

# Leon Hilsberg Collection



**Music Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2022**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2014572496>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu022007>

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Jane Cross, Christopher Hartten, and Shantel Lambert, 2022 February

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Leon Hilsberg Collection

**Inclusive Dates:** 1906-1941

**Call No.:** ML31.H56

**Creator:** Hilsberg, Leon, 1887-1957

**Extent:** 22 items

**Extent:** 2 containers

**Extent:** 1.75 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in German, Polish, and English

**Location:** Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2014572496>

**Summary:** Leon Hilsberg was a concert manager in Łódź, Poland, and then a banker in Vienna before immigrating to New York in 1941. This collection of his materials includes photographs of and correspondence with musicians he met in Poland, as well as programs and a poster for performances of his brothers Alexander and Ignace.

## Acquisition Information

Gift, Norbert Hilsberg (son of Leon Hilsberg), 1989

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Processing History

Christopher Hartten processed the Leon Hilsberg Collection, and Jane Cross, Hartten, and Shantel Lambert coded the finding aid in 2022.

## Related Material

The [Serge Koussevitzky Archive](#) contains correspondence with Alexander and Ignace Hilsberg.

## Copyright Status

Materials from the Leon Hilsberg Collection are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

## Access and Restrictions

The Leon Hilsberg Collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions on using or copying materials may apply.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Leon Hilsberg Collection, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Leon Hilsberg was born August 26, 1887, in Poland and became a concert manager in Łódź. He moved to Vienna, Austria, in 1914 and worked as a banker. He and his wife Henriette Riwczes Hilsberg (1892-1989), a pianist and piano instructor, moved to the United States in April 1941 and settled in New York. Hilsberg worked at the Naval Ordnance Factory in Brooklyn. Their son Norbert was a singer and civil engineer. Hilsberg's brothers, prodigies initially managed by their father, became well-known musicians. Ignace (1894-1973) was a pianist, and Alexander (1897-1961) was a violinist and conductor. Leon Hilsberg died on March 24, 1957, in New York City.

## Scope and Content Note

The Leon Hilsberg Collection spans from 1906 to 1941. The [Photographs](#) series contains inscribed images of people with whom Hilsberg likely worked while he was a concert manager in Poland, including Leopold Auer and Artur Rubinstein. Ten letters in German from four prominent composers and performers comprise the [Correspondence](#) series. Notable correspondents include Leopold Auer and Josef Hofmann. The [Programs and Promotional Material](#) series contains two concert programs and a concert poster for performances of Hilsberg's brothers Alexander and Ignace.

## Organization of the Leon Hilsberg Collection

The collection is arranged in three series:

- [Photographs, undated](#)
- [Correspondence, 1907-1941](#)
- [Programs and Promotional Material, 1906-1920](#)

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Auer, Leopold, 1845-1930.  
Hilsberg, Alexander, 1897-1961.  
Hilsberg, Ignace, 1894-1973.  
Hilsberg, Leon, 1887-1957--Archives.  
Hilsberg, Leon, 1887-1957.  
Hilsberg, Norbert.  
Hofmann, Josef, 1876-1957.  
Rubinstein, Artur, 1887-1982.

### Subjects

Pianists--Correspondence.  
Pianists--Photographs.  
Violinists--Correspondence.  
Violinists--Photographs.

### Titles

*Leon Hilsberg papers*  
*Norbert Hilsberg collection*

### Form/Genre

Business correspondence.  
Concert programs.  
Personal correspondence.

Photographs.

## Description of Series

### Container

### Series

BOX 1-2

#### Photographs, undated

This series contains black and white photographs of people with whom Hilsberg worked while he was a concert manager in Łódź, Poland. The images are inscribed.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 1

#### Correspondence, 1907-1941

This series consists of ten letters in German from four notable composers and performers, most of whom Hilsberg likely worked with while he was a concert manager in Poland.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

BOX 1-2

#### Programs and Promotional Material, 1906-1920

This series consists of a concert poster and two programs for performances of Hilsberg's brothers Alexander and Ignace.

Arranged chronologically.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	<p><b>Photographs, undated</b></p> <p>This series contains black and white photographs of people with whom Hilsberg worked while he was a concert manager in Łódź, Poland. The images are inscribed. Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	<p>Auer, Leopold, undated</p> <p>One photograph</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Inscribed from Auer to Hilsberg, 1907</p>
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	<p>Elman, Mischa, undated</p> <p>One photograph</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Inscribed from Elman to Hilsberg, 1907?</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	<p>Lalwicz, Jorge, undated</p> <p>One photograph</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Inscribed from Lalewicz to Hilsberg, 1918</p>
BOX 1-FOLDER 1/3	<p>Rosenthal, Moriz, undated</p> <p>One photograph</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Inscribed from Rosenthal to Hilsberg, 1936</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	<p>Rubinstein, Artur, undated</p> <p>Two photographs</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Inscribed from Rubinstein to Hilsberg, 1909 and 1931</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	<p>Sauer, Emil Von, undated</p> <p>One photograph</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Inscribed from Von Sauer to Hilsberg</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	<p>Unidentified, undated</p> <p>Two photographs</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Inscribed to Hilsberg, 1908 and 1931</p>
BOX 1	<p><b>Correspondence, 1907-1941</b></p> <p>This series consists of ten letters in German from four notable composers and performers, most of whom Hilsberg likely worked with while he was a concert manager in Poland. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	<p>Auer, Leopold, 1907</p> <p>One letter</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	<p>Hofmann, Josef, 1936-1937</p> <p>Three letters</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	<p>Huberman, Bronislaw, 1907</p> <p>Two letters</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	<p>Rosenthal, Moriz, 1907-1908, 1941</p> <p>Four letters</p>
BOX 1-2	<p><b>Programs and Promotional Material, 1906-1920</b></p> <p>This series consists of a concert poster and two programs for performances of Hilsberg's brothers Alexander and Ignace.</p>

## Programs and Promotional Material, 1906-1920

### Container

### Contents

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Arranged chronologically.

**BOX-FOLDER 2/2**

Concert poster, 1906

One item

**BOX-FOLDER 1/11**

Programs, 1913, 1920

Two items