

Edith Altschul Lehman papers 4078517

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Rare Book and Manuscript Library

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Summary Information

Repository: Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Creator: Lehman, Edith A. (Edith Altschul)

Title: Edith Altschul Lehman papers

ID: 4078517

ID: MS#0762

Date [inclusive]: 1856-1976

Date [bulk]: 1963-1976

Physical 17 linear feet 32 document boxes; 1 record carton; 2 file card

Description: boxes; 4 oversize boxes; Mapcase 15K4

Language of the

Material:

English.

Abstract: This collection documents the life of Edith Altschul Lehman, a

philanthropist who supported many social projects in New York City. Edith Lehman was the wife of New York Governor and

Senator Herbert H. Lehman.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Edith Altschul Lehman papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

Biographical sketch

Edith Louise Altschul was born in San Francisco on August 8, 1889 to Charles and Camilla Altschul. Charles, a successful banker with Lazard Freres, moved the family to New York City in 1901. Edith attended Dr. Sach's Girls School and Miss Jacoby's School (now the Calhoun School) and took a nursing course after graduation. She met Herbert H. Lehman, a partner in the Lehman Brothers investment firm, at a picnic. They were married on April 28, 1910 and would have three children, Peter, John, and Hilda.

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Biographical sketch

Edith considered her marriage her career and the most important aspect of her life, but she was also deeply involved in social welfare and philanthropy. She organized a social service committee to care for the family needs of hospitalized patients. This endeavor led to the creation of Mount Sinai Hospital's first professional social service department, and she remained closely associated with the hospital for many years thereafter.

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Biographical sketch

Lehman was also involved with the Henry Street Settlement, which provided health care and other assistance to new immigrants and the poor living in the Lower East Side of New York City. In 1948 the Lehman's built Pete's House, a youth center at Henry Street Settlement dedicated to the memory of their son Peter, who was killed in World War II. Peter had volunteered as a youth leader at the Settlement.

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Biographical sketch

In 1917, Edith Lehman became a charter member of the Play Schools Association, which promoted play as vital to the mental and physical health of children. The organization partnered with schools, hospitals, and other institutions to provide opportunities for creative play. Lehman would work with the organization for over fifty years, serving as president and as Chairman of the Board from 1966 until her death in 1976.

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Biographical sketch

Edith Lehman was also involved in the Jewish communities of New York and a member of the American Jewish Committee and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, among other organizations. She was a supporter of Israel, and first visited the country in 1949 with her husband. The Edith Lehman High School in Dimona, Israel, was dedicated to her.

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Biographical sketch

In 1961, the Lehman's built the Lehman Children's Zoo (now the Tisch Zoo) in New York City's Central Park in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. Although the zoo was renovated in 1997, the bronze Lehman Gates still stand at the entrance.

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Biographical sketch

After her husband's death in 1963, Edith Lehman established several major endowments and institutions in his honor, including contributions to Mount Sinai Hospital Medical School and the establishment of the Lehman Professorship in Pediatrics at that institution; the Lehman Educational Fund, which offers scholarships for African American college students; and the Lehman School of Ethics at the Jewish Theological Seminary. She also supported Williams College, Herbert Lehman's alma mater, and financed and endowed the Lehman Suite at Columbia University's School of International and Political Affairs.

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Biographical sketch

In recognition for her dedication to social causes, Edith Lehman was awarded honorary doctor of humane letters degrees from Williams College and Mount Sinai School of Medicine, as well as a doctor of laws from Columbia University.

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Biographical sketch

Edith Altschul Lehman died on March 8, 1976, in New York City.

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Scope and Content

This collection documents the life of Edith Altschul Lehman, a philanthropist and the wife of New York Governor and Senator Herbert H. Lehman. It supplements files on Edith Lehman which had been integrated into the Herbert H. Lehman Papers (MS#0763). The majority of materials relate to Edith Lehman's philanthropic activities, such as the construction of the Lehman Children's Zoo, contributions to the Henry Street Settlement, and her involvement in numerous organizations including the Play Schools Association, the American Jewish Committee, and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. Other material concerns her marriage to Herbert Lehman and her family life. The collection is comprised of correspondence, diaries, notebooks, speeches, photographs, audiotapes, and memorabilia.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged into four series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Fax Number: (212) 854-1365 rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-04-20 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Correspondence, diaries, notebooks, speeches, photographs, tape recordings, memorabilia: Source of acquisition--Lehman, Edith Altschul. Method of acquisition--bequest.

Ownership and Custodial History

Bequest of Edith Altschul Lehman, 1977.

Processing Information

Correspondence, diaries, notebooks, speeches, photographs, tape recordings, memorabilia Surveyed Julie Miller 05/--/87.

Processing Information

Papers processed Haruna Otsuka Carolyn Smith 2009.

Processing Information

Finding aid written Carolyn Smith September 2009.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Edith Lehman materials from 1910 to 1962 are integrated into the Herbert H. Lehman Papers, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

Related Archival Materials

Frank Altschul papers, Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Columbia University.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Women -- Diaries
- Social settlements -- New York (State) -- New York
- Zoos -- New York (State) -- New York
- Children's zoos -- New York (State) -- New York
- Jews -- New York (State) -- New York -- Societies, etc
- Jews -- Charities
- Governors' spouses -- New York (State)
- Humanitarianism
- Central Park (New York, N.Y.)
- Central Park Children's Zoo (New York, N.Y.)
- New York (State) -- Politics and government -- 1951-
- Photographic prints
- Diaries
- Women philanthropists

- Lehman, Herbert H (Herbert Henry), 1878-1963
- Henry Street Settlement (New York, N.Y.)
- American Jewish Committee
- Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York
- Herbert H. Lehman Collections (Columbia University)
- Play Schools Association

Collection Inventory

Series I: Subject Files, 1942-1976

Scope and Contents

The majority of the subject files document Edith Lehman's social and philanthropic activities. Files relating to the Play Schools Association reflect her role as president and chairman and include correspondence, reports, memos, and conference materials. Sponsorship files contain brief notes recording her responses to event invitations and to the many requests for her sponsorship or endorsement of particular groups. Other files focus on particular projects, organizations, and individuals and contain correspondence and memos. Files are arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Instances	
A1963-1975	box 1	folder 1
Abortion Law Repeal Legislation, 1971-1975	box 1	folder 2
Abrams, Morris B., 1965-1970	box 1	folder 3
Altschul, Frank and Helen G., 1964-1970	box 1	folder 4
Altschul, Frank and Helen G80th Birthday Party, 1967	box 1	folder 5
American Council for Judaism, 1960s	box 1	folder 6
American Friends of Hebrew University, 1964-1975	box 1	folder 7
American Jewish Committee, 1964-1975	box 1	folder 8
American Jewish Congress, 1972-1973	box 1	folder 9
Americans for Democratic Action, 1970-1975	box 1	folder 10
Animal Legislation, 1966-1970	box 1	folder 11
Animal Shipment Legislation, 1973-1974	box 1	folder 12
Arnstein, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and Flora J., 1965-1975	box 1	folder 13
General, 1963-1971	box 1	folder 14
B1964-1975	box 2	folder 1
Beame, Abraham, 1969-1973	box 2	folder 2
Benton, William and Helen, 1965-1975	box 2	folder 3

Bingham, Jonathon B. and June R., 1964-1976	box 2	folder 4
Birmingham, Stephen"Our Crowd,", 1967-1968	box 2	folder 5
B'nai B'rith Lehman Exhibition (Washington), 1964-1965	box 2	folder 6
Bragdon, Paul E., 1965-1971	box 2	folder 7
Brandeis University, 1964-1973	box 2	folder 8
Brunkard, Thomas V. Memorial Service, 1973	box 2	folder 9
C1956-1976	box 3	folder 1
Carey, Hugh L., 1974-1976	box 3	folder 2
Carey Transition Council, 1974	box 3	folder 3
Children's Zoo, 1961-1976 <u>Physical Description</u> : (3 Folders)	box 3	folder 4 to 6
Columbia University, 1972	box 4	folder 1
Constitutional Convention, New York State, 1967	box 4	folder 2
Cordier, Andrew W., 1969-1975	box 4	folder 3
Council for Livestock Protection, circa, 1970s	box 4	folder 4
Crank Letters, 1966-1975	box 4	folder 5
D1970s	box 4	folder 6
Dimona, Israel, Edith Lehman High School, 1960s	box 4	folder 7
Douglas, Paul H. and Emily, 1966-1974	box 4	folder 8
Duschnitz, Lilli, 1938-1941	box 4	folder 9
E1964-1975	box 4	folder 10
Edelstein, Julius C.C., 1966-1975	box 5	folder 1
F1964-1975	box 5	folder 2
Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, 1966-1974	box 5	folder 3
Friends of Central Park Zoo, 1970s	box 5	folder 4
G1967-1975	box 5	folder 5
Goodhart, Arthur L. and Family, 1970s	box 5	folder 6
Gore, Albert, 1970-1972	box 5	folder 7
H1964-1975	box 5	folder 8
Henry Street Settlement, 1970-1975 <u>Physical Description</u> : (4 Folders)	box 5	folder 9 to 12
Henry Street Settlement, 1965-1969	box 6	folder 1 to 2

Physical Description: (2 Folders)

Humane Slaughter of Animals, 1957-1974	box 6	folder 3
Humphrey, Hubert H. and Muriel, 1960-1976 <u>Physical Description</u> : (3 Folders)	box 6	folder 4 to 6
I1965-1972	box 6	folder 7
Israel, 1967-1973	box 6	folder 8
J1964-1974	box 6	folder 9
Jackson, Barbara, 1964-175	box 6	folder 10
Jackson, Sir Robert G. A., 1965-1976	box 6	folder 11
Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1965-1975	box 7	folder 1
Johnson, Lyndon B. and Lady Bird, 1963-1975	box 7	folder 2
Johnson, Lyndon B. Inauguration, 1965	box 7	folder 3
Johnson-Humphrey Campaign, 1964	box 7	folder 4
K1966-1974	box 7	folder 5
Kennedy, Robert F., 1960-1966	box 7	folder 6
Koch, Edward I., 1964-1975	box 7	folder 7
Krents, Harold, 1960-1976	box 7	folder 8
L1965-1972	box 7	folder 9
Lehman, Edith Altschul		
Art Exhibition Catalogs, 1954-1961	box 7	folder 10
85th Birthday Party, 1974	box 7	folder 11
New York Post Interview, 1974	box 8	folder 1
Speeches, 1966-1972	box 8	folder 2
Speeches, 1957-1958	box 8	folder 3
Lehman, Herbert H. College, 1967-1976 <u>Physical Description</u> : (3 Folders)	box 8	folder 4 to 6
Lehman, Herbert HJuvenile Biography Plans, 1964	box 8	folder 7
Lehman, MayerFamily Fund, 1969-1975	box 8	folder 8
Lehman, Orin, 1964-1976	box 8	folder 9
Leidesdorf, Samuel D., 1964-1973	box 8	folder 10
Lindsey, John V., 1964-1969	box 8	folder 11
M1968-1975	box 9	folder 1

Magnes Memorial Museum box Metropolitan Museum and Central Park, 1971 box Mondale, Walter F., 1974-1975 box Morgenthau, RobertD.A. Campaign, 1974-1975 box Morgenthau, RobertGubernatorial Campaign, 1970 box Mount Sinai Hospital and School of Medicine, 1964-1976 box N1963-1975 box NationalGeneral, 1958-1971 box N.A.A.C.P Herbert H. Lehman Education Fund, 1965-1974 box New York Hospital Hilda Master Chair, 1967-1974 box New York State Lehman Memorial Fellowships, 1964-1973 box New York State Thruway, 1942-1964 box New York University Medical Center, 1964-1971 box O1970-1975 box P1965-1974	(9) (9) (9) (9) (10)	folder 3 folder 4 folder 5 folder 6 folder 7 folder 8
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NationalGeneral, 1958-1971 box N.A.A.C.P Herbert H. Lehman Education Fund, 1965-1974 box New York Hospital Hilda Master Chair, 1967-1974 box New York State Lehman Memorial Fellowships, 1964-1973 box New York State Thruway, 1942-1964 box New York University Medical Center, 1964-1971 box O1970-1975 box		
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New York State Thruway, 1942-1964 box New York University Medical Center, 1964-1971 box O1970-1975 box	x 10	folder 4
New York University Medical Center, 1964-1971 box 01970-1975 box	x 10	folder 5
O1970-1975 box	x 10	folder 6
	x 10	folder 7
D1065 1074 box	x 10	folder 8
F1900-19/4	x 10	folder 9
Philanthropies, 1968-1975 box	x 10	folder 10
Play Schools Association		
Biennial Conference, 1965 box	x 11	folder 1
General, 1974-1976 box <u>Physical Description</u> : (6 Folders)	x 11 :	folder 2 to 7
Biennial Conference, 1969 box	x 11	folder 8
PoliticalGeneral, 1970-1971 box	x 11	folder 9
Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1963-1964 box	x 11	folder 10
R1964-1974 box	x 12	folder 1
Roosevelt, EleanorMemorial Foundation, 1964-1972 box	x 12	folder 2
Roosevelt, Franklin DMonument Committee, 1966-1975 box	x 12	folder 3
Sa-Se, 1960-1974 box	x 12	folder 4
Sh-Sy, 1964-1974 box	- 10	folder 5
Sponsorships, 1966-1975 box <u>Physical Description</u> : (10 Folders)	(12	
T1964-1972 box	x 12	folder 6 to 15

	box 12	folder 17
United Jewish Appeal, 1962-1975	box 13	folder 1
U-V, 169-1975	box 13	folder 2
W1963-1973	box 13	folder 3
Wagner, Robert Jr., 1964-1975	box 13	folder 4
Wald, Lillian D Election to the Hall of Fame, 1965-1971	box 13	folder 5
Weinfeld, Edward, 1965-1975 <u>Physical Description</u> : (2 Folders)	box 13	folder 6 to 7
Williams College, 1964-1974	box 13	folder 8
Williams CollegeScholarships, 1960s-1970s	box 14	folder 1
Wise, Hilda Jane Lehman and Family, 1970s	box 14	folder 2
Yale University, 1970-1975	box 14	folder 3
Y-Z, 1965-1975	box 14	folder 4

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Series II: Condolences, 1976

Scope and Contents

This small series holds obituaries, funeral service information, and letters of condolence sent to Edith Lehman's children and family after her death in March 1976.

Title/Description	Instances
Obituary, 1976	box 31
Funeral ServiceGeneral, 1976	box 31
Condolence LettersA-Z, 1976 <u>Physical Description</u> : 8 folders	box 31
Condolence LettersGeneral, 1976	box 31

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Series III: Memorabilia, 1856-1976

Scope and Contents

This series holds a variety of notebooks, awards, artifacts, and other objects representing many aspects of Edith Lehman's life. It includes elaborately bound scrapbooks and other gifts from her uncle, Richard Altschul, which he made each year for his niece's birthday. Consisting of family traditions and injokes, they were known as "The Richy Classics." The series also houses family documents, the diaries, and several photo albums documenting wedding anniversaries and trips. Other albums cover events such

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as the dedication of Herbert Lehman College and the construction of Pete's House; most of these were given to the Lehman's as commemorative gifts. The series contains a watercolor painting of the Lehman Children's Zoo and two original sketches of the zoo's animal sculptures, designed by artist Aymar Embury. Also included are social books, Christmas gift lists, diplomas and membership certificates, and awards, medals, pins, statues, and other items given to Edith in recognition of her philanthropic activities.

Title/Description	Instances
Richard Altschul Gifts	
"Just C & Y"Book Box with Letter, 1925	box 23
"What I know About Social Services" and Letters, 1917	box 30
"Infra Red and Ultraviolet Pictures of Family Life in New York, 1924 August 18	box 30
"Cressy's History of California, Edition Grand de Luxe,", 1923	box 30
"Homi Soit Qui 'Molly' Pense"Autograph Manuscript Report Addressed to Mrs. Herbert H. Lehman, with Photographs and Flowers, 1922 August 18, 1922	box 36 folder 4
"Lest We Forget"Scrapbook of California made for Charles and Camilla Altschul, 1901	box 36 folder 5
Awards and Commemorative Objects	
Testimonial by Women's Division of the American Jewish Joint Distribution CommitteeGuest Signatures,, 1936	box 19
National Association for the Advancement of Colored PeopleCertificate of Life Membership for Edith Lehman,, 1960	box 20
Mount Sinai Plaque, 1955	box 20
Judge Irving LehmanGolden Jubilee Scroll from the National Jewish Welfare Board, 1967 April 12, 1967	box 20
Jewish Theological Seminary of AmericaCertificate, 1965-1966	box 20
Louise Waterman Wise Award, 1973	box 20
Legislative Correspondents Association of the State of New YorkCertificate,, 1937	box 21
"The Deserted Wives in 'A Little Party of Our Own"by the Wives of the Legislative Correspondents Association of the State of New York,, 1934	box 21
For Mrs. Herbert Lehman by the International Ladies Garment Workers' UnionGold Needle and Thimble, 1959 July 1, 1959	box 24
American Jewish CommitteeAnti-Defamation League Medal, undated	box 24

Medical Board of Mount Sinai Hospital-Medal, 1968 box 24 For Edith A. Lehman on Her Eightieth Birthday-Medal from the Play Schools Association, 1969 August 18, 1969 Felix M. Warburg Memorial Award, undated box 24 United Jewish Appeal-Medal Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of V-E Day, 1965 United Jewish Appeal-Medal Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Karen Hayesod, 1970 Mount Sinai Hospital Trusteeship Medals, 1946 (2 box 24 medals), 1946 Mount Sinai Hospital Board of Trustees Medal-Brass in Lucite, 1963 Silver Medal Commemorating Dedication of the Eleanor Roosevelt Wing of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library-Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation, 1972 May 3, 1972 Lifetime Pass to the Central Park Children's Zoo-by the Department of Parks., undated Lifetime Membership in the Woman's Division, Federation of Jewish Philanthropics-Membership Card,, 1966 Howard University Centennial Medal in Appreciation of Gift to Alumni Scholarship Fund., 1967 Medal with US Congress Seal from Jonathan Bingham, undated Honorary Membership from New York Chapter of Hadassah, 1961 Brandeis University Plaque in Appreciation of Gift to Library Trust Fund,, undated Plaque to Edith Lehman from the Board of Trustees of Brandeis University, 1964 April 17, 1964 Elected to the Society of Honor Reform Jewish Appeal-Statues, 1965-1970 Statue, 1965-1970 Statue to Herbert Lehman for his 80th Birthday by Honor Reform Jewish Appeal, undated Bust of John Kennedy by Robert Berkes, Presented by 65th Anniversary Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, 1965 May, 1965 Mount Sinai Medical Center Memorial Resolution, 1976 Naming of Herbert H. Lehman College—Certificate, 1968 box 28		
Felix M. Warburg Memorial Award, undated box 24 United Jewish Appeal-Medal Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of V-E Day,, 1965 United Jewish Appeal-Medal Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Karen Hayesod,, 1970 Mount Sinai Hospital Trusteeship Medals, 1946 (2 box 24 medals), 1946 Mount Sinai Hospital Board of Trustees Medal-Brass in Lucite, 1963 Silver Medal Commemorating Dedication of the Eleanor Roosevelt Wing of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library-Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation, 1972 May 3, 1972 Lifetime Pass to the Central Park Children's Zoo-by the Department of Parks., undated Lifetime Membership in the Woman's Division, Federation of Jewish Philanthropies-Membership Card., 1966 Howard University Centennial Medal in Appreciation of Gift to Alumni Scholarship Fund,, 1967 Medal with US Congress Seal from Jonathan Bingham, undated Honorary Membership from New York Chapter of Hadassah, 1961 Brandeis University Plaque in Appreciation of Gift to Library Trust Fund, undated Honorary Membership from the Board of Trustees of Brandeis University-Naming Her as Fellow of the University, 1964 April 17, 1964 Elected to the Society of Honor Reform Jewish Appeal-Staues, 1965-1970 Statue to Herbert Lehman for his 80th Birthday by Honor Reform Jewish Appeal, undated Bust of John Kennedy by Robert Berkes, Presented by 65th Anniversary Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, 1965 May, 1965 Mount Sinai Medical Center Memorial Resolution, 1976 Mount Sinai Medical Center Memorial Resolution, 1976 Mount Sinai Medical Center Memorial Resolution, 1976 March, 1976	Medical Board of Mount Sinai HospitalMedal, 1968	box 24
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