




1980

Nathan Asch Papers - Accession 344

Nathan Asch

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**WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

ACCESSION 344

NATHAN ASCH PAPERS

1927-1965, 1995, 2008

23 Boxes, 141 Folders

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

ACC. NO.: 344
ADDITIONS: _____, _____, _____

PROCESSED BY: Fred Hembree
DATE: October 15, 1980
NO. OF SECTIONS: 3

NATHAN ASCH PAPERS

I

The Nathan Asch papers were received by the Archives on September 1, 1980. An agreement of gift was executed between Dr. Eva Mills, representing the Archives, and Mrs. Carolyn Asch Williams, widow of Nathan Asch.

Linear feet of shelve space occupied: 5.75
Approximate number of pieces: ca. 11, 500

Restrictions: Open to researchers under the rules and regulations of the Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections at Winthrop University.

Literary Rights: For information concerning literary rights please contact the Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections at Winthrop University.

Notice: Notice was released to the NUCMC on October 15, 1980.

Scope and Content Note: **This collection consists of personal and business correspondence, legal and financial papers, published short works of Nathan Asch, book reviews, unpublished manuscripts, notes, photographs, clippings, and a tape recording of the novelist. Asch, the son of the famous Yiddish writer Sholem Asch, is the author of five novels published between 1925-1937. He also published dozens of short stories. Asch was an acquaintance of Ernest Hemingway in Paris and he was a long time friend of literary writer Malcolm Cowley.**

Subjects of the collection include: Mr. Asch's writing career; his relationship with such literary giants as Ernest Hemingway, Hart Crane, and his father Sholem Asch; his position as a writer for WPA (1936-1939); his service in the US Army Corps (1942-1945); and his struggle to prove the loyalty of his family during a federal investigation in 1953-1954.

There is exclusive correspondence with many literary personalities including Malcolm Cowley, Josephine Herbst, James Farrell, Morley Callagan, Stefan Zweig, Sholem Asch, Doris Lessing, Hart Crane, Hermynia Zur Mühlen (see 23-141), John Dos Passos, and Ford Madox Ford.

II

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

NATHAN ASCH

July 10, 1902	Born in Warsaw, Poland to Sholem and Mathilda Asch
1912	Family moved to Paris, France
1915	Family came to America and settled in New York
1924	Moved back to Paris, France and begins his writing career. "Gertrude Donovan," "Marc Kranz," and "The Voice of the Office," are published in the <i>Transatlantic Review</i>
1925	<i>The Office</i> published
1926	Returns to America with his American wife (Liesl) and son (David).
1927	<i>Love In Chartres</i> published
1930	<i>Pay Day</i> published and divorced wife (Liesl)
1931-1939	Reviewed books regularly for the <i>New Republic</i> .
1935	<i>The Valley</i> published
1937	<i>The Road: In Search of America</i> published
1937-1939	Special assistant for Works Progress Administration
1939	Marries Carolyn Tasher Miles and moves to Saratoga Springs, New York
1942-1945	Serves in the US Army Corps. Awarded Air Medal and Bronze Star Medal
1946	Moves to Mill Valley, California
1951	"Inland Western Sea" included in <i>Best American Short Stories of 1951</i>
Dec. 23, 1964	Died in San Francisco of lung cancer

III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
1	1	BIOGRAPHICAL FILE This series contains a "Statement of Record of Career as a Writer" written by Nathan Asch ca1937, articles from Twentieth Century Authors, an obituary of Asch, and biographical material written by Dr. Eva Mills of Winthrop College.	1937-1980, nd
1-2	2-22	PERSONAL AND BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE Includes personal correspondence both to and from Nathan Asch and business correspondence especially from his agents Maxim Leiber and Toni Strassman. Many rejection letters from publishers are also included. A list of correspondents would include: Malcolm Cowley, Josephine Herbst, Sholem Asch, Hart Crane, Doris Lessing, James Farrell, Stefan Zweig, Ford Madox Ford, and Morley Callaghan.	1928-1963, nd
3	23	LEGAL PAPERS Consists of contracts made between Asch and various publishing companies and other legal papers. In chronological order.	1927-1937, nd
3	24	FINANCIAL PAPERS Includes receipts, vouchers showing payment of royalties, statements, and royalty reports. In chronological order.	1933-1956, nd
3-4	25-28	PUBLISHED SHORT WORKS OF NATHAN ASCH This series contains short stories and articles published by Nathan Asch in such magazines as <i>Harper's Bazaar</i> , <i>New Yorker</i> , <i>New Editions</i> , <i>The New Republic</i> , <i>Forum</i> , <i>Redbook</i> , <i>Commentary</i> , <i>Yale Review</i> , <i>New Masses</i> , <i>Paris Review</i> , and <i>Partisan Review</i> . Some thirty five short works are included. They are arranged alphabetically by story title from "Arthur" to "Young Man on His Way."	1930-1965, nd

III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
4-6	29-40	PUBLISHED BOOKS The majority of these books are collections of American short stories, with Nathan Asch as a contributor, printed in several different languages as part of a 1957 project of the US Information Agency to improve Asiatic impressions toward America. Languages include: Malayalam, Zelugu, Bengali, Sinhalese, Kannada, and Korean. The series also contains the German translation of <i>Love In Chartres</i> (<i>Liebe In Chartres</i>) as well as a couple of Ach novels in Polish and Scandinavian language. Although two English editions of short stories are included in the collections, none of Asch's published novels in English are contained in the Asch papers at this time, though the book jackets are included at the end of the series. In chronological order.	1927-1959, nd
7	41-42	MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS This series contains articles written about Nathan Asch, as well as short stories and articles written by authors other than Nathan Asch, which Asch saved due to personal interest. Some of the articles are about Jews, and some were written by friends of Asch such as Malcolm Cowley and Ford Madox Ford. Included is a copy of <i>New Republic</i> (September 20, 1954), a 1953 publication of the ultra-leftist <i>Goad</i> . Ford's introductory note to <i>Love in Chartres</i> , and a 1938 copy of <i>Partisan Review</i> . In chronological order.	1935-1960, nd
7	43	BOOK REVIEWS Includes book reviews written by Asch for the <i>New Republic</i> and <i>New Masses</i> . Also contains reviews of Asch novels. In chronological order.	1927-1937, nd
7-8	44-52	PAPERS RELATING TO ASCH'S WPA POSITION Contains papers from Asch's position as writer with the WPA. Included is correspondence, newsletters, excerpts from <i>Yank</i> , <i>The Army Weekly</i> , and related papers. In chronological order.	1936-1939, nd
8-9	53-63	PAPERS RELATING TO ASCH'S SERVICE IN WWII This series offers a very graphic picture of Asch's service in the US Army Corps from boot camp to the liberation of Paris. Included is the correspondence, newsletters, excerpts from <i>Yank</i> , <i>The Army Weekly</i> , and related papers. In chronological order. Also see "Memorabilia File."	1942-1945

III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
9	64-66	<p>PAPERS RELATING TO THE FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF THE ASCHS</p> <p>In 1953-1954, the loyalty of Nathan and Carol Asch came under federal investigation. Carol Asch was an employee of the US Civil Service Commission. The series includes correspondence, affidavits, general statements, and an official report of the proceedings of the Security Hearing Board "in the matter of the hearing concerning the loyalty of Mrs. Carolyn Asch" and related papers. In chronological order.</p>	1948-1954
10-16	67-91	<p>UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS OF BOOKS</p> <p>Some manuscripts are complete and some are incomplete. The manuscripts are arranged in alphabetical order. They include: <i>Celia</i>, five copies; <i>The Europeans: Grandfather's House</i>, one incomplete copy; <i>The Live-Long Day</i>, two incomplete copies; <i>Martha's Boy</i>, one incomplete copy; <i>My Father</i>, one incomplete copy; <i>Paris is Home</i>, four copies; <i>The Shrews and the Mad</i>, three copies; and one manuscript, the title of which is undetermined. The researcher may wish to look through the series titled "Various Papers" in hopes of filling in some gaps in the manuscripts.</p>	1957, nd
17-21	92-121	<p>MANUSCRIPTS OF SHORT WORKS</p> <p>These manuscripts of short works are arranged in alphabetical order from "Accident" to "Ziegfeld Girl." The series also includes 15 short stories, the titles of which are undetermined. A typewritten transcript of the tape of the "Ford Madox Ford Broadcast" is also included.</p>	1930-1962, nd
22	122-125	<p>LITERARY NOTES</p> <p>This series contains note cards and papers expressing both literary and random thoughts of Nathan Asch. In chronological order.</p>	1950-1963, nd
22	126	<p>TAPE RECORDING OF NATHAN ASCH</p> <p>A reel to reel tape recording of an Asch broadcast for the Pacifica network in which Asch reads his short story, "A Girl Called Margurita," about a girl on a bus who comes to San Francisco trying to escape her husband. The tape should be played at 3 ¾ speed; only one side has been recorded.</p>	nd

III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
22	127-129	PHOTOGRAPHS Includes family snapshots and snapshots from World War II. A few photos of Sholem Asch are contained in this series, as well as three 8x10 photos of Nathan Asch in his senior years. Also see photos in "Papers Relating to Asch's WPA Position."	1944, nd
22-23	130-135	NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS In chronological order.	1925-1958, nd
23	136-137	MEMORABILIA FILE This series consists of a report card of Asch's son David, a 1943 map of London, ticket stubs, a flower, a silk stocking, program notes, permits, military passes, a 1943 memo from the Café Royal in London, two poems by Malcolm Cowley and one poem by Hart Crane, pamphlets, a citation for the Bronze Star Medal, a map of Saratoga Springs, NY, and other memorabilia. In chronological order.	1932-1957, nd
23	138-139	VARIOUS PAPERS This series contains an untidy body of papers which are parts of undetermined manuscripts. Some of the papers within this series may be the missing sections to manuscripts from other series.	nd
23	140	DR. JOHN BYRD'S EDITORIAL PROJECTS This series contains editorial projects from Dr. Byrd's English 600 students on the Nathan Asch letters.	1995
23	141	HERMYNIA ZUR MÜHLEN Hermynia was a correspondent of Nathan Asch who also translated some of Asch's works. This folder consists of an English translation of "The Red Countess: Four Stories" by Lionel Gossman and published by Duke University Press in 2008. It contains a short biography of Zur Mühlen and an English translation of four of her stories.	2008