

# Edna St. Vincent Millay Collection

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by Donna Ellis



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2007

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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## Collection Summary

Title: Edna St. Vincent Millay Collection

Span Dates: 1919-2001

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1928-1985)

ID No.: MSS677

Creator: Millay, Edna St. Vincent, 1892-1950

Extent: 135 items; 1 container; .4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Author and poet. Correspondence, literary drafts, photographs, and family papers relating to Millay's life and literary career.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Boissevain, Eugen, d. 1949--Correspondence.

Bronstein, Lola--Correspondence.

Bynner, Witter, 1881-1968--Correspondence.

Dillon, George, 1906-1968--Correspondence.

Dillon, George, 1906-1968.

Hamilton, Charles, 1875-1961--Correspondence.

Hodges, Alice Baur--Correspondence.

Lanfranchi, Anne--Correspondence.

Lanfranchi, Nino--Correspondence.

Milford, Nancy--Correspondence.

Millay, Edna St. Vincent, 1892-1950.

Millay, Kathleen, d. 1943. Kathleen Millay short stories. 1934-1976.

Millay, Norma--Correspondence.

Oliver, Mary, 1935- Blue pastures. 1995.

Shay, Frank, 1888-1954--Correspondence.

Sussmann, Nan, 1888-1954--Correspondence.

Taylor, Deems, 1885-1966--Correspondence.

Wylie, Elinor, 1885-1928.

### Subjects

American literature.

American poetry.

Operas.

### Titles

*The king's henchman: a play in three acts.*

### Occupations

Authors.

Poets.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The collection of Edna St. Vincent Millay, author and poet, consists of three gifts to the Library of Congress from Nan Bright Sussmann between 2001 and 2004, as well as three purchases between 1994 and 2000.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edna St. Vincent Millay is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

### Access and Restrictions

The collection of Edna St. Vincent Millay are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Edna St. Vincent Millay Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i>   | <i>Event</i>  |
|---------------|---|
| 1892, Feb. 22 | Born, Rockland, Maine   |
| 1912          | Published "Renaissance," in <i>The Lyric Year</i> , One Hundred Poems. New York: Mitchell Kennerley   |
| 1913          | Attended Barnard College, New York, N.Y.  |
| 1917          | Graduated, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.<br>Published <i>Renascence, and Other Poems</i> . New York: Mitchell Kennerley  |
| 1917-1920     | Published poetry in magazines and newspapers  |
| 1923          | Awarded Pulitzer Prize for Poetry<br>Married Eugen Boissevain (died 1949)   |
| 1925          | Moved to "Steepletop" farm, Austerlitz, N.Y.  |
| 1927          | Debut of <i>The King's Henchmen</i> opera, Metropolitan Opera House, New York, N.Y.<br>Published <i>The King's Henchmen: A Play in Three Acts</i> . New York: Harper & Brothers |
| 1931          | Published <i>Fatal Interview, Sonnets</i> . New York: Harper & Brothers   |
| 1936          | Published with George Dillon <i>Flowers of Evil</i> , from the French of Charles Baudelaire. New York: Harper & Brothers  |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1940          | Elected to American Academy of Arts and Letters   |
| 1950, Oct. 19 | Died, Austerlitz, N.Y.  |
| 1950          | Norma Millay (sister, died 1986) named literary executor of Millay's estate and inheritor of "Steepletop" farm                |
| 1952          | Posthumous publication of <i>Letters</i> , edited by Allan Ross Macdougall in cooperation with Norma Millay. New York: Harper |
| 1954          | Posthumous publication of <i>Mine the Harvest</i> , compiled by Norma Millay. New York: Harper                                |
| 1959          | Posthumous publication of <i>Collected Poems</i> , edited by Norma Millay. New York: Harper                                   |

## Scope and Content Note

The collection of Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950) spans the years 1919-2001, with the bulk of the material dating from 1928 to 1985. The papers consist of correspondence, poetry, plays, and miscellaneous items.

Early correspondence, 1919-1950, contains letters of Millay and her husband, Eugen Boissevain, to Lola Bronstein (translator of Millay's poetry into German), George Dillon, Anne Lanfranchi, Nino Lanfranchi, and Deems Taylor. Incoming letters are from Witter Bynner and Frank Shay. Subjects include poetry, operas, producing *The King's Henchmen*, Millay's relationship with George Dillon, the death of Elinor Wylie, and social activities. Later correspondence, 1950-2001, concerns the disposition of Millay's papers and writing her biography. Chief correspondents are Norma Millay, Charles Hamilton, Alice Baur Hodges, Nancy Milford, and Nan Sussmann.

The collection contains Millay's poems "I Like Americans," "The Rabbit," "Ebb," an untitled poem written in 1939, sixteen sonnets included with an undated letter to George Dillon, and a typescript of her play, "The Princess Marries the Page." Also included are two short stories written by her sister Kathleen Millay and an excerpt from *Blue Pastures* by Mary Oliver regarding her association with the poet's family after her death. Miscellaneous items consist of photographs, newspaper clippings, and Millay's monogrammed handkerchief.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i>  |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 1            | Correspondence, 1919-1943, 1954-1985, 1995-2001, undated<br>(11 folders) |
| BOX 1            | Miscellany, 1927-1931, 1952, undated                                     |
| BOX 1            | Writings   |
| BOX 1            | By Millay, Edna St. Vincent, 1932, 1939, undated                         |
| BOX 1            | By Millay, Kathleen (sister), 1934, 1943, 1976, undated                  |