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Kuhn Family Papers

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Box 1

Family

1. Correspondence:

Joseph Kuhn (Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn (Cincinnati), 7 items.
Dec. 17, 26, 1879 (both in German)
May 11, 1880 (postcard)
June 19, 1882
Feb. 8, June 16, June 30, 1883
Lina Kuhn to Isaac Kuhn, 3 letters (in German).
Dec. 19, 1879 (Isaac in Cincinnati, Ohio)
Aug. 24, 1881
[no month] 26, 1884 (Isaac in New York City)
Relatives in Frankfurt, Germany, to Isaac Kuhn, Oct. 14, 1908 (in German)
Sol Kuhn (Harrisburg, Pa.) to Joseph Kuhn, Apr. 26, 1914,
regarding the death of Clara Loeb, Joseph's sister
[includes portion of additional undated letter on
verso]
L. H. [Leon Hecht?] (Portland, Ore.) to "Uncle Joe"
(Joseph Kuhn), Oct. 19, 1915.
Postcard of the Meier & Frank Store, Portland, Ore.
Ludwig H. [Hecht?] (Portland, Ore.) to "Cousin Ike" (Isaac
Kuhn), Jan. 30, 1931.

2. Family Clippings and Memorabilia:

Receipt, Isaac Kuhn pledged \$1 to erect a statue of James
Garfield in Cincinnati, Oct. 6, 1881.
Wedding reception menu, from "Cousin Josie's Wedding," Sept.
20, 1883.
Joseph Kuhn (Apr. 14, 1837 [Apr. 19, 1835] - Dec. 28, 1915),
obituaries, in oversize folder.
"Give Other Fellow Best," Kuhn Urges on Birthday,"
Champaign News-Gazette, Sept. 11, 1946. Oversize.
"World Today Better, Says Kuhn on 87th Birthday," Champaign
News-Gazette, Sept. 11, 1953.
"Sinai Temple's 50 Years Told at Observance," Champaign-
Urbana Courier, ca. 1954.
"Isaac Kuhn Dies Saturday," Champaign News-Gazette, Jan. 21,
1956. Oversize.

"Rites Set on Monday for Isaac Kuhn, 89," "Friends Laud Isaac Kuhn as Civic Leader," and "Death of Isaac Kuhn Stills Ever-Willing Helping Hand," Champaign News-Gazette, Jan. 22, 1956. Oversize.

"Cosmopolitan Group Plans Isaac Kuhn Memorial," Champaign News-Gazette, Feb. 2, 1956.

Isaac Kuhn (Sept. 11, 1866 - Jan. 21, 1956), eulogy (typescript, 6 pages).

David A. Wolff (1900-69) [grandson of Joseph Kuhn, son of Lida Kuhn Wolff], obituary (undated).

Founders' Certificate, "The Officers and Directors of the Willkie Memorial Building Fund certify that Isaac Kuhn is a member of the Founding Group," undated.

"Cosmopolitan Club Honors Isaac Kuhn," unidentified newspaper, undated.

"'Y' Gardening Awards Made," unidentified newspaper, undated.

"Kuhn Fund Building Up," unidentified newspaper, ca. 1956.

Scrapbooks:

3-4. Photocopies of selected items in two Isaac Kuhn scrapbooks, ca. 1919-56.

5. Genealogy:

Walter Hertzman to Ruth Kuhn Youngerman, regarding family history, Apr. 14, 1975.

Fran Loeb Luebke to Ruth Kuhn Youngerman and Alfred Adler, regarding their Loeb family ancestors, Sept. 13, 1996.

Kuhn Family History, genealogical list of Moses, Isaac, and Joseph Kuhn, and their wives. One page, photocopy.

Drafts of family tree, researched by Ruth Kuhn Youngerman, undated.

Business

6. Correspondence:

N. Espenscheid, Jr. to Isaac Kuhn (both in New York), Sept. 6, 1883, arranging an interview with him.

Espenscheid, letter of recommendation for Isaac Kuhn, Feb. 1, 1884.

Joseph Kuhn stating that Isaac Kuhn can purchase goods on

his behalf, Nov. 21, 1886.
Espenscheid advertisement, Mar. 1, 1887, including a list
of New York elevated railroad stations.
Employees of Jos. Kuhn & Co. to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him
for a holiday bonus, Dec. 25, 1919.

7. Business History and Advertisements:

Articles of Copartnership between Joseph Kuhn and Isaac
Kuhn of Champaign, and Henry J. Wurzburg of Chicago,
Feb. 22, 1882. Also, in oversize folder, a second
copy, encapsulated with an envelope addressed to
Joseph Kuhn from Germany in 1898.
Isaac Kuhn, "The Man Who Made Main Street," Champaign Times,
May 15, 1909. Front page article, with photograph;
Jos. Kuhn & Co. advertisement; other pages in the same
issue.
Jos. Kuhn & Son advertisements: "Truly Marvelous Values"
(list of items), in red ink; cartoon, Pictorial
Printing Co., Chicago, showing delivery to Champaign
of boxes of clothes for Jos. Kuhn & Loeb, Clothiers.
Kuhnograms. Large display ad (18" x 25"). Printing on both
sides in red and black ink. In oversize folder.
Jos. Kuhn store advertisements: Star Clothing House; One
Red Price--The Lowest. Oversize.
100th Anniversary coverage in Champaign-Urbana Courier,
March 21, 1965, pages 6-7 (2 copies of page 6, 3
copies of page 7). Oversize.
"Kuhn's First Store," broadside, 1965.
"129 Years of Dressing C-U Men," Champaign News-Gazette,
[1994]. Oversize.
Picture postcard, Jos. Kuhn & Co. Undated.
Newsclippings dealing with retail stores and worker
relations, none connected with the Kuhn store.
Undated.

8. Business Receipts, Appeal Bond:

Apr. 1, 1871, receipt, Joseph Luhn and Julius Loeb agree to
pay \$666.67 to Leopold Loeb by Jan. 1, 1872
Apr. 1, 1871, receipt, Joseph Kuhn and Julius Loeb agree to
pay \$666.67 to Leopold Loeb by Jan. 1, 1874
June 21, 1871, receipt, Joseph Kuhn paid Julius Loeb \$2500
for his share of a lot in Champaign
June 8, 1872, receipt, L. S. Bullard paid \$126.52 in taxes

to Champaign County
Sept. 29, 1873, appeal bond, Isaac Minniear and Joseph Kuhn
owe Henry L. Warner \$400
June 11, 1875, receipt, Joseph Kuhn paid \$185.54 in taxes
to Champaign County
Mar. 27, 1878, receipt, Kahn, Nathan & Co. received \$193.84
from Joseph Kuhn for interest on a mortgage note
Mar. 27, 1878, receipt, Kahn, Nathan & Co. received \$75.00
from Joseph Kuhn as a payment on a mortgage note
Jan. 25, 1887, receipt, Joseph Kuhn paid \$264.83 in taxes
to Champaign County

Other Business Materials:

9. Jos. Kuhn Store Business Ledger, 1873-86.
10. Kuhn Company Scrapbook, ca. 1938.

Utilities

11. Correspondence:

A. D. Mulliken (Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, reporting on
charges for heat utilities at the Phillippe Building,
June 8, 1914.

W. T. Hall (Champaign) to the Illinois State Public
Utilities Commission, complaining about the increase
in the cost of heating his home, June 11, 1914.

A. S. Nelson & Sons, Grocers (Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn,
requesting that he petition the Illinois State Public
Utilities Commission to investigate the increase in
the cost of heating their business, June 13, 1914.

Wm. Noonan (Champaign) to the Illinois State Public
Utilities Commission, questioning the increase in the
cost of heating his hotel, June 15, 1914.

Clyde L. King (Acting Director of the Utilities Bureau) to
Isaac Kuhn, acknowledging a check from Michael
Eckstein, and offering to answer any questions on
electrical utility investigations that Kuhn or
Eckstein may have, Nov. 5, 1914.

Champaign & Urbana Water Company to their Stockholders,
reporting on income and dividends from the previous
year, Mar. 31, 1923. [Apparently, Kuhn himself was not
a stockholder]

W. Lloyd Keepers (Managing Secretary of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce) to Isaac Kuhn, recommending that Kuhn not sign a contract for an increased heating rate until the Committee on the City Heating Rate Increase makes a ruling on the matter, Aug. 7, 1928.

A. D. McLarty (Secretary of the Urbana chapter of the Illinois Municipal League) to Isaac Kuhn, suggesting how they might work to relieve the problem of high utility rates, Mar. 16, 1929.

Rev. J. J. Curran (St. Mary's Church, Wilkes-Barre, Penn.) to Isaac Kuhn, discussing his battle with the government over the high price of water utilities, Dec. 27, 1930.

Paul H. Douglas (President, Utility Consumers and Investors League of Illinois) to Isaac Kuhn and other members of the Board of Directors, discussing organizational matters of the league, Jan. 20, 1933.

Douglas to Isaac Kuhn, addressing several concerns Kuhn had expressed about the Utility Consumers and Investors League of Illinois, Jan. 20, 1933.

Isaac Kuhn to Harry Kletzky (Chicago), discussing the Utility Consumers and Investors League of Illinois, Feb. 6, 1933.

Harry R. Booth (Counsel to the Utility Consumers and Investors League of Illinois) to Isaac Kuhn, discussing the work of the organization, Feb. 10, 1933.

Paul I. Brandt (Petroleum Products, Vincennes, Ind.) to Isaac Kuhn, reporting that he cannot buy property for his business in Champaign as the utility rates are too high, July 11, 1933.

Isaac Kuhn to Willis J. Spaulding (Springfield Commissioner of Public Property), commenting on the failures of the Illinois Power and Light Corporation in Champaign-Urbana, Dec. 20, 1933.

Senator George W. Norris (Nebraska) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for his letter of June 8 in which Kuhn praised his efforts in Congress to lower utility rates, June 17, 1943.

Isaac Kuhn to the Champaign Mayor and City Commissioners, attacking them for their handling of public utilities, April 27, 1945.

Urbana & Champaign Railway Gas & Electric Company to Isaac Kuhn, offering estimates on steam heat charges for his home, undated.

12. Writings:

Isaac Kuhn, notes on utility increases for Main Street businesses in Champaign, ca. 1914, 1 page.

"Kuhn Exposes Scandal on Utilities' Dealing With Rate, Law Making Agencies," Champaign News-Gazette, April 10, 1929. Oversize.

Isaac Kuhn, "Can the Public Afford to Shirk?," advertisement, Champaign News-Gazette, Nov. 2, 1930. Oversize.

Isaac Kuhn, "A Business Man's View of the Utilities Problem," speech to the Illinois Progressive Republican Conference, June 13, 1931, 4 pages. Also an 8-page draft.

"Isaac Kuhn Speaks on Utilities Problem at Progressive Conference," Urbana Daily Courier, June 13, 1931. Oversize.

"Isaac Kuhn Speaks on Utilities Problem at Progressive Conference," The Citizen, June 19, 1931. Oversize.

Isaac Kuhn, report on the effect of utility increases on Jos. Kuhn & Co., ca. 1932, 2 pages.

Isaac Kuhn, report on utility increases to the Lincoln Building in Champaign, ca. 1934, 1 page.

"Council Asked to take Steps for Reduction," unidentified newspaper, March 12, 1936. Oversize.

Isaac Kuhn, "The Gravest Danger Today is Unemployment," report on the loss of jobs in Champaign due to changes brought about by the gas company, undated, 2 pages.

Isaac Kuhn condemning the high rates of private utilities in Champaign County, undated, 12 pages.

Isaac Kuhn reporting on the utility problem in Champaign-Urbana, undated, 12 pages.

Isaac Kuhn attacking utilities in Champaign-Urbana, undated, 14 pages.

Research Materials:

13-16. Newsletters, journal articles, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and issues of the Congressional Record dealing with the high rates of public utilities throughout the United States, ca. 1914-1955. 4 folders.

Box 2**17. Isaac Kuhn Writings**

Isaac Kuhn, "Letter from New York," Champaign Times, Aug. 24, 1889.

Isaac Kuhn, "A Visit to Venice," Champaign Times, June 18, 1898. [incomplete]

Isaac Kuhn, "Many People are Selfish, and when Anything of Benefit is Brought Forth, They Knock It, says Isaac Kuhn, Leader in Civic, Business Affairs," Champaign News-Gazette, Apr. 22, 1928. Oversize.

Isaac Kuhn, "Once a Desert, Arizona's New Winter Resort," Champaign News-Gazette, May 17, 1935.

Isaac Kuhn, "Kuhn Defends Farm Program," Evening Courier, ca. 1937.

Isaac Kuhn, "What a Pity," letter to the editor of the Evening Herald, undated. Oversize.

Isaac Kuhn, paper on the value of the League of Nations, 1952, 5 pages.

Clipping about Abraham Lincoln: A Vast Future, compiled by Isaac Kuhn (1946) [Library: 973.7 L63GK95A].

Parking lot development in Champaign. Two news articles and three letters to the editor, two by Isaac Kuhn, Feb. 27, Mar. 5, 1949, Sept. 4, 1954, and 2 undated.

Isaac Kuhn, "Our Version of the Main Street Subway," undated, 2 pages.

18. Other CorrespondenceThe Nation:

Isaac Kuhn to Oswald Garrison Villard, writer for The Nation, complimenting his article condemning Hitler and Germany, June 3, 1938.

Oswald Garrison Villard, writer for The Nation, to Isaac Kuhn, regarding letter Kuhn wrote to Villard, June 7, 1938.

Freda Kirchwey (The Nation) to Isaac Kuhn, replying to Kuhn's letter to her, Mar. 9, 1943.

Other:

William A. Day (Washington, D.C.) to Joseph Kuhn, regarding Kuhn's endorsement of Isaac Fielding as a Postmaster, July 11, 1887.

Rudolph Blankenburg (Mayor of Philadelphia) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding Kuhn's attendance at the Conference of American Mayors, Nov. 6, 1914.

Alex B. Seelenfreund (Secretary of the Independent Order of B-nai B-rith) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding the death of Joseph Kuhn, Jan. 7, 1916.

Herbert A. Keck (Minister, First Methodist Episcopal Church, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding fight against anti-semitism, Feb. 5, 1921.

Isidor Raffin to Isaac Kuhn, inviting the Kuhns to visit him in San Francisco, to tour several sites, Apr. 15, 1937.

Isaac Kuhn to Rev. John A. O'Brien (Champaign), regarding O'Brien's letter to the Champaign News-Gazette, Aug. 17, 1938.

Thomas W. Campbell (Western Star Lodge, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding a ceremony honoring Kuhn's 52-year membership in the organization, Mar. 21, 1941.

Isaac Kuhn to the Champaign News-Gazette, applauding their efforts in promoting the welfare of the community, June 10, 1941.

"Bob" (Gainesville, Fla.) to Isaac Kuhn, Sept. 6, 1947.

Isaac Kuhn to Don Lindsay (Champaign-Urbana Courier) requesting that he be taken off the paper's promotions mailing list, May 22, 1950.

Philanthropy

19. Correspondence:

Joseph Stoltz (Chicago) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for a copy of Edward Chauncey Baldwin's Our Modern Debt to Israel (1913), Jan. 22, 1914.

G. Deutsch (The Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding the death of a woman who Kuhn had just sent money to support, Dec. 17, 1914.

Edward Chauncey Baldwin (Department of English, University of Illinois) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding the construction of a Jewish Temple in Champaign, Oct. 23, [ca. 1914?].

Henry H. Rosenfelt (Director, American Jewish Relief Committee for Sufferers from the War) to Isaac Kuhn, recognizing his work on behalf of the organization, Oct. 27, 1919.

H. S. van Graan (Cosmopolitan Club, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding Kuhn's donation to the organization, Oct. 21, 1921.

Robert J. Locke (Minister, First Congregational Church, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for a donation, June 19, 1923.

Adolph S. Ochs (New York Times) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding Kuhn's contributions, Jan. 14, Dec 29, 1926.

Stephen E. Fisher (Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for his donation for the construction of a Jewish community center [Hillel Foundation?], Apr. 4, 1932.

Jonah B. Wise (Co-Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee Campaign) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for his work on behalf of the committee, Jan. 12, 1937.

Harry G. Mellman, (Cosmopolitan Club, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, also signed by 19 others, thanking him for a donation to the organization, Dec. 21, 1938.

Isaac Kuhn to the American Consul at Stuttgart, Germany, sworn oath and deposition stating that the Kuhn family will provide financial support and other care for three Jewish refugee children from Leipzig, Germany, if they are brought to the United States, March 17, 1939.

J. Walter Malone, Jr. (Minister, McKinley Memorial Church, Champaign) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for a donation, June 30, 1939.

William H. Baldwin (New York City Lawyer and Philanthropist) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding donations to the University in Exile, made up of refugee scholars from Germany, Italy, Spain, and Russia, Nov. 16, 1939.

Isaac Kuhn to Brown & Co., La Paz, Bolivia, regarding his subscriptions to the Spanish language edition of Reader's Digest that he purchased for business people in South and Central America, Jan. 16, 1942. Also, a Spanish translation of the letter.

Abram L. Sachar to Isaac Kuhn, asking for a donation to the Sara Delano Roosevelt House at Hunter College, May 24, 1942.

C. E. Bowen (Executive Director, University of Illinois Alumni Association) to Isaac Kuhn, recognizing his purchase of a lifetime membership in the association, May 26, 1943.

Louis I. Egelson (Administrative Secretary of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations) to Isaac Kuhn, informing him of his nomination to the Union's Commission on Public Information about Judaism, Nov. 17, 1943.

H. W. Ettelson (Chairman, Commission on Public Information about Judaism) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding his possible appointment to the commission, Dec. 8, 1943.

Egelson to Isaac Kuhn, informing him of his confirmation to the Commission on Public Information about Judaism, Dec. 16, 1943.

T. H. McClelland (Edinburg, Tex.) to Isaac Kuhn, enclosing a donation to a charity of Kuhn's choice, July 12, 1946.

Arthur Secard (University of Illinois Professor, in London) to Isaac Kuhn, regarding Kuhn's request that he seek out needy citizens in London, to offer financial assistance, May 18, 1949.

Harold C. Urey (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists) to Isaac Kuhn, thanking him for a \$25 donation, Jan. 27, 1953, with the receipt of the Educational Foundation of Nuclear Scientists, Inc.

Chicago Boys Club to Isaac Kuhn, soliciting a donation, undated.

20. Hebrew Union College, B'nai B'rith, and Hillel:

Obituaries for Joseph Krauskopf, The North American (Philadelphia), June 15, 1923.

"Thirteen Years of Progress in Hillel," by Leonard Finder, Ramah Topics, ca. 1936.

Edward Chauncey Baldwin to Isaac Kuhn, regarding A. L. Sachar's history of the Hillel Foundation, Jan. 10, 1940.

Isaac Kuhn to Baldwin, regarding Sachar, Hillel, and other matters, Jan. 18, 1940.

Isaac Kuhn to Rabbi Herman E. Snyder, regarding Kuhn's recollections of his time as a student at the Hebrew Union College, Jan. 2, 1952.

Remarks of George W. Goble on the occasion of awarding a B'nai B'rith Distinguished Service Plaque to Isaac Kuhn, Jan. 27, 1952, 3 pages.

Transcript of B'nai B'rith meeting honoring Isaac Kuhn, Jan. 27, 1952, 16 pages.

"Plan to Honor Isaac Kuhn for B'nai B'rith Aid," unidentified newspaper, Jan. 26, 1952.

"Isaac Kuhn Receives Honor Scroll from B'nai B'rith," Champaign News-Gazette, Jan. 28, 1952.

"'Outstanding Work' Cited: Kuhn Praised for Aid to Jewry, Community," Champaign-Urbana Courier, Jan. 28, 1952.

"B'nai B'rith Honors Kuhn: Champaign Merchant to Receive Scroll," unidentified newspaper, Jan. 28, 1952.

Isaac Kuhn obituary, B'nai B'rith News, March 1956.

"Achievements of the Alumni of the Hebrew Union College,"
Union Tidings, undated.

"Stoddard Terms New Hillel Building 'Dream Come True,'"
Champaign News-Gazette, undated.

"Hillel Building Dedicated: 1,500 Attend Rites; called
'Worthy of Heritage,'" unidentified newspaper, undated.

University of Illinois:

21. Correspondence from foreign students at the University of Illinois who were supported by Isaac Kuhn during their time in Urbana-Champaign, 13 letters and postcards, 1921-50.
22. Clippings and photographs of "Chief Illiniwek," University of Illinois mascot, for which Isaac Kuhn purchased the original costume in 1930, 1959-84.
23. Photographs

Main Street, Champaign [1867], annotated by Isaac Kuhn to show location of later buildings.

Main Street, Champaign [1867], with notes by Isaac Kuhn. Isaac Kuhn at Grandparents' grave near Gruenstadt, Germany, [undated]. Also, a draft translation of the Hebrew inscription.

Isaac Kuhn, two undated photographic portraits: by Elite Studio and by J. K. Stevens & Son Co., both Chicago. [The second was published in "The Man Who Made Main Street," Champaign Times, May 15, 1909; copy in folder 6.]

Isaac Kuhn, Phoenix, Ariz., ca. 1935.

Isaac Kuhn and Isidor Raffin on the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, 1937. Two photographs.

Rose Adler Kuhn, Isaac Kuhn, Ruth Kuhn (Youngerman), and Mrs. Raffin at Marina, San Francisco, 1937.

Unidentified building, apparently in Bechtheim?, Germany, undated.

Unidentified building, probably in Germany, undated.

Misidentified photograph, "Abraham Lincoln, age 27."

24. Ephemera

Pamphlet, World's Industrial Exposition, New Orleans, La.,

1884-5

Invitation and program to social event, Western Star Lodge,
No. 240, F. & A. M., Jan. 14 [no year]

"The Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Assembly,"
Chicago: C.H. Whiting, [undated].

Sesquicentennial Neighborhood Association newsletters,
including Kuhn store information: First Neighbors,
2:1 (Summer 2000); Neighborhood News from Yesteryear,
2:2 (n.d.), Michael Markstahler, editor.

25. Addendum (miscellaneous items, collected on 5/30/2012):

Edward C. Baldwin (Department of English, University of Illinois) to Isaac Kuhn, Sept. 14 and 17, 1920, urging him to disregard anti-Semitic articles in "Henry Ford's paper" [*The Dearborn Independent*]

E. G. Liebold (Dearborn, Mich.) to H. V. Kirby Auto Co. (Urbana, Ill.), July 29, 1920, disagreeing with assertions in Isaac Kuhn's letter what had been forwarded to the Dearborn Publishing Co.

Isaac Kuhn, recollections (six-page typescript, written after 1931), photocopy.

Winton U. Solberg, "The Early Years of the Jewish Presence at the University of Illinois," incomplete draft of an article published in *Religion and American Culture*, 2:2 (Summer 1992), 215-45; related letters to Ruth Kuhn Youngerman, Jan. 2, 27, 28, 1991; and photocopy of the article.

Clippings, including Linda Zimmer, "Celebrating Sinai Temple, Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette, Feb. 22, 2004, E1-E2.