IHLC MS 047

Joseph and Isaac Kuhn Family Papers and Correspondence, 1879-1956

Manuscript Collection Inventory

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Joseph and Isaac Kuhn. Family Papers and Correspondence, 1879-1956.

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Box 1

Family

1. Correspondence

Joseph Kuhn (Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn (Cincinnati), 7 items. 1879-December 17 and 26 (both in German) 1880-May 11 (postcard) 1882-June 19 1883-February 8, June 16, June 30

Lina Kuhn to Isaac Kuhn, 3 letters (in German).

1879-December 19 (Isaac in Cincinnati, Ohio)

1881-August 24,

[no month] 26, 1884 (Isaac in New York City)

Relatives in Frankfurt, Germany, to Isaac Kuhn, October 14, 1908 (in German)

Sol Kuhn (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) to Joseph Kuhn, April 26, 1914, regarding the death of Clara Loeb, Joseph's sister [includes portion of additional undated letter on verso]

L. H. [Leon Hecht?] (Portland, Oregon) to "Uncle Joe" (Joseph Kuhn), October 19, 1915.

Postcard of the Meier & Frank Store, Portland, Oregon.

Ludwig H. [Hecht?] (Portland, Ore.) to "Cousin Ike" (Isaac Kuhn), January 30, 1931.

2. Family Clippings and Memorabilia

Receipt, Isaac Kuhn pledged \$1 to erect a statue of James Garfield in Cincinnati, October 6, 1881.

Wedding reception menu, from "Cousin Josie's Wedding," September 20, 1883.

Oversize folder d001

Joseph Kuhn (April 14, 1837 [April 19, 1835]-December 28, 1915), obituaries. "'Give Other Fellow Best,' Kuhn Urges on Birthday," Champaign News-Gazette, September 11, 1946.

Box 1 (cont.)

"World Today Better, Says Kuhn on 87th Birthday," Champaign News-Gazette, September 11, 1953.

"Sinai Temple's 50 Years Told at Observance," Champaign-Urbana Courier, circa 1954.

Oversize folder d001 (cont.)

"Isaac Kuhn Dies Saturday," Champaign News-Gazette, January 21, 1956.

"Rites Set on Monday for Isaac Kuhn, 89," "Friends Laud Isaac Kuhn as Civic Leader," and "Death of Isaac Kuhn Stills Ever-Willing Helping Hand," Champaign News- Gazette, January 22, 1956.

Box 1 (cont.)

"Cosmopolitan Group Plans Isaac Kuhn Memorial," Champaign News-Gazette, February 2, 1956.

Isaac Kuhn (September 11, 1866-January 21, 1956), eulogy (typescript, 6 pages). David A. Wolff (1900-1969) [grandson of Joseph Kuhn, son of Lida Kuhn Wolff], obituary (undated).

Founders' Certificate, "The Officers and Directors of the Willkie Memorial Building Fund certify that Isaac Kuhn is a member of the Founding Group," (undated).

"Cosmopolitan Club Honors Isaac Kuhn," unidentified newspaper (undated).

"'Y' Gardening Awards Made," unidentified newspaper (undated).

"Kuhn Fund Building Up," unidentified newspaper, circa 1956.

3-4. Scrapbooks

Photocopies of selected items in two Isaac Kuhn scrapbooks, circa 1919-1956.

5. Genealogy

Walter Hertzman to Ruth Kuhn Youngerman, regarding family history, April 14, 1975.

Fran Loeb Luebke to Ruth Kuhn Youngerman and Alfred Adler, regarding their Loeb family ancestors, September 13, 1996.

Kuhn Family History, genealogical list of Moses, Isaac, and Joseph Kuhn, and their wives. One page, photocopy.

Drafts of family tree, researched by Ruth Kuhn Youngerman, undated.

Business

6. Correspondence

N. Espenscheid, Jr. to Isaac Kuhn (both in New York), September 6, 1883, arranging an interview with him.

Espenscheid, letter of recommendation for Isaac Kuhn, February 1, 1884.

Joseph Kuhn stating that Isaac Kuhn can purchase goods on his behalf, November 21, 1886.

Espenscheid advertisement, March 1, 1887, including a list of New York elevated railroad stations.

Employees of Jos. Kuhn & Co. to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for a holiday bonus, December 25, 1919.

7. Business History and Advertisements

Oversize folder d001 (cont.)

Articles of Copartnership between Joseph Kuhn and Isaac Kuhn of Champaign, and Henry J. Wurzburg of Chicago, February 22, 1882. Also, a second copy, encapsulated with an envelope addressed to Joseph Kuhn from Germany in 1898.

Box 1 (cont.)

Isaac Kuhn, "The Man Who Made Main Street," Champaign Times, May 15, 1909. Front page article, with photograph; Joseph Kuhn & Co. advertisement; other pages in the same issue.

Joseph Kuhn & Son advertisements: "Truly Marvelous Values" (list of items), in red ink; cartoon, Pictorial Printing Co., Chicago, showing delivery to Champaign of boxes of clothes for Jos. Kuhn & Loeb, Clothiers.

Oversize folder d001 (cont.)

Kuhnograms. Large display ad (18" x 25"). Printing on both sides in red and black ink.

Joseph Kuhn store advertisements: Star Clothing House; One Red Price--The Lowest.

100th Anniversary coverage in Champaign-Urbana Courier, March 21, 1965, pages 6-7 (2 copies of page 6, 3 copies of page 7).

Box 1 (cont.)

"Kuhn's First Store," broadside, 1965.

Oversize folder d001 (cont.)

"129 Years of Dressing C-U Men," Champaign News-Gazette, [1994]. Picture postcard, Joseph Kuhn & Co (undated).

Box 1 (cont.)

News clippings dealing with retail stores and worker relations, none connected with the Kuhn store (undated).

8. Business Receipts, Appeal Bond

April 1, 1871, receipt, Joseph Kuhn and Julius Loeb agree to pay \$666.67 to Leopold Loeb by January 1, 1872

April 1, 1871, receipt, Joseph Kuhn and Julius Loeb agree to pay \$666.67 to Leopold Loeb by January 1, 1874

June 21, 1871, receipt, Joseph Kuhn paid Julius Loeb \$2500 for his share of a lot in Champaign

June 8, 1872, receipt, L. S. Bullard paid \$126.52 in taxes to Champaign County September 29, 1873, appeal bond, Isaac Minniear and Joseph Kuhn owe Henry L. Warner \$400

June 11, 1875, receipt, Joseph Kuhn paid \$185.54 in taxes to Champaign County March 27, 1878, receipt, Kahn, Nathan & Co. received \$193.84 from Joseph Kuhn for interest on a mortgage note

March 27, 1878, receipt, Kahn, Nathan & Co. received \$75.00 from Joseph Kuhn as a payment on a mortgage note

January 25, 1887, receipt, Joseph Kuhn paid \$264.83 in taxes to Champaign County.

Other Business Materials

- 9. Joseph Kuhn Store Business Ledger, 1873-1886.
- 10. Kuhn Company Scrapbook, circa 1938.

Utilities

11. Correspondence

- A. D. Mulliken (Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, reporting on charges for heat utilities at the Phillippe Building, June 8, 1914.
- W. T. Hall (Champaign) to the Illinois State Public Utilities Commission, complaining about the increase in the cost of heating his home, June 11, 1914.
- A. S. Nelson & Sons, Grocers (Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, requesting that he petition the Illinois State Public Utilities Commission to investigate the increase in the cost of heating their business, June 13, 1914.
- Wm. Noonan (Champaign) to the Illinois State Public Utilities Commission, questioning the increase in the cost of heating his hotel, June 15, 1914.
- Clyde L. King (Acting Director of the Utilities Bureau) to Isaac Kuhn, acknowledging a check from Michael Eckstein, and offering to answer any questions on electrical utility investigations that Kuhn or Eckstein may have, November 5, 1914.
- Champaign & Urbana Water Company to their Stockholders, reporting on income and dividends from the previous year, March 31, 1923. [Apparently, Kuhn himself was not a stockholder]
- W. Lloyd Keepers (Managing Secretary of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce) to Isaac Kuhn, recommending that Kuhn not sign a contract for

- an increased heating rate until the Committee on the City Heating Rate Increase makes a ruling on the matter, August 7, 1928.
- A. D. McLarty (Secretary of the Urbana chapter of the Illinois Municipal League) to Isaac Kuhn, suggesting how they might work to relieve the problem of high utility rates, March 16, 1929.
- Rev. J. J. Curran (St. Mary's Church, Wilkes-Barre, Penn.) to Isaac Kuhn, discussing his battle with the government over the high price of water utilities, December 27, 1930.
- Paul H. Douglas (President, Utility Consumers and Investors League of Illinois) to Isaac Kuhn and other members of the Board of Directors, discussing organizational matters of the league, January 20, 1933.
- Douglas to Isaac Kuhn, addressing several concerns Kuhn had expressed about the Utility Consumers and Investors League of Illinois, January 20, 1933.
- Isaac Kuhn to Harry Kletzky (Chicago), discussing the Utility Consumers and Investors League of Illinois, February 6, 1933.
- Harry R. Booth (Counsel to the Utility Consumers and Investors League of Illinois) to Isaac Kuhn, discussing the work of the organization, February 10, 1933.
- Paul I. Brandt (Petroleum Products, Vincennes, Indiana) to Isaac Kuhn, reporting that he cannot buy property for his business in Champaign as the utility rates are too high, July 11, 1933.
- Isaac Kuhn to Willis J. Spaulding (Springfield Commissioner of Public Property), commenting on the failures of the Illinois Power and Light Corporation in Champaign- Urbana, December 20, 1933.
- Senator George W. Norris (Nebraska) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for his letter of June 8 in which Kuhn praised his efforts in Congress to lower utility rates, June 17, 1943.
- Isaac Kuhn to the Champaign Mayor and City Commissioners, attacking them for their handling of public utilities, April 27, 1945.
- Urbana & Champaign Railway Gas & Electric Company to Isaac Kuhn, offering estimates on steam heat charges for his home, undated.

12. Writing

Isaac Kuhn, notes on utility increases for Main Street businesses in Champaign, circa 1914, 1 page.

Oversize folder d001 (cont.)

"Kuhn Exposes Scandal on Utilities' Dealing With Rate, Law Making Agencies," Champaign News-Gazette, April 10, 1929.

Isaac Kuhn, "Can the Public Afford to Shirk?," advertisement, Champaign News-Gazette, November 2, 1930.

Box 1 (cont.)

Isaac Kuhn, "A Business Man's View of the Utilities Problem," speech to the Illinois Progressive Republican Conference, June 13, 1931, 4 pages. Also an 8-page draft.

Oversize folder d001 (cont.)

"Isaac Kuhn Speaks on Utilities Problem at Progressive Conference," Urbana Daily Courier, June 13, 1931.

"Isaac Kuhn Speaks on Utilities Problem at Progressive Conference," The Citizen, June 19, 1931.

Box 1 (cont.)

Isaac Kuhn, report on the effect of utility increases on Jos. Kuhn & Co., circa 1932, 2 pages.

Isaac Kuhn, report on utility increases to the Lincoln Building in Champaign, circa 1934, 1 page.

Oversize folder d001 (cont.)

"Council Asked to take Steps for Reduction," unidentified newspaper, March 12, 1936.

Box 1 (cont.)

Isaac Kuhn, "The Gravest Danger Today is Unemployment," report on the loss of jobs in Champaign due to changes brought about by the gas company, undated, 2 pages.

Isaac Kuhn condemning the high rates of private utilities in Champaign County, undated, 12 pages.

Isaac Kuhn reporting on the utility problem in Champaign- Urbana, undated, 12 pages.

Isaac Kuhn attacking utilities in Champaign-Urbana, undated, 14 pages.

13-16. Research Materials

Newsletters, journal articles, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and issues of the Congressional Record dealing with the high rates of public utilities throughout the United States, circa 1914-1955. 4 folders.

Box 2

17. Isaac Kuhn Writings

Isaac Kuhn, "Letter from New York," Champaign Times, August 24, 1889. Isaac Kuhn, "A Visit to Venice," Champaign Times, June 18, 1898. [incomplete]

Oversize folder d001 (cont.)

Isaac Kuhn, "Many People are Selfish, and when Anything of Benefit is Brought Forth, They Knock It, says Isaac Kuhn, Leader in Civic, Business Affairs," Champaign News-Gazette, April 22, 1928.

Box 2 (cont.)

Isaac Kuhn, "Once a Desert, Arizona's New Winter Resort," Champaign News-Gazette, May 17, 1935.

Isaac Kuhn, "Kuhn Defends Farm Program," Evening Courier, circa 1937. Isaac Kuhn, "What a Pity," letter to the editor of the Evening Herald, undated.

Box 2 (cont.)

Isaac Kuhn, paper on the value of the League of Nations, 1952, 5 pages. Clipping about Abraham Lincoln: A Vast Future, compiled by Isaac Kuhn (1946) [Library: 973.7 L63GK95A].

Parking lot development in Champaign. Two news articles and three letters to the editor, two by Isaac Kuhn, February 27, March 5, 1949, September 4, 1954, and 2 undated.

Isaac Kuhn, "Our Version of the Main Street Subway," undated, 2 pages.

18. Other Correspondence

The Nation

Isaac Kuhn to Oswald Garrison Villard, writer for The Nation, complimenting his article condemning Hitler and Germany, June 3, 1938.

Oswald Garrison Villard, writer for The Nation, to Isaac Kuhn, regarding letter Kuhn wrote to Villard, June 7, 1938.

Freda Kirchwey (The Nation) to Isaac Kuhn, replying to Kuhn's letter to her, March 9, 1943.

Other

William A. Day (Washington, D.C.) to Joseph Kuhn, regarding Kuhn's endorsement of Isaac Fielding as a Postmaster, July 11, 1887.

Rudolph Blankenburg (Mayor of Philadelphia) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding Kuhn's attendance at the Conference of American Mayors, November 6, 1914.

Alex B. Seelenfreund (Secretary of the Independent Order of B-nai B-rith) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding the death of Joseph Kuhn, January 7, 1916.

Herbert A. Keck (Minister, First Methodist Episcopal Church, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding fight against anti-Semitism, February 5, 1921.

Isidor Raffin to Isaac Kuhn, inviting the Kuhns to visit him in San Francisco, to tour several sites, April 15, 1937.

Isaac Kuhn to Rev. John A. O'Brien (Champaign), regarding O'Brien's letter to the Champaign News-Gazette, August 17, 1938.

Thomas W. Campbell (Western Star Lodge, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding a ceremony honoring Kuhn's 52-year membership in the organization, March 21, 1941.

Isaac Kuhn to the Champaign News-Gazette, applauding their efforts in promoting the welfare of the community, June 10, 1941.

"Bob" (Gainesville, Fla.) to Isaac Kuhn, September 6, 1947.

Isaac Kuhn to Don Lindsay (Champaign-Urbana Courier) requesting that he be taken off the paper's promotions mailing list, May 22, 1950.

Philanthropy

19. Correspondence

Joseph Stolz (Chicago) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for a copy of Edward Chauncey Baldwin's Our Modern Debt to Israel (1913), January 22, 1914.

G. Deutsch (The Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding the death of a woman who Kuhn had just sent money to support, December 17, 1914.

Edward Chauncey Baldwin (Department of English, University of Illinois) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding the construction of a Jewish Temple in Champaign, October 23, [circa 1914?].

Henry H. Rosenfelt (Director, American Jewish Relief Committee for Sufferers from the War) to Isaac Kuhn, recognizing his work on behalf of the organization, October 27, 1919.

- H. S. van Graan (Cosmopolitan Club, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding Kuhn's donation to the organization, October 21, 1921.
- Robert J. Locke (Minister, First Congregational Church, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for a donation, June 19, 1923.
- Adolph S. Ochs (New York Times) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding Kuhn's contributions, January 14, December 29, 1926.
- Stephen E. Fisher (Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for his donation for the construction of a Jewish community center [Hillel Foundation?], April 4, 1932.
- Jonah B. Wise (Co-Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee Campaign) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for his work on behalf of the committee, January 12, 1937.
- Harry G. Mellman, (Cosmopolitan Club, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, also signed by 19 others, thanking him for a donation to the organization, December 21, 1938.
- Isaac Kuhn to the American Consul at Stuttgart, Germany, sworn oath and deposition stating that the Kuhn family will provide financial support and other care for three Jewish refugee children from Leipzig, Germany, if they are brought to the United States, March 17, 1939.
- J. Walter Malone, Jr. (Minister, McKinley Memorial Church, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for a donation, June 30, 1939.
- William H. Baldwin (New York City Lawyer and Philanthropist) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding donations to the University in Exile, made up of refugee scholars from Germany, Italy, Spain, and Russia, November 16, 1939.
- Isaac Kuhn to Brown & Co., La Paz, Bolivia, regarding his subscriptions to the Spanish language edition of Reader's Digest that he purchased for business people in South and Central America, January 16, 1942. Also, a Spanish translation of the letter.
- Abram L. Sachar to Isaac Kuhn, asking for a donation to the Sara Delano Roosevelt House at Hunter College, May 24, 1942.
- C. E. Bowen (Executive Director, University of Illinois Alumni Association) to Isaac Kuhn, recognizing his purchase of a lifetime membership in the association, May 26, 1943.
- Louis I. Egelson (Administrative Secretary of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations) to Isaac Kuhn, informing him of his nomination to the Union's Commission on Public Information about Judaism, November 17, 1943.
- H. W. Ettelson (Chairman, Commission on Public Information about Judaism) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding his possible appointment to the commission, December 8, 1943.
- Egelson to Isaac Kuhn, informing him of his confirmation to the Commission on Public Information about Judaism, December 16, 1943.
- T. H. McClelland (Edinburg, Tex.) to Isaac Kuhn, enclosing a donation to a charity of Kuhn's choice, July 12, 1946.
- Arthur Secard (University of Illinois Professor, in London) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding Kuhn's request that he seek out needy citizens in London, to offer financial assistance, May 18, 1949.

Harold C. Urey (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for a \$25 donation, January 27, 1953, with the receipt of the Educational Foundation of Nuclear Scientists, Inc.

Chicago Boys Club to Isaac Kuhn, soliciting a donation, undated.

20. Hebrew Union College, B'nai B'rith, and Hillel

Obituaries for Joseph Krauskopf, The North American (Philadelphia), June 15, 1923.

"Thirteen Years of Progress in Hillel," by Leonard Finder, Ramah Topics, circa

Edward Chauncey Baldwin to Isaac Kuhn, regarding A. L. Sachar's history of the Hillel Foundation, January 10, 1940.

Isaac Kuhn to Baldwin, regarding Sachar, Hillel, and other matters, January 18, 1940.

Isaac Kuhn to Rabbi Herman E. Snyder, regarding Kuhn's recollections of his time as a student at the Hebrew Union College, January 2, 1952.

Remarks of George W. Goble on the occasion of awarding a B'nai B'rith Distinguished Service Plaque to Isaac Kuhn, January 27, 1952, 3 pages.

Transcript of B'nai B'rith meeting honoring Isaac Kuhn, January 27, 1952, 16 pages.

"Plan to Honor Isaac Kuhn for B'nai B'rith Aid," unidentified newspaper, January 26, 1952.

"Isaac Kuhn Receives Honor Scroll from B'nai B'rith," Champaign News-Gazette, January 28, 1952.

"'Outstanding Work' Cited: Kuhn Lauded for Aid to Jewry, Community," Champaign-Urbana Courier, January 28, 1952.

"B'nai B'rith Honors Kuhn: Champaign Merchant to Receive Scroll," unidentified newspaper, January 28, 1952.

Isaac Kuhn obituary, B'nai B'rith News, March 1956.

"Achievements of the Alumni of the Hebrew Union College," Union Tidings, undated.

"Stoddard Terms New Hillel Building 'Dream Come True," Champaign News-Gazette, undated.

"Hillel Building Dedicated: 1,500 Attend Rites; called 'Worthy of Heritage,'" unidentified newspaper, undated.

21-22. University of Illinois

Correspondence from foreign students at the University of Illinois who were supported by Isaac Kuhn during their time in Urbana-Champaign, 13 letters and postcards, 1921-1950.

Clippings and photographs of "Chief Illiniwek," University of Illinois mascot, for which Isaac Kuhn purchased the original costume in 1930, 1959-1984.

23. Photographs

Main Street, Champaign [1867], annotated by Isaac Kuhn to show location of later buildings.

Main Street, Champaign [1867], with notes by Isaac Kuhn.

Isaac Kuhn at Grandparents' grave near Gruenstadt, Germany, [undated]. Also, a draft translation of the Hebrew inscription.

Isaac Kuhn, two undated photographic portraits: by Elite

Studio and by J. K. Stevens & Son Co., both Chicago. [The second was published in "The Man Who Made Main Street," Champaign Times, May 15, 1909; copy in folder 6.]

Isaac Kuhn, Phoenix, Arizona, circa 1935.

Isaac Kuhn and Isidor Raffin on the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, 1937. Two photographs.

Rose Adler Kuhn, Isaac Kuhn, Ruth Kuhn (Youngerman), and Mrs. Raffin at Marina, San Francisco, 1937.

Unidentified building, apparently in Bechtheim?, Germany, undated.

Unidentified building, probably in Germany, undated.

Misidentified photograph, "Abraham Lincoln, age 27."

24. Ephemera

Pamphlet, World's Industrial Exposition, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1884-1885 Invitation and program to social event, Western Star Lodge, Number 240, F. & A. M., January 14 [no year]

"The Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Assembly," Chicago: C.H. Whiting, [undated].

Sesquicentennial Neighborhood Association newsletters, including Kuhn store information: First Neighbors, 2:1 (Summer 2000); Neighborhood News from Yesteryear, 2:2 (no date), Michael Markstahler, editor.

- 25. Addendum (miscellaneous items, collected on May 30, 2012)
 - Edward C. Baldwin (Department of English, University of Illinois) to Isaac Kuhn, September 14 and 17, 1920, urging him to disregard anti-Semitic articles in "Henry Ford's paper" [The Dearborn Independent]
 - E. G. Liebold (Dearborn, Mich.) to H. V. Kirby Auto Co. (Urbana, Ill.), July 29, 1920, disagreeing with assertions in Isaac Kuhn's letter what had been forwarded to the Dearborn Publishing Co.

Isaac Kuhn, recollections (six-page typescript, written after 1931), photocopy. Winton U. Solberg, "The Early Years of the Jewish Presence at the University of Illinois," incomplete draft of an article published in Religion and American Culture, 2:2 (Summer 1992), 215-45; related letters to Ruth Kuhn Youngerman, January 2, 27, 28, 1991; and photocopy of the article.

Clippings, including Linda Zimmer, "Celebrating Sinai Temple, Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette, February 22, 2004, E1-E2.