

Leonard Angel fonds

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University of British Columbia Archives



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Fonds Description

Leonard Angel fonds. – 1960-2013.

1.94 m of graphic and textual materials.

31 photographs (prints, b&w and colour).

Biographical Sketch

Leonard Jay Angel was born in Montreal in September 1945, and received his Bachelor of Arts from McGill University in 1966. Angel then moved to Vancouver to study at the University of British Columbia where he completed an MA in Philosophy in 1968, an MA in Creative Writing and Theatre in 1970, and a PhD in Philosophy in 1974. He was an associate fellow in UBC's Department of Philosophy in 1992, and taught philosophy at Douglas College from fall 1993 through 2012. Angel maintained a close relationship with UBC throughout his career, working on and off as a sessional lecturer for philosophy and creative writing courses, and participating in student study groups and departmental colloquia. He also produced at least two plays ("The Ballad of Etienne Brule" and "Eleanor Marx") through UBC's theatre department.

Angel was a poet, playwright, philosopher, and author, with 17 plays produced and 7 published books. He was an active figure in the Vancouver theatre scene from the 1970s through the 1990s, with plays produced and performed by Vancouver's Street Theatre, Terrific Theatre, and the New Play Centre. Angel also had several of his plays produced in theatres in Toronto and Seattle. Outside of his academic writing on philosophy, he practiced and wrote at length about Jewish theology as well as Zen practices. He was connected to Vancouver's Jewish community through his involvement in Or Shalom Synagogue and founded the Integral Studies Institute in 1987 to provide instruction on meditation and spirituality. Angel was also an advocate for World Federalism and was president of the Vancouver branch of World Federalist Movement Canada from 1996 through 2013. Leonard Angel passed away in August 2022.

Custodial History

The materials were donated in 2023 to the University Archives by Angel's widow Susan Fogel Angel.

Scope and Content

Fonds contains textual, photographic, and other graphic material related to Angel's various creative endeavors, including poetry, playwriting, prose writing, and art. Material from plays includes scripts, correspondence, clippings, and ephemera from their production. The fonds contains drafts of his poetry, as well as clippings of select poems published in the Or Shalom Synagogue's newsletter *Keren Or*. There is a wide

range of material related to Angel's scholarly and personal interests in religion, philosophy, and spirituality, including but not limited to published articles, material from meditation retreats led by Angel, and miscellaneous writing and correspondence on Judaism, Zen, and other religions and philosophies.

The fonds also contains his collected "black books," sketchbooks spanning nearly thirty years that include notes and drawings of meetings, conferences, and personal events attended by Angel. Pen and ink portraits of individuals make up the majority of Angel's sketches. Other personal records include diplomas and certificates, along with correspondence and a sample set of a card game developed by Angel.

Notes

File list available.

Most materials are in English with some materials in Hebrew.

Series Descriptions

Plays series. – 1966-1997.

20 cm of textual materials.

This series contains textual records relating to Angel's work as a playwright. It includes draft scripts, published scripts, posters, programs, newspaper clippings, and other play ephemera. Of his 17 plays produced, this series has materials related to 12 plays:

- "The King of Siam" (1966)
- "The Ballad of Etienne Brule" (1968)
- "How the Greeks Dealt with their Military and Industrial Complex in 546 B.C." (1969)
- *After Antietam* (1975)
- *Incident After Antietam* (1976)
- *Isadora and G.B.* (1977)
- "Star Turns" (1977)
- "3000 Years of Sexual Politics" (1985)
- "God is Alive and Well and Living in Riverdell Psychiatric Hospital" (1995)
- "Moliere's Misanthrope: A Gender Inverted Hollywood-North Adaptation" (1995)
- *The Unveiling* (1982)
- "Breaking the Glass" (1991)

Draft material related to his monologue titled "A Poet Goes to the Dentist" can be found in the poetry series, as it was received interfiled with poetry drafts. The undated materials have been arranged alphabetically with the dated materials arranged chronologically.

Poetry series. – 1960-2000.

12 cm of textual materials.

This series includes drafts of poetry, mostly unpublished, along with clippings of the Or Shalom Synagogue's newsletter, *Keren Or*, in which some of his poetry was published. The poems in *Keren Or* are published under Leonard Angel, or his transliterated Hebrew name: Yehudah Angel, or Yehudah ben Kalam v'Esther. Much of his unpublished poetry is undated. This series also contains drafts of Angel's produced monologue, "A Poet Goes to the Dentist." The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject.

Philosophy and spirituality series. – 1962-2010.

12.5 cm of textual materials.

This series contains material related to Angel's academic pursuits and personal interests in religion, spirituality, mysticism, and philosophy. Material includes essays, academic journal publications, correspondence, posters, pamphlets, artwork, annotated Hebrew commentaries, and other ephemera. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject.

Two files from this series, "Crossways and the Gathering" and [Literally?] and Jesus Genealogy, were removed for conservation treatment before processing was complete and filed at the end of Box 1 when reintegrated.

Personal records series. – 1966-2013.

12 cm of textual materials.

This series includes textual records relating to Angel's personal life and endeavors. It consists of diplomas for his academic degrees, material from his unfinished and unpublished memoir, samples and correspondence related to his card game "Flip Deck," proceedings from a Vancouver trial where he served as defendant, and a certificate of his wife's conversion to Judaism. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject.

Sketchbooks series. – 1980-2007.

1.37 m of graphic and textual materials (51 sketchbooks).

This series consists of Angel's "black books," sketchbooks that were used as journals of his daily life. Handwritten notes and pen and ink drawings comprise the majority of their content. His notes document rehearsals for his plays, early designs for his card game, and people and landscapes in his personal life. Many drawings of individuals are identified as participants in conferences, meetings, and events attended by Angel; some of these include Or Shalom meetings, philosophy talks and conferences, and World Federalist events and talks. Some, but not all sketchbooks include a list of identified individuals and locations on their final page. Several journals contain pamphlets, programs, and other ephemera interfiled between pages. Journals have been arranged chronologically.

Photographs series. – 1980-1983.

31 photographs (b&w and colour).

This series contains one photograph of Angel's artwork, two publicity shots of Angel, photographs of *The Unveiling* production, and photographs of two sesshin, one led by Kyozan Joshu Sasaki (1907–2014). The photo of Angel's artwork was found loose with his sketchbooks. The publicity shots and *The Unveiling* production photographs were

included with File 1-15 in an envelope labelled "Unveiling Photos." The session photographs were included with File 2-4 in an envelope addressed to "Toby."

File List

BOX 1

PLAYS

- 1-1 ["Dust"], n.d.
- 1-2 "Faking Shakespeare," n.d.
- 1-3 "How the English Took Quebec and Kept It," n.d.
- 1-4 Incident After Antietam Production Co. Ltd., n.d.
- 1-5 ["Unsweet Love Quintet"], n.d.
- 1-6 ["Walking on Glass"], n.d.
- 1-7 ["The King of Siam"], 1966
- 1-8 ["The Ballad of Etienne Brule" review], 1968
- 1-9 "Play About Greek Military Industrial Complex," 1969
- 1-10 [Vancouver Street Theatre], 1969
- 1-11 [*After Antietam*], 1977
- 1-12 ["Conversations of Intimacy"], 1977
- 1-13 [Luns and Rose], 1977
- 1-14 [*Incident After Antietam and Isadora and G.B.*], 1982
- 1-15 Originals of *Unveiling* Reviews, Photos, and Pre-publicists, 1982 – see Photograph series
- 1-16 ["3000 Years of Sexual Politics"], 1985
- 1-17 ["The Big Mix"], 1985
- 1-18 ["The Diplomat"], 1985
- 1-19 ["Dancing on the Head of a Pin with a Mouse in My Pocket"], 28 October 1986
- 1-20 Star Turns Co-op, 1986
- 1-21 Theatre Terrific, 1986
- 1-22 [Eco-Action Film Series letter], 1990
- 1-23 "Breaking the Glass" – Script, 1991
- 1-24 Gender-inverted "Moliere's Misanthrope" Reviews etc., 1995
- 1-25 ["God Is Alive and Well and Living in Riverdell Psychiatric Hospital" poster], 1995
- 1-26 ["Flowers for the Queen of the Dance"], 1997

POETRY

- 1-27 [*Cataract*], 1961-1962

- 1-28 ["How to Do Hard Things the Easy Way"], n.d.
- 1-29 "My Conversion to Atheism" M.S., n.d.
- 1-30 Philosophables, n.d.
- 1-31 Poems and poems published in *Keren Or*, 1960-2000
- 1-32 Poetry [found loose], 1971-1986
- 1-33 Poetry drafts [found loose], 1963-1986 [2 folders]
- 1-34 Poetry, 199-?

PHILOSOPHY AND SPIRITUALITY

- 1-35 Correspondence with Rev. Wilfred Boothroyd, 1995
- 1-36 "Crossways and the Gathering," 1962 – being treated by conservator
- 1-37 [Literally?] and Jesus Genealogy, n.d. – being treated by conservator

BOX 2

- 2-1 ["Jewish Mysticism in the Global Village"], 2003
- 2-2 [Journal publications], 1978-2010
- 2-3 ["A Meditation Siddur"], 1987
- 2-4 Meditation, spirituality, 1992-2002 – see Photograph series
- 2-5 [Parshat commentaries – Bereisheet through Bo], 1999
- 2-6 [Parshat commentaries – Beshalach through Devarim], 1999

BOX 3

- 3-1 [Parshat commentaries – Va'etchanan through Vezot Haberacha], 1999
- 3-2 Writing on religion, n.d.

PERSONAL RECORDS

- 3-3 [Certificate of Conversion to Judaism], 31 August 1993 (14 Elul 5753)
- 3-4 [Diploma – McGill Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Philosophy], May 1966
- 3-5 [Diploma – UBC Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy], May 1974
- 3-6 [Diploma – UBC Master of Arts in Creative Writing and Theatre], November 1970
- 3-7 [Diploma – UBC Master of Arts in Philosophy], May 1968
- 3-8 Flip correspondence, 1981-1983
- 3-9 The Flip Deck [card game], 1980

- 3-10 [Memoir – “Pigs on Horses and Other Marvels of the Sixties”], n.d.
- 3-11 Memoir, n.d.
- 3-12 [*Regina vs. Leonard Angel and Robert Mercer* trial proceedings], 14 July 1969
- 3-13 [World Federalist Movement Canada certificate], 2013

BOX 4

SKETCHBOOKS

- 4-1 [July – Oct] 1980 [fragile - loose binding]
- 4-2 Oct 1980 – Dec 1980
- 4-3 [Dec] 1980 – [Feb] 1981
- 4-4 [June 1983 – Jan 1984]
- 4-5 March 1984 – Nov 1984
- 4-6 [May] 1984 – [June 1989]
- 4-7 Nov 1984 – Jan 1985
- 4-8 Jan 1985 – March 1985
- 4-9 March 1985
- 4-10 March 1985 – June 1985
- 4-11 June 1985 – Aug 1985
- 4-12 July 1985 – Dec 1985
- 4-13 [Aug – Nov] 1985
- 4-14 [Aug 1985 – Feb] 1986
- 4-15 Dec 1985 – Mar 1986
- 4-16 April 1986 – June 1986

BOX 5

- 5-1 June 1986 – July 1986
- 5-2 Aug 1986 – Feb 1987
- 5-3 March 1987 – May 1987
- 5-4 Aug 1987 – Nov 1987
- 5-5 [Dec] 1987 – [Feb] 1988
- 5-6 March 1988 – Sept 1988
- 5-7 [Nov 1988 – March 1989]
- 5-8 Dec 1988 – [Feb 2001]
- 5-9 July 1989 – Oct 1989
- 5-10 [Nov] 1989 – [Feb] 1990
- 5-11 March 1990 – June 1990

- 5-12 June 1990 – Oct 1990
- 5-13 Dec 1990 – April 1991
- 5-14 [March - Aug] 1991 incl. "Leaving Normal" sketches
- 5-15 Nov 1991 – Feb 1992

BOX 6

- 6-1 March 1992 – Aug 1992
- 6-2 Sept 1992 – [April 1993]
- 6-3 Aug 1993 – Sept 1994 Travel, BC
- 6-4 [Nov] 1993 – [March] 1994
- 6-5 May 1994 – Sept 1994
- 6-6 Oct 1994 - May 1995
- 6-7 Oct 1994 - Oct 1995
- 6-8 June 1995 - Dec 1996
- 6-9 Feb 1997 – July 1997
- 6-10 Feb 1997 – Jan 1998
- 6-11 Aug 1998 – Feb 1999
- 6-12 [May] 2000 – [Feb] 2002
- 6-13 [March] 2001 – [Nov] 2002 [fragile - loose binding]
- 6-14 [Feb] 2002 – [Dec] 2003

BOX 7

- 7-1 [Dec] 2002 – Oct [2003]
- 7-2 Nov 2003 – May 2004
- 7-3 May 2004 – Dec 2005 [fragile - loose binding]
- 7-4 [Jan – Sept] 2006

BOX 8

- 8-1 [Nov] 2006 – [July] 2008
- 8-2 May 2007

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 199.1/1 Ali Akntar Kazami 1980 UBC blackboard, 1980, small print
- 199.1/2 [Leonard Angel publicity shot], 1982, small print
- 199.1/3 The Psychedelic Leonard Angel, 1982, small print

- 199.1/4 [*The Unveiling* scene, New Play Centre, Waterfront Theatre], May 1982, large print
- 199.1/5 [*The Unveiling* production, New Play Centre, Waterfront Theatre] May 1982, contact sheet
- 199.1/6 Karen Tasaka, n.d., small print
- 199.1/7 Ivan Marinov, n.d., small print
- 199.1/8 [An unidentified man, Milton Chen, and Patrick Fawkes], n.d., small print
- 199.1/9 [Leonard Angel, Patrick Fawkes, Milton Chen, an unidentified man, and Sandy Pratt], n.d., small print
- 199.1/10 Sandy Pratt, Patrick Fawkes (new student), Milton Chen (new student) n.d., small print
- 199.1/11 Leonard Angel, Milton Chen (new), Steve Ponak (new), n.d., small print
- 199.1/12 L[eonard] Angel, n.d., small print
- 199.1/13 [Graham, Sandy Pratt, Karen Tasaka, and two unidentified men], n.d., small print
- 199.1/14 [Leonard Angel leading sesshin walking meditation], 1983, small print
- 199.1/15 Rick Spencer 1983 sesshin, 1983, small print
- 199.1/16 [Leonard Angel leading sesshin walking meditation], 1983, small print
- 199.1/17 Leonard Angel and Rick Hunter, 1983, small print
- 199.1/18 Tony Ross 1983 sesshin, 1983, small print
- 199.1/19 Adam Nogrady and Tony Ross, 1983, small print
- 199.1/20 [Joshua Sasaki roshi], 1983, small print
- 199.1/21 Haruyo (Sasaki) roshi's wife, Joshua Sasaki roshi, Tony Ross, Jim McDonald, 1983, small print
- 199.1/22 [Meal at sesshin], 1983, small print
- 199.1/23 Tim Ross, Haruya Sasaki, and Karen Tasaka, 1983, small print
- 199.1/24 Toby Simms, 1983, small print
- 199.1/25 [Sesshin scene], 1983, small print
- 199.1/26 [Sesshin walking meditation and retreat grounds], 1983, contact sheet
- 199.1/27 [Sesshin cooking, meal, and meditation scenes], 1983, contact sheet
- 199.1/28 [Sesshin walking meditation], 1983, contact sheet
- 199.1/29 [Sesshin meal and cooking scenes], 1983, contact sheet
- 199.1/30 [Sesshin retreat grounds and walking meditation], 1983, contact sheet
- 199.1/31 [Sesshin meditation], 1983, contact sheet