

Phillip Lax Collection
Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest Archives
Prepared by Jill Hershorin (March, 2012)

Record Group: 1

Collection Number: 17-07

Creator: Phillip Lax

Inclusive Dates: 1958-1986

Extent: .5 cf

Abstract: Administrative papers from Phillip Lax

Acquisition information:

Records in the collection were donated by Phillip Lax

Preferred Citation:

Phillip Lax Collection, Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest

Access restrictions:

The collections of the Society shall be available for examination and study by any member of the public under the normal security procedures and other special procedures established for the protection of the specific collections.

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History:

Philip Lax was born in Newark, New Jersey, on April 22, 1920. He graduated from New York University with a BS degree in 1940 and completed postgraduate work at the university from 1941 to 1942, where he was a founding member of the New York University Club. He worked for Lax & Co. of Newark, New Jersey, from 1942 to 1977 and served as vice president of the company from 1950 to 1977. He served as president of Chathill Management, Inc., a land development and realty management company.

Throughout his life, Philip Lax has been a prominent member of a number of Jewish organizations, especially B'nai B'rith International. In 1966, he was a member of the New Jersey region executive board of the Anti-Defamation League. He has been a trustee of the B'nai B'rith Foundation since 1967. Lax's fundraising was integral to the Rutgers University Hillel building, which opened its doors in 1971. He was vice president of the B'nai B'rith Supreme Lodge from 1968 to 1971 and a member of the international board of governors starting in 1971. Lax served as co-chairman of the B'nai B'rith International Council from 1979 to 1984 and chairman from 1982 to 1994. The Philip Lax Archive at the B'nai B'rith Klutznick Museum is named in his honor.

Lax was also involved in campaigns to restore the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. He was appointed to the planning team of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island by President Carter. He has been a member of the steering committee to restore Ellis Island since 1977 and national president of the Ellis Island Restoration Commission since 1978. He was responsible for planning, funding, and operating the Family History Center on Ellis Island.

He is on the board of numerous organizations and has received awards and citations for his work with local, national and international Jewish organizations.

Reference:

Guide to the Papers of Philip Lax, American Jewish Historical Society, 2011

Scope and Content:

The collection is divided into two series: B'nai B'rith and Personal Papers. Within the B'nai B'rith series are materials from Lax's work from the international organization as well as the regional and local chapters - both of which contain documents from the international organization but also contain information about local programs and operations.

Lax's personal papers are few and include some materials pertaining to his professional work.

This collection is comprised of paper and photographs and is divided into two series as follows:

- I. B'nai B'rith
 - A. International
 - B. South Mountain Lodge
 - C. Northern New Jersey Council
 - D. Union Township
- II. Personal Papers