

ARCHIVES | 1990

Maurice Girodias, A French Publisher And an Author, 71

Special to The New York Times JULY 5, 1990

About the Archive

This is a digitized version of an article from The Times's print archive, before the start of online publication in 1996. To preserve these articles as they originally appeared, The Times does not alter, edit or update them.

Occasionally the digitization process introduces transcription errors or other problems. Please send reports of such problems to archive_feedback@nytimes.com.

Maurice Girodias, a French publisher whose early editions of such books as Vladimir Nabokov's "Lolita" and Henry Miller's "Tropic of Capricorn" led him into long battles with French censors, died here today at the age of 71, apparently of a heart attack.

Mr. Girodias, who was being interviewed on the Jewish Community Radio when he fell ill, also published works by Samuel Beckett, Jean Genet, Lawrence Durrell, J. P. Donleavy, William Burroughs and Georges Bataille, although he was best known for first bringing "Lolita" into print.

He began his publishing career in the 1930's as a teen-age assistant to his father, Jack Kahane, who first published Henry Miller's "Tropic of Cancer" and who formed part of the literary circle flourishing in Paris at the time.

After World War II, he founded Olympia Press, but it foundered under the pressure of censors who banned some of its editions as pornographic. In the early 1960's he opened a night club, but this was closed by the police after he presented a show inspired by the Marquis de Sade's "Philosophy in the Bedroom."

In 1964, after being banned from publishing for 60 years, Mr. Girodias decided

3
ARTICLES
REMAINING

Register now to save, comment and share.

[SIGN UP](#)

[Subscriber login](#)

frustrated in his attempt to publish a book of political fiction in which Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was the hero.

Returning to France, where censorship rules had been liberalized, he wrote his autobiography, "A Day on Earth," the first volume being called "The Arrival" and the second "The Gardens of Eros."

Subscribe and see the full article in TimesMachine

New York Times subscribers* enjoy full access to TimesMachine—view over 150 years of New York Times journalism, as it originally appeared.

*Does not include Crossword-only or Cooking-only subscribers.

Correction: July 7, 1990

Saturday, Late Edition - Final

An obituary on Thursday about the French publisher Maurice Girodias omitted his survivors. He was survived by his second wife, Lilla; two daughters from a previous marriage, Valerie and Juliette; two sisters and a brother.

A version of this obituary appears in print on July 5, 1990, on Page B00005 of the National edition with the headline: Maurice Girodias, A French Publisher And an Author, 71.

© 2018 The New York Times Company

3
ARTICLES
REMAINING

Register now to save, comment and share.

SIGN UP

[Subscriber login](#)