

# Guide to the World War II Collection

MS 688



compiled by Ruth Gay and staff of Manuscripts and Archives

September 1973

Yale University Library  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 688

**TITLE:** World War II collection

**DATES:** 1937-2008

**BULK DATES:** 1937-1946

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 29.25 linear feet (73 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Over fifteen languages, primarily English, French, Spanish, Polish, Italian, and German.

**SUMMARY:** An artificial collection of publications, including propaganda, leaflets, posters, underground material, newspapers, correspondence, and memorabilia written in approximately fifteen languages from fifty nations which relate to World War II.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0688>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0688>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The bulk of the material was collected by Joseph T. Curtiss for the Yale Library Project. Transferred from Zeta Collection, 2004. Gift of Tanja Lorkovic, 2008. Gift of Robert Booth, 2008. Gift of David Wyatt Aiken, Sr., 2010. Gift of Thomas McCarthy, 2019. Gift of Robert J. Hener, 2020.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

World War II Collection (MS 688). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Processing Information

This finding aid was revised in 2021 to address outdated or harmful descriptive language. During that revision, description was changed in the folder title of Series I, box 29, folder 331. References to Japanese American "relocation" during World War II was removed and replaced with community recommended and currently accepted terminology, such as "Japanese American forced removal" and "incarceration." Previous versions of this finding aid may be available. Please contact Manuscripts and Archives for details. If you have questions or comments about these revisions, please contact Manuscripts and Archives or the Archival and Manuscript Description Committee. For more information on reparative archival description at Yale, see [Yale's Statement on Harmful Language in Archival Description](#).

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## Existence and Location of Copies

Box 42 of Series II, Leaflets, Newspapers and Reports, is available on microfilm (1 reel, 35 mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM261.

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## Scope and Contents

The bulk of the material in the WORLD WAR II COLLECTION was gathered in connection with a project sponsored during the war by the United States Office of Strategic Services. This operation, called the "Yale Library Project," was devised in 1942 and had as its purpose the collection of Axis intelligence through an agent stationed in a neutral country. Joseph T. Curtiss, a professor of English at Yale University, was chosen by the OSS as the agent whose ostensible mission was to collect war propaganda for the Yale Library. He was sent to Turkey in April 1943 and until his departure in September 1945 he not only gathered material for the OSS, but also shipped two tons of war literature back to the United States. These publications were ultimately distributed among a number of interested libraries, including Yale.

Yale also received two substantial gifts of propaganda material prepared by the Psychological Warfare Branch of the Allied Expeditionary Force. Colonel Heber Blankenhorn contributed leaflets, newspapers, and brochures designed for the European theatre, while Colonel Jo Zack Miller donated several series of leaflets prepared for use in the Pacific. Other gifts have expanded the collection to include posters and memorabilia as well as printed matter.

In addition the collection includes a number of diaries, letters and reports by civilians who were in the war zones. These were sent to the Yale Library by interested alumni and others who wanted a permanent place to deposit these accounts. In 1981 all this material was brought together under the general title: World War II Collection.

The collection contains materials printed in fifteen languages from some fifty countries and gives the reader a broad sampling of the aims and propaganda appeals of both Axis and Allied governments, including governments-in-exile. The material has been divided into three series: Series I, GENERAL PUBLICATIONS; Series II, LEAFLETS, NEWSPAPERS AND REPORTS; and Series III, CIVILIAN CORRESPONDENCE, DIARIES AND MEMORABILIA.

Series I, GENERAL PUBLICATIONS is arranged alphabetically by the name of the country issuing the material and further divided by language. Occasional monographs printed independently or in scholarly journals during the war are also included, and are filed according to the country of their subject. The publications of official government agencies, governments-in-exile and of support groups abroad are all filed under the name of the country. The literature issued in Polish and English by the Polish government-in-exile, for example, as well as publications by sympathetic American Polish groups are all filed under Poland. A similar procedure was followed for the governments-in-exile of France and the Netherlands. Literature issued by the German occupation authorities in those countries will be found under "Germany - French language" and "Germany - Dutch language." The publications of the native collaborationist group in the Netherlands, however, are filed under Netherlands.

The publications of the governments-in-exile tend to be theoretical and historical in nature, while the literature issued by the governments actively engaged in the conflict is on a more pragmatic level with bulletins on how to use a gas mask, on war time nutrition, on production levels, etc. The materials for the United States and Great Britain cover ca. 10 and 4 linear feet respectively and contain civilian as well as official government materials providing an overview of life in these countries during the war. Included are campaign histories, literature issued by war protesters, government reports on domestic and foreign affairs, materials issued by war relief organizations, memoranda on post war aims and considerable material issued by civilian defense organizations.

A small number of special subjects have been interfiled among the countries in the appropriate alphabetical position. These are: Catholic Church, Concentration camps, Jews, NATO, United Nations, UNRRA, and War crimes and trials.

Series II, LEAFLETS, NEWSPAPERS AND REPORTS is made up of what were called "white bombs" i.e. propaganda leaflets dropped from airplanes and manifestos and newspapers issued by the military in the course of field operations. The series is divided into two parts. The first consists of leaflets arranged by the issuing agency or country, and grouped according to the population to which it was directed. The Allied Command, for example, issued separate literature for the German army, for German civilians and for foreign workers in Germany.

This part also contains an exceptionally complete series of leaflets issued in the last days of the campaign in the Pacific. Included are leaflets addressed to Japanese soldiers urging them to surrender, a variety of safe-conduct passes, and instructions on how to approach American army lines. There are also leaflets addressed to the civilian populations in the Philippines, Okinawa, Formosa and other islands, issued as the fighting approached these areas. Most of the leaflets and newspapers, some of which were meant to be dropped by airplane in combat areas, are accompanied by English translations. The sophisticated design and typography will be an additional source of interest to students of the period. It should be noted that this part contains publications not only by the Allies, but also leaflets issued by Germany and Japan addressed to Allied troops and urging surrender.

The second part of the series consists of newspapers and other publications issued by the advancing Allied armies after the D-Day invasion, arranged by language. Since the literature dates from the last years of the war, the items from Europe contain many news bulletins (in the leaflets as well as the newspapers) charting the daily progress of the advancing Russian and Allied armies. Also included here are reports, memoranda and manuals concerning the psychological warfare operations of the United States and of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

Series III, CIVILIAN CORRESPONDENCE, DIARIES AND MEMORABILIA consists of letters from Americans in various parts of the world to their family and friends at home relating their war experiences. The letters are arranged by the country from which they were written and come from all parts of Asia and Europe, with one letter from the Argentine Republic. Of special interest is a letter to her parents from a young girl who

was in Hawaii at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor giving a civilian report on the event. Mementoes of both German and Allied origin make up the few items of memorabilia included in this series.

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## **Arrangement**

Arranged in three series and twelve additions: I. General Publications, 1937-1946. II. Leaflets, Newspapers, and Reports, 1941-1945. III. Civilian Correspondence, Diaries, and Memorabilia, 1937-1946.

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	Government reports	
b. 27A	Office of Strategic Services. Mediterranean Section. Coordinator of Information. <i>The Railroads of West and Central Africa</i> . Vol. 1 (Part 8 of C.O.I.'s Monograph No. 4)	1942 March 26
b. 27B	Office of Strategic Services. Research and Analysis Branch. African Section. <i>Transafrican Overland Routes: Ports Railroads, Rivers and Lakes, Roads</i> . Report No. 54	1942 July 2
b. 27C	Office of Strategic Services. Research and Analysis Branch. <i>Morocco</i> . Vol. 1	1942 August 3
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	A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	
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Reports, memoranda, manuals and books written or collected by Lt. Col. Heber Blankenhorn concerning United States psychological warfare operations. Much of the material was produced by the Psychological Warfare Branches of the War Department and the Allied Force Headquarters.		
Reports		
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b. 43B, f. 108	Report on combat propaganda leaflets and Blankenhorn, Heber. <i>Soldiers Committees: History of MO Project (Black), 1944-1945</i> A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1943-1945
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b. 43C, f. 114	<i>Military Intelligence Propaganda</i>	[1940]
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b. 47, f. 50	Order to report for military service, issued at Munich	1942 May 4
b. 47, f. 50	Three printed forms of the military government during the Allied Occupation of Germany	1945-1946
b. 47, f. 51	Papers of the 207A Divisione Costiera. Stato Maggiore. News bulletins and troop movements	1942 November 25- 1943 June 10
b. 47, f. 51	Invasion scrip for France	1944
b. 47, f. 52	Various memorabilia items	
b. 47, f. 52	Metal pins issued 1933, 1939-1940. Trier	
b. 47, f. 52	United States. War ration books	Circa 1942-1944
b. 47, f. 52	Bouquet and ribbon presented to liberating American soldiers entering Belgium	1945
b. 47, f. 53	Associated Press flashes on the outbreak of the war	1941 December 7-11
b. 47, f. 54	Manzanar Relocation Area: scrip	1942
b. 47, f. 55	Photograph of first American air fighter group to work on a British carrier. Black and white. Two copies, 22x17 cm. 25x21 cm.	1943
b. 47, f. 56	TLS from Kenneth Clark to Melville Millar, pertaining to the bombing of Pisa, Italy (Accession 95-M-187)	1971 January 28
b. 47, f. 57	"These Are Our Men": war bond portfolio promoting a series of radio programs dedicated to the sale of war bonds (Accession 96-M-14)	[1944]
b. 47, f. 58	Canadian ration books (2) in holder	[1940s]

**OVERSIZE MATERIALS**

b. 48	Bound volumes of wartime front page headlines of American newspapers [photocopies]	
b. 48	Russian-European campaign	
b. 49	German language leaflets 14A-14D	
	Posters	
b. 50	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (UNRRA); the effort on the homefront, such as buying war bonds, recruitment of nurses, and related topics	
b. 50	"Aufruf an die französische Bevölkerung/Proclamation À la Population Française (Accession 89-M-075)	
b. 50	"The U.S. Navy Presents 'Hit The Beach! Demonstrating Amphibious Warfare'" [poster of a traveling exhibit, the LST-512 assault ship] (Accession 2000-M-065) See also: <a href="#">Accession 2000-M-076</a>	1946

**Accession 1989-M-075: Additional Material, 1930s-1943***0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

Addition Inventory by Carol King 1989 Mar

Received from: Donald Gallup, 1989 Mar 16

b. 1, f. 1	"A Pocket Guide to France," a publication by the War and Navy Departments geared to the American soldier	undated
b. 1, f. 1	"French Phrase Book, Technical Manual" published by the War Department	1943 January 15
b. 1, f. 2	"Speed the Second Front," by Harry Pollitt, published by the Communist Party of Great Britain	1942 July
b. 1, f. 3	A series of German picture booklets (measuring 1 1/2" x 1 3/4" each) pertaining to Hitler:	
b. 1, f. 3	Der Führer und die Bewegung	1932-1936
b. 1, f. 3	Der Führer macht Geschichte	1934, 1936
b. 1, f. 3	Der Führer und das Winterhilfswerk	1933-1937
b. 1, f. 3	Des Führers Kampf in Holland (2)	1940
b. 1, f. 3	Des Führers Kampf in Norwegen (2)	1940
b. 1, f. 3	Des Führers Kampf zur See	1939-1940
b. 1, f. 3	Des Führers Kampf im Osten (Books 1-2, 4-5) (2 copies of #4)	undated
b. 1, f. 3	Der Führer und Sein Volk	undated
b. 1, f. 3	Poster entitled "Aufruf an die französische Bevölkerung/Proclamation À la Population Française	undated

## **Accession 1990-M-044: Additional Material, 1940**

*1 Item*

Addition inventory by Carol King 1990 Apr

Received from: Mary A. Curry, 1990 Feb 14

b. 1

Address by Winston Churchill, (poster)

1940 June 4

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## Accession 1996-M-070: Additional Material, 1944, 1991–1994 (inclusive), 1994 (bulk)

Fiftieth anniversary of D-Day landings in Normandy		
b. 1, f. 1	American publications [brochures, programs]	1994
b. 1, f. 2	English publications [brochures, programs; includes listings of exhibits at the Imperial War Museum in London depicting war in the twentieth century]	1991, 1994
b. 1, f. 3	<i>The Stars and Stripes</i> [daily newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces in the European Theater of Operations]	1944 June 24, July 4
b. 1, f. 3	Commemorative Edition	1994 June 6
b. 1, f. 4	"1994: Road to Victory" [fourth issue of U.S. postage stamps in the fiftieth anniversary series; first day cover]	1994
b. 1, f. 5	"Once Upon a Time..." [booklet published by the Historical Society of Neuilly-la-forêt; dedicated to the 474th Fighter Group of American pilots]	[1994]

## Accession 1997-M-068: Additional Material, 1945

b. 1, f. 1	<p>"The Personal Experiences of Robert T. Booth Who Was a Prisoner of War in Belgium and Germany, January-May 1945," by Robert T. Booth (Class of 1945, ROTC)</p> <p>The original memoir was written in 1996. The donor sent a revised 2005 version and requested that it replace the original memoir which was returned to him.</p>	2005 April
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Accession 1998-M-115: Additional Material

Photographs [camp life on Buota Island, Tarawa Atoll, and the Gilbert Islands (Kiribati)]; taken by camp photographer of the U. S. Navy CB Maintenance Unit 577		
b. 1, f. 1	Bob Hope show	1944 July
b. 1, f. 2	"Shoot the Works" [army show]	1944 September
b. 1, f. 3	Jack Benny show	1944 October
b. 1, f. 4	Air base [Buota]	1944

Accession 1999-M-039: Additional Material

Mount Vernon Peace Council

Information sheets [editor, Raymond Smith Jewett (Class of 1897, Yale  
Sheffield Scientific School)]

b. 1, f. 1	1937-1939	1937-1939
b. 1, f. 2	1940-1946	1940-1946

**Accession 1999-M-083: Additional Material**

Also includes Accession 1999-M-101

b. 1, f. 1	"Memoirs of Yale and World War II," by William Evans Scott	1995
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence and memoranda pertaining to the intelligence work of Colonels DeForest Van Slyck and William Chanler relating to American post hostilities policy towards Japan	1945, 1960, 1970, 1973
b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence of Dick Hechinger [written to family while stationed in Europe as part of 331st Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division, Army]	1944 July-1945 February
b. 1, f. 5	Postcards [scenes of military life and weaponry]	1942, undated

**Accession 2000-M-076: Additional Material**

Also includes Accession 2002-M-022

b. 1, f. 1	"History of the USS LST 512: United States Navy Traveling, Exhibit Ship," See also: <a href="#">Oversize materials for accompanying poster.</a>	1945 March - 1946 January
b. 1, f. 2	"The Seventy-First Came to Gunskirchen Lager" [booklet compiled by the Seventy-First Division of the U.S. Army], ca. 1945; news clipping	1996

**Accession 2002-M-033: Additional Material**

b. 1, f. 1-2	Persian/English, English/Persian dictionary [compiled by Ahmad Saidi, U.S. Office of War Information, for American military personnel]	1945
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Persian Voice of America [12" records recorded by Ahmad Saidi]. The following recordings have been transferred to Historical Sound Recordings, Music Library, Sterling Memorial Library; appointment with curator required.

b. 1, f. 1-2	Opening speech of an Iranian living in the United States (#1A, parts 1, 2)
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b. 1, f. 1-2	Prospect of World Youth (#3, part 1)
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b. 1, f. 1-2	Roosevelt's Students' Speech (#5, part 1)
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b. 1, f. 1-2	Post War Society (parts 1, 2)
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b. 1, f. 1-2	Prospect of World Youth (part 2)
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**Accession 2005-M-010: Additional Material, 1940-1946**

The accession is divided into two parts: Rationing in World War II and Photographs of naval and aerial operations in World War II. Rationing in World War II consists primarily of ration tickets, tokens, and books. Photographs of naval and aerial operations in World War II also contain a small amount of printed matter, which is mainly to help identify ships and planes.

Rationing in World War II		
b. 1, f. 1	Alcohol and tobacco rationing	1943 May 25, 1944 September 22, circa 1945
b. 1, f. 2	Certificate of Registrar [2 with war rations books]	1942 May 4, 5
b. 1, f. 3	Food rationing	Circa 1942-1945
b. 1, f. 4-6	Gasoline rationing	Circa 1942-1945
b. 1, f. 7	Ration tokens	Circa 1942-1945
b. 1, f. 8	"Rationing in World War II [publication put out by the United States Office of Price Administration]	1946 November
b. 1, f. 9	Tire rationing	Circa 1942-1945
b. 1, f. 10	Various rations [including bicycles, typewriters, shoes, and others]	Circa 1942-1945
b. 1, f. 11	War rations books two, three, and four	Circa 1942-1945
Photographs of naval and aerial operations in World War II [arranged alphabetically by location]		
b. 1, f. 12	Coral Sea	1942 June 12, 20
b. 1, f. 13	Guam and Guadalcanal	1942 November 21, December 21, 1944 July 12
b. 1, f. 14	Hong Kong and Jaluit	1944 January 16, undated
b. 1, f. 15	Kavieng [Papua New Guinea]	1943 December 25
b. 1, f. 16	Komandorski Islands	1943 June 4, August 15
b. 1, f. 17	Kwajalein, Midway, and Nantucket	1942 January 4, 1944 January 12, October 23
b. 1, f. 18	Naura raid	1943 December 8
b. 1, f. 19	New Ireland [Papua New Guinea]	Undated
b. 1, f. 20	Normandy and North Africa	1942 Nov, undated

## Photographs of naval and aerial operations in World War II [arra [...]] (continued)

b. 1, f. 21	Pagan, Palau, and the Philippines	1944 March 29,30, June 23, November 4
b. 1, f. 22	Rabaul and Rekata Bay	1942 October 25, 1943 November 5
b. 1, f. 23	Saipan and Santa Cruz	1942 October 26, 1944 April 18
b. 1, f. 24	Sicily, invasion of	1943 July- August
b. 1, f. 25	Tanamboga and Gavatu Islands	1942 August 7
b. 1, f. 26	Tarawa Atoll	1943 November 18-20
b. 1, f. 27	Tonolei Harbor	1942 December 10
b. 1, f. 28	Tulagi Harbor	1942 August 7, 9
b. 1, f. 29	Vanakanau	1943 October 12, November 10
	Location unknown	
b. 2, f. 30	Allied Fleet unites and groups	Undated
b. 2, f. 31	British ships	Undated
b. 2, f. 32	Italian ships	Undated
b. 2, f. 33-34	Japanese ship identification cards [used by Allied war planes to identify Japanese ships]	1943 June
b. 2, f. 35	Japanese war planes	Undated
b. 2, f. 36	Magazine clippings	Undated
b. 2, f. 37	Ship models	Undated
b. 2, f. 38	Ship/plane identification cards	Undated
b. 2, f. 39	"Ship Recognition Cards for Air Use" [for use by British]	1940 July-1941 November
b. 2, f. 40	Ship recognition manual [for use by Japanese]	Undated
b. 2, f. 41	United States ships	Undated
b. 2, f. 42-44	Miscellaneous	Undated
b. 3	Oversize photographs	

## **Accession 2010-M-123: Additional Material, 2008**

b. 1      "Flight Surgeon: Memories of the Military Career of David Wyatt Aiken, Sr., M.D."      2008

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## **Accession 2021-M-0006: Additional Material, Circa 1943**

Pamphlet titled "Poland Fights the Nazi Dragon," published by Polish War Relief, Chicago, Illinois.

b. 1

"Poland Fights the Nazi Dragon"

Circa 1943

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**Accession 2022-M-0003: Additional Material, 1942**

Scrapbook containing several hundred newspaper cartoons related to the United States war effort during the Second World War. Cartoons illustrate efforts to encourage the United States in joining the war effort and to mobilize the homefront for the war.

b. 1	Scrapbook of World War II newspaper cartoons	1942
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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

D-Day National Remembrance Day  
World War, 1939-1945  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Caricatures and  
cartoons  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Pamphlets  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Propaganda  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Protest movements  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground  
literature

### Names

Curtiss, Joseph T., 1901-1992  
Miller, Jo Zach, 1883-1970

### Corporate Body

Yale University Library. Yale Library Project