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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

## **Inventory of the Lipsitz Family Papers, 1876-1953**

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66 George Street  
Charleston, SC 29424 USA  
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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Lipsitz family papers
<b>Date(s)</b>	1876-1953
<b>Creator:</b>	Lipsitz family
<b>Abstract:</b>	Promotional materials, business materials, clippings, correspondence, and publications of the Lipsitz family of Beaufort, South Carolina. Materials primarily relate to the Lipsitz Department store, owned and operated by three generations of the Lipsitz family from 1902 to 2009.
<b>Extent:</b>	4.0 linear feet (2 document boxes, 1 slim document box, 1 large sign)
<b>Repository:</b>	Jewish Heritage Collection, Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries 66 George Street Charleston, SC 29424 Phone: (843) 953-8016 Fax: (843) 953-6319 URL: <a href="http://archives.library.cofc.edu">http://archives.library.cofc.edu</a>
<b>Call Number:</b>	Mss 1102
<b>Language of Material:</b>	Materials in English and Hebrew

## Biographical Note

In 1900, Lithuanian immigrant Max Saul Lipsitz (1886-1964) moved to Beaufort, South Carolina. Two years later, at the age of sixteen, he founded the Lipsitz Department Store, located on 825 Bay Street in downtown Beaufort. In the beginning the store sold groceries and clothing but after a renovation in 1922 moved into general merchandise and dry goods. Finally, in 1942, the store was converted into a department store. In 1908 Lipsitz married Bertha Rubin (1886-1956). The couple had three children: Ethel Lipsitz Rabinowitz (1911-1997), Hyman Lipsitz (1913-2002), and Joseph Lipsitz (1921- ). In 1946 Lipsitz retired, turning the store over to his son Joseph Lipsitz, his daughter, Ethel Lipsitz Rabinowitz, and her husband, Henry Rabinowitz (1907-1964).

Ethel Lipsitz Rabinowitz was a co-owner of the Lipsitz Department Store until her retirement in 1972. She was a graduate of Winthrop College and a member of Beaufort's Congregation Beth Israel.

Hyman Lipsitz attended the University of South Carolina and graduated with a DDS from the Atlanta-Southern Dental College in 1936. He practiced dentistry in Bishopville, South Carolina from 1936 to 1940 before returning to Beaufort. He served four years in the Army Air Corps during World War II as a major with the 15th Fighter Group of the 7th Air Force. After the war, he resumed his dental practice in Beaufort, retiring in 1981. He was an active member of Beth Israel synagogue, where he served as president for 13 years.

Joseph Lipsitz owned and managed the Lipsitz Department Store from 1945 until his retirement in 1986. In 1955 he married Lucille Bass (1930- ). The couple has four children: Neil Lipsitz, Barry Lipsitz, Sandra Lipsitz, and Judy Lipsitz Thornberry. Neil Lipsitz joined the family business in 1981, eventually opening his own shoe store, Lipsitz Shoes, in 1998, directly across the street from the family store. Lucille Bass Lipsitz, with other family members, continued to manage the department store until its closing in February of 2009.

## Collection Overview

Promotional materials, business materials, clippings, correspondence, and publications of the Lipsitz family of Beaufort, South Carolina. Promotional and business materials relate to the Lipsitz Department Store and include promotional materials for Red Goose Shoes, including tabletop displays, children's composition books, and individual tickets to a Red Goose theatre party sponsored by the Lipsitz Department Store. Clippings relate to the Jewish community of Beaufort and were compiled into two albums by Lucille Bass Lipsitz as an anniversary gift to her husband, Joseph Lipsitz. Correspondence includes letters from the South Carolina Association of B'nai Brith Lodges addressed to Dr. Hyman Lipsitz, as well as Rosh Hashanah cards addressed to the Lipsitz and Rabinowitz families. Publications include a Russian imprint of the Old Testament Book of Numbers written in Hebrew, a Magil's Linear School Bible, a College of Charleston catalog, and a complimentary Haggadah from S. J. Gold Kosher Deli, Atlanta, Georgia.

## Collection Arrangement

1. Lipsitz Department store, 1903-1952, undated
2. Clippings, 1898-1953
3. Correspondence, 1910-1952
4. Publications, 1876-1936, undated

## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

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## Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person, family, or organization, by topical subject, by place, and by types of material.

### Names

Lipsitz Department Store (Beaufort, S.C.)  
Lipsitz family

### Subjects

Jewish merchants--South Carolina--Beaufort  
Jews--South Carolina--Beaufort

### Places

Beaufort (S.C.)--Commerce

### **Types of Material**

- Promotional materials
- Signage
- Receipts (financial records)
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Publications

## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Lipsitz family papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Joshua Minor, April 2012.

Encoded by Joshua Minor, April 2012.

Reviewed and uploaded by Martha McTear, June 2012.

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# Inventory

## Lipsitz Department Store, 1903-1952, undated

Box 1 Folder 1-2

Promotional and business supplies, undated

Promotional materials include Red Goose Shoes tabletop displays and blank composition books as well as Lipsitz Department Store shopping bags and a scarf box with the Lipsitz Department Store logo.

Box 1 Folder 3

Receipts, 1903-1952

Includes receipts for goods sold and purchased including clothing, fabric, and furniture. Also includes receipts of goods purchased for the Penn Normal Industrial and Agricultural School.

Lipsitz Department Store sign, undated

36-inch by 18-inch metal outdoor sign with hand lettering.

## Clippings, 1898-1953

Two albums of photocopied clippings collected from the *Beaufort Gazette*. Clippings relate to the Jewish community of Beaufort and were compiled by Lucille Bass Lipsitz as an anniversary gift to her husband, Joseph Lipsitz.

Box 1 Folder 4

Album one, 1898-1939

Box 2 Folder 1

Album two, 1940-1953

Box 2 Folder 2-3

Correspondence, 1910-1952

Includes Rosh Hashanah cards addressed to the Lipsitz and Rabinowitz families.

## Publications, 1876-1936, undated

Box 2 Folder 4

Old Testament Book of Numbers, 1876

Includes miniature pocket calendar in English and Hebrew.

Box 3 Folder 1

Magil's Linear School Bible, 1910

Box 3 Folder 2

College of Charleston catalog, 1936

Box 3 Folder 3

Haggadah, undated