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Guide to the John Gerassi Collection of Jean-Paul Sartre

GEN MSS 441



by Timothy G. Young

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 441

CREATOR: Sartre, Jean-Paul, 1905-1980

TITLE: John Gerassi collection of Jean-Paul Sartre

DATES: 1964-1998

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6.5 linear feet (13 boxes)

LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY: The collection consists primarily of audio interviews made by John Gerassi with Jean-Paul Sartre between 1970 and 1974. A companion group of interviews with Sartre's family, friends, and foes was made in 1973. Included in this group are: Raymond Aron, Simone de Beauvoir, Arlette Elkaim-Sartre, Claude Lanzmann, and J. B. Pontalis. The majority of these interviews have transcripts. Among the other papers are various works by Sartre on Ethics, in the form of lecture notes and manuscript drafts prepared in the 1960s as well as a list by Sartre of books he read in different periods of his life. Also included are notes by John Gerassi on the origin of the collection.

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

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.gerassi>.

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

Purchased from Glenn Horowitz on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1998.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Boxes 8-13 (sound recordings): Restricted fragile material. Use copies of audiotapes have been created for consultation. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The John Gerassi Collection of Jean-Paul Sartre is 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 Gerassi Collection of Jean-Paul Sartre. General Collection of Rare Books and Manuscripts, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Existence and Location of Copies

Digital copies (on compact disc) of audiotapes available.

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE (1905-1980)

The life of Jean-Paul Sartre, French novelist and Existentialist philosopher, has been recounted in numerous books. Of particular relevance to this collection is John Gerassi's own biographical study, *Jean-Paul Sartre: Hated Conscience of his Century* (1989; University of Chicago Press).

Scope and Contents

The John Gerassi Collection of Jean-Paul Sartre consists of manuscripts by Sartre, and interviews with Sartre and his contemporaries. Gathered by John Gerassi during the preparation of his biography *Jean-Paul Sartre: Hated Conscience of his Century* (1989; University of Chicago Press), the collection spans the years 1964-1985,

As detailed in Gerassi's biography, Sartre was a close friend of Gerassi's parents, Fernando and Stepha. As an adult, Gerassi's friendship with Sartre continued. Sartre eventually asked Gerassi to write his biography and agreed to a series of interviews recorded between 1970-1974. A companion series of interviews with Sartre's friends, contemporaries, and enemies was made in 1973. These interviews comprise [Series I. Interviews](#), which consists of transcripts. The original audiotapes, along with duplicates made on Ampex reel-to-reel tape, are stored with *Restricted Materials*. In a few cases where a transcript was not received, the original recording is cited. Specific omissions include:

No transcript received for: Sartre interview #3, Part I; "Sartre interview for Ramparts", 1971 Apr 22; Simone de Beauvoir interviews, 1973 May 14 and Nov 15; Troupe Matthews interview, 1985 May 2;

No original tape received for: Francis Jeanson interview, 1973 Nov 13-14; Claude Morgan interview, 1973 Jun 6; David Rousset interview, 1973 Mar 14

No Sartre interview #7 exists, due to an original miscount.

Audio duplicates have been made for all of the interviews. [They will be made available on audio CDs for consultation in the Beinecke Library.]

[Series II, Other Papers](#), includes notes and drafts prepared by Sartre for a series of lectures prepared for the Gramsci Institute in Rome in 1964. These notes were typed by Arlette Elkaim. Sartre then reworked these notes into a book-length manuscript, which was typed by the publishing house Gallimard in 1964. This typescript original, uncorrected, was later returned to Sartre, who gave it to John Gerassi.

The collection also includes notes on ethics, stretching to 800 manuscript pages, prepared for a course proposed for Cornell University in 1965. These notes are unpaginated and have been kept in the order in which they were received in 5 folders according to placement in original binders. Sartre did not come to Cornell in protest of the US bombing of North Vietnam. Sartre later gave these materials to Gerassi.

Series II also contains "Sartre's reading in Youth", an annotated list by Sartre of books he read at specific periods of his life. This list was made by Sartre at Gerassi's request.

This series concludes with notes from Gerassi about the origin and content of the collection, as well as the original folders in which the material was received.

Collection Contents

Series I: Interviews, 1970-85

1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

Series I, *Interviews* is organized into three subseries: John Gerassi Interviews with Jean-Paul Sartre (arranged chronologically); Other Sartre Interviews (arranged chronologically); and John Gerassi Interviews with Family, Friends, & Foes of Sartre (arranged alphabetically). This series contains original transcripts made from audiotapes. It has been noted where transcripts are lacking or original tapes do not exist. Original audiotapes are restricted. Audio use copies have been made for reference. These are listed in Appendix A.

JOHN GERASSI INTERVIEWS WITH JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

b. 1, f. 1	Interview 1	1970 Nov 2
b. 1, f. 2	Interview 2	1970 Nov 20
b. 1, f. 3	Interview 3 [Part II only. Transcript of part I not received, see audiotapes]	1970 Dec 4
b. 1, f. 4	Interview 4	1970 Dec 18
b. 1, f. 5	Interview 5	1971 Jan 29
b. 1, f. 6	Interview 6	1971 Feb 12
	Interview 7 [No Interview 7 exists, due to original miscount]	
b. 1, f. 7	Interview 8	1971 Mar 12
b. 1, f. 8	Interview 9	1971 Mar 26
b. 1, f. 9	Interview 10	1971 Apr 23
b. 1, f. 10	Interview 11	1971 May 7
b. 1, f. 11	Interview 12	1971 May 14
b. 1, f. 12	Interview 13	1971 Jun 11
b. 1, f. 13	Interview 14	1971 Oct 15
b. 1, f. 14	Interview 15	1971 Oct 29
b. 1, f. 15	Interview 16	1971 Nov 12
b. 1, f. 16	Interview 17	1971 Nov 26
b. 1, f. 17	Interview 18	1971 Dec 10
b. 1, f. 18	Interview 19	1971 Dec 31
b. 1, f. 19	Interview 20	1972 Jan 7
b. 1, f. 20	Interview 21	1972 Jan 21

JOHN GERASSI INTERVIEWS WITH JEAN-PAUL SARTRE (continued)

b. 1, f. 21	Interview 22	1972 Feb 4
b. 2, f. 22	Interview 23	1972 Mar 24
b. 2, f. 23	Interview 24	1972 Apr 21
b. 2, f. 24	Interview 25	1972 May 5
b. 2, f. 25	Interview 26	1972 May 19
b. 2, f. 26	Interview 27	1972 Jun 2
b. 2, f. 27	Interview 28	1972 Jun 23
b. 2, f. 28	Interview 29	1972 Oct 13
b. 2, f. 29	Interview 30	1972 Oct 27
b. 2, f. 30	Interview 31	1972 Nov 10
b. 2, f. 31	Interview 32	1973 May 17
b. 2, f. 32	Interview 33	1973 May 31
b. 2, f. 33	Interview 34	1973 Jun 28
b. 2, f. 34	Interview 35	1973 Nov 14
OTHER SARTRE INTERVIEWS		
	"Sartre interview for Ramparts" [No transcript received] See: audiotapes	1971 Apr 22
b. 2, f. 35	"Sartre (Speciale)"	1974 Nov 16
JOHN GERASSI INTERVIEWS WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, & FOES OF SARTRE		
b. 2, f. 36	Aron, Raymond	1973 May 25
b. 2, f. 37	Audry, Colette	1973 Mar 14
b. 2, f. 38	Beauvoir, Simone de [No transcript received for 1973 May 14 or Nov 15 interviews, see audiotapes]	1973 Jan 30
b. 3, f. 39	Bloch, Pierre	1973 May 15
b. 3, f. 40	Burnier, Michel-Antoine	1972 Nov 12
b. 3, f. 41	Contat, Michel	1973 Mai 28
b. 3, f. 42	Elkaim-Sartre, Arlette	1973 Mar 5
b. 3, f. 43	Gorz, André [also known as: Michel Bosquet and Gérard Horz] [includes note dated 1973 Mar 29]	1973 Jun 10

JOHN GERASSI INTERVIEWS WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, & FOES OF SARTRE (continued)

b. 3, f. 44	Jeanson, Francis [Original tape not received]	1973 Nov 13-14
b. 3, f. 45	Kozakievitch, Wanda	1973 Mar 23
b. 3, f. 46	Kozakievitch-Bost, Olga [also known as: Olga Dominique]	1973 May 9
b. 3, f. 47	Lanzmann, Claude	1973 Jun 5
b. 3, f. 48	Léglise-Vian, Michèle	1973 Mar 7
b. 3, f. 49	Leroy, Henri	1973 Jun 26
b. 3, f. 50	Maheu, René	1973 May 22
	Matthews, Troupe [No transcript received] See: audiotapes.	1985 May 2
b. 3, f. 51	Morgan, Claude [Original tape not received]	1973 Jun 6
b. 3, f. 52	Pontalis, J. B.	1973 Mar 20
b. 3, f. 53	Pouillon, Jean	1973 Mar 16
b. 3, f. 54	Rousset, David [Original tape not received]	1973 Mar 14

Series II: Other Papers, 1964-98, n.d.*1.65 linear feet (4 boxes)*

Series II, *Other Papers* is divided into two subseries: Writings of Jean-Paul Sartre; and Original Collection Material.

WRITINGS OF JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

b. 4, f. 55	Notes for lecture on ethics prepared for Gramsci Institute, typescript, corrected	[1964]
b. 4, f. 56-57	Manuscript on ethics prepared by Gallimard, typescript	1964
b. 5, f. 58	Manuscript on ethics prepared by Gallimard, typescript	1964
b. 5, f. 59-60	Notes for lecture on ethics prepared for Cornell University, holograph	1965
b. 6, f. 61-63	Notes for lecture on ethics prepared for Cornell University, holograph	1965
b. 6, f. 64	List of books: "Sartre's reading in Youth", holograph	n.d.

ORIGINAL COLLECTION MATERIAL

b. 7, f. 65	Notes by John Gerassi on origin of collection	ca. 1998
b. 7, f. 66	Original manuscript covers received with collection	n.d.

Restricted Fragile Materials

Restricted Fragile Materials contains original audiotapes.

Restricted fragile material. Use copies of audiotapes have been created for consultation. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

JOHN GERASSI INTERVIEWS WITH JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

b. 8-10 41 audio cassette tapes

OTHER SARTRE INTERVIEWS

b. 10 3 audio cassette tapes

JOHN GERASSI INTERVIEWS WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, & FOES OF SARTRE

b. 11 22 audio cassette tapes

DUPLICATES OF INTERVIEWS

b. 13, 12 10 Master AMPEX audiotapes

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, French -- 20th Century
Philosophers -- France

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials
Interviews
Sound recordings

Names

Aron, Raymond, 1905-1983 -- Interviews
Beauvoir, Simone de, 1908-1986 -- Interviews
Elkaïm-Sartre, Arlette -- Interviews
Gerassi, John (1931-2002)
Lanzmann, Claude, 1925- -- Interviews
Pontalis, J.-B., 1924-2013 -- Interviews
Sartre, Jean-Paul, 1905-1980
Sartre, Jean-Paul, 1905-1980 -- Friends and
associates
Sartre, Jean-Paul, 1905-1980 -- Interviews