

# M004

## 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.

**Source:** Indianapolis Museum of Art. "Miller Family."

<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
- Folder 8-11: Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Philippines, Oct. 11-Nov. 4, 1969
- Box 3
  - Folder 12-13: Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Philippines, Oct. 11-Nov. 4, 1969
  - Folder 14-16: Columbia, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Oct. 25-Nov. 15, 1970
- Box 4
  - Folder 17-18: Columbia, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Oct. 15-Nov. 15, 1970
  - Folder 19: England, March 1972
  - Folder 20-22: South Carolina, March 1973
- Box 5
  - Folder 23-25: England, Switzerland, Oct. 23-Nov. 17, 1973
  - Folder 26-30: Mexico, February 7-23, 1974
- Box 6
  - Folder 31-35: England, Africa, Egypt, United Kingdom, Oct. 19-Nov. 23, 1974
- Box 7
  - Folder 36: England, Africa, Egypt, United Kingdom, Oct. 19-Nov. 23, 1974
  - Folder 37-40: Japan, China, India, France, May 24-June 15, 1975
- Box 8
  - Folder 41: Japan, China, India, France, May 24-June 15, 1975
  - Folder 42-45: Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Oct. 17-Nov. 15, 1976
- Box 9
  - Folder 46-49: England, June-July 1977
  - Folder 50-52: Scotland, England, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, July 3-13, 1977
- Box 10
  - Folder 53-56: Scotland, England, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, July 3-13, 1977
  - Folder 57-58: Algeria, Italy, India, Israel, England, Sep. 23-Oct. 22, 1978
- Box 11
  - Folder 59: Algeria, Italy, India, Israel, England, Sep. 23-Oct. 22, 1978
  - Folder 60: England, South Africa, Oct. 21-Nov. 2, 1982
  - Folder 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
  - Folder 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