



Miller, Henry, 1891-1980.

**Collection of Henry Miller's *Reflections on the Life of Mishima* documents
1971–1973
(bulk date 1971)**

Abstract: Typescript manuscript and other items related to Henry Miller's *Reflections of the Life of Mishima*.

Descriptive Summary

Identification:	MSS 099, F757
Creator:	Miller, Henry, 1891-1980.
Title:	Collection of Henry Miller's <i>Reflections on the Life of Mishima</i> documents
Inclusive Dates:	1971–1973
Bulk Dates:	1971
Extent:	11 items
Language:	Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation:	MSS 099, F757, Collection of Henry Miller's <i>Reflections on the Life of Mishima</i> documents, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.
Shelving Summary:	Shelved in SPEC MSS 099
Location:	Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/
Source:	Purchase, August 2005.
Processing:	Processed by Karalee Kopreski, October 2005. Encoded by Anita Wellner, December 2007.
Access Restrictions:	The collection is open for research.
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Biographical Note

American author Henry Miller (1891–1980) was raised by German-American parents in Brooklyn. Before becoming a writer, Miller traveled throughout the western United States working at odd jobs and then returned to New York to work at his father's tailor shop. After working for Western Telegraph Company for four years, Miller left for France in 1930 and lived there for nine years. During this period, he published *Tropic of Cancer* (1934), *Tropic of Capricorn* (1939), and *Black Spring* (1936). In 1940, Miller returned to the United States, traveled extensively, continued to write, and eventually settled in Big Sur, California. Miller's early works were unavailable in America until the 1960s because they contained explicit sexual passages that were deemed obscene.

Sources:

Perkins, George and Barbara Perkins and Phillip Leininger. *Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature*. New York: Harper Collins, 1991.

Scope and Content Note

The Collection of Henry Miller's *Reflections on the Death of Mishima* documents, spanning the dates 1971–1973, contains items related to Miller's work *Reflections on the Death of Mishima* (1972). Yukio Mishima (1925–1970), a Japanese author acclaimed for his postwar literature, publicly committed ritual suicide on November 25, 1970. The collection includes a carbon typescript of Part I of Miller's *Reflections on the Death of Mishima* as well as four letters to Miller from New Directions editor Robert MacGregor in which he discusses Mishima's writings and suicide, and principles of Zen Buddhism. Also included is a letter to Miller from Noel Young, editor of Capra Press, two short articles on Mishima's death, a picture of Henry Miller, and an envelope addressed to Miller from Japan.

Selected Search Terms

Uniform Title

Reflections on the Death of Mishima.

Personal Names

Mishima, Yukio, 1925-1970.

Topical Terms

Zen Buddhism--History--20th century--Sources.

Seppuku--History--20th century--Sources.

Form/Genre Terms

Letters (correspondence)

Typescripts.

Manuscripts.

Occupation

Authors.

Personal Contributors

MacGregor, Robert M.

Young, Noel.

Detailed Description of the Collection

"Reflections on the Death of Mishima" [Box 49 F757]

Typescript carbon with note card, 33 pp.

With identifying cover notes "Carbon 1" and "Part I," as well as other minor corrections in the hand of Henry Miller, accompanied by note card reading "Corrected 2d draft ... original sent to Shiro Hayashi."

Robert M. MacGregor letters to Henry Miller , March–April 1971 [Box 49 F757]

Typescript signed letters, 4 items

Four letters from New Directions editor Robert MacGregor.

Noel Young letter to Henry Miller , 1973 January 2 [Box 49 F757]

Typescript signed letter, 1 p.

One letter from Capra Press editor to Henry Miller.

Articles regarding Yukio Mishima, 1971 and undated [Box 49 F757]

2 items

Includes "Yukio Mishima" by Eido Tai Shimano, undated; and "Death as Precept" by Takeshi Muramatsu from the *New York Times*, April 16, 1971.

Ephemera [Box 49 F757]

2 items

Includes a photo-postcard of Henry Miller and an envelope.
