
Guide to the Joaquin and Juanita Miller Collection

Collection number: H2007.4

Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library
Libraries of The Claremont Colleges
Claremont, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Joaquin and Juanita Miller collection

Dates: 1878-1941

Collection number: H2007.4

Creator: Miller, Joaquin, 1837-1913

Creator: Miller, Juanita Joaquina, 1880-1970

Collection Size: 2 boxes

Repository: Claremont Colleges. Library. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library.
Claremont, CA 91711

Abstract: The collection contains correspondence, photographs, printed materials, and manuscript materials from 1878-1941. Among the manuscript material is an unpublished manuscript titled ■When I was Emperor.■ All of the photographs are of Joaquin Miller, some accompanied by his daughter and Dr. Frederick Cook.

Physical location: Please consult repository.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish must be submitted in writing to Special Collections.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Joaquin and Juanita Miller collection. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library, Claremont University Consortium.

Acquisition Information

Purchased with John Kemble Western Americana Fund, 2007.

Biography

Cincinnatus Hiner (not Heine) Miller, better known by his pen-name, Joaquin Miller, American poet and journalist (1837-1913), was born near Liberty, Indiana.

His father, a Quaker schoolmaster brought the family west in 1852, settling in Oregon, where young Miller received a cursory education. When he was seventeen he set out for California and lived among the Indians and in mining camps. This was a period of highly colored

adventuring and lasted until 1858 when he returned to Oregon and completed his education at Columbia: College in Eugene. After an interval as pony-express rider, Miller became a newspaper editor, in Eugene, in 1862 and 1863. It was at this time that he began to write verse. His first volume of poems was published at his own expense in 1868. In 1870, after visiting the eastern states, Miller went to England, posing as a romantic Wild West figure and budding genius. He was lucky enough to be sponsored by Tom Hood and to have his Songs of the Sierras published by Longmans. Overnight he became the "literary lion" of London. He "had it made." A compulsive traveler, Joaquin Miller wrote as he went, profusely--in prose and in verse--describing places visited, the life and character of the people and the political aspects of the time. His wanderings carried him to Europe, up, down and across the United States, to Canada, the Klondike, Mexico, China and Japan.

When the real-estate boom of the late eighties brought new life to the west, Miller returned to California to establish a permanent base. He bought one hundred acres in the hills above Oakland and built a house and guest cottages which he called "The Hights" [sic.] and began to be accepted as one of the California circle of writers which included Ina Coolbrith, Bret Harte, Charles Warren Stoddard, Prentice Mulford, Edmond Clarence Stedman, George Sterling, Jack London, Samuel L. Clemens, and others.

In his later years "the poet of the Sierras" became something of a legend, but his fame was based perhaps more on Joaquin the personality, than on Joaquin the writer of memorable verse.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains correspondence, photographs, printed materials, and manuscript materials from 1878-1941. Among the manuscript material is an unpublished manuscript titled ■When I was Emperor.■ All of the photographs are of Joaquin Miller, some accompanied by his daughter and Dr. Frederick Cook.

Arrangement

The collection has been arranged into 4 series: Series 1. Correspondence Series 2. Printed materials and ephemera Series 3. Manuscripts Series 4. Photographs

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Miller, Joaquin, 1837-1913

Miller, Juanita Joaquina, 1880-1970

Frontier and pioneer life -- West (U.S.)

Related Material

Honnold/Mudd Library has two additional collections of Joaquin Miller materials: Joaquin Miller Collection, H1938.1 A royal highway of the world manuscript by Joaquin Miller; and other items associated with Joaquin Miller, H2007.3

Correspondence

- Box 1 , Folder 1 Letter from Joaquin Miller to Jplondus (sp?) Stationary reads Washington DC. 1 page 1885 May 13
- Box 1 , Folder 2 Letter from Joaquin Miller to Sir. Written on The Arbor Day Cross stationary. 1 page. 1893 November 20
- Box 1 , Folder 3 Letter from Joaquin Miller to Mrs. Myrette Miller (sp?). Stationary from The Portland Portland, Oregon. 2 pages. 1896 June 26
- Box 1 , Folder 4 Letter from Joaquin Miller to his mother. Stationary from Windsor European Hotel, Chicago, Il. 1 page. 1898 November 30
- Box 1 , Folder 5 Letter from Joaquin Miller to his mother. Stationary from Grand Pacific Chicago. 2 pages. 1898 December 9
- Box 1 , Folder 6 Letter from Joaquin Miller to him mother. Stationary from Hotel Arcadia, Miller has written San Monica, Cal. 1 page. 1902 February 7
- Box 1 , Folder 7 Letter from Joaquin Miller to his mother and Morely Alex (sp?). Stationary from the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York. 1 page. 1903 March 11
- Box 1 , Folder 8 Letter from Joaquin Miller to his mother. Stationary reads New Depot Hotel, Ashland Ore. 1 page 1903 July 30
- Box 1 , Folder 9 Letter from Joaquin Miller to his mother. Stationary from Hotel Nash in Medford, Ore. A 4.5"x1.75" rectangle has been cut from the top lefthand corner. 1 page. 1903 August 4
- Box 1 , Folder 10 Letter from Joaquin Miller to Bessie Sloan. 1 page. 1912 January 14
- Box 1 , Folder 11 Letter from Joaquin Miller to C. Please and Letter from Joaquin Miller to Mr. Anderson. (Two letters on one page). 1 page. 1912 August 10
- Box 1 , Folder 12 Letter from Joaquin Miller to C. 1 page. 1912 September 25
- Box 1 , Folder 13 Letter from Joaquin Miller to Fudge Wiley. 1 page. 1912 October 3
- Box 1 , Folder 14 From Joaquin Miller to his "dear little girl of the days of gold". 1 page. 1912 October 11
- Box 1 , Folder 15 Letter from Joaquin Miller to Jon Brentz. 2 pages. 1912 October 18
- Box 1 , Folder 16 Letter from Joaquin Miller to Tim Fenton. 1 page. 1912 December 15
- Box 1 , Folder 17 Letter from Fredrick N. Brown to Joaquin Miller, 1912 October 11. With letter on reverse from Joaquin Miller 1912 October 11. Stationary from Boston Press Club. 1 page. 1912
- Box 1 , Folder 18 Thank you note from Joaquin Miller to unknown person. Stationary says Joaquin Miller, The Hights Dimond, Ca. 1 page., Date says 9.1913, Miller died 2.1913.... 1 page. 1913 September 12
- Box 1 , Folder 19 Letter from Joaquin Miller to Mr. Amis (sp?). Orange paper mounted on brown card stock. Stationary from Joaquin Miller The Hights Dimond, Cal. 1 page 1916 December 30
- Box 1 , Folder 20 Letter from Joaquin Miller to his mother. 1 page. December 7
- Box 1 , Folder 21 Letter from Joaquin Miller to Dr. Donor (sp?). 1 page. undated
- Box 1 , Folder 22 Letter from Juanita Miller to Papa Bidz (sp?). 1 page November 21
- Box 1 , Folder 23 Unfinished letter to Estelle Edwards. 1 page. Unsigned. undated
- Box 1 , Folder 24 Letter from Joaquin Miller to Frank Pitman? 1 page. 1912 August 15
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from Albert Brandt 1904 September 2
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from H. L. [Coppered?] 1911 April 22
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from F. W. Pu[luans?] 1912 August 6
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from A. W. Rice 1912 September 10
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from Bessie I. Sloan undated
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from [Harley R.?] Wiley 1912 September 19
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from H.L.L. 1898 September 30
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from H. L. [Coggus?] 1912 September 28
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from Josephine H. Mastick 1912 September 27
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from Thomas H. Brents 1912 September 19
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from J. Mayne Balti[mor?] 1904 March 17
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from N. R. Johnston 1903 October 8
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from Mary E. Hart 1900 October 6
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from J. S. D[rafner?] 1899 June 10
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from Kate V. Miller 1896 January 12
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from I. J. Murna 1896 March 7
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from Kate White July 28
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter from Benjamin Snyder (a cousin) to Joaquin Miller. undated
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from William Vore 1912 September 29
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from Mrs. Claudia Harris 1904 February 28
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from Barbara Knell 1897 July 16
- Box 1 , Folder 25 Letter to Joaquin Miller from E. R. Dille 1900 October 28

Box 1 , Folder 25 **Letter to Joaquin Miller from Henry Moskowitz 1912 October 7**
Box 1 , Folder 25 **Letter to Joaquin Miller from Albert Tozier 1912 October 31**
Box 1 , Folder 25 **Letter to Joaquin Miller from Sagie Velle Fenton 1912 November 27**
Box 1 , Folder 25 **Letter to Joaquin Miller from Viola Price Franklin 1912 October 4**
Box 1 , Folder 26 **Letter from Blanche Partinton to Mrs. Miller. From Posada del Pinitos. July 6. 2 pages. July 7**
Box 1 , Folder 26 **Address for Elbert Hubbard undated**
Box 1 , Folder 26 **Letter to Miss Miller from G. E. Thornton 1920 June 5**
Box 1 , Folder 26 **Letter to Mrs. Miller from Marion J. Roosevelt 1899 August 13**
Box 1 , Folder 26 **Letter to Juanita Miller from J. [A.?] E. P[agh?] with poem 1919 November 20**
Box 1 , Folder 26 **Letter to Miss Miller from Robert Page Lincoln 1919 May 14**
Box 1 , Folder 26 **Letter to Mrs. Miller from N. R. Johnston 1903 May**
Box 1 , Folder 26 **Letter to Mrs. Miller from Mrs. Ed[na?] Marklearn 1903 May 11**
Box 1 , Folder 26 **Letter to Mrs. Miller from Ha[rri?] [Degner?] 1897 November 29**
Box 1 , Folder 26 **Letter to L[illy?] Miller from M[illie?] [Lusins?] undated**

Printed materials and ephemera

- Box 1 , Folder 27 **Title page of The Danites and other choice selections from the writings of Joaquin Miller. New York, The American News Company 1878**
- Box 1 , Folder 27 **Program for the California Poets. 3 copies, each with handwritten notes in the marginalia . 3 pages. 1941**
- Box 1 , Folder 27 **Sheet of printed music with handwritten notes (not musical). "Mary and John". 1 page. 1891**
- Box 1 , Folder 28 **14 newspaper clippings about Joaquin Miller ranging from 1900-1915. Some with handwritten notes of them. 1900-1915**
- Box 1 , Folder 29 **2 copies of a series of reviews of Joaquin Miller's work. First page of each set has handwritten notes. 8 pages. Only 1 complete set. undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 30 **American Poets of the Soil article about Joaquin Miller. Reverse portrait of Miller. 1 page 1916**
- Box 1 , Folder 30 **Publishing advertisement for "A Little Journey to the Home of Joaquin Miller By Elbert Hubbard" 1 page. 1903**
- Box 1 , Folder 31 **Leaflet for "Oregon Electric Day," Albany, Oregon, with poem by Viola Price Franklin 1912 July 4**
- Box 1 , Folder 31 **Meeting announcement from the Poetry Society of America November 26**
- Box 1 , Folder 31 **7 calling cards undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 31 **Article clipping "Only 'Cascarets' if Constipated," from the Daily Capital Journal, Salem, Oregon 1912 October 28**
- Box 1 , Folder 31 **Poem by Viola Price Franklin undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 31 **Statement from the Castalian Club of Buffalo, New York 1912 November 4**
- Box 1 , Folder 31 **Death announcement for Zerilda P. Tozier 1912 March 31**

Manuscripts

- Box 1 , Folder 32 **Biographical Sketch by Juanita Miller of Joaquin Miller. 3 pages. undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 33 **Handwritten notes. 1 small page. undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 34 **unsigned notes, possibly a(n) (auto?)biographical sketch. 4 pages undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 35 **Poem: Lincoln manuscript, signed Joaquin Miller, matted on black paper. Same poem, drawn and colored in. 2 pages. 1910**
- Box 1 , Folder 36 **Poem "Charity" signed Joaquin Miller. Brown Paper. 1 page undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 37 **Poem "May love be true by sun or moon..." signed Joaquin Miller. Blue paper. 1 page. undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 38 **Handwritten copy of a contract for the exclusive rights to Joaquin Miller's life for the purpose of making a motion picture. On reverse, handwritten copy of notes from AW Rice. 1 page. 1912 June 11**
- Box 1 , Folder 39 **Poem? Written on back of an advertisement. Unsigned. 1 page. undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 40 **Typed poem "Joaquin Miller". Handwritten notes. By Richard Law Damon. 1 page. 1915**
- Box 1 , Folder 41 **News article mounted on white, lined paper with handwritten notes. Titled: "Minne Myrtle, Joaquin Miller's Tribute to his Wife". 4 pages undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 42 **Typed synopsis of Joaquin Miller's life. 4 pages. undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 43 **Printed play with handwritten notes. "The Silent Man", crossed out and changed to "An Oregon Idyl" 31 pages. 1883**
- Box 1 , Folder 44 **Envelope to H.W. Fay: Artist from Joaquin Miller. 1 page. 1910**
- Box 1 , Folder 44 **Notes. Unsigned. 1 very long page. undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 44 **Note written on back of envelope. Possibly from Juanita Miller. 1 page. Unsigned. 1912?**
- Box 1 , Folder 44 **Notes. Unsigned. 1 page. undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 44 **Notes. Unsigned. 1 small page. undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 44 **Envelope with handwritten note on it undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 44 **Envelope with note on front undated**
- Box 1 , Folder 45 **Newspaper articles with manuscript notes [green clamshell box]**
- Box 1 , Folder 46 **Manuscript of When I was Emperor [bound in black leather]**

Photographs

- Box 2 Dr. Fredrick Cook at Joaquin Miller's deathbed. Reco June 10, 1915 3.75"x5" 1915 June 10
- Box 2 Portrait of Joaquin Miller by Major Moorhouse. Miller is standing in western garb, holding a rifle in one hand in a holster. Mounted on card stock. 3.5"x6.5" undated
- Box 2 Juanita Miller, Dr. Cook and Joaquin Miller. Caption reads: Dr. Cook visits the beloved "Poet of the Sierras" 12.5"x9.5" 1912 December
- Box 2 Joaquin Miller cabinet card portrait. Miller is wearing a suit with flower in lapel. "Reynolos Phtograph Company" is stamped on the back. 4.24"x6.5" before 1893
- Box 2 Cabinet card portrait of Joaquin Miller. Miller is wearing a hat, courderoy suit, and flower in his lapel. "Brisbois" is printed on the front. 4.24x6.5" undated
- Box 2 Portrait of Joaquin Miller from the waist up with his right arm folded by Major Moorhouse. Miller is dressed in western garb. Mounted on paper. 6.5"x 8.25" undated
- Box 2 Portrait of Joaquin Miller by Major Moorhouse. Miller is seated in western garb. Mounted on card stock. 4"x6.5" undated
- Box 2 Portrait of Joaquin Miller by Major Moorhouse. Miller is standing in western garb, holding a rifle with his hand in a holster. Mounted on card stock. 3.25"x6" undated
- Box 2 Cabinet card portrait of Joaquin Miller. Miller is wearing a bow tie, shirt and jacket. 4.24"x6.5" undated
- Box 2 Cabinet card photograph of Joaquin Miller's brother. Top is torn. 4 .125"x6" undated
- Box 2 Portrait from waist up of Joaquin Miller taken by Major Moorhouse. Miller is wearing western garb. 6.5"x7.5" undated
- Box 2 Cabinet card photograph of relative of Joaquin Miller's. Back of card says: Presented to my Aunt Margaret Witt Miller by her Nephew Michael Witt of union bounty Indiana April 1st 1899 by her son Joaquin Witt 4.15"x2.5" 1899
- Box 2 Photograph of Joaquin Miller, taken by Major Moorhouse. Miller is seated wearing a black coat and hat with a flower in his lapel. 6.5"x 8.5" 1907
- Box 2 Dr. Cook, Juanita Miller and two unidentified men at Joaquin Miller's cottage in Oakland, Ca 4"x 2.5" 1915
- Box 2 Color postcard of Joaquin Miller in front of his home. Caption reads: "379- Joaquin Miller "The Poet of the Sierras" at his home near Oakland, Ca" On reverse handwritten: "Mellie Stevens 2619 San Jose Ave. Alameda Cal." undated
- Box 2 Dr. Cook, Juanita Miller and unknown man at Joaquin Miller's cottage in Oakland, Ca. 4"x 2.375" 1915
- Box 2 Cabinet Card photographic image of a drawing of Joaquin Miller. 4.25"x6.5" undated
- Box 2 Portrait of Joaquin Miller by Major Moorhouse. Miller is in western garb with hand up. Mounted on card stock. 3.5"x6" undated
- Box 2 Photograph of Joaquin Miller by Major Moorhouse. Miller is seated, looking left, wearing a black suit with a flower in the lapel. Mounted on card stock. 7.5"x9.75" 1907
- Box 2 Photographs of a cottage and cats, some blurry. 16 negatives and 9 black and white photographs housed in gray envelope from "The Toweles Studio."