

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Harold Igo papers

YCAL MSS 1313



by Jessica Tai

December 2020

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 1313

**CREATOR:** Igo, Harold

**TITLE:** Harold Igo Papers

**DATES:** 1910–1996

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 18.58 linear feet (25 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** This collection contains writings, correspondence, notebooks, photographs, scrapbooks, and other papers by or related to American writer, newspaper reporter, and playwright Harold Igo.

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

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## 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.igo>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Dorothy L. Rodgers, 2014 and 2016.

November 2016 acquisition, gift of David M. Rodgers, 2016.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Harold Igo Papers 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.

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## Preferred Citation

Harold Igo Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Harold Igo

Harold Igo (1892-1976) was a writer, newspaper reporter, and playwright. Igo was born in New Florence, Pennsylvania and graduated from Westminster College with a Bachelor of Philosophy in 1915. Igo served overseas in the Army in 1918, and when he returned, decided to become a journalist. He organized the Rio News Syndicate to cover South America for a group of small town North American newspapers and worked for eight years as a reporter. In 1926, he founded the Youngstown Theater, and from 1931-1932 studied play writing and directing at Yale University. From 1933 to 1948, Igo resided in Yellow Springs, Ohio with his wife Sara McKnight Igo. During this time he wrote a number of plays, including *American Mass*, *Coopy When*, *Ohio Doom*, *Steel*, and *Remember Bud Jones*. Igo was the founding director of The Island Players Community Theater in Anna Maria Island in 1949, until his retirement in 1966.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains writings, correspondence, notebooks, photographs, scrapbooks, and other papers by or related to American writer, newspaper reporter, and playwright Harold Igo.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three groupings: I. June 2014 acquisition, 1910 - 1996. II. October 2016 acquisition, 1970 - 1979. III. November 2016 acquisition, 1950 - 1989.

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## Collection Contents

### June 2014 acquisition, 1910–1996

18.17 linear feet (24 boxes)

Material includes correspondence, writings and play drafts by Igo, and personal and professional papers.

Gift of Dorothy L. Rogers, 2014.

Arranged into the following series: I. Correspondence, 1931-1976, II. Plays, 1926-1975, III. Professional papers, 1918 - 1996, IV. Personal papers, 1910 - 1984.

	Series I: Correspondence 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)	1931-1976
	Includes correspondence with Igo's wife, Sara McKnight (1902-1998), McKnight's family correspondence, and correspondence with Indian novelist and short story writer Gurbakhsh Singh.	
	Material is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.	
b. 12	Fulton, Lois M.	1970–1976
b. 1	Igo, Harold and Sara McNight 5 Folders	1931–1932
b. 2	Igo, Harold and Sara McNight 3 Folders	1933–1961
b. 12	Igo, Robert K.	1971–1976
b. 2	McKnight, Sara: correspondence with parents	1935-1939
b. 2	Singh, Gurbakhsh	1970–1976
b. 2	Trepte, Clarabel M.	1973–1974
b. 2, 12	Various correspondents 5 Folders	circa 1937-1976
	Series II: Plays 4.17 linear feet (10 boxes)	1926-1975
	Includes typed drafts of plays written by Igo. Drafts includes plays with corresponding notes, and drafts with annotations.	
	Material is arranged alphabetically by title, with early plays located at the end of the series.	
b. 2	<i>After the World is Over</i>	undated
b. 3	<i>American Mass</i> 4 Folders	1937
b. 3	<i>Brazil Bum</i>	1947
b. 3–4	<i>Coopy When</i> 3 Folders	1940-1966

## Series II: Plays (continued)

b. 4	<i>Daisy Bell</i> 2 Folders	1937
b. 4	<i>The Day the Preacher Swore</i>	undated
b. 4	<i>Father and Family</i>	undated
b. 4	<i>Golden Crow</i> 2 Folders	1948
b. 5	<i>Had Lincoln Laughed: A Drama of Exile</i>	undated
b. 5	<i>Is Saturn Open on Saturday Night?</i> 4 Folders	1969-1970
b. 5	<i>My Boys in the Pentagon</i>	1951
b. 6-7	<i>Ohio Doom</i> 8 Folders	1936-1964
b. 7	<i>Remember Bud Jones</i>	1942
b. 7-9	<i>Royal Jack</i> 12 Folders	1950-1975
b. 9-10	<i>Sand Dollar Circus</i> 2 Folders	1953
b. 10	<i>Steel</i> 4 Folders	1935-1936
b. 11	<i>Virgin Queen</i> 2 Folders	1957
b. 11	<i>William, William Don't Look Down</i>	undated
b. 11	<i>The Wimple</i>	undated
b. 11	<i>Wounded Name</i>	1948
b. 11	<i>Yellow Clover</i>	undated
b. 11	"Earliest Plays" Includes, <i>Had Lincoln Laughed: A Play in Four Acts</i> , <i>March Malen: A Folk Play of the Steel Mills</i> , <i>Maude Martin</i> , <i>The Wimple</i> , <i>Crop Over Jump Up</i> , and <i>Devil's Acre: A Drama of the Mills in Three Acts</i>	1926-1927
	Series III: Professional papers 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes) Includes Igo's writing works and notes. Writings include short stories, poems, notes, play drafts, and song lyrics. Material is arranged alphabetically by folder title.	1918-1996
b. 13	"Biographical": correspondence, notes, play draft and poems	circa 1945-1991
b. 13	Drafts, correspondence, notes	1918-1996
b. 13	"Island Players"	undated

## Series III: Professional papers (continued)

b. 13	Notes and notebooks	1979, undated
b. 13	Notes, poems, short stories, and correspondence	circa 1921-1951
b. 13	Notes, short stories, and correspondence	1954-1970, Undated
b. 13	Notebook	undated
b. 14	Notebook for "Children of the Dark"	1955-1956
b. 14	Notebook for "Matriarch"	1938-1939
b. 14	Play drafts, poems, and short stories	undated
b. 14	Play programs	1928-1930
b. 14	Short stories <i>3 Folders</i> Includes the short stories, "An Agent of Truman," "Four Strikes and You're Out!," and "The Lightnin' Bug Special."	undated
b. 14	Short stories Stories include "The Day Harry Thaw Met Carrie Nation," "The Game We Almost Didn't Win," and "I Remember Harry."	undated
b. 14	Songs and verses	undated
	Series IV: Personal papers Includes photographs, scrapbooks, clippings, and other personal papers. Scrapbooks include clippings and other material related to Yellow Springs, Ohio, photographs, clippings, and programs related to The Island Players Community Theater, and other material related to Igo's plays, including clippings, programs, and photographs.  Material is arranged alphabetically by folder title.	1910-1984
b. 15	The Argo: Westminster College Yearbook	1915
b. 15	Family History	1980-1984
b. 15	Funeral guest book for Harold Igo	1976
b. 15	Legal documents	1925-1929
b. 15	Magazines	1960-1962
b. 16	Newspaper Clippings	1920, 1976
b. 16	Newspaper Clippings	1943-1970
b. 16	Notebook	
b. 16	Notebook with personal papers	circa 1910-1956
b. 16	Photographs	undated

## Series IV: Personal papers (continued)

b. 16	Photograph album	circa 1910s-1920s
b. 16	Photographs with writing by George Santayana	1923
b. 17	Scrapbook	1930-1944
b. 18	Scrapbook	1930-1959
b. 19	Scrapbook	1943
b. 20	Scrapbook	1944
b. 21	Scrapbook	1950-1959
b. 22	Scrapbook This scrapbook contains an image of the racist practice of yellowface, the portrayal of East Asians by white actors.	circa 1950-1960s
b. 23	Scrapbook	1956-1960
b. 24	Scrapbook	undated
b. 16	Westminster class reunion directory	undated



**October 2016 acquisition, 1970–1979**

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Gift of Dorothy L. Rogers, 2016.

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b. 25	Notebook featuring clippings and photographs	circa 1972-1975
b. 25	Notebook featuring writings, notes, and clippings	circa 1970s

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## November 2016 acquisition, 1950–1989

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Gift of David M. Rodgers, 2016.

b. 25	Biographical papers Includes a biographical statement, summaries of Igo's plays, and poems by Igo.	circa 1970s-1980s
b. 25	Documentation of artwork by Igo	undated
b. 25	Warder Public Library card	circa 1950s-1960s

## **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**

Plays  
Playwriting  
Scrapbooks  
Theatrical producers and directors  
Theatrical producers and directors -- United States  
Writers, American -- 20th Century

### **Genres / Formats**

Playscripts

### **Names**

Igo, Harold

### **Corporate Body**

Island Players Community Theater