

McGowan Miller Collection

SPEC.CGA.MGM

Introduction

McGowan Miller was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, on September 13, 1908. His family moved to Portland, Oregon, in 1904, where he took a correspondence course in cartooning, drew for his school newspaper, and was a member of the swim team. Following the death of his father, the family moved to Los Angeles, where he continued swimming at Hollywood High and became the Southern California free-style champion. He attended University of Oregon and worked toward a journalism degree, but he did not graduate because of financial hardship. At this time, he worked as a staff artist for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*.

Mac Miller was a member of the national championship team A.A.U. in 1931. He worked in Palm Springs, California, as a swimming instruction during 1933-1934 and sold caricatures of movie stars to several Hollywood magazines. He then moved to New Orleans where he freelanced for several publications. He next moved to New York City where he sold gag cartoons to several magazines, and in 1941, he joined Associated Press. In the spring of 1942, Miller enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He served in Miami, Florida, Washington DC, and in the Pacific. He was discharged in July 1946 with the rank of major.

King features hired Miller for its comic art department where he did a number of features including *Comic Weekly Club Corner*, *Make It Fun*, and *Noah Numbskull*. He was active in the Air Force reserves and held the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was a charter member of the National Cartoonists Society and received many awards, including the Silver T-Square, from this group. For more than twenty years, he entertained U.S. troops around the world in USO shows that featured National Cartoonists Society members doing chalk talks.

Miller married Faith Ball, an editor, in 1947. He died in New York City on September 29, 1977.

The McGowan Miller Collection was the gift of John K. Ball in 2002.

The McGowan Miller Collection is organized into three general groupings:

Series One is primarily original art by Miller and others. Further information on additional works in this collection may be found by searching <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/cgaweb/db/search%5Fccode.php?ccode=MGM>

Series Two is correspondence, clippings, tear sheets and other documents related to McGowan Miller.

Series Three is National Cartoonists Society materials including original cartoons and photographs from Miller's NCS/USO trips.

Series One

AC U1 12a-p World War II art by McGowan Miller. 16 items, most ink on paper.

MGM 1 15 *Astra* by McGowan Miller 1 folder
Art and a letter related to proposed comic strip.

MGM 1 16 *Dinky Pinky* by McGowan Miller. 1 folder
Art and a letter related to proposed comic strip.

- MGM 1 17 *Joe* by McGowan Miller. 1 folder
Dummy of proposed book.
- AC U1 19 *Laughs in the News* by McGowan Miller. 1 folder
- AC U1 22a-g *Noah Numbskull* by McGowan Miller. 7 items.
- AC U1 20a-1 [Rootie] by McGowan Miller. 1 folder.
12 sample drawings for proposed comic strip.
- AC U1 21a-f *The Twins* by McGowan Miller. 1 folder.
6 sample drawings for proposed comic strip.
- MGM 1 21 [miscellaneous tear sheets, clippings, proofs] by McGowan Miller. 1 folder
- AC U1 31 [Mac Miller] Charcoal portrait of McGowan Miller by unknown artist. 1967?
- AC U1 17a-f [art by Joe Grant] 6 items.
- AC U1 30a-b [art by Michael Berry] 2 items.
- MGM 1 22 *The Squares* by Ed Graham. 1 folder
22 ink drawings.
- AC U1 24 a. *Dear Tim and Joe*: Peter Wells. Ink and watercolor on paper.
b. *Historical Hot-Spots*. Peter Wells. Ink and watercolor on board.
Includes cover note to Mac and Faith from Phu(?) and Pete.
- AC U1 25 Mac Miller miscellaneous art. 11 items.
- AC U1 16 [art by unidentified artists] 15 items.
- AC U2 1-17 Art collected by Mac Miller. See <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/cgaweb/db/search%5Fccode.php?ccode=MGM>

Series Two

- MGM 1 12 [Hollywood] 1 folder
Correspondence, clippings, tear sheets, photographs, window cards, proofs
- AC U1 13 [Hollywood scrapbook] disbound leaves of clippings and tear sheets mounted on black paper
- AC U1 28 Central Savings Bank [portion of baseball 24-sheet poster]
- MGM 1 13 [tear sheets of New Orleans work] 1 folder

- AC U1 15 [New Orleans work]
 a. "Ho Hum. It's Blue Monday at Audubon Zoo," McGowan Miller, August 1935. Color proof.
 b. [What 60 years can do!] Sketches by McGowan Miller. *The Times-Picayune New Orleans States—Magazine*, 1936. Tear sheet.
- AC U1 27 *Comic Weekly Club Corner* by McGowan Miller. 1 folder of proofs and tear sheets.
- MGM 1 18 *Magicomics* by McGowan Miller. 1 folder Clippings.
- AC U1 26 *Make It Fun* by McGowan Miller. 1 folder. Proofs and tear sheets.
- MGM 1 19 *Noah Numbskull* by McGowan Miller. 1 folder. Proofs.
- MGM 1 20 *Puzzle Book* by McGowan Miller. 1 folder. 2 copies of book proposing cartoon feature.
- AC U1 23 *3-D Danny* by McGowan Miller. 1 folder of materials related to three-dimensional comic strip
- MGM 1 8 [documents]
 Photographs, sketches, photocopies, King Features promotion release about McGowan Miller, copy of birth certificate
- MGM 1 9 [thank you and congratulatory letters] 1 folder
 Correspondence
- MGM 1 10 [E. Simms Campbell correspondence] 1 folder
 Letters from E. Simms Campbell to Mac and Faith Miller, 1958-1962, some illustrated.
- MGM 1 11 [get well and condolence letters] 1 folder
 Correspondence, clippings, telegrams
- MGM 1 7 King Features parties. 1 folder.
 Photographs.
- AC U1 29 Certificates and awards. 1 folder.
- Series Three**
 MGM 1 1-2 NCS photographs. 2 folders.

- MGM 1 3 Overseas USO. 1 folder.
Primarily photographs
- MGM 1 4 [Brandt Parker. *Wizard of Id* characters]. 4 items
Charcoal drawings on NCS/USO letterhead
- MGM 1 5 Reuben dinner. 1 folder.
Clippings, photocopies, photographs, correspondence, miscellaneous original
program cartoons, original cartoonists' self-caricatures by Bob Barnes, Martha
Blanchard, Orlando Busino, Joe Certa, Eugene Craig, Giv Crockett, Bill de la
Torre, Don Figlozzi, Jim Ivey, Tom Little, John Osenenko, David Pascal, Howie
Schneider, Fred Thomas, Peter Wells, Al Wiseman, Elmer Woggon, Bill Yates,
Lyman Young
- MGM 1 6 Far East Tour 1970. 1 folder
Photographs
- AC U1 14 a Annual dinner of the National Cartoonists Society, April 20, 1954 [oversize
poster of member's self-caricatures designed by McGowan Miller]
b. [paper bib program for National Cartoonists Society's tenth award dinner]
c. "Tenth Annual Dinner National Cartoonists Society Hotel Biltmore April 24,
1956" photograph
d. 1970 NCS Service Award
- AC U1 18a-p [NCS Reuben dinner program art] 197-? 16 items.
Drawings by Martha Blanchard, Harry Devlin, Bill Holman Jim Logan, Bil
Keane, Kaz [Larry Katzman], Hank Ketchum, Otto Soglow, and others.