

York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

Finding Aid - Falek Zolf fonds (F0614)

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Language of description: English

York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

305 Scott Library, 4700 Keele Street, York University

Toronto

Ontario

Canada

M3J 1P3

Telephone: 416-736-5442

Fax: 416-650-8039

Email: archives@yorku.ca

<http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/archives/>

<https://atom.library.yorku.ca//index.php/falek-zolf-fonds>

Falek Zolf fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)
Title:	Falek Zolf fonds
ID:	F0614
Date:	1943-1999 (date of creation)
Physical description:	0.12 m of textual records
Note [generalNote]:	The majority of the fonds is written in Yiddish, with some newspaper articles in English.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Joshua Falek Zolf, writer and teacher, was born in 1898 in Poland, where he attended yeshivah from 1909 until the start of World War I. He found work at a leather factory in Yaroslavl, Russia, in 1916 so that he would not be forced into compulsory military service, but the Kerensky revolution led Zolf to volunteer for the Russian army. He was captured by the German army on the Galician front, and was a prisoner of war in East Prussia in 1918. He returned to his home village of Zastavia after the war, only to find the area consumed by civil war following the Bolshevik Revolution. He participated in the Jewish reconstruction of Poland starting in 1920, and became a teacher. Zolf emigrated to Canada in 1926 to escape Poland's antisemitism. His wife and children joined him in 1927 and they settled in Winnipeg's North End, where their fourth child, Larry Zolf, was born in 1934. After working as an itinerant teacher, he was appointed teacher and later principal at the Isaac Loeb Peretz Folk School. He was very active in the Yiddish literary community in Winnipeg, and frequently contributed essays to the Yiddish press. The memoirs of Zolf's early years in Europe were published in 1945 under the title, *Oyf fremder erd* = On foreign soil, which was translated by Martin Green and re-published in 2000. Zolf also wrote *Di lets-te fun a dor : heymishe gesh-tal·tn* = Last of a generation, 1952, and *Undzer ·kul·tur hemshekh : eseyen* = Our eternal culture : essays, 1956. Falek Zolf died in 1961.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of handwritten and typescript manuscripts for Falek Zolf's memoirs, handwritten notes for his memoirs, newspaper articles about Zolf and the Jewish literary community in Winnipeg, a report that quotes from his work in a review of the historical context associated with the Canada Post Corporation's

Rural Conversion Program in Saskatchewan, a review of the Yiddish edition of Zolf's autobiography, "On foreign soil," and information regarding its publication in English.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Donated in 2011 by the Estate of Larry Zolf.

Restrictions on access

No restrictions on access.

Related material

Accession 2011-048 included Falek Zolf's three books, which were catalogued as part of Special Collections.

Accruals

The fonds comprises the following accessions: 2011-048. Further accruals may be expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final

Collection holdings

File: 2011-048/001(01) - On foreign soil : bound typescript

Title: On foreign soil : bound typescript

ID: 2011-048/001(01)

Date: 1943 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: 2011-048/001(02) - Handwritten notes

Title: Handwritten notes

ID: 2011-048/001(02)

Date: 1957-1960 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: 2011-048/001(03) - The Last chapter : a Yiddish writer's memoirs

Title: The Last chapter : a Yiddish writer's memoirs

ID: 2011-048/001(03)

Date: 1959 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: 2011-048/001(04) - Memoirs : handwritten manuscript

Title: Memoirs : handwritten manuscript

ID: 2011-048/001(04)

Date: [196-?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: 2011-048/001(05) - Newspaper articles about Falek Zolf

Title: Newspaper articles about Falek Zolf

ID: 2011-048/001(05)

Date: 1988-1992 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: 2011-048/001(06) - Assessment of public opinion regarding Canada Post Corporation's Rural Conversion Program in Saskatchewan

Title: Assessment of public opinion regarding Canada Post Corporation's Rural Conversion Program in Saskatchewan

ID: 2011-048/001(06)

Date: 1991 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of a report written by Brian S. Osborne and Geraint B. Osborne that quotes from Falek Zolf's writing.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: 2011-048/001(07) - On foreign soil

Title: On foreign soil

ID: 2011-048/001(07)

Date: 1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of a print-out of a web page concerning the English edition of Falek Zolf's autobiography, and a review of the original Yiddish edition.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published
