

THE HELAINE BLUM ARCHIVE

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I. Correspondence and documents (3 ½ boxes)

NB: Nearly all include original envelopes, which track Blum in her many temporary residences around the world.

1. Family

Parents: ca. 200 letters. Mostly family news. Her mother's letters are brief as her handwriting is large and childlike, moreso in later years.

Couple dozen letters from Helaine's sister Miriam to Paulette Levy. 1929-48, along with multiple copies of an exhibition catalogue brochure for "Paintings by Miriam" at Galerie St. Etienne, NYC ca. 1940. (A number of letters throughout the archive mention this exhibit, which Helaine clearing was helping to promote through her art world connections.)

Christine Sample: 8 items, 1970, caretaker for HB's mother

2. Men

Angus Rouland: ca. 200 love letters, 1930s-40s.

Stephen Kayser: Ca. 100 letters, early 1960s. Mix of dull brief ardent love letters and letters re his travels (mostly logistical info), and occasional letters including mention of her work and on his (he was the founding director and curator until the 1960s of the New York Jewish Museum.

3. Friends

William Zorach: 18 ALS, 10 postcards, 1940s-50s? Personal, some comments on his own work, a letter from his wife commenting on Bernard Baruch. Several Zorach books insc to HB, some photographs and printed ephemera.

Levy family: Roger, Paulette, Janine, Jean Pierre. Would appear to be run of the mill lengthy family updates, with occasional cultural insight, but due to the identity of the family there is additional interest: Jean Pierre was a leader in the French Resistance ("Mr. Levy, a reserved man who did not like to talk about his exploits during the war, created and led the Franc-Tireur (Irregular) organization in southern France, one of the pillars of the fight against the German occupation. As early as 1941, he edited a clandestine journal called Franc-Tireur and was active in the recruitment of Resistance fighters. NYT obit, 1996).

Morris Carnovsky: TLC lecture, Design for Acting: The Quest of Technique, 15 pp., 1960.

Walter Starkie / Mrs. Walter Starkie: 5 items, 1960s-70s

Samuel Beckett: two 11 x 14 silver gelatin prints. Blum's ticket for the bus, on which she's written, "From my meeting with Samuel Beckett, October 11, 1985, Monday at 11 am."

Marcell Marceau:

36 photos (19 discrete images), 8x10 black and white silver gelatin prints, numbered by the studio.

Sketches of MM (one portrait, two studies of postures) by HB (unsigned but captioned in her handwriting)

Program, Paris 1978, insc to HB by MM, "To Helaine, with my love always, your faithful Bip, Marcel Marceau / 1978."

4. Associates

Otto Nathan: Ca. 200 letters, 1960s-80s, accountant for Blum (and for Einstein). Provides a thorough look at her finances over time.

5. Personal papers: 1920-60s

Correspondence (ca. 100 letters):

Friends

Letters to her from friends and colleagues, often artists, usually Jewish, are interesting by reflection. At times they will repeat something she has written and then address it. They also give a sense of the period (primarily 1960s) in culture in various locations throughout the US and Europe (eg Morris Carnovsky writes from the Old Globe Theater in San Diego; Helen and Linus Pauling write from Santa Barbara, CA; "Lev" sends a 6 pp. ALS from Paris). Some frequent or notable names include Alphonse Levy, Helene Dreyfus (1 from 1952), Paulette, Andre Kahn, Esther Weinberger. Congrats on her 80th bday and condolences on the death of her mother. (The dates don't make a lot of sense: HB was 80 in 1958, so she would have been 93 when her mother died in 1971, so her mother would have had to have been, what, 108, assuming she was only 15 when she gave birth to Helaine?)

Career

Letters re collections, collectors, exhibits, prizes and awards, press and publicity material

Friendly and logistical notes from museum curators – and from the Director of Synagogue Activities at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1952.

Correspondence showing her participation in the Jewish community, for instance in the Temple Women's Association, ALS 3-15-1922, to Helen and Miriam, signed Elsa F. Miekzenbaum, thanking them for assisting with entertainment.

Highlighted by HB

Letter largely in German she marked as "very valuable," see photos

Letter and postcard from Fannie Hurst: TLS, Fannie Hurst, 9-30-49, thanks for letter and mention of memories of Helaine's sister's exhibit; APS, "Fannie Hurst," 10-19-48, ...

Family

HB: 2 APS to her father, 1 APS to her mother, and 1 APS to her parents jointly

Other

5 pp. typescript, "Alfred Pearce Dennis, The Human Oracle," by HB

Logistics

(2 tiny phone books, one including MLK Jr.; 1948 datebook, sparsely used, plane tickets, letters of introduction, invitations, reservations...). Includes reservation card for Miss Helaine D. Blum "to the Testimonial Dinner in honor of Max Weber tendered by the Artists' Materials Division of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York..." 1957; printed program for dinner at the Waldorf, in honor of His Excellency Leon Blum, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire US of the French Republic, 1946. And more.

Banking, legal (wills, trusts, deeds, insurance, estate planning, passports...)

II. Max Weber (1 box)

Correspondence

Couple hundred letters, bulking to 1949-56 (he died in 1961). Includes lots of info on his work, her work, and art and music he has witnessed. Couple dozen examples of wood blocks and sketches. Some holiday cards. Mostly ALS though, 1-2 pp.. TLS to MW 1955 requesting they hold on to HB's bust of him for use in an additional exhibit the following year. Autograph sentiment: "You must work / Max" in frame.

Most valuable books

Primitives insc to HB probably a \$5000 book

Essays on Art insc to HB probably a \$3500 per, for each of three insc copies. Plus a clean copy.

Max Weber, by Goodright, fine in jacket, insc twice to HB, in 1953 and 1955.

Max Weber, 1945 American Artists Group, insc to HB

Cubist Poems, 1914 book insc to HB in 1957, copy #35 of 100.

Max Weber / Downtown Gallery 1957 insc to HB

Max Weber / Retrospective Exhibition, 1949, insc to HB

Max Weber / Downtown Gallery 1958, insc to HB

Max Weber / Jewish Museum 1956 insc to HB

Einstein, Carl. *Negerplastik*. Munich, 1920. Annotated in pencil throughout by MW; insc in ink to HB; with an explanatory note in ink by HB loosely inserted.

Several vintage invitations to MW shows.

III. Photographs (1 box)

Hundreds of photos, various sizes, loose.

At least two well captioned albums, 19teens -30s, earlier, and later.

IV. Einstein (half box)

Photos:

5x7 portrait by Lotte Jacobi, insc and dated 1944 by Einstein to HB.

29 small black and white silver gelatin prints with thin border, $2\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{5}$ to $3\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Engraved plate of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and 5 images of him with Blum, with Lotte Jacobi, and his son

HB manuscript notes: 1 fragile leaf of 2 pp. HB notes about, seemingly, a visit with Einstein.
Good content.

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