



Canadian Jewish Heritage Network



BRONFMAN, Samuel.

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Collection: BRONFMAN, Samuel.

Description Level: Fonds

Physical Description: 0.72 metres of textual records.

Scope and Content:

Biographical press clippings. Correspondence about the Canadian Jewish Congress war efforts. Correspondence, clippings, programs about philanthropy. Addresses delivered by S. Bronfman. Press clippings about Seagram's. Tributes on 50th, 70th, 75th, 80th birthdays and upon his death. Reports about Samuel Bronfman Chair at Columbia University. Correspondence about Loyola University, Montreal. Press clippings and speeches about the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Date: 1932-1969.

Fonds No.: P0029

History Biographical:

Born in 1891 in Brandon, Manitoba, Sam Bronfman was a leading Canadian industrialist and philanthropist. He began work in his father's hotel business and later entered the mail-order liquor business. He acquired control of Canada's Joseph Seagram and Sons Ltd. and was later involved with the long-established British Distillers Corp. Ltd. which made him a major figure in the liquor distilling industry. Beneficiaries of his philanthropies included universities, hospitals, charities and museums. He was an inspiring fund-raiser in the Jewish community and was President of Canadian Jewish Congress from 1939-1962. He lobbied the Canadian government during World War II for the immigration and rescue of refugees and war orphans. He was active with other Jewish organizations at the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945 to obtain security for Palestine and the incorporation of Human Rights in the UN Charter. S. Bronfman served as Vice-President of the World Jewish Congress and was Chairman of its North American Section. He was a governor of McGill University and was the founder of McGill's Center for Developing Area Studies. During his lifetime he received much recognition and many awards for his efforts on behalf of Jewish social, cultural and Zionist activities and for the non-Jewish community as well. The headquarters building of Canadian Jewish Congress in Montreal is called "The Samuel Bronfman House Museum and Archives" in his honour. He died on July 10, 1971.

Notes:

1 correspondence file.CJC Central file, ZA Collection, photo collection PC1, Allan Bronfman fonds.

Archival / Archival Descriptions

Genealogical:

Repository: Canadian Jewish Archives