



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Joseph Solomon Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 691



Collection Summary

Title	Joseph Solomon Papers
Dates	1927-1996
Collection Number	MS-691
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Solomon, Joseph, 1904-1996
Extent	1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Joseph Solomon was born in New York City on 11 March 1904 to impoverished Russian immigrants. He was raised in New York City's Lower East Side and worked as a delivery boy while in elementary school to help support his seven brothers and sisters in a four-room cold-water tenement in East Harlem. Solomon attended P.S. 109 until he was 13, when family finances could no longer be stretched to send him to school.

At 15, Solomon began working as a messenger boy for \$10 a week for the law firm for Lehman, Goldmark and Rohrllich. It was here that Solomon was introduced to the legal system and became determined to practice law. Compensating for his lack of formal education, Solomon passed the Regents qualifying exam in one year of intensive evening study and graduated from New York Law School in 1927. In 1929, he was hired by Lehman, Goldmark and Rohrllich. He was made partner of the firm in 1949 and became senior partner in 1963. In 1979, the law firm merged and the name was changed to Pincus, Ohrenstein, Bizar, D'Alessandro and Solomon. In 1983, he began serving as counsel to the firm Ohrenstein and Brown.

Joseph Solomon became an influential attorney in the field of wills, trusts, and estates. His client list included industrialists, artists, and philanthropists. Solomon was also extremely active in supporting continuing and higher education. He was the first lawyer in the United States to have three law school chairs endowed in his name: one at Columbia University and two at New York Law School. Solomon also was instrumental in the implementation of the Judaic Studies department at Columbia University. In 1977, a chair at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine was endowed in his name as part of a joint gift made by a bequest by Mrs. Florette Rosenfeld and her husband Ernst, who had been a member of the Mount Sinai board of trustees before his death in 1937. In conjunction with the endowments, Joseph Solomon also established a scholarship fund at New York Law School for the school's Center for Legal Studies exchange at the University of Bologna. The program was designed as a comparative study in the fields of antitrust, European Common Market and labor law, as well as regionalism and federalism. In 1983, Solomon and his wife Rita established the Rita and Joseph Solomon Professorship at New York Law School.

Joseph Solomon was the recipient of many awards, including the 1978 Horatio Alger Award, which celebrates the accomplishments and achievements of outstanding individuals in American society who have succeeded in "pulling themselves up by the bootstraps" in face of adversity. For his work toward a more open dialogue between the U.S. and Italian legal professions, Solomon was knighted in 1980 by the Italian government. In 1982, at the request of his wife Rita, Joseph Solomon celebrated his bar mitzvah at Congregation Emanu-El, the certificate of which is included in the collection.

In conjunction with the many awards for his philanthropic interests, Joseph Solomon was also very active in the legal world. He served on the board of directors of the New York Law Review, on the committee of character and fitness first department of New York City, and was an active participant in the American Bar Association.

Joseph Solomon married Rita Schwartz on August 31, 1929. They had two children: Alan (a leading figure in cancer research) and Diane (a sculptor). Joseph Solomon died on October 8, 1996 in New York City.

Scope and Content

The Joseph Solomon collection consists of memorabilia, nearprint, articles, and writings of Joseph Solomon, a prominent New York attorney specializing in estate and trust Law. Materials pertain to Solomon's legal work and his interest in philanthropy, where his support of higher education led to the endowment of three chairs in his name.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into three (3) series: A. Correspondence; B. Nearprint and Photographs; C. Memorabilia and Awards.

- Terms of Access** The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
- Preferred Citation** Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Joseph Solomon Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-691. Joseph Solomon Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Provenance** Received from Joseph Solomon, New York, N.Y., and Alan Solomon, Knoxville, Tenn.
- Processing Information** Processed by Rachel M. Howse, November 2002.

Index Terms

- Subjects** Jewish lawyers / Philanthropists
- Personal Names** Solomon, Joseph, 1904-1996

Series A. Correspondence, 1962-1992

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence that detail Solomon's career as an attorney and his philanthropic interests together with personal correspondence. Of interest are letters written by Mary Kay Ash, the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, Judge Damon Keith, E. Donald Shapiro, and the writer Robert Nathan.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, A-B.
- Box 1. Folder 2. Ash, Mary Kay, 1978 May 25 - 1981 October 1
- Box 1. Folder 3. Banks, Samuel Alston, 1985 July 7 - 1985 January 13
- Box 1. Folder 4. Bearn, Margaret S., 1977 March 18 - 1985 January 24
- Box 1. Folder 5. Benjamin, Edward B., 1975 July 3 - 1991 September 24
- Box 1. Folder 6. Berger, Ira M., 1985 - 1986 June 16
- Box 1. Folder 7. Broad, Shepard, 1977 November 25 - 1987 May 5
- Box 1. Folder 8. Buchanan, Peter, 1972 November 10 - 1975 June 24
- Box 1. Folder 9. Butler, Robert N., 1983 February 4 - 1992 April 5
- Box 1. Folder 10. Correspondence, C-D.
- Box 1. Folder 11. Correspondence, E-F.
- Box 1. Folder 12. Correspondence, G-H.
- Box 1. Folder 13. Hillman, Lucille, 1977 March 18 - 1984 January 13
- Box 1. Folder 14. Correspondence, I-L.
- Box 1. Folder 15. Keith, Damon, 1978 June 13 - 1986 May 12
- Box 1. Folder 16. Kimball, Arthur, 1976 March 27 - 1987 March 28
- Box 1. Folder 17. Correspondence, M-P.
- Box 1. Folder 18. McGill, William, 1973 July 13 - 1979 June 12

Box 1. Folder 19. Middonik, Millard, 1975 October 6 - 1982 March 30

Box 1. Folder 20. Miner, Roger, 1986 June 13 - 1987 November 6

Box 1. Folder 21. Nathan, Robert, 1978 February 24 - June 19

Box 1. Folder 22. Norman Vincent Peale, 1981 January 3 - 1985 May 16

Box 2. Folder 1. Correspondence, R-S.

Box 2. Folder 2. Re, Edgar, 1975 December 17 - 1987 April 30

Box 2. Folder 3. Shapiro, E. Donald, 1975 July 1 - 1991 August 23

Box 2. Folder 4. Simon, James F., 1983 March 31 - 1992 May 6

Box 2. Folder 5. Sobel, Ronald B., 1975 June 26 - 1992 March 11

Box 2. Folder 6. Solomon, Joseph, 1962 January 22 - 1986 October 7

Box 2. Folder 7. Sovern, Michael, 1972 July 20 - 1990 February 7

Box 2. Folder 8. Correspondence, T-Z.

Box 2. Folder 9. Teirgarten, Alan, 1975 July 14 - 1986 November 20

Box 2. Folder 10. Thorton, John V., 1975 December 19 - 1986 May 14

Box 2. Folder 11. Miscellaneous correspondence, unsigned.

Series B. Nearprint and Photographs

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of news clippings and articles following the professional career of Joseph Solomon, including his knighting by the Italian government, his efforts on behalf of higher education, and his numerous awards and honors. There is also a small collection of photographs, most of which are dated and labeled. This series also contains material dealing with the law firms where Solomon worked.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 1. Nearprint.

Box 3. Folder 2. Nearprint.

Box 3. Folder 3. Photographs.

Box 3. Folder 4. Law firm charters and dissolutions.

Series C. Memorabilia and Awards, 1927-1996

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note This personal portion of the collection deals with materials that Solomon saved, including a series of cards from his wife Rita's birthdays, programs and invitations from various dinners and banquets, programs of his grandchildren's commencement exercises, and Solomon's writings. The awards component of the series contains material dealing with Solomon's various endowments and awards, including an extensive file on the Horatio Alger award and his work as the executor of the Etty Stettheimer estate.

Arrangement The endowment portion of the series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 4. Folder 1. Speeches, interviews and writings, undated

Box 4. Folder 2. Rita Solomon cards.

Box 4. Folder 3. Memorabilia.

Box 4. Folder 4. Endowments.

Box 4. Folder 5. Horatio Alger Award.

Box 4. Folder 6. Miscellaneous awards and certificates.

Box 4. Folder 7. Etty and Florine Stettheimer.