



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Harry Simonhoff Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 27



Collection Summary

Title	Harry Simonhoff Papers
Dates	1948-1966
Collection Number	MS-27
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Simonhoff, Harry, 1891-1966
Extent	1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Harry Simonhoff was born in Lithuania (circa 1893), the son of Rabbi Jacob J. and Jennie (Shapiro) Simonhoff. In 1896 the Simonhoff family immigrated to the United States, settling first in Atlanta, Georgia and then in Charleston, South Carolina. At the age of twenty or twenty-one Simonhoff entered the College of Charleston by special examination since he had never attended high school. Simonhoff received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Charleston in 1917. He went on to receive a law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1919 and completed a special studies program at the Harvard University Law School in 1920.

After completing his studies, Simonhoff returned to Charleston to begin his private law practice. In 1921-1922 he served as a representative for two terms in the South Carolina State Legislature.

In 1925 Simonhoff moved to Miami, Florida in order to set up a law practice with his younger brother, Samuel. They participated in the Florida land speculation boom and, within two years, reportedly made and subsequently lost one million dollars. By the 1930s, however, the brothers had sufficiently recovered to build a hotel along Miami Beach.

In Miami, Simonhoff participated in many Jewish activities. He assisted in the founding of Miami's B'nai B'rith lodge, was a delegate to the American Jewish Conference in 1943, became a trustee of Miami's Mt. Sinai Hospital and was active in the Miami Zionist District and the Miami United Palestine Appeal.

After World War II, Simonhoff spent the majority of his time in literary and historical pursuits. In 1948 he began writing a weekly column, "I'll Say," for The Jewish Floridian, where he commented on contemporary and historical events. In July 1952 Simonhoff ended producing a regular weekly column but he continued "I'll Say" on a sporadic basis through 1955. In 1953 Simonhoff began writing another column for newspapers, "American Notables," where he presented biographical sketches of significant Jewish personalities. Simonhoff also published several books: *Under Strange Skies* (1953), *Jewish Notables of America, 1776-1865* (1956), *Saga of American Jewry, 1865-1914* (1959), (these latter two are the culmination of his "American Notables" column), *Jewish Participants in the Civil War* (1962), and *The Chosen One* (1963).

In 1953 Simonhoff married Ilse Danziger, who had immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1910. Harry Simonhoff died on October 4, 1966 in Miami Beach, Florida.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of literary manuscripts, articles, newsclippings, nearprint, and letters of Simonhoff, a Miami, Florida attorney and author. The papers reflect Simonhoff's interest in American Jewish history and his activities within the Miami Jewish community.

Arrangement

Organized into three (3) series: A. Articles and columns; B. Manuscripts; C. Scrapbooks.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Terms of Reproduction and Use

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Preferred Citation	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Harry Simonhoff Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-27. Harry Simonhoff Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Provenance	Received from Rachel Simonhoff, Miami, Fla., 1977-1979.
Processing Information	Processed by Jeff Kahn and inventoried by M. Carolyn Dellenbach, May 1978.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jewish historians / Jewish lawyers / Jews -- Florida -- Miami
Personal Names	Simonhoff, Harry, 1891-1966
Media	Scrapbooks

Series A. Articles and columns, 1948-1955, 1962

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains articles from Simonhoff's newspaper columns, including his regular columns "I'll Say" and "American Notables" from 1948-1955, 1962. The articles in this series did not appear in Jewish Notables of America or Saga of American Jewry.

Arrangement The articles within this series are arranged in chronological order.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Articles by Simonhoff, undated
- Box 1. Folder 2. "American Notables.", 1953-1954, 1962
- Box 1. Folder 3. "I'll Say" column in The Jewish Floridian, 1948-1955, undated
- Box 1. Folder 4. "I'll Say" column in The Jewish Floridian, 1948-1955, undated
- Box 1. Folder 5. "I'll Say" column in The Jewish Floridian, 1948-1955, undated

Series B. Manuscripts, 1956-1964

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 6. "And Abraham Journeyed.", undated
- Box 1. Folder 7. "And Abraham Journeyed.", undated
- Box 1. Folder 8. The Chosen One, 1964
- Box 1. Folder 9. The Chosen One, 1964
- Box 2. Folder 1. Jewish Notables of America, 1776-1865, 1956
- Box 2. Folder 2. Jewish Notables of America, 1776-1865, 1956
- Box 2. Folder 3. "Jews in Fiction.", undated
- Box 2. Folder 4. Saga of American Jewry, 1865-1914, 1959

Box 2. Folder 5. Saga of American Jewry, 1865-1914, 1959

Box 2. Folder 6. Saga of American Jewry, 1865-1914, 1959

Box 3. Folder 1. Under Strange Skies, 1956

Series C. Scrapbooks, 1948-1966

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Includes articles and newsclippings regarding Simonhoff's activities and interests, announcements and reviews of Simonhoff's books, invitations, letters to Simonhoff, editorial letters by Simonhoff and by others in response to Simonhoff's writings.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 4. Scrapbook, 1948-1966

Box 3. Folder 5. Scrapbook, 1948-1966

Box 4. Folder 1. Scrapbook, 1948-1966

Box 4. Folder 2. Scrapbook, 1948-1966

Box 4. Folder 3. Scrapbook, 1948-1966

Box 4. Folder 4. Scrapbook, 1948-1966