

Collection #  
M1015  
OM0508

**MAX EINSTANDIG ADDITION  
COLLECTION, CA. 1880–2009**

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Processed by

Samantha Norling

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	7 manuscript boxes, 3 OM folders, 1 photographs box, 1 artifact
COLLECTION DATES:	ca. 1880–2009
PROVENANCE:	Max Einsteadig, Indianapolis, Ind.; September 2006 (2006.0398) Elaine Zukerman, Indianapolis, Ind.; November 2008 (2008.0354) and March 2009 (2009.0045)
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Indiana Jewish Historical Society Collection, 1845–2002. Manuscript Collection: M0743. Max Einsteadig Collection, 1929–2005. Manuscript Collection: M0842.
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2006.0398, 2008.0354, 2009.0045
NOTES:	This forms part of the collection of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH**

### **Max Einsteadig**

Max Einsteadig was born in Vienna, Austria on 15 June 1912, to Jacob and Yetta Einsteadig. He came to the United States on 10 July 1914, with his mother and his sister, Rose, on the *S.S. France*, one of the last ships to leave Europe before World War I. The Einsteadig family settled in Indianapolis, where Max graduated from Emmerich Manual Training High School, on 14 June 1929, then attended Butler University. He continued on to graduate work at the Graduate School for Jewish Social Work and the New York School of Social Work, received his Master's degree, and spent a year working at the Kirshbaum Community Center before turning to business. In 1934 Max married Bess Peltz; they had three children: Jerry, Barbara, and Elaine. He sold furniture in South Bend and Chicago, then in 1946–47 opened JEBB's (the name created from the first names of his wife and his three children) in Terre Haute, Indiana. JEBB's initially offered upholstery repair and sold gas stoves, but their package deal offer of propane to go with the stoves turned Jebb's into a propane distributor, which now sells over 1.25 million gallons of propane a year.

Max Einsteadig was heavily involved in Jewish community organizations at the local and national levels. He joined B'nai B'rith Indianapolis Lodge #58 in 1935, served as President of Terre Haute's Gan Eden Lodge #110, joined the Indiana State directors in 1958, was elected as third Vice President of the B'nai B'rith state association in 1964, and became State President in 1968, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Gan Eden Lodge. A member of B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, as an adult he was elected president of Hillel Foundation of Indiana, Inc. for 1966 and 1967. He served the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith as a member of its Regional Advisory Board, the District Board of Governors, and the B'nai B'rith task force. Einsteadig was a founder of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society.

Max Einsteadig died on November 12, 2006. He is survived by his son, Jerry Einsteadig and wife Jo of Terre Haute; daughters, Elaine Zukerman and husband Howard, and Barbara Stenacker and husband Jack, all of Indianapolis; his grandchildren, Mark Zukerman, Amy Zimmerman, Stacy Hamilton, Jason Einsteadig, Debra Rusk, Steve Stenacker, David Stenacker and Mindy Shultz; and 12 great-grandchildren.

### **United Hebrew Congregation of Terre Haute**

Rabbi Isaac Mayor Wise, founder of the American Jewish movement, travelled to Terre Haute in 1858, where he found about 33 Jewish families in town. He noted that the Jewish people there opened stores, became professionals, founded numerous Jewish organizations, participated actively in Terre Haute community life and became known for their work ethic and philanthropy. In 1891 Rabbi Wise returned to Terre Haute to install Rabbi Alexander Lyons in the Reform congregation.

In 1934 the Reform congregation merged administratively with another Terre Haute congregation, creating the United Temple. Later the name changed to United Hebrew

Congregation, which the congregation still goes by. Reform and Orthodox worship, Religious School and Hebrew Schools were provided using both congregation buildings. Other organizations associated with the United Hebrew Congregation include a Jewish Boy Scout troop, B'nai B'rith Gan Eden Lodge #110, Council of Jewish Juniors, the Temple Ladies Auxiliary, and a Zionist organization. The Phoenix Country Club, the Jewish Welfare Fund and a Jewish War Veterans organization were among the related organizations and activities in operation at the time of the congregation's formation. Information about each of these associate groups can be found in Max Einsteadig's personal files.

### **B'nai B'rith**

B'nai B'rith is an international Jewish organization for community service, promoting human rights, and protecting the interests of Jews in Israel and the world. Founded in 1843, B'nai B'rith is one of the oldest and largest Jewish organizations, today with over 180,000 members in 50 countries. The period of Max Einsteadig's involvement in B'nai B'rith is something of a high point; there were 19 lodges in Indiana in 1968, but only three remain today.

### **Indiana Jewish Historical Society (IJHS)**

The Indiana Jewish Historical Society (IJHS) was founded in 1972, with the mission to collect, preserve, and publish information on the two hundred and fifty years of Jewish life in Indiana. Creation of an historical organization was proposed to and accepted by the Indiana State Association of B'nai B'rith in the winter of 1967. Two months later, Max Einsteadig became the state president of B'nai B'rith, and worked to support the project. In 1972 the IJHS began operation as a committee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, led by Executive Director Joe Levine and funded by a \$30,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment. The Indiana Jewish Historical Society continues to collect and publish material on Indiana Jewish History; their collections are now part of the Indiana Historical Society archives.

### **Jewish War Veterans of the US**

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) was established in 1896 and is the oldest veterans group in the United States. The JWV holds a Congressional charter under Title 36 of the United States Code. Today, the group separates its activities into four categories: patriotic, Jewish, service, and affinity. Generally, the JWV engage in advocacy to preserve religious freedom and separation of church and state as it relates to the US military.

Sources:

Max Einsteadig Collection, 1929–2005. Manuscript Collection: M0842. *Collection Guide*.

News from Terre Haute, Indiana: *Max Einsteadig*. November 12 2006.

<http://tribstar.com/obituaries/x681794997/Max-R-Einsteadig/print>

The Indiana Jewish Historical Society. <http://www.ijhs.org>

B'nai B'rith International. *About Us*: <http://www.bnaibrith.org>

The United Hebrew Congregation of Terre Haute. *Our History*: <http://in006.urj.net/>

Wikipedia: *Jewish War Veterans of the USA*: <http://www.wikipedia.org/>

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is housed in 7 manuscript boxes, 3 OM folders, 1 photograph box, and includes one artifact. The collection is comprised of three different accessions and is an edition to M0842. This first accession (2006.0398) was donated by Max Einsteadig and included his business and personal files, as well as items relating to the Jewish Community of Terre Haute. The second accession (2008.0354) was donated by Max Einsteadig's daughter, Elaine Zukerman, and included additional personal and business files of Max and Bess Einsteadig, as well as some personal materials of theirs. The third accession (2009.0045) included personal memorabilia of Max and Bess Einsteadig and their extended family members. The entire collection has been split up into three series accordingly:

### **Series 1: Max Einsteadig Files (1922–2005):**

Condition: These files were in use shortly before their donation, and came to the Society as they were gathered rather than in any order. The individual folders often contain interfiled older material that the author was using for reference. Processing has attempted to follow the creator's intent, rather than the actual order of the files. Chronological sorting of the papers is generally applied, but where Max Einsteadig created separate form or project files they are maintained.

#### *Subseries 1: United Hebrew Congregation (1967–2003):*

United Hebrew Congregation materials in this collection include by-laws, financial documents, board meeting minutes and agendas, special event materials, hand-outs, readings, and various publications. Items also include Max Einsteadig's speech made to the UHC Sisterhood on October 10, 1995, along with the research materials he used when writing the speech, and hand-written notes which Einsteadig filed with UHC materials.

#### *Subseries 2: B'nai B'rith (1963–2005):*

B'nai B'rith materials in the collection include lapel pins, installation ceremony materials, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith materials, new clippings, hand-outs, various printed and published materials, as well as Max Einsteadig's personal notes and papers filed under B'nai B'rith.

#### *Subseries 3: Indiana Jewish Historical Society (1922–2005):*

Indiana Jewish Historical Society items in this collection include correspondence relating to the establishment and administration of the society (which includes information collected about other successful Jewish historical groups), membership materials, copies of newsletters and publications, meeting minutes, and materials relating to special events and occasions. The last six folders of this subseries include items which were donated to IJHS: Indiana B'nai B'rith photographs, issues of "The Reform Advocate," and exhibition booklet (1926), information on Jewish cemeteries, copies of Indianapolis street directories, and information on Indianapolis Gemilas Chesed.

*Subseries 4: Files on Various Organizations (1957–2003):*

Materials in this subseries are related to various organizations which Max Einsteadig was affiliated with in his lifetime. This includes, but is not limited to: The Zionist Organization of America, Simon Wiesenthal Center, Hillel, North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, Genealogical Society, and the Anti-Defamation League of America. Folders in this subseries contain miscellaneous correspondence, hand-written notes, event invitations and programs, and various printed materials, essays, and publications.

*Subseries 5: Max and Bess Einsteadig Personal Files (1928–2003):*

Materials in this series include correspondence, various printed materials, essays, hand-outs, publications, hand-written notes and personal files of Max and Bess Einsteadig. Two folders are devoted solely to Bess's items.

**Series 2: Einsteadig Family Memorabilia (ca. 1890–2008):**

Condition: Materials in this series have been generally kept in the order in which they were received, beginning with memorabilia related to the extended families of Max and Bess, and moving into their own personal memorabilia. As a result, the items are in a generally chronological order.

*Subseries 1: Max and Bess Extended Family Memorabilia (ca. 1890–2008):*

This series begins with two hand-drawn family trees: one of the Spatz family (beginning with Max Einsteadig's great-grandparents) and one of the Peltz family (Bess's extended family). Other items in this subseries include many photographs, official documents such as birth and marriage certificates, Thelma Woidy's correspondence, and obituary and death notices. The bulk of this material relates to Max's extended family, particularly that of Thelma Woidy, Max's cousin on his mother's side. Included are the immigration papers of Thelma's grandfather, Chaim Wajdowski (changed to Woidowsky, then Woidy in America).

*Subseries 2: Max and Bess Einsteadig Personal Memorabilia (1912–2006):*

Items in this series are all personal memorabilia of Max and Bess Einsteadig and their nuclear family. Items include many photographs, official documents such as birth certificates and army records, financial and business papers, Max Einsteadig's diplomas, special awards and certificates, miscellaneous correspondence, and a framed photograph of the June 1929 class of *Manual Training High School*, which identifies Max Einsteadig as class Historian.

**Series 3: Jewish Community of Terre Haute (1913–2009):**

*Subseries 1: Jewish War Veterans of the United States (1936–64):*

Items in this series include membership cards, dues information, two meeting binders with chapter minutes, memos, and notes, miscellaneous financial papers, bills, receipts, and correspondence. One file folder includes materials related to the case of Morris Siegel, who asked for JWV legal assistance concerning a veteran's insurance claim on an incident which occurred in Terre Haute. This file includes correspondence and witness affidavits describing details of the case.

*Subseries 2: Miscellaneous Jewish Community of Terre Haute Materials (1913–2009):*  
Items in this series include information on various organizations such as the Good Cheer Club, the Jewish Welfare Fund, the C.A.N.D.L.E.S. Holocaust Museum, United Hebrew Congregations, and others. There are also multiple essays summarizing the history of the Jewish Community of Terre Haute, specifically the leaders of the Jewish Community.



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## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M1015).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.