

# Guide to the John Perry Miller Papers

MS 1717



compiled by Julie Ann Ludwig and Christine Weideman

September 1997

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1717

**CREATOR:** Miller, John Perry, 1911-1997

**TITLE:** John Perry Miller papers

**DATES:** 1938-1992

**BULK DATES:** 1961-1969

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, clippings and writings which document John Perry Miller's career as an economist and academic administrator. The majority of these materials relate to his tenure as dean of the Yale Graduate School during the period 1961-1969.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1717>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1717>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Perry Miller, 1997.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research, with the exception of sensitive information about an individual's tenure case in box 4. For this reason, it is restricted until January 1, 2040.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by John Perry Miller has been transferred to Yale University. These materials may be used for non-commercial purposes without seeking permission from Yale University as the copyright holder. For other uses of these materials, please contact [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu).

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## Preferred Citation

John Perry Miller Papers, Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Perry Miller, economist and academic administrator, was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, on March 26, 1911. The son of Fred and Hilda Wagner Miller, he was educated at Harvard University, receiving his B.A. in 1932, M.A. in 1934, and Ph.D. in 1937. Dr. Miller joined the Yale faculty as visiting lecturer in economics after teaching briefly at Harvard and Princeton. He was appointed professor of economics in 1950, and served as the director of Social Sciences, one of three major faculty divisions, from 1959 to 1961. Dr. Miller was named dean of the Graduate School in 1961 and held that post until his resignation in 1969.

Dean Miller's tenure saw a number of major changes in graduate education at Yale. He established the joint M.D.-Ph.D. program, as well as the Master of Philosophy degree, the latter of which was the first of its kind in the United States. Dr. Miller also instituted a combined degree program allowing students to receive a Bachelor's and Master's degree in the same course of study. In 1962, Dean Miller served on the faculty committee that recommended admitting women as undergraduates.

Following his resignation as dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Miller was named Director of Yale's Institution for Social and Policy Studies, where he played a major role in the planning and negotiations leading to the establishment of the Yale School of Organization and Management. He resigned his directorship in 1974. During this time, he also led the Campaign for Yale, a capital fund-raising drive aimed at collecting \$370 million for the university, as its chief executive officer from 1973 to 1977. Dr. Miller served as deputy provost from 1977 to 1978, then briefly resumed teaching economics before his retirement in 1981.

Dean Miller married Dorothy Marie Willard in 1942, and they had two children, Perry and Ann. He died on February 9, 1997, in Hamden, Connecticut.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of materials relating to John Perry Miller's career as an economist and academic administrator, including correspondence, clippings, and writings. The bulk of the papers date from 1961 to 1969, during Miller's tenure as the dean of the Yale Graduate School. Although the writings comprise the smallest portion of the collection, they are the most interesting. They include a number of unpublished

essays, or "personal statements" by Miller on various topics related to higher education, and to graduate education in particular.

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## **Arrangement**

Arranged in three series: I. Personal and Correspondence, 1933-1991. II. Clippings, 1938-1983. III. Writings, 1951-1992.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Personal and Correspondence, 1938-1991

Personal and correspondence files consist mostly of John Perry Miller's correspondence with fellow Yale faculty members. There is one folder at the beginning of the series of biographical materials, including Miller's curriculum vitae and his own biographical sketches. The remainder of the series comprises correspondence which is arranged in two sections: topical and individuals. The topical section is arranged alphabetically; the individuals section is arranged alphabetically by last name of correspondent.

b. 1, f. 1	Biographical	1958, 1969, 1979-1982, 1991, undated
Correspondence		
Topical		
b. 1, f. 2	Campaign for Yale	1973-1978?, undated
b. 1, f. 3	Citations	1945-1951, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Corporation, retirement from	1978
b. 1, f. 5	Deputy provost appointment	1977
b. 1, f. 6	Draft, military	1968, undated
Graduate School		
Deanship appointment		
1961		
b. 1, f. 7	Apr 7-13	
b. 1, f. 8	Apr 14-29	
b. 1, f. 9	May, n.d.	
Deanship resignation		
b. 1, f. 10	1968 Nov	
b. 1, f. 11	1968 Dec-1969 Apr	
b. 1, f. 12	1969 May-Sep, n.d.	
b. 1, f. 13	India, general	1960
b. 1, f. 14	Presidential search	1963, undated
b. 1, f. 15	Retirement	1981
b. 1, f. 16	Testimonials	1961, 1969, 1973, 1979, 1981

Correspondence > Topical (continued)

b. 1, f. 17	Yale Graduate School Association Organizing Committee	1965
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Individuals		
b. 1, f. 18	Baker-Hayes	1945, 1951, 1959, 1961-1978, undated
b. 1, f. 19	Joyce-Richards	1941, 1956, 1962-1979, undated
b. 1, f. 20	Sawyer-Taussig	1938-1940, 1945, 1954, 1962-1969, undated
b. 1, f. 21	Tobin, James [re:William F. Buckley, Jr.]	1975
b. 1, f. 22	Triffin-Wilde	1961, 1966, undated
b. 1, f. 23	Williams, Frank	1960
b. 1, f. 24	Unidentified	1939, 1966-1968, 1975, undated
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**Series II: Clippings, 1938-1983**

Clippings consist of newspaper and magazine clippings as well as press releases, and are arranged alphabetically by topic. Many are from Yale publications.

b. 2, f. 1	Alumni day	1965, 1966
b. 2, f. 2	Appointments	1953, 1959
b. 2, f. 3	Bernstein, Richard	1965
b. 2, f. 4	Brain drain question	1964
b. 2, f. 5	Brewster, Kingman, Jr.	1964, 1965, undated
b. 2, f. 6	"The Challenge of Graduate Education" [panel discussion with John Perry Miller, George W. Pierson, G. Evelyn Hutchinson, and Kingman Brewster], <i>Yale Alumni Magazine</i> English	1961 April
b. 2, f. 7	Coeducation at Yale	1962
b. 2, f. 8	Coolidge, Julian Lowell	1938, 1940, undated
b. 2, f. 9	Course offerings	1950, 1958, undated
b. 2, f. 10	Draft, military	1967-1968
b. 2, f. 11	Economics	1946-1963, undated
b. 2, f. 12	"Economics at Yale" [a series of three articles in the] <i>Yale Daily News</i> English	1951
b. 2, f. 13	Education and city development [symposium on New Haven]	1963
b. 2, f. 14	Fellowship funds	1962, 1963
b. 2, f. 15	Ford Foundation grants	1967
b. 2, f. 16	Foreign students	1965
b. 2, f. 17	Freshman year	1961-1962
	Graduate School	
b. 2, f. 18	General	1964-1968
b. 2, f. 19	Assistant and associate deans	1961, 1964, 1966
b. 2, f. 20	Deanship appointment	1961
b. 2, f. 21	Deanship resignation	1968
b. 2, f. 22	Funding	1969



## Graduate School (continued)

b. 2, f. 23	Graduate School Association	1965
b. 2, f. 24	University College plan	1968
b. 2, f. 25	Harvard Graduate Society for Advanced Study and Research	1966
b. 2, f. 26	Housing [graduate student]	1965
b. 2, f. 27	Humanities reforms	1969
b. 2, f. 28	Institute for Social and Policy Studies	1970-1973, 1983
b. 2, f. 29	Institute of Social Science [directorship appointment]	1969
b. 2, f. 30	Institute of Social Science (ISS) and Institution of Social and Policy Studies (ISPS) funding	1969-1972
b. 2, f. 31	Master of Philosophy	1966
b. 2, f. 32	Master's degrees for undergraduates	1963-1966
b. 2, f. 33	Mory's Association	1971
b. 2, f. 34	National Defense Education Act fellowships	1967
b. 2, f. 35	New Haven College [appointments]	1953, 1962
b. 2, f. 36	Presidential workshop ["Verbatim proceedings"]	1963
b. 2, f. 37	Problems of higher education [Yale seminar]	1965
b. 2, f. 38	Provost search	1963
b. 2, f. 39	Religious Studies faculty council	1963
b. 2, f. 40	Speaking engagements	1951, 1956-1961, 1964
b. 2, f. 41	Student unrest	1969
b. 2, f. 42	Teacher training	1964
b. 2, f. 43	Tenure issues [includes clippings on the Dahl report]	1965-1969
b. 2, f. 44	<i>Ventures</i> [Yale publication]	1963, 1969
b. 2, f. 45	Wilson Foundation	1962
b. 2, f. 46	Yale-Berlin exchange	1962
b. 2, f. 47	Yale's 275th anniversary	1976

**Series III: Writings, 1951-1992**

Writings are arranged alphabetically by title, and include both published and unpublished essays, as well as speeches given by Miller.

b. 3, f. 1	"Aging within the Academy" English	1985 June 20
	Bernstein, Richard <a href="#">See: Restricted [Open 2040 January 1] Folder 1</a>	
b. 3, f. 2	Bever, Michael B. ["Remembrances"]	1992?
b. 3, f. 3	"The Continuity of the Educational Process: Advanced Placement in the Graduate School" English	1964
b. 3, f. 4	"Dean's Statement on Graduate School Housing" English	undated
b. 3, f. 5	"The Economist Speaks" and "The Patron Saint of Economics at Yale..." [both concerning William F. Buckley's] <i>God and Man at Yale</i> English	1951, 1985
b. 3, f. 6	"Grades and the Graduate School" English	1967
b. 3, f. 7	Graduate School Alumni Fund [open letter to "Alumni and Alumnae of the Graduate School"]	1968
b. 3, f. 8	"The Graduate School and the University Community," <i>Yale Alumni Magazine</i> English	1964 November
b. 3, f. 9	Healy, Kent T. [remarks]	1985
b. 3, f. 10	India, "General Observations on the Program"	1960
b. 3, f. 11	"Let's Reform Graduate Education" English	1967
b. 3, f. 12	"Master of Arts Degree at Yale" English	1987
b. 3, f. 13	"Notes on the Graduate School" [memorandum for A. Whitney Griswold] English	1960
b. 3, f. 14	Presidential address at the annual meeting of the Association of Graduate Schools (in the Association of American Universities), San Francisco	1968
b. 3, f. 15	"Proposals for the Reorganization of the Graduate School" [draft] English	1961
b. 3, f. 16	"Reforming Graduate Education" English	1967
b. 3, f. 17	"The Social Science Center: Yale and New Haven" English	1969

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b. 3, f. 18	"Statement to the Joint Boards of Permanent Officers of Yale College and the Graduate School" English	1965
b. 3, f. 19	"To the Committee for Information on the Institute for Social Science" English	1970
b. 3, f. 20	"The University as the Sum of Many Parts" English	1977 June
b. 3, f. 21	"Yale 1991" [edited copy of a speech delivered at the Senior Class Dinner of Morse College, May 1969] English	1984

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## Restricted

This file contains sensitive information about an individual's tenure case. For this reason, it is restricted until January 1, 2040.

b. 4, f. 1

Bernstein, Richard [tenure case]

1984

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## **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.

### **Subjects**

Degrees, Academic  
Universities and colleges -- Graduate work

### **Names**

Miller, John Perry, 1911-1997

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University. Graduate School