A Finding Aid to the
Iphigene Bettman Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 667
Iphigene Bettman Papers

Iphigene Bettman (1892-1978) was born in Cincinnati, Ohio to James and Helen Wise Molony. She was well known as a newspaper columnist, Republican Party worker, and radio show moderator, though she primarily considered herself a writer. Bettman was the wife of Gilbert Bettman, Sr., a judge on the Ohio Supreme Court and a vice mayor of Cincinnati. She was also a granddaughter of Isaac Mayer Wise, the founder of Hebrew Union College and an important figure in Reform Judaism. Bettman had three children, Carol Lazar, Alfred Bettman, and Judge Gilbert Bettman, Jr.

Bettman was a consultant for the Office of War Information during World War II in the United Kingdom. Her account of that assignment appeared in the New York Times and the Cincinnati Times Star. After the war she was the moderator for the radio forum, "What's on Your Mind?" in New York. She later was a columnist for the Cincinnati Times Star where her column "Hearabout" appeared for more than a decade. She also occasionally contributed an article for The Enquirer.

Bettman was the president of the Republican Women's Club and state and local chairperson of the education committee of the League of Women Voters. She was the state legislative chairperson for the American Association of University Women, member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and volunteer for the Department of Welfare.

In 1940 she ran for the Cincinnati Board of Education unsuccessfully. It was her only campaign, though she was a writer and organizer for the Republican Party in eight state campaigns.

The Bettman family's ties to Cincinnati began in 1861 when Isaac Mayer Wise brought his family to a farm in North College Hill. Upon his death in 1900, Adolph S. Ochs, publisher of the New York Times and uncle to Bettman, bought the farm for his wife, Effie Wise Ochs. Since they were living in New York they asked James and Helen Wise Molony to live on the farm. Bettman wrote extensively on the importance of the farm to her during her formative years. The farm is now a park.

The collection contains the writings of Iphigene Bettman, a newspaper columnist, Republican Party worker, and granddaughter of Isaac Mayer Wise. Included are her journals from various trips overseas, correspondence with her family, and articles, stories, and speeches that she wrote. Of special interest are writings from her time in England at the end of World War II and reminiscences of her grandfather's farm in North College Hill.

The collection is arranged in three (3) series: A. Correspondence; B. Writings; C. Miscellaneous.

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-667. Iphigene Bettman Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Received from Helen Cohen, Houston, Tex., July 2001.


Jewish women / Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Journalists
Personal Names  Wise, Isaac Mayer, 1819-1900

Series A. Correspondence, 1900-1958

Extent  0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note  Contains letters written to her family and friends. Important in this series is correspondence with her children written while on a journalistic tour of England in 1943.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Bettman family, 1910-1945
Box 1. Folder 3. Bettman, Gilbert, Sr. Engagement letters, undated
Box 1. Folder 4. Bettman, Gilbert, Jr., 1918
Box 1. Folder 5. General, 1900-1921, undated
Box 1. Folder 6. General, 1939-1958

Series B. Writings, 1915-1955

Extent  0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Arrangement

The series is divided into two (2) subseries: 1. Journals; 2. Articles and Speeches.


Extent  0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note  Contains Bettman's journals while on various trips overseas, including Asia, Europe, and Casablanca.

Arrangement  This subseries is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 7. Asia, 1955
Box 1. Folder 8. Camping, 1955
Box 1. Folder 9. Casablanca, 1943
Box 1. Folder 10. England, 1915
Box 1. Folder 11. England, 1943
Box 1. Folder 12. European travel with Ochs family, 1931
Box 1. Folder 13. Post World War II, 1947

Subseries 2. Articles and Speeches, 1944-1955, undated

Extent  0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)
**Scope and Content Note**  Contains articles and speeches written throughout her career as a columnist.

**Arrangement**  This subseries is arranged alphabetically.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 1. Folder 14. Bettman, Gilbert, Sr. Speech, undated
- Box 2. Folder 1. Contemporary Club. Stories and articles, undated
- Box 2. Folder 2. England. Articles, undated
- Box 2. Folder 3. K.K. Bene Israel (Rockdale Temple) 125th anniversary article, undated
- Box 2. Folder 4. Poems, undated
- Box 2. Folder 5. Published articles, 1948-1954
- Box 2. Folder 6. Radio addresses, 1944
- Box 2. Folder 7. Stowe, Harriet Beecher. Memorial speech, 1944 June 16
- Box 2. Folder 8. Walnut Hills High School writings, undated
- Box 2. Folder 10. Women's suffrage, undated
- Box 2. Folder 11. Writings, undated

**Series C. Miscellaneous, 1964, undated**

**Extent**  1.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box, 1 oversize box)

**Scope and Content Note**  Includes a tribute to Bettman’s uncle, Adolph S. Ochs on his seventieth birthday and reminiscences of her grandfather, Isaac Mayer Wise and his farm. Also included is Bettman’s scrapbook which contains some of her published articles, articles describing her and her noted family, and personal mementos.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 2. Folder 12. Autobiographical questionnaire, 1964
- Box 2. Folder 13. Ochs, Adolph S. 70th birthday tributes, undated
- Box X-441a. Folder 1. Scrapbook, undated