Benjamin C. Gruenberg and Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2015

Contact information:
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http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016068

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm82024265

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Collection Summary
Title: Benjamin C. Gruenberg and Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg Papers
Span Dates: 1878-1972
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1895-1965)
ID No.: MSS24265
Creator: Gruenberg, Benjamin C. (Benjamin Charles), 1875-1965
Creator: Gruenberg, Sidonie Matsner, 1881-1974
Extent: 45,000 items ; 137 containers plus 2 oversize ; 55.6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English, with some Hebrew and German
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Benjamin C. Gruenberg, author and educator. Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg, author and child study specialist. Correspondence, diaries, speeches and writings, notes, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and other papers relating to the Gruenbergs’ personal lives and professional careers.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Gruenberg family.
Gruenberg, Benjamin C. (Benjamin Charles), 1875-1965.

Organizations
Child Study Association of America.
Literary Guild of America.
Society for Ethical Culture.

Subjects
Assimilation (Sociology)
Book clubs (Bookselling)--United States.
Child care--New York (State)--New York--Societies, etc.
Child care--Periodicals.
Child care--Societies, etc.
Child care--Study and teaching.
Child care.
Child development--New York (State)--New York--Societies, etc.
Child development--Periodicals.
Child development--Societies, etc.
Child development--Study and teaching.
Child development.
Child rearing--Study and teaching.
Child rearing.
Children--Study and teaching.
Education--Philosophy.
Education.
Emigration and immigration--United States.
Ethical culture movement.
Ethics--New York (State)--New York--Societies, etc.
Ethics--Societies, etc.
Family life education.
Immigrants--United States.
Jews--United States.
Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Benjamin C. Gruenberg, author and editor, and Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg, author and child study specialist, were given to the Library of Congress by Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg and the Gruenberg’s son, Ernest M. Gruenberg, in 1967 and 1975.

Processing History

The papers of Benjamin C. Gruenberg and Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg were processed in 1981. The finding aid was revised in 2015.

Transfers

Maps have been transferred to the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division. Photographs have been transferred to the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Gruenberg Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Benjamin C. Gruenberg and Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Gruenberg are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Benjamin C. Gruenberg and Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
## Biographical Note

**Benjamin C. Gruenberg**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1875, Aug. 15</td>
<td>Born, Novo Sielitz, Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>B.S., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Married Sidonie Matzner (Matsner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>A.M., Columbia University, New York., N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910-1914</td>
<td>Head, Biological Department, Commercial High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Ph.D., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914-1922</td>
<td>Taught, Julia Richman High School, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920-1922</td>
<td>Leave of absence from teaching to inaugurate sex education in schools for U.S. Bureau of Educations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922-1923</td>
<td>Managing director, American Association for Medical Progress; education director, Urban Motion Picture Industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Published <em>Biology and Human Life</em>. Boston and New York: Ginn and Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925-1928</td>
<td>Educational editor, <em>Viking Press</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929-1932</td>
<td>Member, Committee on Cost of Medical Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933-1936</td>
<td>Lecturer, Pennsylvania School of Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Taught, City College of New York, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939-1940</td>
<td>Taught, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1945</td>
<td>Taught, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Published <em>Teacher's Manual for Biology and Man</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Published <em>How We Can Teach about Sex</em>. New York: Public Affairs Committee, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Published <em>Your Breakfast and the People Who Made It</em>. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965, June 2</td>
<td>Died, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Scope and Content Note

The papers of Benjamin Charles Gruenberg (1875-1965) and Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg (1881 1974), husband and wife, span the years 1878 1972, with the bulk of the material dating from 1895 to 1965. The collection consists of correspondence, diaries, journals, speeches and writings, notes, newspaper clippings, printed matter, scrapbooks, and other papers relating to the Gruenbergs’ personal lives and professional careers. The papers are organized into two parts with overlapping series. Part I is arranged into Diaries, Correspondence, Subject File, Speeches and Writings File, Scrapbooks.
Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in twelve series in two parts:

Part I:
- Diaries, 1901-1963
- Correspondence, 1896-1972
- Subject File, 1914-1962
- Speeches and Writings File, 1914-1965
- Scrapbooks, 1901-1960
- Printed Matter
- Miscellany, 1908-1968

Part II:
- Journals and Diaries, 1878-1952
- Correspondence, 1892-1962
- Subject File, 1894-1958
- Writings File, 1902-1965
- Miscellany
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-5</td>
<td><strong>Part I: Diaries, 1901-1963</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diaries kept by Benjamin C. Gruenberg in Pitman shorthand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6-15</td>
<td><strong>Part I: Correspondence, 1896-1972</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6-12</td>
<td><strong>Family, 1901-1972</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters sent and received between family members with shorthand annotations on various letters between the Gruenbergs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 13-15</td>
<td><strong>General, 1896-1965</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters received and copies of letters sent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 16-23</td>
<td><strong>Part I: Subject File, 1914-1962</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, notes, printed matter, and other material relating to Gruenberg's writings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 24-37</td>
<td><strong>Part I: Speeches and Writings File, 1914-1965</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Book manuscripts, notes, drafts of speeches and writings of the Gruenbergs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 38-49</td>
<td><strong>Part I: Scrapbooks, 1901-1960</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, printed articles, newspaper clippings and miscellaneous items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 50-61</td>
<td><strong>Part I: Printed Matter</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reprints of articles and books by the Gruenbergs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged by topic or type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 62-65</td>
<td><strong>Part I: Miscellany, 1908-1968</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biography of Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg, handwritten copy of <em>Botany: The Science of Plants</em>, by Benjamin C. Gruenberg, and material relating to <em>The Point Magazine</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged by topic or type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 66-68</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Journals and Diaries, 1878-1952</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Journals and diaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 69-101</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Correspondence, 1892-1962</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 69-88</td>
<td><strong>Family, 1895-1962</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters sent and received between family members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged by name of family and therein chronologically.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BOX 89-92  **Personal, 1892-1960**
Letters sent and received.
Arranged mainly in chronological order.

BOX 93-101  **General, 1901-1958**
Letters sent and received.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 102-115  **Part II: Subject File, 1894-1958**
Correspondence, notes, printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

BOX 116-130  **Part II: Writings File, 1902-1965**
Book manuscripts, notes, drafts.
Arranged alphabetically by title or topic.

BOX 131-139  **Part II: Miscellany**
Bills, receipts, printed matter, scrapbooks, correspondence, form letters.
Arranged by type of material.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1-5   | Part I: Diaries, 1901-1963  
Diaries kept by Benjamin C. Gruenberg in Pitman shorthand.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | 1901  
1902  
1903  
1905  
1906  
1907  
1917  
1925  
1926  
1928 |
| BOX 2     | 1936  
1938  
1945  
1946 |
| BOX 3     | 1947  
1948  
1949  
1950  
1951  
1952 |
| BOX 4     | 1953  
1954  
1955  
1956  
1957  
1958  
1959 |
| BOX 5     | 1960  
1961  
1962  
1963 |
| BOX 6-15  | Part I: Correspondence, 1896-1972  
Family, 1901-1972  
Letters sent and received between family members with shorthand annotations on various letters between the Gruenbergs.  
Arranged chronologically. |
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| BOX 6     | 1901-1915  
1920-1928  
1930-1939  
1941-1947  
1948-1949 |
| BOX 7     | 1950      
(2 folders)  
1951  
1952 |
| BOX 8     | 1953      
(2 folders)  
1954  
1955  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 9     | 1956      
(3 folders)  
1957  
1958 |
| BOX 10    | 1959      
(2 folders)  
1960  
1961 |
| BOX 11    | 1962  
1963  
1964  
1965  
1966  
1967  
1968-1972 |
| BOX 12    | Undated  |
| BOX 13-15 | **General, 1896-1965**  
Letters received and copies of letters sent.  
Arranged chronologically.  |
| BOX 13    | 1896-1901  
1906-1920  
1921-1924  
1925-1939  
1940-1949  
1950-1952 |
| BOX 14    | 1953  
1954  
1955  
1956-1957  
1958-1959 |
### Part I: Correspondence, 1896-1972

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<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>(2 folders)</td>
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**BOX 16-23**  
**Part I: Subject File, 1914-1962**  
Correspondence, notes, printed matter, and other material relating to Gruenberg's writings. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

| BOX 16 | American Association for Adult Education, 1934-1941  
|        | (2 folders) |
|        | American-Soviet Friendship, 1943-1945  
|        | Biology and Man, 1940-1952, undated  
|        | (3 folders) |
|        | Colorado University, 1939-1940 |

| BOX 16 | Doubleday and Co., 1949-1961  
|        | Education  
|        | Educational Motion Pictures  
|        | Ginn and Co.  
|        | 1924-1929  
|        | 1938-1941  
|        | (2 folders) |
|        | 1957 |
|        | Harper and Brother, 1950-1951 |

| BOX 17 | Institute on Public Health  
|        | Itineraries, 1955-1956  
|        | Junior Science  
|        | Assistants, 1946-1948  
|        | Memoranda, Planned Arrangements, Procedures, 1947-1948  
|        | Samuel P. Unizicker-Publisher, 1947-1951  
|        | (2 folders) |
|        | Lectures, 1950-1959 |

| BOX 18 | Lee, Algernon  
|        | Manner of Speaking  
|        | McGraw-Hill  
|        | Mennen Baby Foundation, 1956-1957  
|        | (2 folders) |
|        | Minnesota Alumni Association  
|        | Museum of Health, 1950  
|        | National Association for Research in Science Teaching, 1959-1960 |

| BOX 19 | Patents, 1933-1947  
|        | Personal Problems, 1948  
|        | Public Affairs Committee, 1942-1945 |
### Part I: Subject File, 1914-1962

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 21    | Public Affairs Pamphlet, 1945-1947  
Psychology 117  
Colorado University  
(2 folders)  
Final Exams, 1942  
Graduate Papers, 1942  
Radio Child Study Conferences, 1927-1938  
Rand McNally and Co.  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 22    | Reprints, 1931-1962  
Science Education for Teachers  
Science in Adult Education  
(2 folders)  
Science Teaching |
| BOX 23    | Social Security Board, 1943  
The Story of Evolution  
The Problem of Mental Deviation  
U.S. Public Health Service, 1946-1947  
Who's Who  
World Book Co. |
| BOX 24-37 | Part I: Speeches and Writings File, 1914-1965  
Book manuscripts, notes, drafts of speeches and writings of the Gruenbergs.  
Arranged alphabetically. |
| BOX 24    | Articles, 1930-1938  
Breakfast Story  
"Expert in Democracy"  
Family Life in the New Age  
Freedom Authority and Life  
Health Education |
| BOX 25    | Heredity (proposal for book)  
Heredity and Environment  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 26    | History of Science  
*Junior Science*  
Draft  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 27    | Draft  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 28    | 1949-1952  
Man in the World of Life  
Miscellaneous scripts  
Miscellaneous unpublished Manuscripts  
Roots |
Part I: Speeches and Writings File, 1914-1965

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| BOX 29    | Science and Social Change  
            | Science as a Social Technique  
            | Science for Adults  
            | Science Teaching  
            | Textbook  
            | The Children of the USA   |
| BOX 30    | *The Teachings of Science*  
            | Introduction  
            | Part I, Place of Science in Education  
            | (2 folders)  
| BOX 31    | (4 folders)  
| BOX 32    | Part II, Nature of Science  
            | (5 folders)  
| BOX 33    | (2 folders)  
| BOX 34    | Part III, Science in the Schools Today and Tomorrow  
            | (3 folders)  
| BOX 35    | (3 folders)  
| BOX 36-37 | Part IV, The Teacher of Science  
            | (2 folders)  
| BOX 38-49 | Miscellany  
| BOX 38    | Part I: Scrapbooks, 1901-1960  
            | Correspondence, printed articles, newspaper clippings and miscellaneous items.  
            | Arranged chronologically.  
| BOX 39    | 1901-1925  
| BOX 40    | 1914-1915  
| BOX 41    | 1918-1928  
| BOX 42    | 1927-1935  
| BOX 43    | 1929-1941  
| BOX 44    | 1936-1951  
| BOX 45    | 1937-1950  
| BOX 46    | 1942-1949  
| BOX 47    | 1943-1952  
| BOX 48    | 1950-1952  
| BOX 49    | 1954-1957  
| BOX 50-61 | 1958-1960, undated  
| BOX 50    | Part I: Printed Matter  
            | Reprints of articles and books by the Gruenbergs.  
            | Arranged by topic or type of material.  
| BOX 51    | Sex Education reprints  
| BOX 51    | Sex Education miscellaneous  
|           | Pamphlets  

Benjamin C. Gruenberg and Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg Papers 13
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 52</td>
<td>Science Education reprints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 53</td>
<td>Miscellaneous reprints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 54-61</td>
<td>Books published by the Gruenbergs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| BOX 62-65 | **Part I: Miscellany, 1908-1968**
  Biography of Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg, handwritten copy of *Botany: The Science of Plants*, by Benjamin C. Gruenberg, and material relating to *The Point Magazine*.
  Arranged by topic or type of material. |
| BOX 62    | Autobiography of Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg (2 copies) |
| BOX 63    | *Botany: The Science of Plants*, by Benjamin C. Gruenberg, handwritten copy |
| BOX 64    | Calendar books, 1954-1968 |
| BOX 65    | *The Point*, items to the editor by readers and comments by the editor |
| BOX 66-68 | **Part II: Journals and Diaries, 1878-1952**
  Journals and diaries.
  Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 66    | 1878-1899 |
| BOX 67    | 1900-1952 |
| BOX 68    | Undated |
| BOX 69-101| **Part II: Correspondence, 1892-1962** |
| BOX 69-88 | **Family, 1895-1962**
  Letters sent and received between family members.
  Arranged by name of family and therein chronologically. |
| BOX 69    | Benjamin Gruenberg and Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg
  1901
  1902
  1903
  1903 (Center Lovell)
  1904-1908
  1909-1911
  1914 |
| BOX 70    | 1915-1929
  1920
  1920-1925
  1932 |
| BOX 71    | 1941-1943
  1943-1945
  1944-1945
  1944-1945
  General
  1899-1901 |
| BOX 72    | 1901-1902
  1902 |
Part II: Correspondence, 1892-1962

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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| BOX 73    | 1903-1905  
  1910-1915  
  1911-1914  
  1912  
  1912-1915  
  1913-1916  
  1913-1916  
  1915-1917  
  1916 |
| BOX 74    | 1916-1920  
  1920-1921  
  1921-1927  
  (3 folders) |
| BOX 75    | 1926-1930  
  1931-1932 |
| BOX 76    | 1931-1934  
  1932-1935, 1935-1936  
  1935-1938  
  1935-1945  
  1937  
  1937-1943 |
| BOX 77    | 1939  
  1939-1940  
  1939-1941  
  1940-1941  
  1942-1945  
  1944-1945  
  1944-1946  
  1945 |
| BOX 78    | 1945-1947  
  1945-1950  
  (2 folders)  
  1946-1947  
  1947 |
| BOX 79    | 1947  
  1951-1962  
  1955  
  1960 |
| BOX 80    | Gruenberg, Ernest  
  1928, school records  
  1928-1930 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| BOX 81    | 1930-1932  
           | 1931-1932  
           | (2 folders)  
           | 1932-1934  
           | 1935-1937  
           | 1937  
           | 1943  
           | 1944  
           | 1944 (re POW)  
           | 1944-1945  
           | 1945 |
| BOX 82    | Gruenberg, Herbert  
           | 1919  
           | 1924  
           | 1925  
           | 1928-1929  
           | 1929  
           | (2 folders)  
           | 1933-1934 |
| BOX 83    | 1934  
           | 1939-1940  
           | Gruenberg, Herbert and Helen  
           | 1931-1932  
           | 1932  
           | 1939-1942 |
| BOX 84    | 1939-1942  
           | (2 folders)  
           | 1942-1945  
           | 1943  
           | (2 folders) |
| BOX 85    | Gruenberg, Hilda  
           | 1920s  
           | 1929  
           | 1930-1932  
           | (3 folders)  
           | 1933-1934  
           | (2 folders) |
| BOX 86    | 1935-1940  
           | (2 folders)  
           | 1941-1942  
           | 1942-1945  
           | 1932-1946 |
| BOX 87    | Miscellaneous  
           | Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg retirement, 1949  
           | Anniversary, 1953  
           | Gruenberg, John  
<pre><code>       | 1895-1900 |
</code></pre>
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<td>1902-1923</td>
<td>Matzners (in laws)</td>
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<td>BOX 88</td>
<td>1907</td>
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<td>1925-1937, Eric and Bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1920-1934</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1934-1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postcards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Miscellany</td>
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<td>(2 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 89-92</td>
<td>Personal, 1892-1960</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Letters sent and received.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Arranged mainly in chronological order.</td>
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<td>BOX 89</td>
<td>1892-1897</td>
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<td>1898-1902</td>
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<td>BOX 91</td>
<td>1938-1960</td>
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<td>BOX 92</td>
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<td>BOX 93-101</td>
<td>General, 1901-1958</td>
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<td>Letters sent and received.</td>
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<td>BOX 93</td>
<td>1901-1909</td>
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<td>BOX 95</td>
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<td>BOX 96</td>
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<td>BOX 97</td>
<td>1922-1936</td>
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<td>BOX 98</td>
<td>1932-1937</td>
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<td>BOX 99</td>
<td>1934-1954 (6 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 100</td>
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<td>Chandler, Walter M., 1915-1917</td>
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<td>Weil, Edmund, 1922-1931</td>
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