. [1914], 16 pages.

Box 1
The American Language. A chapter from the 4th edition. Publisher's advance printing of one complete chapter with descriptive text on cover. Prints the entire preface to the new edition and the complete chapter X: Proper Names in America. n.d. [ca. 1939], 83 pages.

Box 1

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Box 1
The Smart Set. Suggestions to our visitors. 26 policy statements "issued as a jocosity" by Mencken N.Y. n.d. [1915], 4 pages.

Box 1
Suggestions to our visitors by George Jean Nathan and H.L. Mencken, editors of The Smart Set. Reprinted at San Francisco, 1968 by the Roxburghe Club, 8 pages.

Box 1
Spiritual Autopsies, an article on Gamelia Bradford. by H.L. Mencken. Issued as an advertisement by the publisher for Bradford's American Portraits. New York: Houghton, 1921, 4 pages.

Box 1

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Box 1
A Literary Chameleon: A New Estimate of Mr. H.L. Mencken by J.D. Logan. Milwaukee: privately printed, 1926, 22 pages. Copy no. 30 of 300 numbered copies, signed by the author. Also signed by Mencken in full, on the cover.

Box 1
H.L. Mencken Speaking. Mencken conversing with Donald H. Kirkley Sr. of The Baltimore Sun, recorded by the library of Congress, D.C., June 30, 1948. 33 1/3 LP record, and cassette tape.

Box 1
Book review for L'Action Française, Sept. 14, 1933. One 3x5" card.

Scope and Contents
La revue de critique l’American Mercury, que dirige le Juif Mencken, est, de l’avis de M. Bernard Fay, spécialiste des choses d’Amérique, "l’une des plus vivantes, des plus pittornerques, des plus typiques des Etats-Unis." en même temys "qu’une des forces d’opinion les plus solides."

Box 1
Typed letter signed to Mr. Silvay. One sheet, signed in full on American Mercury green letterhead. Dated Jun. 10, 1926

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Two typed letters signed and addressed to &quot;Gentlemen.&quot; On the author's personal Baltimore stationary. Dated September 28, 1944 and September 7, 1945.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Typed letter signed to Miss Day. One sheet on American Mercury green letterhead. Dated April 25, no year.</td>
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</tbody>
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