



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Iphigene Bettman Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 667



Collection Summary

Title	Iphigene Bettman Papers
Dates	1900-1964
Collection Number	MS-667
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Bettman, Iphigene, 1892-1978
Extent	1.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes, 1 oversize box)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch 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.

Scope and Content 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.

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

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

Preferred Citation 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.

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Index Terms

Subjects 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 2. Bettman family. Letters from England, 1943
- 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.

Subseries 1. Journals, 1915-1955

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 9. Women of Asia, 1955

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 2. Folder 14. Wise, Isaac Mayer. Tributes, undated

Box X-441a. Folder 1. Scrapbook, undated