



Canadian Jewish Heritage Network



ABER, Ita

<https://www.cjhn.ca/en/permalink/cjhn285>

Collection: ABER, Ita
Description Level: Fonds
Material Format: graphic material
object
moving images
sound recording
textual record

Physical Description: 13 photographs. - 4 artefacts. - 2 videos. - 1 compact disc (CD-ROM). - Env. 0.07 metres of textual records.

Scope and Content:

Recipies Mother Never Knew Mizrachi-Hapoel, 1965. Glass milk bottle designed with input from Mrs. Aber's mother for Montreal's Milk Fund, pre-WWII. Pins and badges from Zionist groups and conventions, photos of the staff of Aid to Israel 1950, Aid to Israel Jewish Youth Group 1950, Zionist Organization of Canada 1949-1950. Material on the Jewish Child's Day Appeal. Clippings and ephemera re: Zionism, Child's Day, and actor William Shatner, a former Montrealer. 9 Photos of Montreal scenes. Material about Montreal's Talmud Torah, Jewish Artists at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. Additions 2001: 2 photos (snapshots) of Camp Hashomer Hadati in Bronte, Ontario, Hebrew textbook and prayer book dated 1979, photo of a 9th-grade class of Baron Byng High School including Ita Aber, Clippings, 2 Videos. Additions post 2001 (passim): Articles written by Ita Aber, information about her artwork and recent exhibitions. Addition 2015: Autobiographical audio interview of Ita Herscovitch Aber recorded in New York January 9, 2015 by Renata Stein; WAV file, 56 minutes, provided on CD. Transcript of interview, done by her daughter Mindy Aber Barad via email correspondence from Israel, 30 pages. Themes covered in the interview include her early life in Montreal, art education at Baron Byng high school with teacher Ann Savage, religious background, mother's involvement in charitable efforts such as the Milk Fund, help given to a German Jewish internee and a Jewish refugee, Ita Aber's work for the Israeli consulate in Montreal in the early 1950s, her establishment in New York circa 1953, her career as a textile artist, encounters with Martin Luther King, and Judy Chicago, art groups such as the Pomegranate Guild, Jewish motifs in artwork.

Date: [ca. 1930]-2015.
Fonds No.: P0184

History Biographical:

Ita Aber was born in Montreal, in 1932 and grew up in a family dedicated to Zionist and charitable causes. She later moved to New York, where she made her name as an artist. As described in a 2001 article; "Ita Aber is an artist who delights in unconventional formats that provide unique and startling insights into Jewish Life. Her work is found in almost every major Jewish museum throughout the world. She is a master of the fabric arts, which is by its very nature, an interdisciplinary field. As practiced by Ita Aber, the fabric arts explode in scale to include the diverse skills of embroidering, beadwork, sewing, appliqué, silkscreen, jewelry design, weaving, painting, sculpture, and assemblage. The stunning range of her talents is reflected in the vast array of work and Judaic objects she has produced, from wall hangings, jewelry, and sculpture to Torah covers, etrog boxes, and Purim masks." Ita Aber is also known as a conservator of textiles, an art historian, a curator, teacher, and the author of *The Art of Judaic Needlework: Traditional and Contemporary designs* (Scribner 1979).

Custodial History: This collection was donated by Mrs. Ita Aber.

Notes:

Alpha-numeric designations: P01/12, P93/08, and subsequent additions (ongoing to P15/04.).

Associated material: Clippings by and about Canadian-born journalist Sam Orbaum (1956-2002), a Jerusalem Post humour columnist (donated by Ita Aber and filed under his name.)

General note: The biography is from an article published in *The Artists Proof*, Spring 2001.

Archival / Archival Descriptions

Genealogical:

Repository: Canadian Jewish Archives