



Canadian Jewish Heritage Network



Dreyfus Collection

<https://www.cjhn.ca/en/permalink/cjhn75976>

Collection: Dreyfus Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Material Format: multiple media

Physical Description: Textual material ; 144 postcards ; 66 photographs ; 17 prints

Scope and Content:

The Dreyfus Collection contains material related to the Dreyfus Affair, specifically the publicity and commentary surrounding the trial. It consists of a collection of editorial cartoons, newspaper clippings, broadsides, photographs and drawings. The content represents both positions in support and against Alfred Dreyfus, some of which are explicitly anti-semitic. The collection of postcards contains political cartoons and caricatures that were circulating at the time. Similarly, some of the posters represent the trial in a political manner. Newspaper clippings from the period are also included within the collection.

Date: 1989-1914 [predominant 1903-1908]

Fonds No.: 1318

Storage Location: JPL

History Biographical:

The trials of Captain Alfred Dreyfus took place in the last decade of the 19th century and first decade of the 20th century. Dreyfus, an officer of the French general staff, was falsely accused of passing state secrets to the German military, tried and twice convicted (1895,1899) of treason before finally being exonerated in 1906. The effects of the decade-long controversy were felt both within France and abroad for decades after the case proper was settled. The media that surrounded the trial and its aftermath created a flurry of public commentary on the topic and is an aspect that is well reflected within this collection. Postcards in particular were a new and inexpensive format that propelled the scale of popular opinion expressed through their mass-circulation and often time provocative, anti-semitic imagery. Dreyfus counted among his defenders such illustrious figures as the future French prime minister Georges Clemenceau, the celebrated novelist Emile Zola, and the social thinker Bernard Lazare. Theodore Herzl, serving as Paris correspondent for the Viennese newspaper Die Welt, was disturbed enough by the anti-semitic implications of the Dreyfus Affair to turn his thoughts and energies to political Zionism, the movement which he founded.

Language: French

English

Yiddish

Custodial History: Provenance for this collection remains unknown.

Notes:

A portion of material was removed from the collection's two albums. For each of these items a note has been created that indicates its initial page number and position in which it was originally placed.

Subjects: Dreyfus Affair (1884-1906)
Dreyfus, Alfred, 1859-1935
Zola, Emile, 1840-1902
France
France - Jews
Antisemitism
Media
Cartoon

Archival /
Genealogical: Archival Descriptions

Repository: Jewish Public Library Archives