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# Guide to the Ioan P. Culianu Papers 1883-1991



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## **Table of Contents**

Descriptive Summary	3
Information on Use	3
Access	3
Citation	3
Biographical Note	3
Scope Note	4
Related Resources	5
Subject Headings	5
INVENTORY	5
Series I: Correspondence, 1975-1991	5
Series II: Mircea Eliade	8
Series III: Writings by Culianu	9
Series IV: Writings by Others	10
Series V: Restricted	12

## 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 Iași, 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**

**Folder 5**

Caprettini, Ave Appiano

**Box 1**

**Folder 6**

Casadio, Giovanni

**Box 1**

**Folder 7**

Chitimia, Silvia

**Box 1**

**Folder 8**

Conio, Caterina

**Box 1**

**Folder 9**

Cosi, D.M.

**Box 1**

**Folder 10**

Debus, Allen G.

**Box 1**

**Folder 11**

Duerr, Hans Peter

**Box 1**

**Folder 12**

Encyclopedia of Religion

**Box 1**

**Folder 13**

Gasparro, Giulia Sfameni

**Box 1**

**Folder 14**

Girardot, Norman

**Box 1**

**Folder 15**

Hani, Jean

**Box 1**

**Folder 16**

Idel, Moshe

**Box 1**

**Folder 17**

International Association for Coptic Studies

**Box 1**

**Folder 18**

Kippenberg, Hans G.

**Box 1**

**Folder 19**

Lambardi, Noemi

**Box 1**

**Folder 20**

Lincoln, Bruce

**Box 1**

**Folder 21**

Loibl, Elizabeth

**Box 1**

**Folder 22**

Lungu, Alexandru

**Box 1**

**Folder 23**

McGinn, Bernard

**Box 1**

**Folder 24**

Meslin, Michel

**Box 1**

**Folder 25**

Metcalf, Franz Aubrey

**Box 1**

**Folder 26**

Momigliano, Arnaldo

**Box 1**

**Folder 27**

Nicolescu, M. Basarab

**Box 1**

**Folder 28**

Oisteanu, Andrei

**Box 1**

**Folder 29**

Os, H.W. van

**Box 1**

**Folder 30**

Quispel, Gilles

**Box 1**

**Folder 31**

Pezzali, Amalia

**Box 1**

**Folder 32**

Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

**Box 1**

**Folder 33**

Ronner, Didi

**Box 1**

**Folder 34**

Rusconi, Roberto

**Box 1**

**Folder 35**

Sabbatucci, Dario

**Box 1**

**Folder 36**

Scarpi, Paolo

**Box 1**

**Folder 37**

Segal, Alan F.

**Box 1**

**Folder 38**

Șişmanian, Ara Alexandra

**Box 1**

**Folder 39**

Stoichita, Victor

**Box 1**

**Folder 40**

Stroumsa, Gedaliahu G.

**Box 1**

**Folder 41**

Sullivan, Lawrence E.

**Box 1**

**Folder 42**

Tanase, V.

**Box 1**

**Folder 43**

Todericiu, D.

**Box 1**

**Folder 44**

Versnel, H.S.

**Box 2**

**Folder 1-2**

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**

"Experiences de l'extase et symbols de l'ascension de l'Hellénisme à l'Islam," doctoral thesis, 1979-1980

**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 Nouvelle 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

**Box 7**

**Folder 5-8**

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**

Witte, H.A., "Les religions de l'Afrique occidentale," manuscripts, 1987

**Box 8**

**Folder 2**

Unidentified author, "Korte Grammatica 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

**Box 14**

**Folder 1-7**

Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1982-1983

**Box 15**

**Folder 1-7**

Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1983-1984

**Box 16**

**Folder 1-6**

Reprints, periodicals and photocopied texts, 1985-1986

**Box 17**

**Folder 1-8**

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**

**Box 20**

**Folder 6**

Class lists, 1990