

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Paul Novick / Sholem Asch Collection

GEN MSS 117



by Diana M. Smith

August 1994

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Collection Overview

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

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 117

CREATOR: Novik, P., 1891-1989

TITLE: Paul Novick papers relating to Sholem Asch

DATES: 1943-1963

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.5 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Materials chiefly in Yiddish, some in English.

SUMMARY: Collection consists of correspondence, writings, articles and notes by and about Sholem Asch gathered by Paul Novick, editor of the only paper willing to publish him at the height of the controversy over his trilogy, *Der Man fun Notseres* (*The Nazarene*, 1939), *Der Sheliakh* (*The Apostle*, 1943), and *Meri* (*Mary*, 1949). Jewish leaders accused Asch of teaching conversion to Christianity, a charge that Asch emphatically denied. Asch's writings reflect his concern for the Jews in Europe during and after the second World War.

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

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.novick>.

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 Charles Apfelbaum on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1992.

Conditions Governing Access

Restricted Fragile Papers in boxes 3 and 4 may be consulted only with permission of the appropriate curator. Preservation photocopies for reference use have been substituted in the main files. For more information consult with Access Services.

Conditions Governing Use

The Paul Novick / Sholem Asch Collection 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

Paul Novick / Sholem Asch Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, writings, articles and notes by and about Sholem Asch gathered by Paul Novick, editor of the *Morgen Frayhayt* (Morning Freedom), a Communist Party Yiddish newspaper in New York, the only newspaper willing to publish him at the height of the controversy over his trilogy, *Der Man fun Notseres* (The Nazarene) (1939), *Der Sheliekh* (The Apostle) (1943), and *Meri* (Mary) (1949). Jewish leaders accused Asch of teaching conversion to Christianity, a charge that Asch emphatically denied. The correspondence between Asch and Novick make up a large part of the collection.

The Correspondence consists of letters between Asch and Novick at a time when, due to ill health, Asch was advised by his physician not to defend his controversial works in the press. These letters document Asch's reaction to the controversy. Novick's letters are represented by carbon copies. A small section of other letters, mostly to and from Novick about Asch's works, is filed at the end of the series.

The Writings consist of essays by Asch, divided into one section of complete works, and one of incomplete and untitled works. The essays are organized alphabetically by transliterated Yiddish with the English translation appearing in parentheses. The incomplete works have been summarized. The miscellaneous section contains works about Asch, probably written by Novick. Most of the articles have been placed in restricted fragile papers, and reference photocopies have been supplied. In two cases, only the article about Asch was photocopied, and the rest of the paper itself may be consulted in restricted fragile papers.

Collection Contents

Correspondence

Between Asch and Novick

b. 1, f. 1-2	Aug-Oct, Dec	1943
b. 1, f. 3-9	Jan-Dec, n.d.	1944
b. 1, f. 10	Jan-Dec	1945
b. 1, f. 11-12	Jan-Apr, n.d.	1946
b. 1, f. 13	Feb-Oct	1947
b. 1, f. 14	Jan-Oct	1948
b. 1, f. 15	Jul	
b. 1, f. 16	Undated	

Other Correspondence

b. 1, f. 17	Asch to Mr. Perelman of the <i>Morning Freiheit</i>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 18	Committee of Jewish Writers and Artists	1944 Jan 19
b. 1, f. 19	Between Novick and G. P. Putnam's Sons	1948 Feb-Oct
b. 1, f. 20	Yale University Press to Novick	1945 Jan 16

Writings

Essays

b. 1, f. 21	"Eyner fun Dray Milyon" (One in Three Million) typescript, corrected	1945 Mar
b. 1, f. 22	"Farlozt Aykh auf di Boyes" (Rely on the "Boys[?]) holograph, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 23	"Far Yedn Geeynigten Aden [?]-a Bombe--Daytschland" (For Every United [?] --a Bomb--Germany) holograph, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 24	"Fir Brider Zenen Mir Geven" (We Were Four Brothers) holograph, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 25	"Peysekhdikey Gedanken" (Passover Thoughts) typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 26	"Varshe: A fantastish motiv far a [?]" (Warsaw: A fantasy motif for [?]) holograph, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 27	"Der Yidisher Pabyedanavtsar in Zayn Senat" (The Jewish Pabyedanavtsar [?] in his Senate) holograph, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 28	"A Yidish Kind in Shanos 5695: Gevidmet di Kinder in Poylen" (A Jewish Child in the Year 1944/45) holograph, corrected With leaf of instructions to publisher	n.d.
	"Zey Hobn Nisht Keyn Gloybn in Sotsializm" (They Have No Belief in Socialism)	
b. 1, f. 29	Holograph, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 30	Early typescript draft, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 31	Later typescript draft, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 32	"Zolen di Toyte Begrobn di Toyte" (Let the Dead Bury the Dead) holograph, corrected	1944 Feb 14
	Untitled and incomplete essays	
b. 1, f. 33	Untitled essay beginning "Dem tog hot Got geshafn" (God created the day...)	n.d.
b. 1, f. 34	Untitled essay beginning "Ven a ideal aroysgerufn durch noyt un umgezikhigkayt [?] ferfelt oystsufirn zayn misie far welkhn tsvek er iz bashtimt...." (When an ideal called forth by need and lack of foresight [?] fails to accomplish its mission for which purpose it is designated....)	1944 Feb 4
b. 1, f. 35	Untitled essay of personal reflections, holograph, corrected	c. 1943
b. 1, f. 36	Article about the English Labour Party, typescript, corrected, fragment	n.d.
b. 1, f. 37	Article discussing his life and the Asch-Rabinowitz Collection at Yale, typescript, corrected, fragment	n.d.
b. 1, f. 38	Condemnation of Abraham Kahn, typescript, corrected, fragment	n.d.
b. 1, f. 39	<i>Forward's</i> preface to the "Shtetl", fragment	n.d.
b. 1, f. 40	Fragments	n.d.

Asch Miscellany		
b. 2, f. 41-50	Articles	1943-63, n.d.
b. 2, f. 51	Eulogies	1957, n.d.
b. 2, f. 52	Notes about	1943, n.d.
b. 2, f. 53	Unidentified fragments	1943-45, n.d.

Restricted Fragile Papers

Restricted Fragile Papers in Boxes 3-4 may be consulted only with permission of the appropriate curator. Preservation photocopies for reference use have been substituted in the main files.

b. 4, f. 54	Box 2, folder 42
b. 4, f. 55	Box 2, folder 43
b. 4, f. 56	Box 2, folder 44
b. 4, f. 57	Box 2, folder 45
b. 4, f. 58	Box 2, folder 46
b. 4, f. 59	Box 2, folder 47
b. 4, f. 60	Box 2, folder 47
b. 4, f. 61	Box 2, folder 48
b. 4, f. 62	Box 2, folder 49
b. 4, f. 63	Box 2, folder 49
b. 4, f. 64	Box 2, folder 50

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.

Preferred Titles

Man fun Natseres. Yiddish. 1939
Médicament, éthique et réalité industrielle
(Series). Yiddish. 1949
Morgn-frayhayt
Sheliekh. Yiddish. 1943

Subjects

Authors, Yiddish -- United States -- Archives
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) -- Poland

Names

Novik, P., 1891-1989
Sholem Asch, 1880-1957

Contributors

Novik, P., 1891-1989
Asch, Sholem, 1880-1957