

### **BIOGRAPHY OF ANAÏS NIN (1903-1977)**

Anaïs Nin was born on February 21, 1903 in Neuilly, a suburb of Paris, to Cuban-born parents, Rosa Culmell and Joaquin Nin, both of whom were devoted to music. Rosa was a singer of French-Danish descent and Joaquin was a composer and pianist of Catalan origin. She had two brothers, Thorvald (b. 1905) and Joaquin (b. 1908). Traveling for concerts, sometimes alone and sometimes with his family, to Havana, Berlin, Brussels, and Barcelona, Joaquin Nin sent his family to live with his parents in Barcelona in 1913 and then separated from them. In 1914, Rosa brought her children to New York on a voyage that marked the beginning of Anaïs's diary.

As a teenager, Anaïs abandoned formal schooling; however, she continued her education through reading, an avocation of a lifetime. She obtained work as a model, studied Spanish dancing, and lived with her mother and brothers until her marriage to Hugh Parker Guiler in 1923. Settling first in Queens, New York, they moved in 1924 to Paris where Guiler pursued his banking career and Nin wrote.

Beginning her published writing career with *D.H. Lawrence: An Unprofessional Study* (1932), she became part of the avant-garde set in Paris and the suburb of Louveciennes. In the 1940s, in New York, disappointed that she had difficulty getting her fiction published, she printed her own books by hand at her Gemor Press. Her husband, who used the name Ian Hugo as an artist and filmmaker, contributed prints to her publications.

From the late 1940s until the end of her life, Nin shuttled between New York and Los Angeles. She continued to write fiction in the 1950s, and in 1959 she found a literary agent, Gunther Stuhlmann. Beginning in 1961, Swallow Press reprinted five of her titles. However, it was the publication of her diaries by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich in 1966 that brought her fame and serious critical attention. She lectured, traveled, pursued projects for films, and received honors. She died of cancer in Los Angeles on January 14, 1977, cared for by Rupert Pole.

Besides her *Diaries* and the book on Lawrence, she is known for these works -- *House of Incest, Winter of Artifice, Under a Glass Bell, This Hunger, Ladders to Fire, Children of the Albatross, The Four-Chambered Heart, A Spy in the House of Love, Solar Barque, Seduction of the Minotaur, Collages, The Novel of the Future, On Writing, Realism and Reality, Little Birds, Delta of Venus.*

Anaïs Nin Collection  
Gleeson Library/Geschke Center

## INTRODUCTION

### Provenance

The major portion of The Anaïs Nin Collection was given to The Gleeson Library by Nin's brother, Joaquin Nin-Culmell, beginning in October 1992, and continuing up to 1995. Additions to the Collection came in 1997 from Lila Rosenblum (friend of Anaïs Nin), David Silverberg (friend of Joaquin Nin-Culmell), and John Ferrone (editor of Anaïs Nin).

### Restrictions

Joaquin Nin-Culmell requests that he be informed about who has access to the Collection.

### Publication Rights

The Gleeson Library/Geschke Center has legal title to the letters, but the content is a literary property vested with Rupert Pole. Rupert Pole refers inquiries to Gunther Stuhlmann, his literary agent. Referrals should be made to Stuhlmann for permission.

### Size

The number of containers is 15. The space occupied is 7 1/2 linear feet.

### Materials Cataloged Separately

Books written by Anaïs Nin are in the freely-accessed stacks of the library and in the closed-stacks of the Donohue Rare Book Room.

### Processed by

Catherine Collins Mutz

### Date Completed

March 1999

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Gleeson Library/Geschke Center's Anaïs Nin collection, established in 1992 by a gift of her brother, Joaquin Nin-Culmell, contains over 3,000 of her letters, chiefly to her mother (Rosa Culmell), her husband (Hugh Parker Guiler), and her brother. The letters span the years from her childhood (around 1910) until her death in 1977. Additional gifts of correspondence were made in 1997 by Lila Rosenblum (a friend of Nin), David Silverberg (a friend of Nin-Culmell), and John Ferrone (editor of Nin). All donations were made at the suggestion of Nin-Culmell.

In addition to correspondence, the collection contains manuscripts, reviews, articles, artifacts, photographs, and miscellaneous files. Also, there is material pertaining to Hugh Parker Guiler and his work as artist and filmmaker, known as Ian Hugo. These additional items came from gifts of Nin-Culmell and Ferrone.

A note on dating of the correspondence: Accurate dating is difficult. Frequently, Nin omitted dates. Joaquin Nin-Culmell attempted to date some, and his markings are in red pen. Lila Rosenblum dated some of the letters she received. Correspondence not dated has been tentatively given a date, determined by content. This material is marked by square brackets [ ].

Series 1 through 5 are concerned with outgoing correspondence: Series 1 (124 folders) to her mother, Rosa Culmell; Series 2 (199 folders) to her husband, Hugh Parker Guiler; Series 3 (69 folders) to her brother, Joaquin Nin-Culmell; Series 4 (8 folders) to her friend, Lila Rosenblum; and Series 5 (30 folders), consisting of miscellaneous outgoing correspondence. Series 6 (27 folders) consists of incoming correspondence. Series 7 (19 folders) contains correspondence between people (not Nin).

Series 8 contains manuscripts of Hugh Parker Guiler (Ian Hugo): a journal (begun in Nin's handwriting), a notebook on art, a notebook on dreams, and miscellaneous writings.

Series 9 contains items gathered by Joaquin Nin-Culmell: documents, tributes, clippings, magazines, book reviews, photographs, artifacts, manuscripts about Nin, and material about Ian Hugo as artist and filmmaker.

Series 10 is devoted to the collection of John Ferrone. It contains correspondence, lists and manuscripts, articles and reviews, invitations and announcements, photographs, items pertaining to Nin erotica, and material pertaining to Ian Hugo.

## **SERIES DESCRIPTION**

**(note: uncertain dates are indicated by brackets [ ] )**

**SERIES 1: OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE TO ROSA CULMELL, 1910-1954**

Container 1, folders 1-42 ([1910]-1925)  
Container 2, folders 1-38 (1926-1937)  
Container 3, folders 1-44 (1938-1954)

The folders contain letters, envelopes, and postcards written by Anaïs Nin to her mother Rosa Culmell. They are arranged chronologically.

**SERIES 2: OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE TO HUGH PARKER GUILER, 1947-1977**

Container 4, folders 1-36 (1947-1959)  
Container 5, folders 1-43 (1960-1962)  
Container 6, folders 1-47 (1963-1966)  
Container 7, folders 1-43 (1967-1972)  
Container 8, folders 1-30 (1973-1977)

The folders contain letters and postcards written by Anaïs Nin to her husband, Hugh Parker Guiler. They are arranged chronologically.

**SERIES 3: OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE TO JOAQUIN NIN-CULMELL, 1919-1975**

Container 9, folders 1-69 (1919-1975)

Nin- The folders contain letters and postcards written by Anaïs Nin to her brother, Joaquin Culmell. They are arranged chronologically.

**SERIES 4: OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE TO LILA ROSENBLUM, 1946-1973**

Container 10, folders 1-8 (1946-1973)

The folders contain letters and postcards written by Anaïs Nin to her friend, Lila Rosenblum. They are arranged chronologically.

**SERIES 5: MISCELLANEOUS OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE, childhood-1976**

Container 10, folders 9-38 ( [n.d.], 1922-1976)

The folders contain letters and postcards written by Anaïs Nin to various people. The folders are arranged alphabetically by recipient.

**SERIES 6: INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE TO ANAÏS NIN, [1938]-1976**

Container 10, folders 39-65 ( [1938]-1976)

The folders contain letters to Anaïs Nin from various correspondents. The folders are arranged chronologically.

**SERIES 7: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE (NOT ANAÏS NIN), 1920-1996**

Container 11, folders 1-19 (1920-1996)

The folders contain letters between people (family, friends, publishers, writers). The folders are arranged chronologically.

**SERIES 8: MISCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPTS OF HUGH PARKER GUILER, 1927, 1947, UNDATED**

Container 11, a journal and folders 20-28 ( [n.d.], 1947, [1957] )

A journal, with initial entry in AN's hand to replace one begun in 1927, continued, with a last entry after AN's death in 1977. The folders contain manuscripts by Guiler, AN's husband, and miscellaneous material of Guiler's. The folders are not in any order.

**SERIES 9: FILES OF JOAQUIN NIN-CULMELL (MISCELLANEOUS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS)**

Container 12, folders 1-20 (1940s-1990s)

The folders contain brochures, tributes, documents, clippings. The folders are not in any order.

Container 13, folders 1-10 (1900s-1993)

The folders contain photographs (and copies of them) of family and places. The folders are arranged by subject or person.

Container 14, artifacts (recordings, photograph of AN, brochures)

**SERIES 10: FILES OF JOHN FERRONE (CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORABILIA)**

Container 15, folders 1-20 (1960s-1990s)

The folders are grouped in sections, as donated by John Ferrone: Correspondence (1-8), Lists and Manuscripts (9-11), Articles and Reviews (12), Invitations and Announcements (13), Erotica (14), Photographs (15-17), Pertaining to Ian Hugo (18-20)