



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0104

Walter J. Berkowitz (1892-1966) Papers

[Jewish Community Archives]

1924-1965

3 cubic feet

*Personal papers and materials collection and generated by Berkowitz, a prominent businessman and civil leader in Kansas City.*

### BIOGRAPHY:

Walter J. Berkowitz was born on February 11, 1892 in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of William J. and Emilie (Block) Berkowitz. He and his first wife, Erni Stulz Berkowitz, had three sons, William (1922-1939), Eliot (b. 1924) and Richard (b. 1931). They were divorced in 1940. He married Edith Feder Lenk Berkowitz in 1945. She died in 1970 at the age 64.

In 1914, Berkowitz graduated from Harvard University and then returned to Kansas City to join the family business, Berkowitz Envelope Company, founded in 1886. Berkowitz Envelope bought out the Tension Envelope Company of New York and the whole operation's name was changed to Tension Envelope. He was with the firm until his death in 1966. He served as Secretary-Treasurer of the firm from 1920 until February 1966, when he became Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Berkowitz was a prominent civic leader in Kansas City, active in support of the Kansas City Art Institute, the Jewish Community Center, and the United Jewish Social Services. He was also interested in world affairs. Walter J. Berkowitz died on March 2, 1966 at the age of 73.

### PROVENANCE:

These papers were a gift from Eliot S. Berkley, son of Walter J. Berkowitz. They were received as accession KA0207 on April 29, 1983 and accession

KA0581 on June 12, 1990. Boxes 2 and 3 were received as accession KA1045 on October 12, 1999. Accession KA1296 was added May 12, 2005.

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#### PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Walter J. Berkowitz (1892-1966) Papers (K0104)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

#### CONTACT:

*The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City*  
302 Newcomb Hall, University of Missouri-Kansas City  
5123 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499  
(816) 235-1543 [SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu](mailto:SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu)  
<http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml>

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#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS:

Box 1, containing twelve folders, is a collection of photocopied letters Berkowitz received from prominent national leaders such as Leverett Saltonstall, Harry S Truman and James B. Conant, Thomas H. Benton, Will Durant, Bernard Baruch, Dwight Eisenhower and Chaim Weizman (President of Israel.)

Box 2 consists of incoming and outgoing personal correspondence, arranged alphabetically. Correspondents include high school and college classmates; business associates and family friends; members of the 40 Years Ago Club; and members of Congress, Senators, and other government officials.

Box 3 is arranged by topic, and those folders may include correspondence, printed and published materials, personal writings, and clippings. There is some

overlap between boxes. For example, correspondence to a particular individual may be found both in the alpha correspondence and the Harvard files.

## INVENTORY:

### **BOX 001**

- Folder 1. Correspondence, 1924-1965
- Folder 2. Correspondence 1928, 1929, 1939, 1951-1953, 1959, 1963-1965 (includes Truman, Benton, Durant, Gypsy Rose Lee, Eisenhower)
- Folder 3. Correspondence 1952, 1953, 1957-1959, 1962, 1964, 1965 (includes Benton, Baruch)
- Folder 4. Correspondence 1952, 1962, 1963-1965 (includes Samuel Morrison, Everett Dirksen)  
Clippings about family 1966, 1967, 1970
- Folder 5. Clippings about Berkowitz 1966  
Berkowitz autobiography, 1964  
Correspondence 1957, 1962-1964 (includes Saltonstall)
- Folder 6. Correspondence 1960, 1962-1964 (includes Saltonstall, Edward Long)
- Folder 7. Correspondence 1962-1964 (includes Edward Long, Stuart Symington)  
"Settlement of the United States Claim for Postwar Economic Assistance to Japan" 1962
- Folder 8. Correspondence 1957, 1959, 1961-1965 (includes Stuart Symington)
- Folder 9. Correspondence 1962-1965 (includes Richard Bolling, Frank Carlson)
- Folder 10. Correspondence 1944, 1957, 1963-1965 (includes Frank Carlson, John Dalton, Stewart Udall)
- Folder 11. Correspondence 1957-1959, 1963-1965 (includes Streeter Blair)
- Folder 12. Correspondence 1952, 1959, 1963-1965 (includes Streeter Blair, Stuart Symington, Chaim Weizman)

### **BOX 002**

- Folder 1. Correspondence – A
- Folder 2. Correspondence – B
- Folder 3. Correspondence – B
- Folder 4. Correspondence – H. Roe Bartle

- Folder 5. Correspondence – Sid Braunig
- Folder 6. Correspondence – Perry Brock
- Folder 7. Correspondence – C
- Folder 8. Correspondence – D
- Folder 9. Correspondence – Oak E. Davis
- Folder 10. Correspondence – E
- Folder 11. Samuel A. Dew speech, 1965
- Folder 12. Correspondence – F
- Folder 13. Correspondence – Lowell Fillmore (Unity)
- Folder 14. Correspondence – G
- Folder 15. Correspondence – H
- Folder 16. Correspondence – Henry Hazlett, economist
- Folder 17. Correspondence – Henry Hurwitz
- Folder 18. Correspondence – John Johnston
- Folder 19. Correspondence – Joseph Johnston
- Folder 20. Correspondence – Louisa Johnston (Alexander Majors House)
- Folder 21. Correspondence – K
- Folder 22. Correspondence – Samson Kimani, Kenyan student
- Folder 23. Correspondence – L
- Folder 24. Correspondence – M
- Folder 25. Correspondence- Rabbi Samuel Mayerberg
- Folder 26. Correspondence – David McCord
- Folder 27. Correspondence – N
- Folder 28. Correspondence – Clifford Hiram Nowlin
- Folder 29. Correspondence – O
- Folder 30. Correspondence – P
- Folder 31. Correspondence – R
- Folder 32. Correspondence – Louis S. Rothschild
- Folder 33. Correspondence – Emmet Russell
- Folder 34. Correspondence – S
- Folder 35. Correspondence – T
- Folder 36. Correspondence – U-V

- Folder 37. Correspondence – W
- Folder 38. Correspondence – Y
- Folder 39. Correspondence – Z
- Folder 40. Correspondence to politicians, government officials

**BOX 003**

- Folder 1. Art and Artists
- Folder 2. Automobiles
- Folder 3. Birth Control
- Folder 4. Ralph Blakie writings:  
A Report on Communism, 1959  
My Trip through Russia, 1956
- Folder 5. Communism
- Folder 6. Cotton Legislation
- Folder 7. David Douglas Duncan
- Folder 8. Adolf Otto Eichmann
- Folder 9. Dwight Eisenhower
- Folder 10. Fallout Shelters
- Folder 11. Foreign Aid
- Folder 12. Friends of Democracy
- Folder 13. Gold
- Folder 14-18. Harvard
- Folder 19. Immigration
- Folder 20. Inflation
- Folder 21. Inter-marriage
- Folder 22. Israel/Israel-Egypt Conflict (includes letter to President)
- Folder 23-24. Eddie Jacobson Memorial Foundation
- Folder 25. Kansas City – facts and history
- Folder 26. Labor
- Folder 27. Letters to Editors
- Folder 28. Manual High School, Class of 1910
- Folder 29. Puerto Rico
- Folder 30. Residence, 845 West 52nd Street

- Folder 31. Stock Market
- Folder 32. Stories/Wish to Remember
- Folder 33. Taxation – corporations, capital gains, Social Security, etc.
- Folder 34. Harry S Truman
- Folder 35. United Nations
- Folder 36. Writings, memoranda
- Folder 37. Temple B'nai Jehudah
- Folder 38. Jewish Federation and Council
- Folder 39. Jewish Community Center
- Folder 40. Jewish Publication Society
- Folder 41. Jews and Judaism
- Folder 42. Hebrew Union College
- Folder 43. Unidentified correspondence, miscellaneous

**BOX 004***(1296kc)*

- Folder 1 Awards- Walter J. Berkowitz
- Folder 2 Correspondence – A - B - 1928-1965
- Folder 3 Correspondence – C – W - 1957-1965
- Folder 4 Correspondence – Senators Edward V. Long, Stuart Symington
- Folder 5 Correspondence - Senator Leverett Saltonstall, 1959-1964
- Folder 6 Correspondence – Notables, 1953-1962
- Folder 7 Correspondence – General, 1941-1965
- Folder 8 Genealogical Research – Paul Henry Berkowitz