Guide to the Ioan P. Culianu Papers 1883-1991

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier       ICU.SPCL.CULIANU
Title            Culianu, Ioan P. Papers
Date             1883-1991
Size             10 linear feet (20 boxes)
Repository       Special Collections Research Center
                 University of Chicago Library
                 1100 East 57th Street
                 Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract         Ioan Petru Culianu (1950-1991), Romanian-born historian of religions,
essayist and fiction writer, served on the faculty of the University of Chicago's
Divinity School. Mentored by Mircea Eliade, Culianu specialized in the
history of Renaissance magic and mysticism. Culianu was murdered in the
University of Chicago's Swift Hall, a crime that remains unsolved. While
material in this collection spans the years 1883-1991, the bulk of material
dates from 1974-1991, and includes correspondence, notes, manuscripts and
reprints of published writings.

Information on Use

Access           Series V: Restricted, contains a single file of class lists from 1990, listing student grades. This
                 material is restricted until 2070.

The remainder of the collection is open for research.

Citation         When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Culianu, Ioan P. Papers,
                 [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Ioan Petru Culianu (1950-1991), historian of religions, essayist and fiction writer, served on
the faculty of the University of Chicago's Divinity School. Mentored by Mircea Eliade, Culianu
specialized in the history of Renaissance magic and mysticism.

Born in Iaşi, Romania, Culianu was educated at the University of Bucharest and in Italy. He
eventually earned three doctoral degrees, including a Ph.D. from the University of Paris in 1987.
He lived in France and the Netherlands before arriving at the University of Chicago as a visiting lecturer, and then became a professor in the Divinity School.

Culianu wrote proficiently in six languages. Among his works are Eros and Magic in the Renaissance; Expériences de l’extase: extase, ascension et récit visionnaire de l'hellénisme au Moyen Age; The Tree of Gnosis: Gnostic Mythology from Early Christianity to Modern Nihilism; and Out of the World: Otherworldly Journeys from Gilgamesh to Albert Einstein. Culianu also wrote fiction and essays, including political pieces opposing Romania’s post-Revolution regime.

On May 21, 1991, Culianu was murdered in a restroom in the University of Chicago's Swift Hall. Neither the motive nor the killer’s identity is known, though numerous theories have been advanced, many related to Culianu’s criticism of Romanian politics.

**Scope Note**

This collection documents Culianu’s activities as an historian of religions, including his relationships with colleagues and his mentor, Mircea Eliade. While material in this collection spans the years 1883-1991, the bulk of material dates from 1974-1991. This collection is organized into five series:

- **Series I: Correspondence, 1975-1991**, includes primarily incoming correspondence, with a few copies of outgoing letters. Most of the correspondence is professional in nature, and most correspondents are Culianu’s colleagues at universities in the United States and Europe. A small amount of administrative correspondence is also included. Reprints of writings by correspondents accompany many of the letters. Additional correspondence is found in Series II and IV.

- **Series II: Mircea Eliade**, is a collection of material related to Culianu's mentor, a leading scholar of religious studies. Much of this material was compiled shortly after Eliade's death in 1986, and relates to Culianu’s work as his literary executor. Material in this series spans the years 1971-1989, and includes drafts of writings about Eliade by Culianu and other colleagues; editorial and personal correspondence; reprints of Eliade's writings; and memorial material such as obituaries. Additional writings by Culianu and his colleagues, including some material related to Eliade, are found in Series III and IV.

- **Series III: Writings by Culianu**, contains several files of manuscripts, drafts and notes; these files are organized chronologically. Also included in this series are a set of reprints of Italian-language writings, mostly book reviews, published from 1974-1986. Following are chronological files of reprints of writings published from 1980-1991. Additional writings by Culianu are found in Series II.
Series IV: Writings by Others, consists of colleagues’ manuscripts sent to Culianu for review, organized alphabetically by author; two files of student papers; and a large collection of reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, filed chronologically. Material in this series spans the years 1883-1991, with the bulk of material dating from 1974-1990. Additional writings by Eliade’s colleagues are found in Series III.

Series V: Restricted, contains a single file of class lists from 1990, listing student grades.

While much of the material in this collection is in English, there are significant portions in Italian, Romanian, German, French, Dutch and Greek.

**Related Resources**
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Eliade, Mircea. Papers

**Subject Headings**
- Culianu, Ioan P.
- Eliade, Mircea, 1907-1986
- Magic -- History
- Occultism -- History
- Religions -- History

**INVENTORY**

**Series I: Correspondence, 1975-1991**

- **Box 1**
  - **Folder 1**
    - Anati, E.
  - **Box 1**
  - **Folder 2**
    - Arnoldo Mondadori Editore
  - **Box 1**
  - **Folder 3**
    - Belayche, Nicole
  - **Box 1**
  - **Folder 4**
    - Bianchi, Ugo
- **Box 1**
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    Caprettini, Ave Appiano
Box 1
Folder 6
    Casadio, Giovanni
Box 1
Folder 7
    Chitimia, Silvia
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    Conio, Caterina
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    Cosi, D.M.
Box 1
Folder 10
    Debus, Allen G.
Box 1
Folder 11
    Duerr, Hans Peter
Box 1
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    Encyclopedia of Religion
Box 1
Folder 13
    Gasparro, Giulia Sfameni
Box 1
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    Girardot, Norman
Box 1
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    Hani, Jean
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    International Association for Coptic Studies
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    Kippenberg, Hans G.
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Segal, Alan F.
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Stoichita, Victor
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Stroumsa, Gedaliahu G.
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Sullivan, Lawrence E.
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Tanase, V.
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Todericiu, D.
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Versnel, H.S.
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Unidentified

Series II: Mircea Eliade

Box 2
Folder 3-4
Drafts of writings by Culianu, circa 1981-1986
Box 2
Folder 5
Editorial and personal correspondence, 1986-1989
Box 2
Folder 6
Drafts of writings about Eliade, undated
Box 2
Folder 7
Reprints of writings by Eliade, 1971-1985
Box 2
Folder 8
Reprints and memorial material, 1977-1986

Box 3
Folder 1-3
Reprints, memorial material and correspondence, 1981-1987

Series III: Writings by Culianu

Box 3
Folder 4
Notes, 1976
Box 3
Folder 5-6
Box 3
Folder 7
Notes and correspondence, circa 1982
Box 3
Folder 8
Notes, circa 1983
Box 4
Folder 1
Notebook, circa 1983
Box 4
Folder 2
Notes and photocopied texts, circa 1983
Box 4
Folder 3
Notebook and draft of review, circa 1985
Box 4
Folder 4
Notes, research material and fellowship application, circa 1985
Box 4
Folder 5
Notes, circa 1985-1990
Box 4
Folder 6
"Dr Mayow's Mousetrap," draft, 1986
Box 4
Folder 7
Drafts and lecture material, circa 1986
Box 4
Folder 8
"Against the Law," Nathaniel Colver Lecture, University of Chicago Divinity School, lecture notes and broadside, 1987
Box 4
Folder 9
"Enigma Crestinismului," manuscripts, undated
Box 4
Folder 10
Notes, undated
Box 4
Folder 11
Notebook, undated
Box 4
Folder 12
Reprints in Italian, 1974-1982
Box 5
Folder 1-3
Reprints in Italian, 1975-1986
Box 5
Folder 4-11
Reprints, 1980-1990
Box 6
Folder 1-11
Reprints, 1984-1991

**Series IV: Writings by Others**

Box 6
Folder 12
Faivre, Antoine, manuscript and correspondence, 1985
Box 6
Folder 13
Girardot, Norman J. "Dissent from the Classical!": Mircea Eliade, the History of Religions, and the Study of Chinese Religions," manuscripts, undated
Box 6
Folder 14
Gruenwald, Ithamar, "Magic and Its Study as a Cultural Factor," manuscripts, undated
Box 7
Folder 1
Kétékou, S.C., "Le Developpement ou la Novelle Tour de Babel," manuscript, undated
Box 7
Folder 2
Kippenberg, Hans G., proofs, undated
Box 7
Folder 3
Manolesco, Ionela, manuscripts, 1991
Box 7
Folder 4
McGinn, Bernard, "God as Eros: Reflections on Cosmic Love in the Christian Tradition," manuscript and correspondence, 1991
Ricketts, Mac Linscott, "The Sacred Trickster of the North American Indians," manuscript, undated

Box 7
Folder 9
Tirosh-Rothschild, Hava manuscripts and correspondence, 1990

Box 7
Folder 10
Waida, Manabu, "The Religion of the Japanese," undated

Box 8
Folder 1

Box 8
Folder 2
Unidentified author, "Korte Grammaticea van het Sahidische Koptisch," manuscript, undated

Box 8
Folder 3
Unidentified author, "Meso-American Religions: Cities and Symbols," manuscript, undated

Box 8
Folder 4-5
Student papers, 1988-1991

Box 8
Folder 6-7
Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1883-1967

Box 9
Folder 1-7
Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1968-1974

Box 10
Folder 1-6
Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1975-1977

Box 11
Folder 1-6
Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1977-1978

Box 12
Folder 1-7
Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1979-1980

Box 13
Folder 1-6
Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1980-1981

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Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1982-1983

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Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1983-1984
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  Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1987-1990
Box 18  
Folder 1-6  
  Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1988-1990
Box 19  
Folder 1-7  
  Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, undated
Box 20  
Folder 1-5  
  Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, undated

**Series V: Restricted**

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Folder 6  
  Class lists, 1990