

Guide to the Phillips Family Papers

MS 1927



compiled by Christopher Phillips and staff of Manuscripts and Archives

June 2009

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1927

CREATOR: Phillips family

TITLE: Phillips family papers

DATES: Circa 1901-2010

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 14.13 linear feet (15 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection comprises correspondence, vital records, family histories and reminiscences, photographs and other material concerning the lives and work of several generations of members of the Phillips, Rubinstein, Levine, and Sussman families of the New York area. The collection is especially strong in documentation of the extended personal and business relationships of several prosperous Jewish families in the New York City area during the twentieth century.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Christopher Phillips, Adam Phillips, David F. Phillips, and Victoria L. Phillips, 2004. Gift of David F. Phillips, 2011.

Conditions Governing Access

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Preferred Citation

Phillips Family Papers (MS 1927). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Processing Information

This collection was organized by one of the donors, Christopher Phillips. During processing by the repository, materials were rehoused only for preservation purposes. All descriptive information about the collection was supplied by Christopher Phillips.

Associated Materials

Christopher Phillips Papers (MS 1830). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Samuel J. Phillips (1916-1973) and Nina David Rubinstein Phillips (1917-1980) were married in New York City on 14 May 1942. They had four children: David (born 1944), Christopher (born 1950), Victoria (born 1955), and Adam (born 1955).

Scope and Contents

The collection comprises correspondence, vital records, family histories and reminiscences, photographs and other material concerning the lives and work of several generations of members of the Phillips, Rubinstein, Levine, and Sussman families of the New York area. The collection is especially strong in documentation of the extended personal and business relationships of several prosperous Jewish families in the New York City area during the twentieth century.

Arrangement

Arranged by the donor by name of family member and by type of material.

Collection Contents

Family histories

b. 1, f. 1	<i>The Phillips Story: A Chronicle and Documentary Record</i> by Lucjan Dobroszycki Included here is a photocopy, parts of which are difficult to read. The original is probably in the Phillips Ambulatory Care Center of Beth Israel Hospital, Union Square, Manhattan. There are several inaccuracies and inconsistencies in this account.	1980
b. 1, f. 2	Phillips family tree Contains inaccuracies, with some corrections by Christopher Phillips.	1980
b. 1, f. 3	<i>The Rubinstein Family Photo Archive and Catalog</i> Document compiled and produced by Christopher Phillips. It includes photographs (photocopied) and relevant life dates of all the children of Jacob and Nettie Rubinstein, with lists of their descendants, including addresses (complete up to 1998). It also contains explanatory notes about Plungyan (present-day Plunge), Lithuania.	1998
b. 1, f. 4	The Rubinstein Family Genealogy Document compiled in 1993 by Esther Roth Rubinstein (wife of Martin Rubinstein, son of Harry Rubinstein). According to Christopher Phillips it seems accurate about the descendants of Harry Rubinstein, but has inaccuracies regarding other branches of the family.	1993
Phillips, Samuel J. (1916-1973)		
b. 1, f. 5	Writings and artwork Includes childhood writings and cartoons on a page that also contains Nina David Phillips's characteristic doodles that she would do while on the telephone. Also contains a watercoloring done on a 19th-century newspaper engraving (color photocopy) and reviews written for <i>The Beacon</i> , the newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, New York; the original manuscript and published copy of an article "It and the Technician;" and an article from the January/February 1974 issue of the journal <i>Radiologic Technology</i> , which explains Samuel J. Phillips's philosophy of dealing with patients as people, to have an "I-you" relationship rather than an "I-it" relationship with them.	1920-1974
b. 1, f. 6-7	<i>The Franklinite</i> English Yearbook of Franklin School, New York, NY.	1928, 1930
b. 1, f. 8	Letters from his mother At least one telegram (1924) from his father, David F. Phillips I.	1928-1932
b. 1, f. 9	School reports and other material Includes British visiting cards, copies of school prizes and other childhood memorabilia.	Circa 1931-1941

b. 1, f. 10	Military records Contains his 1941 application to Naval Reserve with a complete résumé of his schooling and work history. Also has notes Christopher Phillips took in 1982 on the site of former Fort Dupont in Delaware City, Delaware.	Circa 1941-1946
b. 1, f. 11	Cards and notes Cards and notes between him and Nina Phillips.	Circa 1950-1973
b. 1, f. 12	Wedding documentation Includes telegrams and a photograph of Morty Herskovits, the best man of the wedding. Also the July 1942 issue of <i>The Target</i> , the newsletter of the Auxiliary Aircraft Warning Service, New York, with a mention of the marriage.	1942
b. 1, f. 13	Medical school student papers School papers and relics, including class photograph.	1952-1956
b. 1, f. 14	<i>Medical Violet</i> English Yearbook of New York University College of Medicine.	1956
b. 1, f. 15	Medical licenses and diplomas	Circa 1950-1973
b. 1, f. 16	Wallets and cards From the time of Samuel J. Phillips's death.	Circa 1973
b. 1, f. 17	Passports and documents Includes passports, birth certificate and other documents. Also has an envelope of cards and other scraps of paper found in his desk at the time of his death.	Circa 1936-1973
b. 1, f. 18	Death and memorial service Death and memorial service at Community Church in Manhattan. Includes notes, eulogies (by Rev. Ralph Stutsman and David F. Phillips II), mention in a column of <i>The Provincetown Advocate</i> newspaper. Also contains program from dedication of the Sam Phillips Memorial Garden at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, N.Y.	1973-1975
b. 1, f. 19	Various materials related to the life of Samuel J. Phillips Issue of <i>Forefront</i> , the newsletter of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center from January 1970 with his photograph and description of new radiology facilities (photocopy). Contains medical résumé; University Hospital bill from first heart attack (24 Dec 1967 to 27 Jan 1968); columns by Tom Kane from <i>The Provincetown Advocate</i> ; list of degrees and medical licenses; letter from Samuel J. Phillips to T. Margaret Jamer, 17 Aug 1967 following a trip to Ireland; material about an anti-stuttering metronome ordered from Scotland, 1967; addresses of rented houses in Westchester, summers 1957-1959; Memorial Hospital stationery; photocopy of cover of <i>The Forgotten Peninsula</i> by Joseph Wood Krutch; and scraps and notes.	Circa 1953-1970
Phillips, Nina David (nee Rubinstein, 1917-1980)		
b. 1, f. 20	Berkely Institute (Brooklyn, N.Y.) yearbooks	1934-1935

b. 2, f. 1	Letters with childhood reminiscences Letter written on the death of her uncle, Abraham Rubinstein, containing reminiscences of her childhood, and of Abraham and Esther Rubinstein.	1974
b. 2, f. 2	Sightseeing boat, New York harbor Includes her script, an article in <i>The New York World-Telegram</i> about her, a transcript of a Kate Smith broadcast discussing her, photographs of the boat and crew, and the <i>Manual for Lifeboatmen and Able Seamen</i> (U.S. Department of Commerce, 1937).	1937-1941
b. 2, f. 3	Wartime diary In this document, she describes her life as a military wife as she set up home for herself and Samuel J. Phillips in towns where he was posted (photocopy of 202 handwritten pages).	1942-1944
b. 2, f. 4	Date books	1953-1960
b. 2, f. 5	Address books	Circa 1960-1980
b. 2, f. 6	Various materials related to the life of Nina David Phillips Includes a document from WNET Channel 13 in New York; photographs and correspondence from college friends, especially Basia McCoy (née Barbara Kocyan); childhood letter to her mother; 1939 newsletter from camp where she was counselor. Also November 1942 issue of "The Target," newsletter of the Aircraft Warning Service, with an article on Nina Phillips's engagement; photocopies of covers and flyleaves of some of her favorite books (Edna St. Vincent Millay and others).	Circa 1917-1980
	School Volunteers A public education program administered by the Public Education Association, New York City.	
b. 2, f. 7	Writings and newsletters Includes copies of "School Volunteer News" and various documents, including "The Chairman and the Program," a 22-page manual written by Nina Phillips and other memos by her. Includes <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> article that mentions her, and "School Volunteer News" from June 1966 with article about her resignation.	1960-1972
b. 2, f. 8	"Child and the Program" English Personal training manual and writings for volunteer orientation, especially on the "culture of poverty." Includes written comments by T. Margaret Jamer (known as Jimmie Jamer).	Circa 1960-1970
b. 2, f. 9	<i>School Volunteer News</i> English	1959-1968
b. 2, f. 10	Jamer, T. Margaret, <i>School Volunteers: Creating a New Dimension in Education through Lay Participation</i> , New York: Public Education Association Inscribed by the author to Nina Phillips. Also included is a copy of "School Volunteer News" with a valedictory tribute to Miss Jamer, probably written by Nina Phillips.	1961

b. 2, f. 11	Phillips, Nina, <i>Conversational English for the Non-English-Speaking Child: An Audio-Visual-Lingual Approach to English as a Second Language, with Special Emphasis on the Needs of the Disadvantaged Child</i> , New York: Teachers College Press (third printing) Earlier printings were spiral bound.	1977
b. 2, f. 12-15	Letters to her in hospital Many from WNET Channel 13 volunteers.	1979-1980
b. 3, f. 1	Memorial service and reminiscences Program from memorial service, biographical notes, and personal reminiscences from various friends.	Circa 1980-2006
b. 3, f. 2	Birth certificate, passport, and other material	1917-1967
b. 3, f. 3-7	Jamer, Jimmie (T. Margaret), letters from	Circa 1965-1975
b. 3, f. 8-14	Travel diaries Photocopies of travel diaries written by T. Margaret (Jimmie) Jamer chronicling trips taken with Nina Phillips.	1967-1973
Residences, collections, and financial affairs of Samuel J. Phillips and Nina David Phillips		
b. 3, f. 15	1136 Fifth Avenue Photographs of interior before and after the collection of 18th-century antique furniture was amassed, fabric swatches, and floor plan of the apartment drawn by David F. Phillips in 1999.	1945-1999
b. 3, f. 16	112 East 70th Street Photographs of the brownstone, constructed circa 1878, in 1954 (before renovation) and in 1956 (after renovation); interior and exterior photographs.	1954-1956
b. 3, f. 17	112 East 70th Street Photographs of the interior taken after Nina David Phillips's death.	Circa 1980
b. 3, f. 18	Truro, Massachusetts house Contains photographs of the house in the 1960s and 1980s, including aerial views of this part of the Cape Cod National Seashore. Also has a receipt for a canoe, called the Swamp Swallow, and a flyer from 1988 for sale of the house.	Circa 1969-1987
b. 3, f. 19	Antiques Photographs of antique furniture and pottery, and Nina David Phillips's inventory notebook of pottery and porcelain purchases. Includes a catalogue from an exhibition at Metropolitan Museum of Art in which one of the Phillips's chairs appeared. Lastly, includes "Opulence and Splendor: The New York Chair, 1690-1830," a 1984 booklet published by Bernard & S. Dean Levy Inc., in which some Phillips's chairs appeared.	Circa 1960-1984

b. 4, f. 1-2	Antiques - <i>Sotheby's</i> <i>Sotheby's</i> catalogue from the sale of most of the Phillips furniture, Fine Americana auction of 26 September 1981. Included is Christopher Phillips's list of Phillips's lots in the sale. <i>Sotheby's</i> newsletter for September 1981 with photograph of a Phillips piece. Catalogue from <i>Sotheby's</i> Fine American Furniture and Related Decorative Arts sale, April 1981 (Phillips's lots, mostly for pottery, are noted in catalogue); <i>Sotheby's</i> English Furniture and Ceramics auction catalogue, 19 December 1981 (Phillips's lots are 17 through 25).	1981
b. 4, f. 3	Household ephemera Includes stationery of Nina David Phillips, checklists, photographs of 112 East 70th Street, and a sketch of floorplan of 112 East 70th Street by Christopher Phillips in 2008.	Circa 1950-1989
b. 4, f. 4-12	Checks and checkbooks	1952-1957
b. 5, f. 1-8	Checks and checkbooks	1954-1963
b. 6, f. 1-10	Checkbooks	1963-1965
b. 7, f. 1-8	Checks and checkbooks	1964-1969
b. 8, f. 1-10	Checkbooks and financial records	1966-1972
b. 9, f. 1-4	Checks and checkbooks	1974-1976
Phillips, David F. II (born 1944), son of Samuel and Nina Phillips		
b. 9, f. 5	An account of his birth Photocopy of an account of his birth written by his grandmother, Ida J. Rubinstein, in a letter to her son, Roy M. Rubinstein.	1944
b. 9, f. 6	<i>The Dutchman</i> yearbooks and card Yearbooks from Collegiate School and an anniversary card to his parents.	1954-1956
b. 9, f. 7	Letters to Noah Phillips Letters with illustrations from David to his nephew, Samuel Noah Phillips (born 1992).	1998 - 2004
b. 9, f. 8	Various materials relating to the life of David F. Phillips II Statement written as reunion information for Columbia College Alumni Association, Penn Law School commencement program, and deed of gift of heraldic items to Museum of the City of New York.	1971-2002
b. 9, f. 9	"How to Avoid Getting Sick in the Third World" and "Looking at the Emblems of the Indian States," writings by David F. Phillips II English	Circa 1990-2008
	Autobiography manuscript: "What I Remember About My Life" by David F. Phillips.	2010
b. 15, f. 1	Preface and Chapters 1 to 3A	
b. 15, f. 2	Chapters 3B to 11	
b. 15, f. 3	Chapters 12 to 17	

Autobiography manuscript: "What I Remember About My Life" by Dav [...] (continued)

b. 15, f. 4	Chapters 18 to 21	
b. 15, f. 5	Chapters 22 to 26	
b. 15, f. 6	Chapters 27A to 29	
b. 15, f. 7	Chapters 30 to 35	
Phillips, Louise (1912-1955)		
b. 9, f. 10	Material documenting her childhood Notes, some illustrated, to her parents, illustrated story books written by Louise, and drawings.	Circa 1920-1925
b. 9, f. 11-12	Artwork in books Books with illustrations by Louise Phillips: Oscar Wilde, <i>The Ballad of Reading Goal and Other Poems</i> (New York: Greystone Press, 1951); Oscar Wilde, <i>The Happy Prince and Other Tales</i> (New York: Greystone Press, 1951); Russell McCracken, <i>The Sound of Sleigh Bells</i> (New York: Farrar, Straus and Young, 1951); Louise Phillips, <i>French for Peter</i> , (London: Art and Educational Publishers Ltd., 1946).	1946-1951
b. 9, f. 13	Artwork on cloth Color photocopy of an original in the possession of Christopher Phillips.	Circa 1940-1955
b. 9, f. 14	Drawings, sketches, and watercolors Includes some photocopies of originals in the possession of Christopher Phillips.	Circa 1921-1955
b. 9, f. 15	17 Commerce Street Drawing of her house at 17 Commerce Street (not by Louise) as it appeared in <i>The Villager</i> , a local Greenwich Village newspaper; a Schumacher sample of the wallpaper used in the dining room at 17 Commerce Street ("Pudden Hill" pattern); photostats of her Mexican divorce decree; and the closing letter from sale of 17 Commerce Street.	1932-1955
b. 9, f. 16-19	Financial records Contains her will, correspondence about her estate, bankbook, checkbooks, and scraps of paper referring to financial affairs.	1952-1965
b. 10, f. 1-7	Checkbooks and records relating to her trust and estate	1955 - 1969
Rubinstein, Roy M. (1912-1993)		
b. 10, f. 8	Childhood keepsake album Includes letters from his father, letters to his parents, and two letters from Fresh Meadow Country Club. There is also his Bar Mitzvah speech, articles he saved, and other keepsakes.	Circa 1912-1930
b. 10, f. 9	Materials documenting his later life Includes statistical notes on the financial markets, two photographs of Constance Keene kept in his bedroom, photographs of his apartment just after his death, and other memorabilia.	Circa 1960-1993

b. 10, f. 10	Various materials relating to the life of Roy M. Rubinstein Consists of employment applications, with detailed résumés, birth certificate, University of Pennsylvania diploma, and a photocopy of a University of Pennsylvania yearbook page.	1934-1955
Rubinstein, David Lazarus (1888-1929)		
b. 10, f. 11	Letter regarding his marriage From David to his sister Ida (1883-1969, later Gittelsohn) describing the wedding, typed transcription.	1911 June 7
b. 10, f. 12	Correspondence Exchange of letters with his brother Morris in 1916 and postcard to Ida J. Rubinstein from Italy, 1927.	1916-1927
b. 10, f. 13	Business dealings Contracts and correspondence relating to the Textile Yarn Company, negotiations with S.B. and B.W. Fleischer yarn manufacturers of Philadelphia, and announcement of the Knitwear Manufacturers League of New York.	1926-1929
b. 10, f. 14	Correspondence and resolutions relating to his death Includes photostat of death certificate.	1929-1939
b. 10, f. 15	Shore, Josselyn M., <i>The Story of the Fresh Meadow Country Club</i> , New York: Fresh Meadow Country Club Privately published book that mentions David L. Rubinstein among the founders (page 20).	1985
Rubinstein, Ida J. (nee Sussman, 1890-1962)		
b. 11, f. 1-2	Passports, datebooks, address books, and other material Includes some imperial Russian 500 ruble banknotes dated 1912.	1912-1965
b. 11, f. 3-7	Financial records Includes stock certificates, leases, insurance certificates, correspondence, ledgers, and other material.	Circa 1901-1965
b. 11, f. 8	Letters from Ida J. Rubinstein to her daughter Nina Phillips Probably written during Nina's college years, includes a Wedding Day letter from Nina to her mother.	Circa 1930-1935
b. 11, f. 9-11	Wartime correspondence between Ida Rubinstein and her family members Predominantly correspondence with Roy M. Rubinstein and Nina and Samuel Phillips.	1942-1944
b. 11, f. 12	Letters and cards to family These are mostly from Europe, but also from Florida and elsewhere.	Circa 1954-1955
b. 11, f. 13	Cards from hospital stay	1962
b. 11, f. 14	Memorabilia Contains cards, a London theater program, lists, stationery, and Ida's own envelope marked "Things Past."	Circa 1930-1962

b. 11, f. 15	Reminiscences Short reminiscences of her by Nate Levine, son of Sarah Rubinstein Levine, and Blanche Gould, the wife of Sidney Gould (Ida's nephew).	1998
b. 11, f. 16	Phillips, David F. I (1880 - 1925), notation on envelope of Bank of the United States shares owned by his estate	Circa 1925
b. 11, f. 17	Phillips, Beatrice Silberman (later Weiner, 1888-1932) material Comprises a sketch of her grave in London made by Christopher Phillips, a letter to Samuel J. Phillips from St. John's Wood Liberal Cemetery in London, and a certificate from Beth Israel Hospital to commemorate the naming of a room for her parents.	1925-1965
Phillips, Isaac L. (1870-1923) and descendants		
b. 11, f. 18	Phillips, Libby M., diary Transcription of her diary, with explanatory notes by her grandson Gary Marcus.	1914-1916
b. 14	Green, Douglas, promotional video for Green Furniture Design Company, Inc. (Portland, Maine) <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 0:11:09 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> <i>Commercially produced videotape (VHS), approximately 10 minutes.</i> Green is the son of Carol Green Nash, née Phillips, daughter of Isaac's son Seymour. As a preservation measure, original materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access. Copies of commercially produced audiovisual materials contained in this collection cannot be made for researcher use outside of the repository. A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives.	1995 April
b. 12, f. 1	Phillips, Lawrence S., <i>New York Times</i> article, "The Last Phillips Retires From Phillips-Van Heusen"	1995 February 15
b. 12, f. 2	Silberman Family, S.J.S. Associates documents Consists of partnership papers and amendments relating to SJS Associates, a family limited partnership in which various descendants of Samuel J. Silberman had shares.	1991
Blaut, Stephan (son of Florence Silberman Blaut, circa 1918 - 1979) and family		
b. 12, f. 3	Stephan Blaut Obituary in <i>The New York Times</i> and a postcard to Beatrice Silberman Phillips with a picture of Stephan standing near the French statesman Briand.	Circa 1929-1979
b. 12, f. 4	Blaut, Julia (later DeWees, daughter of Stephan), photocopy of a holiday card with photographs of her children (Nina, Sam, Jake)	2007
Marks Family		
b. 12, f. 5	Marks family tree, handwritten, probably by Jack Marks	Circa 1974

b. 12, f. 6	Marks, Jack, announcements of the annual Marks Memorial Lecture at the University of Arizona College of Law	1995-2008
b. 12, f. 7	Rubinstein, Jacob (circa 1855 to circa 1930) naturalization certificate Includes memories of Jacob Rubinstein by his grandson Nate Levine (son of Sarah Rubinstein Levine).	1903-1998
b. 13	Rubinstein, Abraham (1889-1974) and descendants scrapbook album	Circa 1973
b. 12, f. 8	Rubinstein, Harry (1880-1955) textile patent and letter on Rubinstein relations	Circa 1930-1994
b. 12, f. 9	Gittelsohn, Ida (nee Rubinstein, 1883-1969) newspaper article with photograph of her Flatbush house	Circa 1990-2000
b. 12, f. 10	Hoffman, Naomi (nee Gittelsohn, later Siegel, later Hoffman, daughter of Ida Gittelsohn) material Essay on her by her son, Dan Siegel, and letter from her to her aunt, Sarah Levine (née Rubinstein).	1978-1997
b. 12, f. 11	Siegel, Judge Kenneth M. (son of Naomi, 1945-1997), newspaper articles about him	1985-1997
b. 12, f. 12	Siegel, Julie (born 1983, daughter of Dan Siegel), invitation to her M.S.W. graduation from UCLA	2006
b. 12, f. 13	Berson, Miriam (nee Gittelsohn, 1913-1995) material Essay, "Sol Berson, the Man," written by her about her husband, Dr. Solomon A. Berson (1918-1972), who was a colleague of Nobel laureate Rosalyn S. Yalow in medical research. Also tributes to Sol Berson in <i>The Ligand Review</i> .	Circa 1972-1980
b. 12, f. 14	Rubinstein, Morris (1878-1947) and descendants reminiscences By Nate Levine (son of Sarah Rubinstein Levine), his nephew.	1998
b. 12, f. 15	Rubinstein, Nathan (1885-1915) letters to his sister Sarah (later Levine) Photocopies of original letters in the possession of Nate Levine.	1914-1915
b. 12, f. 16	Levine, Nate (born 1919) reminiscences Son of Sarah Levine (née Rubinstein, 1891-1980), reminiscences about Rubinstein family members and correspondence with David F. Phillips about Nate's tenure as head of the Walden School high school in New York.	1998-2006
b. 12, f. 17	Gendler, Joan (1923-2002) letter and invitation Daughter of Samuel Rubinstein (1882-1927).	1998
b. 12, f. 18	Willey, Sharon (born 1956) letters and cards Daughter of Joan Gendler (1923-2002).	2006
Sussman family		
b. 12, f. 19	Sussman, David (circa 1849-1934) naturalization papers and passport Passport was for a trip to Palestine (Jerusalem), with a visa from the Ottoman government, but was never used.	1904-1907
b. 12, f. 20	Sussman, Sol (1888-1959) obituary	1959

b. 12, f. 21

Sussman, Richard (born 1924) correspondence and other material
Son of Sol Sussman (1888-1959).

2004-2006

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.

Subjects

Jewish families
Jewish families -- New York (State) -- New York

Families

Levin family
Phillips family
Rubinstein family
Sussman family