

Press Contacts

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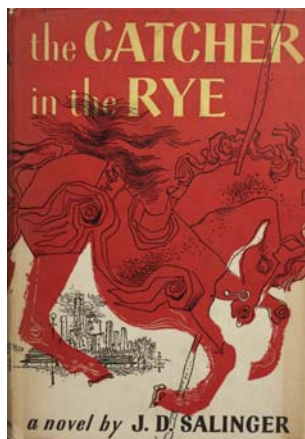
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**FIRST OF TWO EXHIBITIONS OF LETTERS BY J. D. SALINGER TO
GO ON VIEW AT THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM BEGINNING
TUESDAY, MARCH 16**

*LETTERS WERE SENT BY RECLUSIVE AUTHOR TO MICHAEL MITCHELL, DUST
JACKET DESIGNER OF THE ACCLAIMED NOVEL
THE CATCHER IN THE RYE*

****Press Viewing: Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 10:30 a.m. until noon**
RSVP: media@themorgan.org**

New York, NY, February 23, 2010—As a tribute to J. D. Salinger, who died January 27, The Morgan Library & Museum will hold a pair of exhibitions, the first beginning March 16, of ten letters by the author.



Dust jacket of the first edition of the novel
(1951). Photography, Graham Haber, 2010.

Written to Michael Mitchell, who was commissioned by Salinger to create the dust jacket for *The Catcher in the Rye*, the letters cover a forty-year period and constitute an extraordinarily rare and revealing correspondence. They richly document a period of Salinger's life that has remained obscure and provide hitherto unknown details about the daily habits and thought of this legendary author.

The first exhibition of four letters will run through Sunday, April 11. The second exhibition of six letters will open on April 13 and run through May 9. Both will be shown in the Morgan's historic McKim building.

The letters were acquired in 1998 as part of the Morgan's Carter Burden Collection of American Literature. The Morgan totally restricted access to the letters during Salinger's lifetime in deference to this widely known desire for privacy. Now that the restriction has been lifted, the letters are to be exhibited for the first time and will be available to scholars.

They reveal many sides of Salinger's personality. Writing about marriage, parenthood, travel, work, and his self-imposed isolation from friends and society, he was at turns self-deprecating, admiring, affectionate,

playful, and acerbically funny. Some letters attest to his suspicion of publishers as well as his impatience and anger with the admirers and would-be biographers who would intrude into private life.

He wrote eloquently and poignantly about the challenges to creativity that come with middle age, and the self-doubt attendant upon his writing. But he confirmed what many of his devoted readers had long hoped: Salinger continued to adhere to a strict writing discipline and, by the mid-1960s, had completed at least two novels and continued to work on others.

The Morgan Library & Museum

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. More than a century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

General Information

The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405
212.685.0008
www.themorgan.org

Hours

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

Admission

\$12 for adults; \$8 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children, 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.