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

GEN MSS 114



by Diana M. Smith

July 1994

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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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: <https://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 <https://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

John L. De Forest / Sholem Asch Collection. General Collection. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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

Correspondence

Drafts of letters from Asch

b. 1, f. 1	To A-Z Asch, John Ferguson Library <i>Freiheit</i> [Shaffer], Ruth and Reg United Jewish Appeal	1941-43
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Letters to Asch:

b. 1, f. 2	"A" general Amalgamated Bank of New York American Jewish Congress Anspach, Marshall R. Astoria Press	1941-43
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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
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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
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Letters to Asch: (continued)

b. 1, f. 5	<p>"H" general <i>Hartford Courant</i></p> <p>Heller, Judah G. Holmes, John Haynes Holzer, Hans Huebsch, B. W. (Benjamin W.)</p> <p>See: Community Church of New York, Box 1, folder 3 See: Viking Press, Inc., Box 1, folder 13</p>	1942-43
b. 1, f. 6	<p>"K-L" general Knollenberg, Bernhard Know Your Bible Company London Jewish Theatre</p> <p>See: Yale University, Box 1, folder 15</p>	1943
b. 1, f. 7	<p>"M" general McCullum, R. J. Monjo, J. M. Morris, Charles</p>	1943, n.y.
b. 1, f. 8	<p>"N" general National Refugee Service, Inc. Newman, Louis I. New York Committee of the National War Fund</p> <p>See: Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Box 1, folder 3</p>	1941-43
b. 1, f. 9	<p>"O-P" general Oxford University Press Princeton Theological Seminary</p>	1941-43
b. 1, f. 10	<p>"R" general Raybond Theatres Rosenwald, William Ruff, Mrs. G. Elson</p> <p>See: National Refugee Service, Inc., Box 1, folder 8</p>	1941-43
b. 1, f. 11	<p>"S-T" general Samuel, Gertrude Temple Beth Emeth of Flatbush</p>	1943
b. 1, f. 12	<p>"U" general United Jewish Laymen's Committee United States. Headquarters of the Commandant, Third Naval District</p>	1942-43

Letters to Asch: (continued)

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

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

Other Writings

b. 1, f. 29

[De Forest, John L. "My Hours with Sholem Asch," typescript, corrected](#)

c. 1991

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-
Gaebelin, Arno Clemens, 1861-1945
Garrett, Eileen J. (Eileen Jeanette), 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
Newman, Louis I. (Louis Israel), 1893-1972
Rosenwald, William, 1903-
Ziemer, Gregor, 1899-1982
Zuckerman, Nathan, 1912-2000