

# Guide to the La Brèche records

GEN MSS 2152



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March 2025

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 2152

**CREATOR:** La Brèche. Action surréaliste , author

**TITLE:** La Brèche records

**DATES:** 1961-1964

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** .42 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** In French.

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of printed editions and related production material for issues 1, 2, 4, and 6 of *La Brèche: Action surréaliste*, 1961-1964.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.breche>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.breche>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Philippe Luiggi on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2022 Purchased from Philippe Luiggi on the Robert H. Taylor Fund, 2024.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The La Brèche Records are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

*La Brèche* Records. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

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## La Brèche (1961-1965)

*La Brèche: Action surréaliste* was a surrealist journal directed by André Breton and edited by Robert Benayoun, Vincent Bounoure, Gérard Legrand, José Pierre, and Jean Schuster. The publication featured writing, poetry, criticism, essays, and illustrations. It was published in Paris, France from October 1961 to November 1965, in 8 volumes. Contributors included Fernando Arrabal, Philippe Audoin, Jean-Claude Barbé, Jean-Louis Bédouin, Robert Benayoun, Jean Benoît, Micheline and Vincent Bounoure, André Breton, Jacques B. Brunius, Guy Cabanel, Jorge Camacho, Jean Carteret, Malcolm de Chazal, Charles Cros, Adrien Dax, Pierre Dhainaut, Jean-Pierre Duprey, Roland Giguère, Robert Guyon, Ragnar von Holten, Marianne Van Hirtum, Radovan Ivšić, Edouard Jaguer, Alain Joubert, Alfred Kubin, Philippe Lavergne, R. Kasanov Lavrentiev, Gérard Legrand, Emile Lehoucq, Jan Lenica, Elisabeth Lenk, René Magritte, Jean Malrieu, Joyce Mansour, Jean Markale, Pierre de Massot, Jehan Mayoux, Jacques Mer, Yves Millet, Pierre Molinier, Oscar Panizza, Mimi Parent, José Pierre, Jean-François Revel, Endre Roszda, Jean Schuster, Guy Selz, Jean-Claude Silbermann, Jean-Louis Simon, Jindrich Styrsky, Claude Tarnaud, Robert Tatin, and Marie Cermínová Toyen.

Content of the journal can be consulted online: <https://www.melusine-surrealisme.fr/site/LaBreche>

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## Content Description

The collection consists of printed editions and related production material for issues 1, 2, 4, and 6 of *La Brèche: Action surréaliste*, 1961-1964. It includes manuscript and typescript articles, poems, stories, photographs, collages and drawings published in issues 1, 2, 4, and 6, as well as correspondence. Authors and artists include René Alleau, Philippe Audoin, Robert Benayoun, Micheline Bounoure, André Breton, Adrien Dax, Pierre Dhainaut, Maurice de Gandillac, Julien Gracq, Jean Schuster, Jean-Claude Silbermann, and Toyen.

Of particular interest is a custom case by bookbinder Pierre Mercier that houses issues 1, 2, and 4 of *La Brèche*. Notable works in the collection include drawings by Marianne van Hirtum and Endre Roszda, a photograph by Pierre Molinier, collages by Robert Benayoun and a colorful autograph letter and envelope from Matta.

Collection is in French.

## **Arrangement**

Organized into two series: I. *La Brèche* Nos. 1, 2, and 4, 1961-1963. II. *La Brèche* No 6, 1964.

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## Collection Contents

### I: *La Brèche* No 1, 2, 4, 1961–1963

This series consists of three issues of *La Brèche*, with related production materials, housed in a modern paper slipcase and boxes by Pierre Mercier, signed and dated 1996. Each custom box contains a printed edition along with associated manuscripts, typescripts, photographs, original artwork, illustrations, and correspondence.

Formerly owned by Robert Benayoun.

b. 1, f. 1	<i>La Brèche</i> No 1	1961
	<p>Box 1 contains : Printed copy of <i>La Brèche</i> No. 1 (October 1961), 1 vol. 8vo, illustrated cover, 22.5 x 15.5 cm. The journal features contributions by Jean-Claude Barbé, Robert Benayoun, Vincent Bounoure, André Breton, Jean Carteret, Malcolm de Chazal, Adrien Dax, Radovan Ivšic, Alfred Kubin, R. Kasanov Lavrentiev, Gérard Legrand, Joyce Mansour, Jehan Mayoux, Jean Schuster. Drawings by Marianne Van Hirtum, Alfred Kubin, Endre Roszda, Toyen.</p> <p>Associated production material for <i>La Brèche</i> No. 1: Folder "Robert Benayoun. Projets, maquettes": Original photo Le choix de la naissance, p. 35. Original photomontage, variant of the previous one, unsigned and original ink drawing, unsigned. 13 pages with the header of the magazine for notes and layout drafts + 4 sheets with 6 pages of autograph notes. 7 drafts of <i>La Brèche</i> logos. 1 color trial for the cover of no. 1. Typed script collages for "L'art" and "Kubin". 2 page article "Two Indian elephants" with photographs of elephants and visual vocabulary used by the elephant guide. Folder "André Breton": Layout for the third cover (1 page) and autograph text on "hasard objectif" (objective chance). Folder "Endre Roszda": Original ink drawing, unsigned, p. 25. Folder "Marianne Van Hirtum": 2 original ink drawings, double-sided, one signed and dated 1959, the unsigned one is reproduced on p. 47. Folder "Jean Schuster": 4-page autograph manuscript in blue ink Etat de siège, signed and dated March 31, 1961, p. 57. Folder "Adrien Dax": Card with an ink drawing-initial addressed to Benayoun thanking him for sending issue no. 1 of <i>La Brèche</i>. Folder "Matta": Autograph letter with envelope addressed to <i>La Brèche</i>, with color pencils Folder "Manifeste en faveur de Buñuel": Pamphlet (typescript) in support of Luis Buñuel's film <i>Viridiana</i>, signed by R. Benayoun, Alain Joubert, Silbermann, Bounoure, Mimi Parent, Radovan et Marianne Ivšic, Jean Benoît, Gérard Legrand, José Pierre, Sergio [?], Jean Schuster, Toyen and Espagnol. [also the following names written by the same hand: Mesens, Brunius, Dax, Mayoux, Cabanel, Lagarde, Arsène, Goldfayn]</p>	
b. 1, f. 2	<i>La Brèche</i> No 2	1962
	<p>Box 2 contains: Printed copy of <i>La Brèche</i> No. 2 (May 1962), 1 vol. 8vo, illustrated cover, 22.5 x 15.5 cm. The journal features contributions by Micheline Bounoure, Breton, Cabanel, Pierre Dhainaut, Jean-Pierre Duprey, Radovan Ivšić, Edouard Jaguer, Alain Joubert, Philippe Lavergne, Gerard Legrand, Jean Malrieu, Joyce Mansour, Jean Markale, Jehan Mayoux, Jacques Mer, José Pierre, Guy Selz, Claude Tarnaud. Illustrations by Jean Benoît, Guy Cabanel, Mimi Parent, Toyen. Editor-in-Chief: André Breton Editorial Board: Robert Benayoun, Gérard Legrand, José Pierre, Jean Schuster</p> <p>Associated production material for <i>La Brèche</i> No. 2 Folder "Robert Benayoun": 1 page of autograph notes for <i>La Brèche</i> 2. 1 typescript letter on <i>La Brèche</i> letterhead, dated December 1, 1961 surveying intellectuals and literary figures regarding traveling to space and the relevance of an anthropomorphic referential system. News clipping of article "Le crépuscule des bonimenteurs" in <i>France-soir</i>, dated February 10, 1962. Fragment of printed material: <i>Le monde à l'envers?</i> Alleau, Blanchot, Gracq, Lopicque, Levi-Strauss, etc. Illustration of a sea urchin cut</p>	

from a newspaper for Micheline Bounoure's article (p. 46). Survey "Le monde à l'envers?" Responses from René Alleau, Ferdinand Alquié, Maurice de Gandillac, Julien Gracq, Charles Lopicque, Henri Laugier: Folder "Julien Gracq": Autograph letter (p. 2). Folder "René Alleau": Autograph letter, 5 pages with envelope (p. 4). Folder "Maurice de Gandillac": Typescript letter, 2 pages on the letterhead of the Faculty of Letters and Humanities with envelope (p. 14). Folder "Ferdinand Alquié": Page 2 of the corrected typescript (p. 18). Folder "Charles Lopicque": "Autograph letter, signed, from Charles Lopicque. Folder "Henri Laugier": Autograph letter, signed, from Henri Laugier. Folder "Photos": Jean-Claude Silbermann: Vintage photo of *La Voyante* (p. 17). Joyce Mansour: Vintage photo of *Où le bas blesse* (p. 16). Pierre Molinier: Carte Culminate (p. 17). Folder "Micheline Bounoure": Ink drawing on tracing paper Celtic Cartouche in the Shape of an Egg (p. 45). 2-page typescript of the text *From the Serpent's Egg to the Sea Urchin* (p. 45).

b. 1, f. 3

*La Brèche* No 4

1963

Box 4 contains: Printed copy of *La Brèche* No. 4 (February 1963), 1 vol. 8vo, illustrated cover, 22.5 x 15.5 cm. The journal features contributions by Arrabal, Philippe Audoin, Robert Benayoun, Vincent Bounoure, André Breton, Jacques B. Brunius, Adrien Dax, Alain Joubert, Gérard Legrand, Emile Lehoucq, Pierre de Massot, Jehan Mayoux, Joyce Mansour, José Pierre, Jean-François Revel, Jean Schuster, Jean-Claude Silbermann, Jean-Louis Simon, Robert Tatin. Illustrations by Jean Benoit, Micheline Bounoure, Jorge Camacho, Adrien Dax, Roland Giguère, Jan Lenica, Yves Milet, Pierre Molinier, Jean-Claude Silbermann, Jindrich Styrsky.

Associated production material for *La Brèche* No. 4: Folder "André Breton": Notes by André Breton on the back of an invitation card for the opening of the exhibition of sculptures by Karel Appel, Galerie Rive Droite, May 8, 1962. Folder labeled "document": yellowed, black-and-white postcard reproduced on p. 17. Folder "Adrien Dax": 8-page autograph manuscript "A propos d'un talisman de Charles Fourier. Analyse critique et essai de reconstitution", with annotations, and ink drawing (p. 23). Folder "Philippe Audouin": 5 ink drawings illustrating the text *De près et de loin* (p. 37).

**II: *La Brèche* No 6, 1964**

b. 1, f. 4	<p>Printed copy of <i>La Brèche</i> No 6</p> <p>Contains copy of <i>La Brèche</i> No. 6 (June 1964): 1 vol. 8vo, illustrated cover, 22.5 x 15.5 cm. Contributions from: Jean-Claude Barbe, Jean-Louis Bédouin, Robert Benayoun, Vincent Bounoure, Malcolm de Chazal, Adrien Dax, Pierre Dhainaut, Robert Guyon, Radovan Ivsic, Alain Joubert, Gérard Legrand, Pierre-Yves Lemaître, Elisabeth Lenk, Joyce Mansour, José Pierre, and Jean-Claude Silbermann.</p>	1964 June
b. 1, f. 5	<p>Production material for <i>La Brèche</i> No 6</p> <p>Contains production material <i>La Brèche</i> No. 6: Folder "Henri Parisot": typewritten letter to Eric Losfeld, signed, 2 pages. Protests against the article "Des sous et des coups" published in No. 5, in which he is accused "of having expressed reservations about Péret's text 'Déshonneur des Poètes.'" Folder "Jean Schuster": "Mise au point" (Clarification): handwritten manuscript signed by Jean Schuster, 2 pages, on letterhead of the journal "Le 14 juillet". Protests against a misleading translation of an article written with Edouard Jaguer published in Poland in "Plastyka," the artistic supplement of the magazine "Zycie literackie." Folder "Pierre-Yves Lemaître": "Tentative de description d'un phénomène nommé Assomption" (Attempt to Describe a Phenomenon Named Assumption): carbon copy of a typewritten text, 3 pages, signed. Published in No. 6, p. 4. Folder "Robert Benayoun": "Où rien n'arrive" (Where Nothing Happens): handwritten manuscript signed, 11 pages. Published in No. 6, p. 12. Folder "Gérard Legrand" [André Breton]: "Les Étrennes antidatées" (The Postdated Gifts): handwritten copy by André Breton, 8 pages. Published in No. 6, p. 26. + 2 pages of other texts by Legrand, in Breton's handwriting. Folder "Jean-Claude Silbermann": Modes d'emploi"; "Le Grand Mystère" (signé); "La Mort"; "Le Cœur" (Modes of Employment; The Great Mystery (signed); Death; The Heart): 4 handwritten manuscripts of prose poems, 4 pages. Published in No. 6, pp. 37 to 39. Folder "Pierre Dhainaut": "La Cité aurifère" (The Gold City): handwritten manuscript signed, 2 pages, addressed to André Breton. Published in No. 6, p. 46. Folder "Vincent Bounoure": "La Révolution - Le dépérissement de l'État - Grande peur cléricale à Caracas" (The Revolution - The Withering Away of the State - Great Clerical Fear in Caracas): 3 handwritten manuscripts, 1 page each. Published in No. 6, p. 95.</p>	1964



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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Surrealism -- France  
Surrealism -- Periodicals

### Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works)  
Photographic prints

### Occupations

Artists -- France -- 20th Century  
Authors -- France -- 20th Century

### Names

Alleau, René (1917-2013)  
Alquié, Ferdinand (1906-1985)  
Audoin, Philippe, 1924-1985  
Benayoun, Robert (1926-1996)  
Bounoure, Micheline, 1924-1981  
Bounoure, Vincent (1928-1996)  
Breton, André, 1896-1966  
Dax, Adrien (1913-1979)  
Dhainaut, Pierre (1935)  
Gandillac, Maurice de (1906-2006)  
Gracq, Julien (1910-2007)  
Hirtum, Marianne van (1935-1988)  
Lapicque, Charles (1898-1988)  
Laugier, Henri (1888-1973)  
Mansour, Joyce (1928-1986)  
Matta, Roberto (1911-2002)  
Mercier, Pierre (1928-2014)  
Molinier, Pierre (1900-1976)  
Parisot, Henri (1908-1979)  
Rozsda, Endre (1913-1999)  
Schuster, Jean (1929-1995)  
Silbermann, Jean-Claude (1935)

### Acquired From

Philippe Luiggi, bookseller