

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Harold Igo papers

YCAL MSS 1313



by Jessica Tai

December 2020

P. O. Box 208330  
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(203) 432-2977  
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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:** YCAL MSS 1313

**CREATOR:** Igo, Harold

**TITLE:** Harold Igo Papers

**DATES:** 1910–1996

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 18.58 linear feet (25 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** This collection contains writings, correspondence, notebooks, photographs, scrapbooks, and other papers by or related to American writer, newspaper reporter, and playwright Harold Igo.

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

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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.igo>.

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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Dorothy L. Rodgers, 2014 and 2016.

November 2016 acquisition, gift of David M. Rodgers, 2016.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Harold Igo Papers is 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

Harold Igo Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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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 as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Harold Igo

Harold Igo (1892-1976) was a writer, newspaper reporter, and playwright. Igo was born in New Florence, Pennsylvania and graduated from Westminster College with a Bachelor of Philosophy in 1915. Igo served overseas in the Army in 1918, and when he returned, decided to become a journalist. He organized the Rio News Syndicate to cover South America for a group of small town North American newspapers and worked for eight years as a reporter. In 1926, he founded the Youngstown Theater, and from 1931-1932 studied play writing and directing at Yale University. From 1933 to 1948, Igo resided in Yellow Springs, Ohio with his wife Sara McKnight Igo. During this time he wrote a number of plays, including *American Mass*, *Coopy When*, *Ohio Doom*, *Steel*, and *Remember Bud Jones*. Igo was the founding director of The Island Players Community Theater in Anna Maria Island in 1949, until his retirement in 1966.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains writings, correspondence, notebooks, photographs, scrapbooks, and other papers by or related to American writer, newspaper reporter, and playwright Harold Igo.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three groupings: I. June 2014 acquisition, 1910 - 1996. II. October 2016 acquisition, 1970 - 1979. III. November 2016 acquisition, 1950 - 1989.

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## Collection Contents

### June 2014 acquisition, 1910–1996

18.17 linear feet (24 boxes)

Material includes correspondence, writings and play drafts by Igo, and personal and professional papers.

Gift of Dorothy L. Rogers, 2014.

Arranged into the following series: I. Correspondence, 1931-1976, II. Plays, 1926-1975, III. Professional papers, 1918 - 1996, IV. Personal papers, 1910 - 1984.

|          |  |                 |
|----------|--|-----------------|
|          | Series I: Correspondence<br>1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)   | 1931-1976       |
|          | Includes correspondence with Igo's wife, Sara McKnight (1902-1998), McKnight's family correspondence, and correspondence with Indian novelist and short story writer Gurbaksh Singh. |                 |
|          | Material is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.  |                 |
| b. 12    | Fulton, Lois M.  | 1970–1976       |
| b. 1     | Igo, Harold and Sara McNight<br>5 Folders  | 1931–1932       |
| b. 2     | Igo, Harold and Sara McNight<br>3 Folders  | 1933–1961       |
| b. 12    | Igo, Robert K.   | 1971–1976       |
| b. 2     | McKnight, Sara: correspondence with parents  | 1935-1939       |
| b. 2     | Singh, Gurbakhsh   | 1970–1976       |
| b. 2     | Trepte, Clarabel M.  | 1973–1974       |
| b. 2, 12 | Various correspondents<br>5 Folders  | circa 1937-1976 |
|          | Series II: Plays<br>4.17 linear feet (10 boxes)  | 1926-1975       |
|          | Includes typed drafts of plays written by Igo. Drafts includes plays with corresponding notes, and drafts with annotations.  |                 |
|          | Material is arranged alphabetically by title, with early plays located at the end of the series.   |                 |
| b. 2     | <i>After the World is Over</i>   | undated         |
| b. 3     | <i>American Mass</i><br>4 Folders  | 1937            |
| b. 3     | <i>Brazil Bum</i>  | 1947            |
| b. 3–4   | <i>Coopy When</i><br>3 Folders   | 1940-1966       |

## Series II: Plays (continued)

|         |   |                 |
|---------|---|-----------------|
| b. 4    | <i>Daisy Bell</i><br>2 Folders  | 1937            |
| b. 4    | <i>The Day the Preacher Swore</i>   | undated         |
| b. 4    | <i>Father and Family</i>  | undated         |
| b. 4    | <i>Golden Crow</i><br>2 Folders   | 1948            |
| b. 5    | <i>Had Lincoln Laughed: A Drama of Exile</i>  | undated         |
| b. 5    | <i>Is Saturn Open on Saturday Night?</i><br>4 Folders   | 1969-1970       |
| b. 5    | <i>My Boys in the Pentagon</i>  | 1951            |
| b. 6-7  | <i>Ohio Doom</i><br>8 Folders   | 1936-1964       |
| b. 7    | <i>Remember Bud Jones</i>   | 1942            |
| b. 7-9  | <i>Royal Jack</i><br>12 Folders   | 1950-1975       |
| b. 9-10 | <i>Sand Dollar Circus</i><br>2 Folders  | 1953            |
| b. 10   | <i>Steel</i><br>4 Folders   | 1935-1936       |
| b. 11   | <i>Virgin Queen</i><br>2 Folders  | 1957            |
| b. 11   | <i>William, William Don't Look Down</i>   | undated         |
| b. 11   | <i>The Wimple</i>   | undated         |
| b. 11   | <i>Wounded Name</i>   | 1948            |
| b. 11   | <i>Yellow Clover</i>  | undated         |
| b. 11   | "Earliest Plays"<br>Includes, <i>Had Lincoln Laughed: A Play in Four Acts</i> , <i>March Malen: A Folk Play of the Steel Mills</i> , <i>Maude Martin</i> , <i>The Wimple</i> , <i>Crop Over Jump Up</i> , and <i>Devil's Acre: A Drama of the Mills in Three Acts</i> | 1926-1927       |
|         | Series III: Professional papers<br>0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)<br>Includes Igo's writing works and notes. Writings include short stories, poems, notes, play drafts, and song lyrics.<br>Material is arranged alphabetically by folder title.                          | 1918-1996       |
| b. 13   | "Biographical": correspondence, notes, play draft and poems   | circa 1945-1991 |
| b. 13   | Drafts, correspondence, notes   | 1918-1996       |
| b. 13   | "Island Players"  | undated         |

## Series III: Professional papers (continued)

|       |   |                       |
|-------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 13 | Notes and notebooks   | 1979, undated         |
| b. 13 | Notes, poems, short stories, and correspondence   | circa 1921-1951       |
| b. 13 | Notes, short stories, and correspondence  | 1954-1970,<br>Undated |
| b. 13 | Notebook  | undated               |
| b. 14 | Notebook for "Children of the Dark"   | 1955-1956             |
| b. 14 | Notebook for "Matriarch"  | 1938-1939             |
| b. 14 | Play drafts, poems, and short stories   | undated               |
| b. 14 | Play programs   | 1928-1930             |
| b. 14 | Short stories<br><i>3 Folders</i><br>Includes the short stories, "An Agent of Truman," "Four Strikes and You're Out!," and "The Lightnin' Bug Special."   | undated               |
| b. 14 | Short stories<br>Stories include "The Day Harry Thaw Met Carrie Nation," "The Game We Almost Didn't Win," and "I Remember Harry."   | undated               |
| b. 14 | Songs and verses  | undated               |
|       | Series IV: Personal papers<br>Includes photographs, scrapbooks, clippings, and other personal papers. Scrapbooks include clippings and other material related to Yellow Springs, Ohio, photographs, clippings, and programs related to The Island Players Community Theater, and other material related to Igo's plays, including clippings, programs, and photographs.<br><br>Material is arranged alphabetically by folder title. | 1910-1984             |
| b. 15 | The Argo: Westminster College Yearbook  | 1915                  |
| b. 15 | Family History  | 1980-1984             |
| b. 15 | Funeral guest book for Harold Igo   | 1976                  |
| b. 15 | Legal documents   | 1925-1929             |
| b. 15 | Magazines   | 1960-1962             |
| b. 16 | Newspaper Clippings   | 1920, 1976            |
| b. 16 | Newspaper Clippings   | 1943-1970             |
| b. 16 | Notebook  |                       |
| b. 16 | Notebook with personal papers   | circa 1910-1956       |
| b. 16 | Photographs   | undated               |

## Series IV: Personal papers (continued)

|       |   |                      |
|-------|---|----------------------|
| b. 16 | Photograph album  | circa<br>1910s-1920s |
| b. 16 | Photographs with writing by George Santayana  | 1923                 |
| b. 17 | Scrapbook   | 1930-1944            |
| b. 18 | Scrapbook   | 1930-1959            |
| b. 19 | Scrapbook   | 1943                 |
| b. 20 | Scrapbook   | 1944                 |
| b. 21 | Scrapbook   | 1950-1959            |
| b. 22 | Scrapbook<br>This scrapbook contains an image of the racist practice of yellowface, the portrayal of East Asians by white actors. | circa 1950-1960s     |
| b. 23 | Scrapbook   | 1956-1960            |
| b. 24 | Scrapbook   | undated              |
| b. 16 | Westminster class reunion directory   | undated              |



**October 2016 acquisition, 1970–1979**

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Gift of Dorothy L. Rogers, 2016.

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|       |   |                 |
|-------|---|-----------------|
| b. 25 | Notebook featuring clippings and photographs      | circa 1972-1975 |
| b. 25 | Notebook featuring writings, notes, and clippings | circa 1970s     |

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## November 2016 acquisition, 1950–1989

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Gift of David M. Rodgers, 2016.

|       |   |                      |
|-------|---|----------------------|
| b. 25 | Biographical papers<br>Includes a biographical statement, summaries of Igo's plays, and poems by Igo. | circa<br>1970s-1980s |
| b. 25 | Documentation of artwork by Igo   | undated              |
| b. 25 | Warder Public Library card  | circa<br>1950s-1960s |

## **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**

Plays  
Playwriting  
Scrapbooks  
Theatrical producers and directors  
Theatrical producers and directors -- United States  
Writers, American -- 20th Century

### **Genres / Formats**

Playscripts

### **Names**

Igo, Harold

### **Corporate Body**

Island Players Community Theater