

K Brand, Hyman (1891-1977) Papers, 1935
0480 0.01 cubic feet
[JCA]

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INTRODUCTION

The papers consist of two photographs related to Hyman Brand and his family.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Milton Ozar on May 23, 2008 (Accession No. KA1650).

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Hyman Brand was born in 1891, in southwestern Poland, and was the oldest of seven brothers and sisters. In 1909, along with his oldest sister, Rose, Brand immigrated to the United States and settled in Manhattan on the lower east side.

Brand found work in the clothing manufacturing trade, an industry then dominated almost entirely by Jewish merchants in New York City. By 1912, he had saved enough money to bring his entire family to America. Brand introduced his brothers and sisters to the trade, and soon the family was prosperous enough to leave the lower east side, move to the Bronx, and open a hemstitching shop next door to where they lived. In 1916, Brand met and married Clara Stern, who also worked in the garment industry, and were married for the next 61 years. They had two children, Frances, and Arthur.

In 1928, Hyman and his family were offered a contract to move to Kansas City, Missouri, and set up a factory making women's coats and suits for National Bellas Hess, a large mail-order firm headquartered in New York and Kansas City. Hyman, his brother Joe, and brother-in-law Harry Puritz then moved to Kansas City with their families and founded the Brand and Puritz Coat and Suit Company.

The next year marked the start of the Great Depression and National Bellas Hess went bankrupt. Rather than go out of business, Brand and Puritz Coat and Suit Company was able to buy out the remaining interests that National Bellas Hess held in their factory to stay afloat.

By the 1940's, Brand began to spend more of his time on the charitable and community endeavors. He was elected president of both the Kansas City Apparel Association and the Kansas City Garment Manufacturers Association, which negotiated contracts with the national and local unions. Of his many interests in the Jewish community, he worked tirelessly for the United Jewish Appeal-Federation and Jewish

Theological Seminary of America, serving on the national boards of both organizations for many years. In addition, he received the Seminary's first Man of the Year Award.

Locally, he twice served as president of the Kansas City Jewish Federation, was president of Beth Shalom Synagogue for several terms and was appointed "Parnas" of the Synagogue, an honorary title he carried for the rest of his life. He also received honors from organizations as diverse as Rockhurst College, the Red Cross, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

One of Brand's proudest achievements was the founding of the Hebrew Academy in Kansas City, which opened its doors in the fall of 1966 as the first and only Jewish Day School in the City. Brand died on August 2, 1977. The school was renamed the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy one month later.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of one folder and contains two original photographs, and one copy of a photograph. Both photographs show Hyman and Clara Brand at formal dinner events.

PREFERRED CITATION

Specific item; box number; folder number; *Brand, Hyman (1891-1977) Papers (K0480)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

FOLDER LIST

f. 1 Personal Photographs, 1935

INDEX TERMS

Index Term	Folder	Image
Brand and Puritz Coat and Suit Company	1	Yes
Brand, Clara	1	Yes
Brand, Hyman (1877-1991)	1	Yes
Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City	1	

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