

University of Chicago Library

Guide to the Israel Solon Collection 1918-1940s



© 2009 University of Chicago Library

Table of Contents

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Acknowledgments | 3 |
| Descriptive Summary | 3 |
| Information on Use | 3 |
| Access | 3 |
| Citation | 3 |
| Biographical Note | 3 |
| Scope Note | 4 |
| Related Resources | 4 |
| Subject Headings | 5 |
| INVENTORY | 5 |

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 Marionette, 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

Box 2

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