A Finding Aid to the
Aaron Lopez Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 231
Collection Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Aaron Lopez Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1737-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>MS-231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Lopez, Aaron, 1731-1782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language of the Material</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
Colonial merchant and shipper, Aaron Lopez was born in Portugal in 1831. He immigrated to Newport, Rhode Island in 1752 where he was engaged primarily in the whale oil and candle business, although he also dealt in livestock, groceries, rum, ships, clothing, and slaves. During the 1760s and 1770s, he built an extensive transatlantic mercantile empire and on the eve of the American Revolution, Lopez was Newport’s leading merchant and taxpayer. During the Revolution, he supported the colonials and withdrew from British-threatened Newport which greatly diminished his business. He died in 1782 before he could recoup his losses.

Scope and Content
Consists of photocopies of business and personal correspondence (1752-1783), business records and account books (1751-1782) and miscellaneous materials.

Copies
Also available in microfilm; available in repository and via interlibrary loan; AJA microfilm nos. 370, 596, 318-329, and 1212-1216.

Terms of Access
The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation
Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Aaron Lopez Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-231. Aaron Lopez Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance
Received from various donors.

Index Terms

Subjects  Jews -- Rhode Island -- Newport

Personal Names  Lopez, Aaron, 1731-1782

Corporate Names  Jewish businesspeople

Series A. General, 1737-1962

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. General correspondence.
Box 1. Folder 2. Index of letters, 1737-1781
Box 1. Folder 3. Letterbook, 1781-1782
Box 1. Folder 4. Death notices, eulogies, and estate papers, 1772-1783, 1962
Box 1. Folder 5. Account book with David Lopez, 1765-1780
Box 1. Folder 6. Articles of agreement, deeds, lawsuits, and naturalization papers, 1761-1781
Box 1. Folder 7. Bills of lading, 1756-1776
Box 1. Folder 8. Business documents and correspondence.
Box 1. Folder 9. Correspondence with Christian merchants, 1771-1772, 1779-1782
Box 2. Folder --. "The Schooner "Hope" and Cargo, Lopez, Claimant vs. Brooks and Griffith Case No. 28".
Box 2. Folder 1. Lopez vs. Brooks and Griffith, 1778-1780
Box 2. Folder 2. Naturalization petition with Isaac Elizer, 1761
Box 2. Folder 3. Oaths of allegiance, 1761, undated
Box 2. Folder 4. Solicitation letter for congregation, 1764
Box 2. Folder 5. Business letters, 1767-1783
Box 2. Folder 7. Lopez, Aaron, reel 319.
Box 2. Folder 8. Lopez, Aaron, reel 320.
Box 2. Folder 10. Lopez, Aaron, reel 322.
Box 3. Folder 1. Lopez, Aaron, reel 323.
Box 3. Folder 2. Lopez, Aaron, reel 324.
Box 3. Folder 3. Lopez, Aaron, reel 325.
Box 3. Folder 4. Lopez, Aaron, reel 326.
Box 3. Folder 5. Lopez, Aaron, reel 327.
Box 3. Folder 7. Lopez, Aaron, reel 329.