

# Guide to the Harry Holtzman Papers

GEN MSS 819



by Beinecke staff

2007-05-16

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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 819

**CREATOR:** Holtzman, Harry, 1912-1987

**TITLE:** Harry Holtzman papers

**DATES:** 1945-1987

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 26.9 linear feet (30 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Harry Holtzman Papers contain correspondence, writings, photographs, negatives, slides, notes, personal papers, and motion picture films which document the life and career of author and educator Harry Holtzman, principally his work with and writings on the painter Piet Mondrian.

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

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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.holtzman>.

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 the Elizabeth McManus Holtzman Irrevocable Trust, 1999.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 28 (motion picture films): restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Harry Holtzman 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

Harry Holtzman Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

This collection received a basic level of processing. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below, identified by month and year of acquisition.

The finding aid for this collection is compiled from individual preliminary lists for each acquisition that were created at the time of receipt by the library; however, the content of the lists was neither modified nor verified. As a rule, descriptive information found in the Collection Contents section is drawn in large part 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.

Former call numbers: Uncat MS Vault 850, Uncat MS Vault 856, Uncat MS Vault 859.

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## Harry Holtzman (1912-1987)

Harry Holtzman was born in New York, and studied at the Art Students League under Hans Hoffman. In the early 1930s Holtzman traveled to Paris where he met the Dutch painter Piet Mondrian (1872-1944), and in 1940 sponsored Mondrian's immigration to the United States. From 1950 to 1975 Holtzman taught at Brooklyn College. He was the author and editor of several books on Mondrian and was executor of the painter's estate.

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## Scope and Contents

The Harry Holtzman Papers contain correspondence, writings, photographs and negatives, slides, notes, personal papers, and motion picture films that document the life and career of author and educator Harry Holtzman, principally his work with and writings on the painter Piet Mondrian.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three groupings by date of accession: I. January 1999 Acquisition. II. March 1999 Acquisition, 1945-1987. III. June 1999 Acquisition.

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## Collection Contents

### 1: January 1999 Acquisition

23.6 linear feet (25 boxes)

Correspondence, photographs, slides, negatives, printed material, writings, including manuscripts and typescripts, notes, personal papers, and three 16mm films; the films are held in Box 28 as Restricted Fragile material.

b. 1	<a href="#">Passports, datebooks, address books, certificates and awards, postcards, and art exhibit brochures</a> 25 Folders	
b. 2	Notes and notebooks 15 Folders	
b. 3	<a href="#">Harry Holtzman photographs</a> 9 Folders	
b. 4	Articles, notes and letters 19 Folders	
b. 5	European slides 6 Folders	1980s
b. 6	<a href="#">Notebooks, letters, file cards, personal addresses and phone numbers</a> 10 Folders	
b. 7	Notebooks, letters, file cards, personal addresses and phone numbers 9 Folders	
b. 8	Book materials, lectures and correspondence 16 Folders	
b. 9	Arnold Newman, book photographs, Mondrian, Pollack, Duchamp, and Warhol files and postcards 7 Folders	
b. Box 9a	Binder containing pages related to Piet Mondrian, DE STIJL. 1 File (Three ring binder)	
b. 10	Book notes and other papers 35 Folders	
b. 11	Miscellaneous files and correspondence 36 Folders	
b. 12	<a href="#">"Transformation" notes, articles, postcards, correspondence, and photographs of travels</a> 21 Folders	
b. 13	Miscellaneous files including interview with Thelonius Monk 29 Folders	
b. 14	<i>New Art New Life</i> , early draft 58 Folders	

b. 15	<a href="#">Letters to and from publishers regarding Mondrian book</a> <i>19 Folders</i>	
b. 16	<a href="#">Contact sheets and strip negatives; photographs taken by Harry Holtzman</a> <i>14 Folders</i>	
b. 17	Correspondence <i>13 Folders</i>	1975-1985
b. 18	<i>New Art New Life</i> : typescript <i>19 Folders</i>	
b. 19	<i>New Art New Life</i> : typescript <i>2 Folders</i>	
b. 20	<i>New Art New Life</i> : Mondrian articles <i>29 Folders</i>	
b. 21	[Piet Mondrian] book drafts <i>9 Folders</i>	
b. 22	General semantics, Mondrian book <i>10 Folders</i>	
b. 23	<a href="#">Correspondence, personal addresses, cards, notes, articles, death certificate, and other papers</a> <i>80 Folders</i>	
b. 24	Oversize material removed from various boxes	
b. 29	PM notes binder Holtzman's binder that formerly held material now in Piet Mondrian Papers (GEN MSS 1102).	undated

**2: March 1999 Acquisition, 1945-1987***0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

b. 25	Condolence notes	1987
b. 25	Beldrecht correspondence	1985-1986
b. 25	Tax records	1980-1987
b. 25	Mondrian collection inventory	1956, undated
b. 25	Storage bills	1982-1983
b. 25	Museum of Modern Art correspondence	1945-1958
b. 25	Expenses	1983
b. 25	Legal documents and correspondence	1945-1983
b. 25	Miscellaneous notes and correspondence	1956-1985
b. 26	Rolodex	undated

### 3: June 1999 Acquisition

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

b. 27	Personal notes; address book <i>6 Folders</i>	undated
b. 27	Collected writings	undated
b. 27	Letter from Robert Motherwell	1984 Mar 22



## Restricted Fragile

Box 28 (motion picture films): restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

- |       |   |         |
|-------|---|---------|
| b. 28 | 16mm films (3) (in January 1999 Acquisition)  | undated |
|       | The three films are undated 16mm copies made at America Film Studios in Hamden, Connecticut. Film number 1 is labeled "Tiberius Palace '48." Film number 2 is labeled "man and woman on boat - lots of seagulls." Film number 3 is labeled "woman on hillside - horse - boats." |         |
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## **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**

Artists  
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives

### **Genres / Formats**

Audiovisual materials  
Color slides  
Motion pictures (visual works)  
Negatives (photographic)  
Photograph albums -- United States -- 20th Century  
Photographs -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Occupations**

Artists -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Holtzman, Harry, 1912-1987  
Mondrian, Piet, 1872-1944