

H. L. (Henry Louis) Mencken:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956
Title:	H. L. (Henry Louis) Mencken Collection
Dates:	1918-1954, undated
Extent:	1 box (.42 linear feet) and 1 galley folder (gf)
Abstract:	Includes several manuscripts and a number of letters written by the American writer, editor, and critic H. L. Mencken to associates such as Horace Brodzky, Frank Harris, Joseph Hergesheimer, and others.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-2794
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Processed by:	Joan Sibley and Michael Ramsey, 2011 Note: This finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Works:

Appendix on a tender theme, typed and carbon copy manuscript with handwritten emendations, 15 pages, circa 1920. "For Prejudices II."	Container 1.2
Autobiographical sketch, signed typescript, 4 pages, 1935. For Georges Schreiber's Portraits and self-portraits, 1936.	Container 1.1
Exeunt omnes, printed clippings pasted on sheets of paper, signed, with handwritten emendations and additions, 10 pages, circa 1920. "For Prejudices II."	Container 1.3
The library, galley proofs, 6 sheets, 9 December 1924. Reviews for American Mercury.	Container 1.1
The national letters, signed typescript / incomplete with handwritten emendations, 19 pages, 1 February 1919. For Prejudices, Second Series.	Container 1.4
Observations on immortality, signed carbon typescript, 1 page, undated.	Container 1.1
Prejudices, Second series, galley proofs / incomplete with handwritten corrections in unidentified hand, galleys 2-6, 1920.	Container gf 1
Ventures into verse, printed book with handwritten annotations by Mencken, 46 pages, 1903. Former housing included in separate folder following.	Container 1.5

Letters:

TLS to unidentified recipient, 1945. **Container 1.6**

TLS to unidentified recipient Paul, 1925.

8 TLS to Atwood, Elmer B. Atwood, Dr., 1940-1948 along with 3 TLS from Mencken's secretary to Dr. Atwood, 1948-1950. Gift, 1995 (G10314); not described in card catalog. Gift of Alison Atwood Dieter, in memory of her father, Prof. Elmer B. Atwood, Department of English. **Container 1.7**

TLS to Baer, 1928. **Container 1.6**

TLS to Brodzky, Horace, 1921.

ALS to Callahan, undated. Tipped into PS 3527 A72 Z8 copy 1.

TLS to Collins, 1934. Includes handwritten draft of reply. Removed from AC-L M522 am 1936. **Container 1.6**

TLS to Drake, undated.

TLS to Greene (on American Mercury letterhead), undated.

ALS, 7 TLS to Harris, Frank, 1923, undated.

Telegram to Hathaway, Charles, Mrs., 1928.

Wedding invitation to Hergesheimer, Joseph, 1930. Wedding of Mencken and Sarah Powell Haardt.

5 TLI to Hergesheimer, Joseph, 1942.

TNI to Hogan, Francis Joseph, 1933. Written on verso: initialed handwritten note by Hogan, 1933.

2 TLS to Jessup, Louise, 1940-1946.

3 TLS to Lesser, Joseph C., 1940-1944. Removed from copy of Letters of H. L. Mencken in the Alfred A. Knopf Library. **Container 1.8**

2 TLS to Lewisohn, Ludwig (on American Mercury letterhead), 1927.

5 TLS to McDonald, Edward Davis, 1927-1931, undated.

TLS to McLeary, Louis W., 1927.

33 TLS to Mann, Arthur, 1932-1935, undated. Includes TNS Charles Angoff to Arthur Mann.

2 TLS to Meade, 1944-1945.

7 TLS to Ross, Arthur Leonard, 1942, undated.

3 TLS to Schreiber, Georges, re Portraits and self-portraits, 1935.

7 TLS to Spohn, Howard L., 1926-1932, undated.

2 TLS to Titus, Edward W. (on American Mercury letterhead), 1931.

ALS, 7 TLS to Trowbridge, Pauline, 1935-1949, undated.

Miscellaneous:

The Bookman. TLS to Gardner Advertising Company, 1926.

Container 1.9

Janvier, Meredith. ANS to Quinn, John, 1918. Includes TN from F.E.T. to John Quinn. Removed from TEMP M522art 1917 HRC copy 3.

Laukhuff, Richard. ALS to Spohn, Howard L. 1925.

Mencken, August. 9 TLS to Hergesheimer, Dorothy Hemphill, Mrs., 1951-1954.

Mencken, August. 6 TLS to Hergesheimer, Joseph, 1948-1951.

Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
- **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
- **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
- **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
- **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date