

Two days after I had left Los Angeles I found myself, by a fortunate accident, watching a television interview with Henry Miller. He is an old man now, over eighty, but one was quickly made aware that he had lost little of the warmth, humour and vitality found in his books which, only ten years ago, busybodies throughout the Anglo-Saxon world forbade us to read. What made the interview even more interesting was that, on the day after my visit to the Huntington, I had seen the collection of Henry Miller papers in the stacks of the Department of Special Collections of the University of California Library, Los Angeles. I did not take note of the current footage of shelf space of the Henry Miller collection but in 1961 it extended to 75 feet. The bulk of it has been presented by Mr Miller and the remainder by his friends. Comprising letters, manuscripts, and related printed materials, it includes letters written by people such as T. S. Eliot, J. C. Powys, Jean Giono, and Ferdinand Leger. The first donation was made in 1948 at a time, I would guess from what autobiographical accounts I have read about and by Henry Miller, when the censors were still keeping him poor. If U.C.L.A. were purchasing the Miller collection through what have now become the normal commercial channels, it is likely it would have to pay thousands of dollars.

Another gift received by U.C.L.A. was the Gertrude Stein collection presented by a private collector in 1974 and a third was a collection relating to Theodore Dreiser. Purchases of writers' papers and ancillary materials have also been made, among them the papers of Kenneth Rexroth who includes Henry Miller, Sir Herbert Read, and William Carlos Williams amongst his correspondents. Local writers who are known all over the world including those like Ray Bradbury and Raymond Chandler are also held. For many of my generation our first insights into southern California were provided by Raymond Chandler. It is also interesting to speculate how much Ray Bradbury's writing, science fiction though it may be termed, owes to the part of the world in which he now lives.

One of the mementos I have from my visit to U.C.L.A. is a witty and charming invitation to a reception held in 1972 by the Friends of the U.C.L.A. Library to commemorate the eightieth birthday of Henry Miller. Another is *A conversation on D. H. Lawrence; by Aldous Huxley, Frieda Lawrence Ravagli, Majl Ewing, Lawrence Clark Powell, Dorothy Mitchell Conway* . . . an edited panel discussion organised by the Friends of the U.C.L.A. Library in 1952. The volume includes prints of original photographs and a facsimile of a Lawrence manuscript held in the Department of Special Collections. The manuscript had been presented to Lawrence Clark Powell by Frieda Lawrence Ravagli.

Established thirty years ago the Department of Special Collections of