J. Irwin Miller and Xenia S. Miller Travel Papers, 1960-1990 | Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives

By Jennifer Whitlock and Rebekah L. Myers

Collection Overview

Title: J. Irwin Miller and Xenia S. Miller Travel Papers, 1960-1990

Primary Creator: Miller, J. Irwin (1909-2004)

Other Creators: Miller, Xenia S. (1918-2008)

Extent: 4.6 Linear Feet.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged in two series: I. Travel records, II. General travel information and correspondence.

Date Acquired: 09/03/2010

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

The J. Irwin Miller And Xenia S. Miller Travel Papers document the travel, both business and personal, that the Millers did from 1960 to 1990. The materials include trip itineraries, travel journals, correspondence, purchase receipts, travel brochures, travel guidebooks, ticket stubs, menus, and other ephemera and records of their travels.

Collection Biographical Note

J. Irwin Miller

Joseph Irwin Miller (1909-2004) was born into a prominent Columbus, Indiana, family with business interests in banking, industry, and real estate. Irwin Miller attended Yale University, majoring in Greek and Latin and graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1931. He then received a master’s degree from Oxford University in 1933.
In 1934, Irwin Miller began working at Cummins Engine Company—founded by his great-uncle—which builds diesel engines in Columbus, Indiana. His career began when the firm was still small enough that his responsibilities included opening the daily mail though his innovations in management, marketing, and production brought the firm to profitability and he is credited as a major influence in the company’s growth. Although beset with early difficulties, under Irwin Miller’s leadership the company persevered to become the leading independent diesel manufacturer in the world (2006 reported sales were $11.4 billion). In addition to being a patron of modern architecture, Irwin Miller was a philanthropist and industrialist well known for his civic activism. A lay leader in the Christian ecumenical and civil rights movements, he was the first layman to be President of the National Council of Churches and was a strong advocate for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (working with Martin Luther King, Jr. to organize the March on Washington).

Xenia Simons Miller

Xenia Simons Miller (1917-2008) was born in Morgantown, Indiana, the daughter of Nellie Hosetta Wellons and Luther A. Simons; her father was involved in the lumber industry as a young man, and by the late 1920s became involved in furniture manufacturing. He was founder of the Columbus Hickory Chair Company (later the Columbus Hickory Furniture Company), one of a number of rustic furniture manufacturers in Indiana during the first half of the twentieth century. Luther Simons is remembered for his ingenuity and willingness to innovate in an industry characterized by traditional products and materials. He developed Simonite to substitute for rattan, an Asian import in short supply during the Second World War. He often employed workers with disabilities as well as elderly individuals, paying them at the same scale as others.

Xenia Simons Miller grew up in and around Columbus, graduating from Columbus High School and Indiana Business College before taking a position at Cummins Engine Company, working in the firm’s purchasing department. This is where she met her husband, whom she married in 1943.

Xenia Miller was deeply involved in the civic and cultural life of her community, her state, and the nation, with interests as varied as horticulture, music, historic preservation, education, and religion. She worked closely with the architects of her home in Columbus as it was being designed, particularly with Alexander Girard, with whose help she continued to develop the house’s interiors for many years.

http://www.imamuseum.org/millerhouse/miller-family

Subject/Index Terms

Miller, J. Irwin (Joseph Irwin), 1909-2004,
Miller, Xenia S., 1917-2008,

Forms of Material:
brochures,
clippings (information artifacts),
correspondence,
exhibition catalogs,
financial records,
invoices,
photographic prints,
photographs,
receipts (financial records)
travel guidebooks

**Administrative Information**

Repository: Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives

Alternate Extent Statement: 4.6 linear feet: 13 boxes of documents and photographs.

Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions: Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder. Please contact the Archivist for more information.

Acquisition Source: Irwin Management Company Inc.

Acquisition Method: Gift

Preferred Citation: [Title of item], [Date], [Container information], J. Irwin Miller and Xenia S. Miller Travel Papers (M004), IMA Archives, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN.

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**Box and Folder Listing**

**Series I.: Travel records**

Travel Records include trip itineraries, travel journals, correspondence, purchase receipts, travel brochures, travel guidebooks, ticket stubs, menus, and other ephemera and records of their travels. The records are arranged by date of the trip starting with in 1960 and ending with 1990.

Box 1

Folder 1: Italy, 1960
Folders 2-4: Italy, India, Turkey, Greece, France, England, Nov. 14-Dec. 13, 1961
Folder 5: Guatemala, February 7-15, 1964

Box 2

Folder 6: Mexico, February 1966
Folder 7: Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, May 1966
Folders 8-11: Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Philippines, Oct. 11-Nov. 4, 1969

Box 3
Folders 12-13: Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Philippines, Oct. 11-Nov. 4, 1969
Folders 14-16: Columbia, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Oct. 25-Nov. 15, 1970

Box 4
Folders 17-18: Columbia, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Oct. 15-Nov. 15, 1970
Folder 19: England, March 1972
Folders 20-22: South Carolina, March 1973

Box 5
Folders 26-30: Mexico, February 7-23, 1974

Box 6

Box 7
Folder 36: England, Africa, Egypt, United Kingdom, Oct. 19-Nov. 23, 1974
Folders 37-40: Japan, China, India, France, May 24-June 15, 1975

Box 8
Folder 41: Japan, China, India, France, May 24-June 15, 1975
Folders 42-45: Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Oct. 17-Nov. 15, 1976

Box 9

Box 10

Box 11
Folders 61-65: Spain, 1988

Box 12
Folder 66: Spain, 1988
Folder 67: England, Turkey, Greece, France, May 5-23, 1990

Series II.: **General travel information and correspondence**

General Travel Information contains reference publications, correspondence and documentation related to events or their London apartment, but are not tied to a specific trip taken by the Millers.

Box 12
Folder 1: England (Guestbook), 1974-1981
Folders 2-3: England (Publications)

Box 13
Folder 4: England (Publications)
Folder 5: Queen of Bermuda passenger list and diary
Folder 6: Travel publications catalogs
Folder 7: Travel clippings
Folder 8: Indiana travel guides and clippings
Folder 9: New York museum guidebooks
Folder 10: American West travel brochures
Folder 11: Wedding invited and thank-yous