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Yehudah Joffe papers4078956

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Summary	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	6
Yehudah Joffe Papers	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Yofe, Yehudah, 1873-1966
Title:	Yehudah Joffe papers
ID:	4078956
ID:	MS#0676
Date [inclusive]:	1893-1966
Date [bulk]:	1920-1945
Physical Description:	1 box 1 box
Language of the Material:	Yiddish , English , German .
Abstract:	The collection consists of Joffe's correspondence, manuscripts/ notes, and newspaper clippings. Joffe's correspondence in Yiddish in English is both personal and professional, covering communication with institutions he was working at or hoping to work at. Joffe's manuscripts contain drafts for lectures and notes on university seminars and lectures he attended under Prof. Roman Jakobson and others. Joffe's newspaper clippings contain a selection of clippings relating to Prof. Peck, his undergraduate advisor, and miscellaneous clippings.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Yehudah Yofe papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Judah A. Joffe was born in Bakhmut, Southern Russia on April 18th 1873. He attended a high school in Ekaterinoslav (today: Dnepropetrovsk). In 1891 the Joffe family moved permanently to the United States and settled in New York. Joffe enrolled at Columbia University where he studied general philology under Prof. Harry Thurston Peck and graduated with a B.A. in

1893; from 1893-1897 he continued to study Indo-Iranian languages at Columbia University. Joffe also worked as a high school teacher of Latin and Mathematics in New York City at the Walden School and elsewhere. In addition, he was a lecturer in Russian at Columbia University and City College in New York. As a scholar and philologist, Joffe contributed to various dictionaries and encyclopedias and engaged in translations from numerous languages. Joffe wrote scholarly work on Yiddish and Slavic languages, literature, and music. He was active in Yiddish philology for over a half century and particularly interested in Old Yiddish, a subject he explored while working as an instructor at the Jewish Teacher's Seminary (Lerer-seminar). In addition, Joffe contributed important work to the Groyser yidisher verterbukh (The Great Yiddish Dictionary). He was also involved in community activities, serving on the board of YIVO, and as the honorary Chairman of the Linguistics Circle at YIVO. Joffe lived in New York until his death on September 16 th 1966 in Riverdale, Bronx.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

The collection consists of Joffe's correspondence, manuscripts/notes, and newspaper clippings. Joffe's correspondence in Yiddish in English is both personal and professional, covering communication with institutions he was working at or hoping to work at such as Columbia University, the Walden School, CUNY, Folksuniversitet, Lerer-seminar, Sholem-Aleichem Schools, Joseph Preparatory School, the Workmen's Circle, JTS, YIVO and others. Among his personal correspondence two letters from Yiddish writer and critic S. Nizer (S. Charney) are notable. Joffe's manuscripts (Yiddish in transcription) contain drafts for lectures such as "amolike shprakh bay yidn", "vifl yidn iz do" "problemen fun geredtn yidish", "jeder", and "saj-saj". The series also contains a letter to Roman Jakobson (in English) and two copies of Joffe's article "katoves tsi katoves." Joffe's manuscripts also contain notes on university seminars and lectures he attended in 1945/46 and 1966, including "General Phonetics and Phonemics"(Prof. Jakobson) (English), "Russian Epic Songs" (Prof. Jakobson) (English), "Dos slavishe element in yidish" (Yiddish in transcription). Joffe's newspaper clippings contain a selection of clippings relating to Prof. Peck's (his undergraduate advisor) divorce and illness/death, miscellaneous articles from the NYT and elsewhere, as well as a clipping of the paper Novoye Ruskoye Slovo.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession number--M-59.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 07/--/89. Processed and finding aid written by Sandra Chiritescu in June 2019.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Yiddish language
- Lexicographers

- Teachers
- Walden School
- Columbia University

Collection Inventory

Yehudah Joffe Papers		
Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1907-1960	box 1	folder 1
<p>General</p> <p>one letter from S. Niger very brittle</p>		
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>empty envelope; unsigned letter; John C. Auignano (?); Alica Bickham; F. T. Cooper; CUNY (Paul Klapper, Dean); Farlag Heim Inc.; Philip Feldheim Hebrew Bookseller; Folksuniversitet (People's University); Elizabeth Goldsmith; Halberstam; H. Halmstock; Jefferson Preparatory School; Jewish Theological Seminary; Joseph Preparatory School; L. Lehrer; P. Matenko; Dr. James Macris (Linguistics Circle of New York); S. Niger (S. Charney); Rowea Sull (?); Sholem Aleichem School No. 1; Sholem Aleichem School No. 4 (Pinhas Palavel??); Talmudical Academy (Shelley Safir); The Walden School; Workmen's Circle; Yidisher Lerer Seminar; YIVO; Yiddish; English</p>		
Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1893-1910	box 1	folder 2
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>correspondence between Columbia University administration and Joffe (F. P. Keppel; President's Office); only one letter by Joffe to Prof. Jackson; some correspondence regarding potentially establishing a professorship of Slavic at Columbia; English</p>		
Manuscripts 1, 1921-1964	box 1	folder 3
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>booklet "lektsyes farn yor 1935-1936" (Workmen's Circle); lecture manuscript for lerer seminar "amolike shprakh bay yidn"/"vifl yidn iz do"; lecture manuscript for YIVO "problemen fun geredtn yidish" (two versions); manuscript "jeder"; manuscript "saj-saj"; letter to Roman Jakobson (English); minutes on "zitsung direkorn rat" (YIVO?); two copies of</p>		

publication "katoves tsi katoves"; other notes; material
in Yiddish (in Latin letters)

Manuscripts 2, 1945-46; 1966

box 1

folder 4

General

lecture notes

Scope and Contents

Notes on Lecture "General Phonetics and Phonemics" (Prof. Jakobson) (English); Notes on Lecture "Russian Epic Songs" (Prof Jakobson) (English); Notes on "Dos slavishe element in yidish" (Yiddish in Latin Letters); some miscellaneous notes; all handwritten

Clippings, 1903-1959

box 1

folder 5

General

brittle condition

Scope and Contents

NYT (clippings on Columbia Professor Peck, petty crime??), Novoye Ruskoye Slovo, more NYT

Clippings "Peck's divorce" (brittle condition), 1908

box 1

folder 6

Scope and Contents

"Prof. Peck's Divorce Sept. 4, 1908"

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)