Guide to the John L. De Forest / Sholem Asch Collection

GEN MSS 114

by Diana M. Smith

July 1994

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 114

CREATOR: Asch, Sholem, 1880-1957

TITLE: John L. De Forest / Sholem Asch collection

DATES: 1941–1995

BULK DATES: 1941–1943

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.4 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Collection consists of correspondence addressed to Asch, many letters carrying dictated drafts of his response on them. There are four typescripts of essays by Sholem Asch as well as five scripts for a Christmas pageant performed in Stamford, Conn., in 1943. Also present is De Forest’s typescript memoir entitled, “My Hours with Sholem Asch.”

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.asch

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.asch.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The John L. De Forest / Sholem Asch Collection was given by John L. De Forest in 1993.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.
Conditions Governing Use
The John L. De Forest / Sholem Asch Collection are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Scope and Contents
John L. De Forest acquired these papers while serving as Sholem Asch’s secretary. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence addressed to Asch, many letters carrying dictated drafts of his response on them. There are four typescripts of essays by Sholem Asch as well as five scripts for a Christmas pageant performed in Stamford, Connecticut, in 1943. Also present is De Forest’s typescript memoir (ca. 1991) entitled “My Hours with Sholem Asch.”
## Collection Contents

### Box and Folder List

#### Correspondence

**Drafts of letters from Asch**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>To A-Z&lt;br&gt;Asch, John&lt;br&gt;Ferguson Library&lt;br&gt;Freiheit&lt;br&gt;[Shaffer], Ruth and Reg&lt;br&gt;United Jewish Appeal</td>
<td>1941–43</td>
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**Letters to Asch:**

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>“A” general&lt;br&gt;Amalgamated Bank of New York&lt;br&gt;American Jewish Congress&lt;br&gt;Anspach, Marshall R.&lt;br&gt;Astoria Press</td>
<td>1941–43</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>“B-C” general&lt;br&gt;Babb, James T. (James Tinkham)&lt;br&gt;Community Church of New York&lt;br&gt;Congregation Rodeph Sholom&lt;br&gt;Includes letter from Asch to Congregation Rodeph Sholom&lt;br&gt;Creative Age Press, Inc.&lt;br&gt;See: Yale University, Box 1, folder 15</td>
<td>1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>“D-G” general&lt;br&gt;Dakin, Rodney G.&lt;br&gt;Elliot, L. R.&lt;br&gt;Gaebelein, Arno Clemens&lt;br&gt;Garrett, Eileen Jeanette Lyttle&lt;br&gt;Goodenough, Erwin Ramsdell&lt;br&gt;See: Creative Age Press, Inc., Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>1942–43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Container</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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| b. 1, f. 5 | “H” general  
*Hartford Courant*  
Heller, Judah G.  
Holmes, John Haynes  
Holzer, Hans  
Huebsch, B. W. (Benjamin W.)  
*See: Community Church of New York, Box 1, folder 3*  
*See: Viking Press, Inc., Box 1, folder 13* | 1942–43 |
| b. 1, f. 6 | “K-L” general  
Knollenberg, Bernhard  
Know Your Bible Company  
London Jewish Theatre  
*See: Yale University, Box 1, folder 15* | 1943 |
| b. 1, f. 7 | “M” general  
McCullum, R. J.  
Monjo, J. M.  
Morris, Charles | 1943, n.y. |
| b. 1, f. 8 | “N” general  
National Refugee Service, Inc.  
Newman, Louis I.  
New York Committee of the National War Fund  
*See: Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Box 1, folder 3* | 1941–43 |
| b. 1, f. 9 | “O-P” general  
Oxford University Press  
Princeton Theological Seminary | 1941–43 |
| b. 1, f. 10 | “R” general  
Raybond Theatres  
Rosenwald, William  
Ruff, Mrs. G. Elson  
*See: National Refugee Service, Inc., Box 1, folder 8* | 1941–43 |
| b. 1, f. 11 | “S-T” general  
Samuel, Gertrude  
Temple Beth Emeth of Flatbush | 1943 |
| b. 1, f. 12 | “U” general  
United Jewish Laymen’s Committee  
United States. Headquarters of the Commandant, Third Naval District | 1942–43 |
### Correspondence > Letters to Asch: (continued)

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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| b. 1, f. 13 | “V” general  
Viking Press, Inc.  
With draft of response by Sholem Asch | 1942 |
| b. 1, f. 14 | “W” general  
Who’s Who in the East  
Writers Committee of United China Relief  
Wrubel, Jerry  
WSRR (Stamford, Conn.) | 1941–42 |
| b. 1, f. 15 | “Y-Z” general  
Yale University Library  
Ziemer, Gregor Athalwin  
Zuckerman, Nathan  
See: Know Your Bible Company, Box 1, folder 6  
See: American Jewish Congress, Box 1, folder 2 | 1942–43 |

### Writings by Sholem Asch

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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 16</td>
<td>“The Birth of Hitler,” typescript, corrected, p. [1]-3 only</td>
<td>1943 Nov 4</td>
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**“Christmas Story”**

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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 17</td>
<td>Program draft for presentation of “Christmas Story” at the First Congregational Church, Stamford, Connecticut</td>
<td>1943 [Dec]</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 18</td>
<td>Typescript, corrected</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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| b. 1, f. 19 | Pageant director’s copy, typescript, with stage directions  
Belonged to Arthur J. Sylvester | n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 20 | Organ script, typescript, with stage and organ directions | n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 21 | Three scripts, typescript, with corrections and stage directions | n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 22 | “Katie Stieglitz,” typescript, corrected | n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 23 | “Sholem Asch,” typescript, corrected | n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 24 | “Sholem Asch to Son,” newspaper clipping | c.1943 |

### Printed matter

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 25</td>
<td>Clipping from Yiddish newspaper “Forverts”</td>
<td>1995 May 12</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 26</td>
<td>Musicians Committee of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship</td>
<td>1943 Nov 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 27</td>
<td>Yale University News Bureau press release</td>
<td>1944 Apr 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 28</td>
<td>Stottler &amp; Co., Inc., statement of account</td>
<td>1941 Apr 30</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 29</td>
<td>De Forest, John L. &quot;My Hours with Sholem Asch,&quot; typescript, corrected</td>
<td>c. 1991</td>
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</table>
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Authors, Yiddish -- United States -- Archives

Names
Asch, Sholem, 1880-1957 -- Archives
De Forest, John L. (John Le Roy), 1916-