

Guide to the Benjamin Fondane Papers

GEN MSS 750



by Lisa Conathan

2010

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 750

CREATOR: Fondane, Benjamin, 1898-1944

TITLE: Benjamin Fondane papers

DATES: 1912-1943

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.67 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In Romanian and French.

SUMMARY: The papers document the life and writing of poet and philosopher Benjamin Fondane. Writings include holograph manuscripts of approximately 650 poems, 55 works of prose and 9 playscripts. Prose writings consist chiefly of holograph drafts of short untitled essays or notes (some fragmentary) on topics related to poetry and philosophy. Also included is a holograph draft of Fondane's first book *Tagaduinta lui Petru* (1918). Poems consist of holograph drafts of original poems and translations, some titled, others untitled. While most of the writings are undated, they appear to date from before 1923, the year Fondane emigrated to France. Correspondence (incoming and outgoing) is with Fondane's sisters Lina and Rodica Wechsler, other family members, and the journal *Hatikvah*. Other papers include a catalog of the avant garde theater group *Insula*, which Fondane co-founded. Material is chiefly in Romanian; some correspondence is in French.

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

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.fondane>.

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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Ubu Gallery on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2002.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Benjamin Fondane 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.

Preferred Citation

Benjamin Fondane Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

The collection is comprised of material formerly classed as: Uncat MSS 356.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from a dealer description and from an initial survey of the contents. This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for revisions in arrangement and description.

Existence and Location of Copies

The collection is also available on microfilm.

Associated Materials

Printed material received with the collection (*Poezii*, București 1978, and issues of the journal *Hatikvah*) was removed for separate cataloging and can be accessed by searching the library's online catalog.

Benjamin Fondane, 1898-1944

Benjamin Fondane, Romanian-French Symbolist poet and philosopher, born Benjamin Wechsler, 1898 in Iași, Romania and died 1944 in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Scope and Contents

The papers document the life and writing of poet and philosopher Benjamin Fondane. Writings include holograph manuscripts of approximately 650 poems, 55 works of prose and 9 playscripts. Prose writings consist chiefly of holograph drafts of short untitled essays or notes (some fragmentary) on topics related to poetry and philosophy. Also included is a holograph draft of Fondane's first book *Tagaduinta lui Petru*

(1918). Poems consist of holograph drafts of original poems and translations, some titled, others untitled. While most of the writings are undated, they appear to date from before 1923, the year Fondane emigrated to France. Correspondence (incoming and outgoing) is with Fondane's sisters Lina and Rodica Wechsler, other family members, and the journal *Hatikvah*. Other papers include a catalog of the avant garde theater group Insula, which Fondane co-founded. Material is chiefly in Romanian; some correspondence is in French.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Writings, 1912-1923. II. Correspondence and Other Papers, 1912-1943.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1912-1923

1.46 linear feet (4 boxes)

Organized by type of material

b.1	Prose <i>90 Folders</i>	undated
b.1	Tagaduinta lui Peter, draft	1918
b.2	Poems <i>85 Folders</i>	undated
b.3	Poems <i>33 Folders</i>	undated
b.4	Poems <i>9 Folders</i>	undated
b.4	Poetry (notebooks) <i>16 Folders</i>	1913-1914, undated
b.4	Notes	undated
b.4	Playscripts <i>4 Folders</i>	1916

Series II: Correspondence and Other Papers, 1912-1943*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Correspondence is arranged roughly chronologically. Other papers are filed after correspondence.

b. 5	Correspondence Chiefly to and from Lina Wechsler.	1909-1913
b. 5	Correspondence Includes Rodica Wechsler and <i>Hatikvah</i> .	1914-1915, undated
b. 5	Correspondence	undated
b. 5	Correspondence	1924-1930
b. 5	Correspondence	1931-1934
b. 5	Correspondence	1935
b. 5	Correspondence	1936
b. 5	Correspondence	1937
b. 5	Correspondence	1938
b. 5	Correspondence	1939
b. 5	Correspondence	1940
b. 5	Correspondence	1941-1943
b. 5	School records	1909-1910
b. 5	Catalog of Insula <i>2 Folders</i>	1922-1923
b. 5	Address book	undated

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

Dadaism
Romanian literature
Romanian literature -- Jewish authors
Romanian poetry
Symbolism

Occupations

Poets

Names

Fondane, Benjamin, 1898-1944
Wechsler, Lina
Wechsler, Rodica

Corporate Bodies

Hatikvah : publicatie zionista bilunara
Insula (Theater group)