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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Correspondence</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Drafts of letters from Asch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
| b. 1, f. 1 | To A-Z  
Asch, John  
Ferguson Library  
Freiheit  
[Shaffer], Ruth and Reg  
United Jewish Appeal | 1941–43 |
| Letters to Asch: | | |
| b. 1, f. 2 | “A” general  
Amalgamated Bank of New York  
American Jewish Congress  
Anspach, Marshall R.  
Astoria Press | 1941–43 |
| b. 1, f. 3 | “B-C” general  
Babb, James T. (James Tinkham)  
Community Church of New York  
Congregation Rodeph Sholom  
Includes letter from Asch to Congregation Rodeph Sholom  
Creative Age Press, Inc.  
See: Yale University, Box 1, folder 15 | 1943 |
| b. 1, f. 4 | “D-G” general  
Dakin, Rodney G.  
Elliot, L. R.  
Gaebelein, Arno Clemens  
Garrett, Eileen Jeanette Lyttle  
Goodenough, Erwin Ramsdell  
See: Creative Age Press, Inc., Box 1, folder 3 | 1942–43 |
| 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 |
### Writings by Sholem Asch

**b. 1, f. 16**  
"The Birth of Hitler," typescript, corrected, p. [1]-3 only  
1943 Nov 4

**b. 1, f. 17**  
Program draft for presentation of "Christmas Story" at the First Congregational Church, Stamford, Connecticut  
1943 [Dec]

**b. 1, f. 18**  
Typescript, corrected  
n.d.

**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

**b. 1, f. 25**  
Clipping from Yiddish newspaper "Forverts"  
1995 May 12

**b. 1, f. 26**  
Musicians Committee of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship  
1943 Nov 7

**b. 1, f. 27**  
Yale University News Bureau press release  
1944 Apr 16

**b. 1, f. 28**  
Stottler & Co., Inc., statement of account  
1941 Apr 30
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<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 29</td>
<td>De Forest, John L. “My Hours with Sholem Asch,” typescript, corrected</td>
<td>c. 1991</td>
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</tbody>
</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-

Contributors
Asch, Sholem, 1880-1957
Babb, James T. (James Tinkham), 1899-1968
De Forest, John L. (John Le Roy), 1916-
Gaebelein, Arno Clemens, 1861-1945
Garrett, Ellen Jeanette Lyttle, 1893-1970
Goodenough, Erwin Ramsdell, 1893-1965
Holmes, John Haynes, 1879-1964
Holzer, Hans, 1920-2009
Huebsch, B. W. (Benjamin W.), 1876-1964
Knollenberg, Bernhard, 1892-1973
Rosenwald, William, 1903-
Ziemer, Gregor Athalwin, 1899-
Zuckerman, Nathan, 1912-2000