



**FINDING AID TO THE
ALDOUS HUXLEY PAPERS, 1961**

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Processed by: Kristin Leaman, April 3, 2013

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Huxley, Aldous, 1894-1963
Title	Aldous Huxley papers
Collection Identifier	MSP 83
Date Span	1961-1961
Abstract	<p>This collection contains three letters.</p> <p>Two letters concern Huxley's novel <i>Island</i>, and are addressed to L. Rust Hills, who was the fiction editor at <i>Esquire</i> magazine from 1956 until 1963.</p> <p>One letter concerns the clinical availability of LSD and references the pharmaceutical companies that were manufacturing LSD, mescaline, and psilocybin in 1961.</p>
Extent	0.25 cubic feet (1ms box)
Finding Aid Author	Kristin Leaman, 2013
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Acquisition Information:	Purchase, Bromer Booksellers, April 6, 2010 and December 15, 2011
Accession Number:	20100416 20111215
Preferred Citation:	MSP 83, Aldous Huxley papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Copyright restrictions may apply. Consult an archivist

for details.

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Huxely, Aldous, 1894-1963
Hills, L. Rust

Topics

LSD
Mescaline
Psilocybin
Psychedelic drugs

Form and Genre Types

Correspondence

Biography of Aldous Huxley

Aldous Leonard Huxley was born on July 26, 1894 in Godalming, England to T. H. Huxley and Julia Arnold Huxley. He was the third of four children and lost both his mother and his sister in 1908. Huxley's father was a scientist and a supporter of Darwinism; his mother was the niece of poet Matthew Arnold. Huxley attended Hillside School in Godalming from 1903 until 1908 and Eaton College on a scholarship from 1908 until 1913; he received a BA (with honors) in English Literature and Philosophy from Balliol College, Oxford in 1915. At sixteen years of age, Huxley contracted keratitis, which left him temporarily blind. He learned to read Braille and used it until he regained partial vision, which allowed him to return to his studies. In 1919, he married Maria Nys who died in 1955 from breast cancer; a year later, he married Laura Archera, and they had a son together. Huxley became a full-time writer in 1921 and moved to California in 1937, where he also worked as a freelance screenwriter and co-wrote screenplays such as *Pride and Prejudice* (1940), *Jane Eyre* (1944), and Disney's *Alice in Wonderland* (1951). Huxley is widely published from his early works *Crome Yellow* (1921) and *Antic Hay* (1928) to his later works *The Genius and the Goddess* (1955) and *Island* (1962). His work can be divided into two periods: "his early work, much of it social satire, is arch and occasionally condescending; his later work, essentially mystical, is prophetic but in places self-righteous." Huxley's more "psychedelic" and "mystical" published works are: *Brave New World* (1932), *Island* (1962), *Point Counter Point* (1928), *Heaven and Hell* (1956), and *The Doors of Perception* (1963), which is interestingly where the band The Doors took their name. Huxley's brother, Julian, a scientist and also a prolific writer, wrote *Aldous Huxley, 1894-1963; A Memorial Volume* (1965). In 1960, Aldous Huxley was diagnosed with throat cancer and died November 22, 1963, the same day as John F. Kennedy's assassination and C. S. Lewis' death. Even after his death, authors are still publishing works on Huxley and his writings, and many of his articles and books have been reprinted. Tracy Lee Simmons in the *National Review* writes of Huxley stating that he is "often wrong, always fascinating, when right, dead right, almost in spite of himself."

Sources:

"Aldous (Leonard) Huxley." *Contemporary Authors Online*. Detroit: Gale, 2004. *Gale Biography In Context*. Web. 16 Dec. 2011.

<http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/bic1/ReferenceDetailsPage/ReferenceDetailsWindow?displayGroupName=Reference&disableHighlighting=false&prodId=BIC1&action=e&windowstate=normal&catId=&documentId=GALE|H1000048658&mode=view>

"Huxley, Aldous Leonard (1894-1963)." *Encyclopedia of World Biography*. Detroit: Gale, 1998. *Gale Biography In Context*. Web. 16 Dec. 2011.

<http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/bic1/ReferenceDetailsPage/ReferenceDetailsWindow?displayGroupName=Reference&disableHighlighting=false&prodId=BIC1&action=e&windowstate=normal&catId=&documentId=GALE|A148466738&mode=view>

"Aldous (Leonard) Huxley." *St. James Guide to Science Fiction Writers*. New York: St. James Press, 1996. *Gale Biography In Context*. Web. 16 Dec. 2011. <http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/bic1/ReferenceDetailsPage/ReferenceDetailsWindow?displayGroupName=Reference&disableHighlighting=false&prodId=BIC1&action=e&windowstate=normal&catId=&documentId=GALE|K2407000275&mode=view>

Descriptive Rules

Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Edition / Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

Materials have been placed in acid-free housing.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1

Folder

1. Two Letters to L. Rust Hills from Aldous Huxley, June – July, 1961

These letters concern Huxley's novel *Island* are addressed to L. Rust Hills, who was the fiction editor at *Esquire* magazine from 1956 until 1963.

One letter, five pages, explains how Huxley's house had recently been destroyed by fire. The letter also contains a summary of the novel's plot and insights into the philosophies behind it.

The other letter, a one-page note on blue air-mail paper, encourages L. Rust Hills to contact Mr. Cass Canfield at Harper Brothers for a manuscript of the novel. (Description information provided by Bromer Booksellers.)

2. Letter to Langdon T. Williams, Junior, June, 1961

In this letter, Huxley answers a request for information about the clinical availability of hallucinogenic drugs for experimentation. The drugs include mescaline, LSD-25, and psilocybin, and the letters lists the pharmaceutical companies that were producing them at the time. The letter closes with a note about his own experimentation: "My own acquaintance with mescaline and LSD-25 has been mediated by research workers here and at Harvard." (Description provided by Bromer Booksellers.)