Miller, Paul Eduard, 1903–

Papers, dated mainly between 1934 and 1950, and undated, consisting primarily of typescripts of his published and unpublished writings including radio scripts, critical writings and two versions of his unpublished book “The Best Jazz.” There are also his collection of books and periodicals, photographs (dated circa 1907 to 1955) and sound recordings, including limited edition recordings of Sidney Bechet performing during a visit to Chicago.

10 boxes, 1 volume.

Donated by his daughter, Bonnie Miller Barnes, 1995 and 2009. Additional donations are possible.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Paul Eduard Miller, (1902–1972) was a jazz critic and journalist. He began writing for Down Beat in the 1930s, eventually becoming a contributing editor, and he edited their jazz yearbook in 1939. From November 1940 until August 1941, he served as editor of a side publication called Music and Rhythm, with many of the regular Down Beat writers contributing. From 1944 to 1947 he was the jazz editor of Esquire and edited Esquire’s immensely popular jazz yearbooks, publishing his own Yearbook of Popular Music in 1943. In the late 1940s and early 1950s he hosted a radio show on Friday and Saturday nights on WXRT-FM in Chicago called “This is Jazz.”

Miller seems to have preferred traditional jazz, and had great respect for New Orleans jazzman Sidney Bechet in particular. Miller apparently never lost an opportunity to praise Bechet’s musicianship in print and repeatedly named the reed player to his all-star roster in Esquire’s Jazz Book, including a double mention in 1946. In 1946 and 1947 Miller presented Bechet in a series of concerts at Kimball Hall in Chicago. He also entertained Bechet at his home on several occasions during the 1940s.

Miller wrote an ambitious critical study entitled “The Best Jazz” which was never published.

SCOPE NOTE:

Paul Eduard Miller’s surviving papers consist of typescripts of his published and unpublished writings, including Down Beat’s Yearbook of Swing (1938), his own Miller’s Yearbook of Popular Music (1943) and the Esquire Jazz Book for 1944 and 1946. In addition there are versions of Miller’s attempts to write a canon-defining book on jazz: Testimonial to Jazz,” (1936) and a later undated typescript “The Best Jazz” in which Miller discusses and rates musicians and recordings. Also present are radio scripts for his radio program “This Is Jazz” on WXRT-FM for the year 1948, and playlists for “This Is Jazz” and “Classics of Jazz” for January–June 1950. Other materials donated include photographs, sound recordings, a small amount of early 20th century sheet music, and copies of his publications.

The collection of photographs is fairly substantial, dating from 1907(?) to 1955, and undated, with the bulk of them dated from the mid-1940s. The analog sound recordings, including 78s, 45s and 33-1/3 LPs, focus on earlier jazz performers; of particular interest are the 1946–1947 Bechet recordings.
SERIES Listing:

I: Writings—Typescripts of books, published and unpublished
II: Writings, Papers—Miscellaneous articles, ephemera
III: Writings—Radio scripts
IV: Writings—Book drafts
V: Sound Recordings—Personal collection of analog discs
VI: Books and Periodicals
VII: Photographs
VIII: Sheet music

INVENTORY:

Box 1, Series I: Writings—Typescripts of books, published and unpublished

“The Best Jazz.” Undated. Pages marked “2nd carbon; Corrected MS” See also Boxes 3–4 below.

“Testimonial to Jazz.” (1936) [Unpublished?]
Outline (typescript) (1 folder)
Introduction by Fletcher Henderson. Typescript and carbon, both signed by Henderson. (2 folders)
Typescript with pencil corrections; 131 leaves, incomplete.
Lacks leaves 99-110, all after 131. (1 folder)
Carbon, uncorrected. Includes leaves 99–110, a selected list of recommended jazz recordings. Any leaves after 131 not present. (1 folder)

Down Beat’s Yearbook of Swing (1938) Typescript.
Introduction, contents, and first pages of chapters (carbon) (1 folder)
Milestones--A Miniature History [Chapter I] (1 folder)
Chapter I (carbon) (1 folder)
Chapter II (carbon) (1 folder)
Chapter IV (carbon) (6 folders)
Vocabulary of Swing Terms [Chapter VI] (carbon) (1 folder)
Down Beat contract [2 pp. only] (1 folder)

Miller’s Yearbook of Popular Music (1943)
Section introductions (typescript) (1 folder)
How to Listen to Hot Music (1 folder)
This is an article of Miller’s from Music and Rhythm, November 1940–February 1941, pasted up galley style, with corrections and changes. With these materials is a stray galley on the transition from war to peace by an unknown author.
Photos, with galleys and captions (1 folder)

Letter from Paul E. Miller to John Maher, John Maher Printing Company concerning publication of the book. [Aurora, IL?]: 21 December 1943. Typescript (carbon); unsigned. (1 folder)

Esquire’s Jazz Book (1944) Carbons of typescript.
Contents (1 folder)
Chapter I: Hot jazz: prophet without honor [corrected] (1 folder)
Chapter I: The Music Called Hot Jazz [This is identical in text to approximately the first three pages of the above. Pencil note: “Miscl” ?] (1 folder)
Chapter III: How to listen to hot jazz [Note in pencil: “This draft not used.”] (1 folder)
Chapter III: The music called hot jazz (1 folder) [Title changed in pencil from the above.] [Note in pencil: “Not used.”] (1 folder)
Chapter IV: Musicians, bands, records (1 folder)
Chapter V: Historical chart of jazz influences (text only–1 page) (1 folder)
Chapter VIII: How to listen to hot jazz (1 folder)

Esquire’s Jazz Book (1946): carbons of chapters
Chapter I: Thirty Years of Chicago Jazz
Chapter II: Chicago Jazz History
**Box 1, Series II: Writings, Papers—Miscellaneous articles, ephemera:**

- “Duke’s Hit Tunes.” [undated] Typescript: [3], 15 leaves. [Incomplete?] (1 folder)
- “Ellington.” [undated] Typescript. 2 p. (1 folder)
- “Journeys in Jazz.” 1934. [7], 11 leaves. Introduction, outline and first article in a projected series for the *Chicago Defender*. (1 folder)
- “Popular Fronts.” [undated] Typescript: 2 leaves. (1 folder)
- “Productive Period of the Great Hot Orchestras.” [undated] Typescript: 3 leaves. (1 folder)
- “Quality-Jazz.” Typescript: [5] leaves. [This is labeled with a Roman numeral “II” as if it were a chapter or part of a larger work.] (1 folder)
- “Richard M. Jones: Forgotten Man of Jazz.” (3 folders)
  - “R.M. Jones” [1945?] Typescript: 12 leaves
    - Clipping on R.M. Jones plus a partially-completed questionnaire.
- Untitled article on bandleaders. Typescript: 6, [1] leaves. (1 folder)
- Galleys for entry on Al Morgan from one of the Esquire books. (1 folder)
- Miscellaneous programs, clippings, flyers and tickets: incl. information about Miller. (1 folder)

**Box 2, Series III: Writings—Radio scripts**

- WXRT Radio scripts January–November 1948. Probably for “This Is Jazz.” (45 folders)
- Radio playlists for “This is Jazz” and “Classics of Jazz.” Jan.–June 1950. (1 folder)
- Script for “Classics of Jazz” [undated] Typescript. [Possibly a pilot?] (1 folder)
- Undated draft of a radio script. (1 folder)
- “Jazz in Chicago” Proposed program topics. [undated] Typescript.

**Boxes 3 and 4, Series IV—Book drafts**

(shelved flat in print boxes)

- “The Best Jazz” [undated] Working copy of typescript with index tabs. 445 leaves. (Box 3)
- “The Best Jazz” Full typescript. [undated] 449 leaves. (Box 4)

**Box 5, Series V—Sound recordings, 78s–10” and 12”**

- ------. Weather bird / Muggles. Parlophone A7379.
- ------. West End blues / Lang, Eddie. Freeze an’ melt. Parlophone R. 448.
- ------. Quincy Street stomp / Weary way blues. Blue Note 517.
- ------. When the sun sets down South / Blackstick. Decca 2129.
- Bigard, Barney; Rex Stewart; Django Reinhardt; Billy Taylor.
  - Improvisations in Ellingtonia, pts. III & IV. Hot Record Society HRS 1004.
Box 5, Series V—Sound recordings, 78s–10" and 12", continued

———. Concerto for Cootie / Me and you. Victor 26598.
———. Diminuendo in blue / Crescendo in blue. Brunswick m 8004.
———. Dusk / Blue goose. Victor 26677.
———. Ko-ko / Conga brava. Victor 26577-A
———. Mood indigo / The mooche. RCA Victor 24486.
———. The new East St. Louis Toodle-o / I’ve got to be a rug cutter. Master MA 101.
———. Old man blues / Jungle nights in Harlem. Victor 23022.
———. The stevedore’s serenade / La de doody doo. Brunswick m8174.
———. Stompy Jones / Blue feeling. Victor 24521.

———. Chicago high life / Just too soon. Hot Record Society 1877/1878.
———. 57 varieties / I ain’t got nobody. Columbia 35875.
———. Take it easy / Harlem lament. Brunswick 6771.

Sullivan, Joe. Panama / The chimes. Disc 6004.
———. Sister Kate / Fidgety feet. Disc 6003.

———. Basin Street blues / Keepin’ out of mischief now. RCA Victor 27767.
———. The digah’s stomp / Geechee. Victor 21358.
———. Handful of keys / Smashing thirds. His Master’s Voice B.4902.
———. St. Louis blues / After you’ve gone. Victor 22371.

Williams, Cootie. Black beauty / Night song. Vocalion v4958.
———. Blues a poppin’ / Black butterfly. Vocalion 5618.
———. Delta mood / The boys from Harlem. Vocalion v4574.
———. Have a heart / Echoes of Harlem. Vocalion v 3960.

Series V—Sound recordings, 12” 78 rpm recordings (unboxed)

Bechet, Sidney. After you’ve gone / Bobby Hackett. That old gang of mine ; After I say I’m sorry. V-Disc No. 270.

Series V—Sound recordings, 45s (unboxed)


Matlock, Matty And His Jazz Band. “Pete Kelly’s Blues.” Columbia, B-2105.

Mezz Mezzrow/Sidney Bechet Quintet & Septet. “The King Jazz Story.” Storyville, SEP 394; SEP 402; SEP 403; SEP 409. 4 records.

Pollock, Ben & His Californians. “Savoy Presents Dixieland.” Savoy, XP-8027.
Series V—Sound recordings, 45s (unboxed), continued

Waller, Fats. “Swingin’ At The Organ.” Gramophone, TEG 8191.

Series V—Sound recordings, 10” 33 rpm recordings (unboxed)

Armstrong, Louis. Hot Five and Seven, vol. 1. Odeon 0 83 211.
——. Jazz classics. Brunswick BL 58004.
——. Port of Harlem six. Blue Note BLP 7022.
——. Ellingtonia, vol. II. Brunswick BL 58012.
——. This is Duke Ellington. RCA Victor LPT 3017.
Hackett, Bobby. “Jazz session.” Columbia 33S 1053.
The RCA Victor encyclopedia of recorded jazz, album two. RCA Victor G7-OL-4207/8.
Simeon, Omer. Clarinet à la Creole. Concert Hall Society CHJ 1014.

Series V—Sound recordings, 12” 33 rpm recordings (unboxed)

——. Louis Armstrong and his Hot Seven. Columbia ML 54384. (no sleeve)
——. Bechet. Riverside 149.
——. Bechet and blues. Scepter SRM 537.
——. Bechet of New Orleans. RCA Victor LPV-510.
——. The blue Bechet. RCA Victor LPV-535.
——. Le disque d’or de Sidney Bechet. Mode MDINT 9 314.
——. The grand master of the soprano saxophone and clarinet. Columbia CL 836.
——. Memorial. Fontana TFL 5087.
——. Oh! mon vieux...Vogue LD. 417-30.
——. Le premier concert enregistré en Europe. Vogue SB 3.
——. Sidney. Vogue CLVX 314.
——. Sidney Bechet. Columbia CL 1410.
——. Sidney Bechet rencontre Lionel Hampton. Barclay no. 820119.
——. With Claude Lutter and his orchestra. Vogue LAE 12024.
Bechet, Sidney / Mezz Mezzrow Quintet. Gone away blues. Storyville SLP 141.
——. Out of the gallion. Storyville SLP 136.
——. Revolutionary blues. Storyville SLP 142.
——. Marchin’ and swingin’. Atlantic 1233.
——. Over & over again. Atlantic SD 1552.
——. Plays Cole Porter. Atlantic 1288.
——. Plays something old, new, gay, blue. Atlantic 1300.
——. The uproarious twenties. Clarion 614.
Series V—Sound recordings, 12” 33 rpm recordings (unboxed): continued


-----.

*The wild jazz age*. Atlantic 1336.

*Dixieland and New Orleans jazz*. RCA Camden CAL 446.


-----.

*At the Cotton Club*. RCA Camden CAL 459.

-----.


-----.

*Blue light*. Columbia CL 663.

-----.

*Daybreak express*. RCA Victor LPV-506.

-----.

*The Ellington era: 1927-1940, volume one*. Columbia C3L 27. (3-record box)

-----.

*Flaming youth*. RCA LPV-568.

-----.

*In a melotone*. RCA Victor LPM-1364.

-----.

*Jumpin’ punkins*. RCA Victor LPV-517.

-----.


-----.

*“Rockin’ in rhythm”* vol. 3 (1929-1931). Decca DL 79247.

-----.


-----.

*Pete’s place*. Coral CRL 57453. (2 COPIES)

-----.

*Pete Fountain day*. Coral CRL 57313.

-----.

*Pete Fountain’s French Quarter*. Coral CRL 57359.

-----.

*Pete Fountain’s New Orleans*. Coral CRL 57282.

-----.

*South Rampart Street parade*. Coral CRL 57440.

-----.

*and Al Hirt. Bourbon Street*. Coral CRL 57389.


-----.

*Closeup in swing*. ABC-Paramount ABC 395.

-----.

*Erroll Garner at the piano*. Columbia CL 535. (no sleeve)

-----.

*One world concert*. Reprise R-6080


Hampton, Lionel. *Jivin’ the vibes*. RCA Camden CAL 402.


-----.


-----.

*My tribute to Louis*. Audiophile AP 111.

-----.

*Quintessential recording session*. Chiaroscuro CR 101.


-----.

*Down to earth*. Mercury MG 36150.


*Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Songs of the North & South*. Columbia MS 6259.


-----.

*Mr. Jelly Lord*. Riverside 12-132.

-----.

*Transcriptions for orchestra*. Columbia M 32587.

Oliver, King. *In New York*. RCA Victor LPV-529.


-----.

*The best of Django Reinhardt*. Period PRST 2204.

-----.

*Django sélection*. Pathé CHTX 240 550.

-----.

*Memorial album vol. 3*. Period SPL 1203.


-----.

*Water boy*. Columbia CL 2396.


[Compilation]. *We dig dixieland jazz*. Regent MG 6079.

[Compilation]. *When they brought down the house*. Columbia XTV 69450.
Series V—Sound recordings, special recordings, 78s

Sidney Bechet Concerts: 12" limited edition discs:

Dec. 1, 1946:
- “Tea for Two”/ “Summertime”
- “Blues II”/ “Sweet Georgia Brown”
- “Black And Blue”/ “Exactly Like You”
- “Deluxe Stomp”/ “Memphis” (1/26/47 Concert)
- “Deluxe Stomp”, “Kimball Hall Blues”/ “Embraceable You”, “Laura” (1/26/47 Concert)
- “I Got Rhythm”/ “Mean To Me” (1/26/47 Concert)
- “Blues Walk”/ “Royal Garden Blues” (1/26/47 Concert)

Jan. 26, 1947:
- “Southland”/ “I Surrender Dear”
- “Blues In E-Flat” Part 1/ “Blues In E-Flat” Part 2
- “Honeysuckle Rose” Part 1/ “Honeysuckle Rose” Part 2
- “Jammin’ In C” Part 1/ “Jammin’ In C” Part 2
- “Sweet Georgia Brown” part 1/ “Sweet Georgia Brown” Part 2


Box 6, Series VI—Books and Periodicals

Books:

- Index to jazz, vol. 4. (2 COPIES) [Record Changer?]

Commodore Classics in Swing. [New York : Commodore Music Shops, 1938?].

- Miller’s yearbook of popular music. Chicago: PEM Publications, 1943. (2 COPIES)

Index to [Discography-hot-jazz?]. (no cover) (2 COPIES)

Index to [Hot discography?] (no cover)

Cover to Miller’s yearbook of popular music.

Periodicals:

Down Beat 1941 (bound and stamped with Miller’s name) – not boxed.

Jazz ’n Pops : vol. 2, nos. 6-8 ; vol. 3, no.1.

Schwann : October 1959 ; plus most jazz listings from issues between November 1957 and November 1969.

Schwann artist listing record catalog, 1958.
**Box 7–9, Series VII—Photographs**

Henry “Red” Allen, with pianist. Aug. 1944. (2 photos)
Henry “Red” Allen, 1944
Henry “Red” Allen w/ Tubby Haig, Bill Johnson, Elgar, R.M.Jones, Stanley Williams, Baby Dodds. Aug. 1944

Albert Ammons & His Rhythm Kings. Undated.
De Arango. Undated.

**one sheet:**

George Baquet. 20 Aug. 1915
King Oliver. Undated.
Fred Keppard. 1911

Sydney Bechet. Undated.
Sydney Bechet w/ Picon, Perez, Willie Santiago. 1944.

**From a news clipping:**

side 1) Irving Berlin. 1907?
side 2) John White. Undated.

Blue Mound Country Club Orch. 12 Apr. 1941.
Al Casey Trio. Undated.
Pete Clark w/ B. Madison, Nicholas, Holmes. 1936.

Coolidge String Quartet. Undated.
Dorsey Bros. w/ Jump Band. 1933.
Dreamland. Undated. (Mislabeled as “Lincoln Gardens”)
Chas. Eidson. Undated.
Duke Ellington. Undated. 3 photos.
Duke Ellington w/ Orch. 1944.
Herbie Fields. Undated.

Benny Goodman. Undated. 3 photos.
Benny Goodman w/ Coolidge String Quartet. 29 Jan. 1938.
Benny Goodman Sextet. 1941.
Benny Goodman w/ Band. Undated. 3 photos.

John Guarnieri. 2 copies. 1941.
Bill Harris. 2 photos. Undated.

Woody Herman. Undated, 1942, 1944, 1945 (10 photos).
Woody Herman & Band. 1945. 2 copies.

Art Hodes. 24 Sept. 1944.
Box 7–9, Series VII—Photographs, continued

Art Hodes and His Chicagoans. Undated. 5 photos.
Chubby Jackson. 1945. Signed photo.
Chubby Jackson. 1945.
Chubby Jackson. Early 1945.
Chubby Jackson. Undated.
Jonah Jones. 1944.
Stan Kenton Orch. Undated.
Gene Krupa Trio. Undated.
Jim Lannigan, w/ Jack Goss. 1945.
Eddie La Rue, w/ Ben Pollack. 1938.
Peggy Lee. Undated.
Louisiana Five. 1917.
Fate Marable’s ‘Capitol’ Steamship Band. 1921. Newsclipping: 15 July 1941.
Wingy Manone. 1945.
McIntyre Band. 1943.
Johnny Mendl. 1945.
Members of Glenn Miller’s Band w/ French musicians. 2 photos. 25 May 1945.
Paul Eduard Miller, w/ Sydney Bechet. Undated.
Thelonious Monk. 2 photos. Undated.
Red Norvo, w/ Benny Goodman. Undated.
Red Norvo. 1944.
King Oliver & Band. Undated.
Operations Jazz, Civic Opera House (Program). 14 Oct. 1943. 2 copies.
Kid Ory. Undated.
Les Paul. 1941.
H. Philippi. Postcard to Downbeat. 27 Apr. 1939.
Joe ‘Flip’ Phillips. 1944.
Ben Pollack Band. 1928.
Quarterly Jazz Review. Autumn 1936. w/ signed photo of Red Nichols.
Box 7–9, Series VII—Photographs, continued

Ike Quebec. Undated.
Adrian Rollini. 1940.
Adrian Rollini & Trio. 1940.
Artie Shaw. Undated. 3 photos.
Artie Shaw, w/ Maria Kramer, Benny Goodman. 1941
Stuff Smith. 1944.
Izler Solomon. Undated.
Eddie South. 1940.
Eddie South. Undated.
Muggsy Spanier. 1940.
Muggsy Spanier, w/ Pee Wee Russell. Undated.
Earl Spencer. Undated.
Johnny Stein’s Band. 1916.
Phil Stevens. Undated.
Phil Stevens, w/ Gus Van Eps, Stan Wrightsman, Nick Fatool. Undated.
Virgil Thompson, w/ Stanley L. Stevens, F. Mahler. Undated.
Juan Tizol. 1940.
Juan Tizol, w/ Woody Herman. Undated.
Davey Tough. 1944.
Davey Tough. 1945.
Charlie Venturo. 1945.
Sippie Wallace. Undated.
Fats Waller. Undated.
Frances Wayne. Undated.
Stan Wrightsman. Undated. 3 photos.
Page from publication:
- Abbie Brunies’ Halfway House Orch. Undated.
- Muggsy Spanier. Undated.
- Frank Teschemaker. Undated.
- Jimmy McPartland & Husk O’Hare’s Wolverines. 1925–1926.
- Midway Garden Orch. Undated.
Additional donation, 2009.

Box 10, Series VII—Photographs
- Sydney Bechet, playing, side view. Undated.
- Sydney Bechet, playing, front view. Undated.
- Sydney Bechet with trombonist (unidentified), standing, informal. Undated.
- Same trombonist as above, playing, side view. Undated.
- Gene Cedric, holding tenor saxophone and clarinet. Undated.
- Duke Ellington and his band, recording studio. Undated.
- Max Miller, portrait. Undated.

Box 10, Series VIII—Sheet music