

Guide to the Mordecai Hillel Kroshnitz Papers

MS 2013



compiled by Julie Cohen

August 2015

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Selected Search Terms	8

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2013

CREATOR: Kroshnits, Mordekhai

TITLE: Mordecai Hillel Kroshnitz papers

DATES: 1936-1997

BULK DATES: 1960-1990

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.46 linear feet (6 boxes)

LANGUAGE: The materials are primarily in Yiddish; some materials are in Hebrew or other languages, including Polish, French, Spanish, and English.

SUMMARY: The papers contain between two and three thousand handwritten or typed documents including letters, poems, and drafts of articles and lectures. Many of the letters are sent from Yiddish authors and institutions around the world. The papers also include clippings and issues of periodicals with writings by Kroshnitz, reviews of his work, and source material for his work.

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

Requesting Instructions

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

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Judaica Collection Curator, 2015.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Mordecai Hillel Kroshnitz Papers (MS 2013). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Processing Information

The collection received a baseline level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. Papers from each portfolio are placed together in one folder. Labels and annotations on original portfolios were photocopied and original portfolios were discarded. The photocopies were placed in the folder with the contents of the portfolio.

Biographical / Historical

Mordecai Hillel Kroshnitz was a Yiddish journalist and writer who was born in Baranowice, Belarus in 1915. During World War II he escaped the Nazis and joined the Red Army. After the war he returned to Poland and was active in Zionist-Socialist organizations and causes. Kroshnitz moved to Israel with his family in 1949, where he continued his activism in Israel's organization of trade unions, the Histadrut, and in Yiddish literary circles. Through his work and personal correspondence he maintained connections with the other writers throughout the world who created the post-war Yiddish literary scene. Kroshnitz was the author of numerous articles and four books: *Eygn* (1963), *Natur un Mentsh* (1965), *Erd* (1967), and *Doyres* (1969). He also edited two Yizkor (memorial) books: *Krasnobrod* (1956) and *Lubtsh un Delatsh yizker-bukh* (1971); as well as *H'eyfe* [Haifa]: *yorbukh far lit'eratur un k'unst* (1963-1969), which he co-edited together with David Rodin.

Scope and Contents

The papers contain between two and three thousand handwritten or typed documents including letters, poems, and drafts of articles and lectures. Most of the papers are letters sent to Kroshnitz or items he wrote when he lived in Israel after World War II, except for a few photocopies of articles he had published in Yiddish newspapers in Poland in the 1930's. Many of the letters are from Yiddish authors and institutions around the world, including M. (Moshe) Bick, Chaim Grade, K. Fiszbin, Menke Katz, Avraham Patt, and others. The papers also include clippings and issues of periodicals with writings by Kroshnitz, reviews of his work, and source material for his work. There are notes for a lecture on humor, a speech to the International Conference on Yiddish Language and Culture, and materials for speeches and articles about Yiddish writers, notably Sholem Aleichem, Sholem Asch, Sh. (Shelomoh) Berlinski, M. (Moshe) Bick, Dr. [Shlomo?] Bickel, David Einhorn, Menke Katz, Yehoshua Monik Lederman, Mani Leib, H. Leivick, Itzik Manger, Nachman Mayzel, Mendelev Mokher Sefarim, Levi Papiernikov, David Pinski, Melech Ravitch, David Rodin, Eliezer Steinbarg, Shyfra Werber, and Yehoash. In addition, there are notes for presentations about Jewish communities destroyed in the Holocaust, including the communities of Zamosc and Czechochowa, Poland. Kroshnitz's journal contains poems, various notes, the text of a speech he gave on his eightieth birthday, and a eulogy for "my friend, Menke Katz."

Arrangement

The papers are loosely arranged without changes to the original organization despite inconsistencies. Descriptions of contents are preliminary, not comprehensive. Clippings and issues of periodicals that were in portfolios have been placed in the corresponding folders, while other clippings and periodicals are in a separate box.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Speeches on the communities of Zamość and Częstochowa, Poland Handwritten texts of talks presented to Holocaust memorial gatherings in Israel.	1975-1983
b. 1, f. 2	Anna and Leyb Rubinlicht Prize for Yiddish Literature and Culture, Israeli Association of Yiddish Writers and Journalists Materials, including poster, letters of congratulations, draft of speech, and newspaper clippings, primarily relate to Kroshnitz's receipt of the prize. There is some other unrelated material as well.	1982
b. 1, f. 3	Posters announcing talks by Kroshnitz and notes for those talks	Circa 1965-1986
b. 2, f. 1	Correspondence, mostly regarding works by Kroshnitz There are many letters from other authors and institutions, including the writer Jonas Turkow and YIVO librarian Dina Abramovitz, thanking Kroshnitz for giving them copies of his book.	Circa 1950-1970
b. 2, f. 2	Articles, clippings, and drafts of articles and book reviews There are materials on topics of interest to Kroshnitz, as well as items he wrote. The latter includes "Is it good for the Jews?", which discusses the Jewish vote in the upcoming election in the United States between Nixon and McGovern, in an issue of Di Tsukunft.	1962-1986
b. 2, f. 3	Notes, drafts, and newspaper clippings with source material for articles and lectures about Yiddish writers Authors discussed include Sholem Aleichem, Mendele Mokher Sefarim, David Pinski, Eliezer Steinbarg, Nachman Mayzel, Yehoash, H. Leivick, Sholem Asch, David Einhorn, Itzik Manger, Melech Ravitch, Mani Leib, Dr. [Shlomo?] Bickel, and Menke Katz.	1962-1976
b. 2, f. 4	Notes, drafts, and newspaper clippings with source material for articles and lectures These materials include notes for a lecture on humor, a speech to the International Conference on Yiddish Language and Culture, and materials for speeches and articles about Yiddish writers, including Sh. (Shelomoh) Berlinski, Yehoshua Monik Lederman, Shyfra Werber, David Rodin, Levi Papiernikov, and M. (Moshe) Bick.	1968-1980
b. 3, f. 1	Newspaper and magazine clippings, with some notes The articles are mostly in Yiddish, but also in English and Polish.	Circa 1960-1985
b. 3, f. 2	Printed articles by and about Kroshnitz	1936-1994
b. 4, f. 1	Unpublished works	Circa 1960-1990
b. 4, f. 2	Works by other writers sent to Kroshnitz	Undated
b. 4, f. 3	Miscellaneous papers One document with the heading "Answers of Mordekhai Kroshnitz" outlines the chronology of his life. (CV/resume?)	1954-1996
b. 5, f. 1-2	Correspondence Many of the correspondents are Yiddish writers, including Moshe Bik, Chaim Grade, K. Fiszbin, Avraham Patt and Menke Katz.	1958-1997

b. 5, f. 3	Journal and miscellaneous writings	1977-1995
b. 6, f. 1	Clippings	1964-1970, undated
b. 6, f. 2	Folk, velt un medine	1976, 1978
b. 6, f. 3	Lebns-fragn	1977-1994
b. 6, f. 4	Literarishe heftn	1964
b. 6, f. 5	Der Onheyb	1993-1995
b. 6, f. 6	Problemen	1973-1987
b. 6, f. 7	Problemot = Problemen	1963-1972
b. 6, f. 8	Shurot	1956
b. 6, f. 9	Di Tsukunft	1962
b. 6, f. 10	Undzer dor	1962
b. 6, f. 11	Undzer eygn vinkl	1970
b. 6, f. 12	Yidishe Kultur	1986, 1988

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.

Names

Kroshnits, Mordekhai, 1915-1998 -- Archives