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Mitchell Siporin papers03.MWalB00337A

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Brandeis University

415 South St.

Main Library, Goldfarb Level 2

Waltham, MA 02454-9110

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Summary Information

Repository:	Brandeis University
Creator:	Siporin, Mitchell
Title:	Mitchell Siporin papers
ID:	03.MWalB00337A
Date [inclusive]:	1937-1976
Physical Description:	1.50 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	0.50 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Text [other]:	1 manuscript box
Abstract:	Arranged in four series: 1. Art Exhibitions, 1942-1970; 2. Correspondence, 1951-1976; 3. University Administration and Curriculum, 1957-1976; 4. Subject Files, 1936-1976. The materials are organized alphabetically. For more information about each series, please consult the series descriptions in the box and folder listing. 1 manuscript box.

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Biographical / Historical

Mitchell Siporin (1910-1976) was the first permanent resident instructor of Art at Brandeis, and founded the Department of Fine Arts in 1951, soon after his hiring the same year. He began his painting career by focusing on labor issues during the Great Depression, aided by the Works Progress Administration, which funded several of his frescoes created in Chicago and St. Louis. Siporin joined the Army Art Corps during World War II, earning a Guggenheim Fellowship and Prix de Rome for his work during and after the war.

After Siporin joined the Brandeis faculty, he became the school's first professor to teach painting, drawing, and Art History. He was also the founder of the Brandeis Creative Arts Awards Commission, established in 1956 to honor American artists who had demonstrated extraordinary achievement. Siporin continued teaching until his untimely death in 1976.

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Scope and Contents

Files in this collection were created from 1937 through 1976. Materials include memos, correspondence, programs, catalogs, photographs, newspaper articles, notes, and memorial material. Most of these items concern Mitchell Siporin's work as a member of the Brandeis faculty and his efforts to expand the Fine Arts program. Others reflect his artistic work outside of the school. Of note is a program from a retrospective exhibit of Siporin's artistic accomplishments throughout his career, as well as a draft of a chapter from Abram Sachar's book, *A Host at Last*. The chapter addresses the arts at Brandeis and in the draft, Sachar asks for Siporin's input.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

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Controlled Access Headings

- Brandeis University. Department of Fine Arts
- Brandeis University -- Faculty
- Siporin, Mitchell., 1910-

Other Descriptive Information

Addenda to this collection may not be listed in the finding aid, but may still be available for use. Please contact us for more information.

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Collection Inventory

Art Exhibitions, 1942-1976

Date: 1942-1976

Scope and Contents

Files in this series include catalogs, photographs, and articles concerning exhibitions of Siporin's work before and after his arrival at Brandeis.

Title/Description	Instances	
An Exhibit of Contemporary Art, 1952 <u>Date</u> : 1952	Box 1	Folder 1
Babcock Gallery Guide, 1992 <u>Date</u> : 1992	Box 3	Folder 57
Exhibition catalogs, 1942-1970 <u>Date</u> : 1942-1970	Box 1	Folder 2
Retrospective, 1976 <u>Date</u> : 1976	Box 1	Folder 3
A Retrospective Exhibit , 1976	Box 3	Folder 58

Date: 1976[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Correspondence, 1951-1976**Date: 1951-1976**Scope and Contents**

This series contains letters to and from Siporin concerning his artwork at Brandeis and beyond, as well as university administration, faculty functions, and personal matters. Included is correspondence detailing Siporin's efforts to grow and improve the arts program at Brandeis.

Box 1	Box 1	
Admissions and class information [R], 1960-1966 <u>Date</u> : 1960-1966	Box 1	Folder 4
Art acquisitions, 1952-1975 <u>Date</u> : 1952-1975	Box 1	Folder 5
Art projects and exhibitions at Brandeis, 1955-1976 <u>Date</u> : 1955-1976	Box 1	Folder 6
Art projects outside Brandeis, 1958-1976 <u>Date</u> : 1958-1976	Box 1	Folder 7
Bronstein, Leo [R], 1961 <u>Date</u> : 1961	Box 1	Folder 8
Faculty, 1951-1976 <u>Date</u> : 1951-1976	Box 1	Folder 9
Fine Arts curriculum, 1959 <u>Date</u> : 1959	Box 1	Folder 10
Irving Fine Faculty Memorial, 1965 <u>Date</u> : 1965	Box 1	Folder 11
Irving Fine Faculty Memorial [R], 1965 <u>Date</u> : 1965	Box 1	Folder 12
Payroll records [R], 1951-1976 <u>Date</u> : 1951-1976	Box 1	Folder 13
Personal [R], 1955 <u>Date</u> : 1955	Box 1	Folder 14
Personal, 1955-1976	Box 1	Folder 15

Date: 1955-1976

Recommendations for hiring faculty [R], 1958-1976 <u>Date:</u> 1958-1976	Box 1	Folder 16
Recommendations for Siporin's promotion [R], 1958-1959 <u>Date:</u> 1958-1959	Box 1	Folder 17
School of Creative Arts, 1952-1965 <u>Date:</u> 1952-1965	Box 1	Folder 18
University Administration, 1951-1967 <u>Date:</u> 1951-1967	Box 1	Folder 19

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University Administration and Curriculum, 1957-1976

Date: 1957-1976

Scope and Contents

This series contains documents about the graduate classes Siporin taught at Brandeis. It also includes reports about the faculty committees he took part in and meetings of the Creative Arts Awards Commission.

Box 1	Box 1	
Creative Arts Awards Commission, 1975-1976 <u>Date:</u> 1975-1976	Box 1	Folder 20
Faculty committees, 1957-1962 <u>Date:</u> 1957-1962	Box 1	Folder 21
Graduate classes, 1957-1966 <u>Date:</u> 1957-1966	Box 1	Folder 22

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Subject Files, 1937-1976

Date: 1937-1976

Scope and Contents

This series includes newspaper articles written by and about Siporin, reprints that were gifts from friends, memorials, and a draft chapter from Abram L. Sachar's book, *A Host at Last*.

Box 1	Box 1	
Articles by Siporin, 1942-1961	Box 1	Folder 23

Date: 1942-1961

Dennison Table of Abbreviations, 1958 <u>Date</u> : 1958	Box 1	Folder 24
Memorials, 1976 <u>Date</u> : 1976	Box 1	Folder 25
Press clippings, 1953-1957 <u>Date</u> : 1953-1957	Box 1	Folder 26
Reprints inscribed to Siporin, 1959-1965 <u>Date</u> : 1959-1965	Box 1	Folder 27
Reviews, publicity, and prizes, 1937-1976 <u>Date</u> : 1937-1976	Box 1	Folder 28
Sachar, Abram L.: Draft chapter from A Host at Last, 1975 <u>Date</u> : 1975	Box 1	Folder 29

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Manuscripts, 1956-1978**Date: 1956-1978

Box 2	Box 2	
Note to Miriam Siporin in A Host at Last, 1976 <u>Date</u> : 1976	Box 2	Folder 30
American Jewish Historical Society, 1974 <u>Date</u> : 1974	Box 2	Folder 31
Axis of Eros , 1973 <u>Date</u> : 1973	Box 2	Folder 32
General Catalogue, 1951 <u>Date</u> : 1951	Box 2	Folder 33
BUNWC Meeting, 1955 <u>Date</u> : 1955	Box 2	Folder 34
Modern French Painting	Box 2	Folder 35
Fruhmittelalterliche Studien, 1971, 1974, 1975 <u>Date</u> : 1971, 1974, 1975	Box 2	Folder 36
Academic Chairs, 1964 <u>Date</u> : 1964	Box 2	Folder 37
Mitchel Siporin: The early years 1930-1950		

	Box 2	Folder 38
In Memorium 1976	Box 2	Folder 39
Craft Horizons with Article About Brandies Jewish Chapel Ark Curtain, 1956 <u>Date:</u> 1956	Box 2	Folder 40
Record of an Experience by Abraham Walkowitz , 1978 <u>Date:</u> 1978	Box 2	Folder 41
Marca-Ralli booklet, 1967 <u>Date:</u> 1967	Box 2	Folder 42
Von Schlegell Booklet, 1968 <u>Date:</u> 1968	Box 2	Folder 43
Leon Polk Smith Book	Box 2	Folder 44
Book on Larry Rivers	Box 2	Folder 45
Rose Art Brochure	Box 2	Folder 46

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Festivals and Celebrations , 1955-1958

Date: 1955-1958

Box 2	Box 2	
A Generation of Brandeis Artists	Box 2	Folder 47
Brandeis Festivals Clippings	Box 2	Folder 48
Creative arts festival , 1955 <u>Date:</u> 1955	Box 2	Folder 49
Brandeis Festivals Photographs	Box 2	Folder 50
7th Boston Arts Festival, 1958 <u>Date:</u> 1958	Box 2	Folder 51
Book Plate	Box 2	

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Art and Publicity, 1942, undated

Date: 1942, undated

Title/Description	Instances
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2 Page Spread of Photos of Siporin's Murals in Progress at St. Louis Post Office By St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Box 3	Folder 54
Life Magazine Color Pictures of Murals in St. Louis Post Office, 1942 <u>Date:</u> 1942	Box 3	Folder 55
American Murals Studies ft. Siporin, 1942 <u>Date:</u> 1942	Box 3	Folder 56
Photographic slide scans featuring Berlin Chapel curtains designed by Mitchel Siporin and woven by Helen Kroll Kramer, undated <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> undated <u>Existence and Location of Copies:</u> Existence and Location of Copies Digital files only, please ask an archivist to view.		

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Brandeis Administrative and Events, 1952-1988

Date: 1952-1988

Box 3	Box 3	
40th Anniversary and Founders Day Convocation , 1988 <u>Date:</u> 1988	Box 3	Folder 59
Progress Report of Fine Arts Department Sept 1951-Jan 1953, 1953 <u>Date:</u> 1953	Box 3	Folder 60
Resignation as Chairman of Fine Arts, 1963 <u>Date:</u> 1963	Box 3	Folder 61
Newspaper Clipping, 1956 <u>Date:</u> 1956	Box 3	Folder 62
Establishment of Mitchell Siporin Memorial Prize, 1979 <u>Date:</u> 1979	Box 3	Folder 63
National Institute of Arts and Letters Exhibition, 1955 <u>Date:</u> 1955	Box 3	Folder 64
Interview with Siporin and Geoffrey R Swift , 1965 <u>Date:</u> 1965	Box 3	Folder 65
The Justice, 1961	Box 3	Folder 66

Date: 1961

Brandeis Bulletin , 1976 <u>Date</u> : 1976	Box 3	Folder 67
Brandeis Festivals, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1972, 1976, 1983 <u>Date</u> : 1952, 1953, 1954, 1972, 1976, 1983	Box 3	Folder 68

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Correspondence, 1965-1976

Date: 1965-1976

Box 3	Box 3	
Correspondence, 1970-1973 <u>Date</u> : 1970-1973	Box 3	Folder 69
Miriam Siporin Letters , 1976 <u>Date</u> : 1976	Box 3	Folder 70
From Ptolemy to the Moon, 1965 <u>Date</u> : 1965	Box 3	Folder 71
Jauquin Torres Garcia, 1967 <u>Date</u> : 1967	Box 3	Folder 72

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