Guide to the Israel Solon Collection 1918-1940s
### Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descriptive Summary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Use</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Note</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope Note</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Resources</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Headings</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INVENTORY</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Descriptive Summary

Identifier          ICU.SPCL.SOLON
Title               Solon, Israel. Collection
Date                1918-1940s
Size                6 linear feet (4 boxes, 1 folder)
Repository          Special Collections Research Center
                     University of Chicago Library
                     1100 East 57th Street
                     Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract            Israel Solon, American writer of fiction and critical prose, was associated
                     with the literary and artistic avant-garde of the 1910s-1920s. The collection
                     contains art and literary publications, manuscripts, proofs, artworks,
                     photographs, correspondence and ephemera. Included are proofs of the
                     April 1920 issue of the Little Review; copies of Three Worlds Monthly
                     in which the first three parts of James Joyce’s Ulysses were published;
                     photographs of Jane Heap; a program for an artists’ ball inscribed to Heap;
                     journals and manifestos produced by the Dadaist and Futurist movements;
                     correspondence and ephemera related to the mystic philosopher G.I.
                     Gurdjieff; and a preservation photocopy of a circa 1934 typescript of
                     Gertrude Stein’s Portraits and Prayers, with an Elucidation.

Acknowledgments
The Israel Solon Collection was processed and preserved as part of the "Uncovering New
Chicago Archives Project," funded with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Information on Use

Access
The typescript of Gertrude Stein’s Portraits and Prayers, with an Elucidation is accessible as a
photocopy.

The remainder of the collection is open for research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Solon, Israel. Papers, [Box
#, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note
Israel Solon was an American writer of fiction and critical prose and a follower of the teachings of G.I. Gurdjieff.

In the 1910s and 1920s, Solon was part of a literary and artistic community that included Margaret Anderson, Jane Heap, William Carlos Williams, Djuna Barnes, and other New York avant-garde figures. Solon contributed fiction and prose to modernist avant-garde magazines such as Broom (1922) and Double Dealer (1921), but most prominently to Margaret Anderson’s Little Review (1917-1919).

After the Little Review ceased publication, Solon continued to be associated with Jane Heap, a co-editor of Little Review. At this time and through the 1940s, Solon (like Heap) was an active follower of the Armenian mystic and dance teacher G.I. Gurdjieff. Solon participated in efforts to raise funds to bring Gurdjieff to the United States.

Solon was employed as executive secretary in the Women’s Garment Manufacturers Supply Association during the 1930s and 1940s.

He lived in Chicago, but relocated in the 1910s to New City and New York City, New York.

**Scope Note**

Boxes 1-2 contain a variety of art and literary publications, manuscripts, proofs, artworks, photographs, newspaper clippings, and programs from art exhibitions and theater performances. Of note are proofs of the April 1920 issue of the Little Review; copies of Three Worlds Monthly in which the first three parts of James Joyce’s Ulysses were published; photographs of Jane Heap; journals and manifestos produced by the Italian Futurist movement; and Dadaist journals including New York Dada and several European titles.

Box 3 contains material related to the mystic philosopher G.I. Gurdjieff. This material consists mainly of Solon’s correspondence with associates of Gurdjieff who attempted to facilitate the mystic’s immigration to the United States during World War II. Other material includes broadsides and tickets for lectures given by P.D. Ouspensky and other followers of Gurdjieff, as well as affidavits, pamphlets and typescripts.

Box 4 contains a preservation photocopy of a circa 1934 typescript of Portraits and Prayers, with an Elucidation, by Gertrude Stein.

Also included is a large broadside program for a 1924 artists’ ball (the "Bal Olympique") held by L’Union des Artistes Russes à Paris, and inscribed to Jane Heap by "Narcisse."

**Related Resources**
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

**Subject Headings**
- Gurdjieff, Georges Ivanovitch, 1872-1949
- Solon, Israel
- Stein, Gertrude, 1874-1946
- American literature -- 20th century -- Periodicals
- Dadaism
- Futurism (Art)
- Poetry, Modern--20th century
- Poetry, Modern--20th century--Periodicals
- Small presses

**INVENTORY**

**Box 1**
**Folder 1**
  Clippings, 1924-1943
**Box 1**
**Folder 2**
  Mary Butts, Ashe of Rings, typescript, undated
**Box 1**
**Folder 3**
  The Little Review, proofs, 1920
**Box 1**
**Folder 4**
  The Little Review, envelope, 1920
**Box 1**
**Folder 5**
  The Little Review, proof, 1920
**Box 1**
**Folder 6**
  The Marionnette, journal, 1918
**Box 1**
**Folder 7**
  Photographs, 1929
  - Jane Heap
  - Home of George Meredith, Box Hill, Surrey
  - Unidentified man
**Box 1**
**Folder 8**
  The Future/The Zukunft: The Yiddish Monthly, 1920
**Box 1**
**Folder 9**
Two Worlds Monthly, journal, 1926
Box 1
Folder 10
Two Worlds Monthly, journal, 1926
Box 1
Folder 11
Two Worlds Monthly, journal, 1926
Box 1
Folder 12
Unidentified lithograph, 1922
Box 2
Folder 1
New York Dada, journal, 1921
Box 2
Folder 2
L’Impero, review of Marinetti’s Bianca e Rosso, clipping, circa 1920s
Box 2
Folder 3
Announcements of the Goodman Theater, bulletin, 1929
Box 2
Folder 4
Futurist publications, 1922-1924
• Il Futurismo
• Le Futurisme
• "Le Futurisme et la Philosophie/Il Futurismo e la Filosofia"
Box 2
Folder 5
The Chicago Literary Times, journals, 1923
Box 2
Folder 6
James Joyce, clippings, 1922-1947
Box 2
Folder 7
European art and literary journals, 1920-1926
• 7 Arts
• 391
• Bleu
• G. Material zur Elementaren Gestaltung
• Oesophage
Box 2
Folder 8
"Balieff’s Chauve-Souris of Moscow," theater program, circa 1922
Box 2
Folder 9
Contact, magazine, circa 1920
Folder 10
La Danse, magazine, 1926
Box 2
Folder 11
Jacobson, Mina Loy, lithograph, circa 1920s
Box 2
Folder 12
New Democracy, magazines, 1934-1935
Box 2
Folder 13
Notes, undated
Box 2
Folder 14
Notes, undated
Box 2
Folder 15
Maxwell Anderson, "By Way of Preface The Theater as Religion," clipping, circa 1940s
Box 2
Folder 16
Ezra Pound, pastel portrait, undated
Box 2
Folder 17
International Theatre Exposition, New York, program, 1926
Box 2
Folder 18
Machine Age Exposition, New York, program, 1927
Box 3
Folder 1-2
G.I. Gurdjieff associates, correspondence, 1942-1951
Box 3
Folder 3
G.I. Gurdjieff associates, correspondence and affidavits, 1942-1948
Box 3
Folder 4
Gurdjieff Institute for the Harmonious Development of Man, pamphlet and membership certificate, circa 1924-1925
Box 3
Folder 5
G.I. Gurdjieff, Beelzebub’s Tales to His Grandson or An Objectively Impartial Criticism of the Life of Man, pamphlet and outline, circa 1949
Box 3
Folder 6
Typescripts, circa 1934
Box 3
Folder 7
Lecture tickets and broadsides, circa 1924-1952
Box 3
Folder 8
   Clippings, 1935-1952
Box 4
Folder 1-2
   Gertrude Stein, Portraits and Prayers, with an Elucidation, photocopy of typescript, circa 1934
Box ITEM 1
   L’Union des Artistes Russes à Paris, Bal Olympique, broadside program inscribed to Jane Heap, 1924