

# **Arthur H. Aufses, Jr., MD Archives**

## **Finding Aid - Seymour J. Phillips correspondence on Beth Israel Medical Center (AA038)**

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# Seymour J. Phillips correspondence on Beth Israel Medical Center

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Arthur H. Aufses, Jr., MD Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Seymour J. Phillips correspondence on Beth Israel Medical Center
<b>Reference code:</b>	AA038
<b>Legacy ID from CMS [alternative]:</b>	AA.001113
<b>OCLC Number [alternative]:</b>	953194494
<b>Date:</b>	1936-1987 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	1 box (2.5 inches)
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	Finding aid last updated September 2016.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Seymour J. Phillips was a garment industry executive and longtime Trustee of the Beth Israel Medical Center.

He was President of the Phillips-Jones Corporation, a clothing manufacturer best known for Van Heusen brand dress shirts, which had been founded in 1881 by his grandfather Moses Phillips. Moses Phillips had been an early Board President at Beth Israel, and his son Isaac, Seymour's father, served as Chairman of the Building Committee of the Board of Trustees during the planning of the Dazian Pavilion, for which he laid the cornerstone in 1922.

Seymour Phillips joined the Board of Trustees in 1939 and served until his death in 1987, a period of nearly fifty years that saw a major expansion of Beth Israel's facilities and services. The Seymour J. Phillips Health Sciences Library was dedicated in his honor in 1980, and in 1984 the Beth Israel School of Nursing was renamed the Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing in honor of his family's long tradition of service to Beth Israel.

### Custodial history

This collection of correspondence arrived at the Mount Sinai Archives in April 2015 as part of a large, disorderly shipment of records that had been in storage at the Continuum Health Partners legal department. For a complete discussion of these records' provenance, please refer to the Beth Israel Medical Center Records finding aid.

Within this shipment of records, the Seymour J. Phillips Correspondence was a discrete collection. The Mount Sinai Archives has processed and cataloged the collection accordingly. The contents of the collection, however, suggest that it may be an artificial collection formed by assembling items from multiple sources, including the office of Beth Israel General Director Cecil Sheps, MD and the records of the Seymour J. Phillips Health Sciences Library, into a single file. If this is the case, the artificial collection was probably created by a member of the Beth Israel Medical Center library staff during the complex custodial history of the larger record shipment of which it was a part.

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## Scope and content

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This collection consists of correspondence to and from Seymour J. Phillips relating to his service as a member of the Beth Israel Medical Center Board of Trustees. It begins in the late 1930s with correspondence documenting the initial recruitment of Phillips to the Board of Trustees and concludes in 1987 with correspondence between Beth Israel staff and the Phillips family regarding his passing. While all decades from this time period are represented to some extent, there is a noticeable increase in the volume and frequency of correspondence beginning in the late 1950s, with the bulk of the collection dating from the 1960s. This likely reflects Mr. Phillips' increased attention to Board activity following his retirement from private business.

The correspondence in this collection deals primarily with Mr. Phillips' activities as a Trustee and his role in the financing and administration of the Beth Israel Medical Center. Correspondents include fellow Trustees, including Board President Charles H. Silver, and various Beth Israel administrators, notably Cecil Sheps, MD, who served as General Director of the Medical Center from 1965 to 1968. Beginning in 1980, the correspondence also includes regular updates on library activities from the director of Mr. Phillips' namesake medical library.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

### Restrictions on access

This material is available for use. Contact the Archives ([MSArchives@mssm.edu](mailto:MSArchives@mssm.edu)) for access to these materials.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full

## Access points

- Beth Israel Hospital (New York, N.Y.)
- Beth Israel Medical Center (New York, N.Y.)
- Beth Israel Medical Center (New York, N.Y.). Board of Trustees
- Beth Israel Medical Center (New York, N.Y.). Seymour J. Phillips Health Sciences Library
- Sheps, Cecil G. (Cecil George), 1913-2004 (subject)
- Silver, Charles H. (subject)
- Trustees (subject)
- Hospitals (subject)
- Libraries, Medical (subject)

## Series descriptions

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
AA038.B001.F001	<b>File - Correspondence</b> <i>Creator:</i> Phillips, Seymour J.	1936-1939	1 folder
AA038.B001.F002	<b>File - Correspondence</b> <i>Creator:</i> Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J.	1942-1949	1 folder
AA038.B001.F003	<b>File - Correspondence</b> <i>Creator:</i> Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J.	1950-1959	1 folder
AA038.B001.F004	<b>File - Correspondence</b> <i>Creator:</i> Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J.	1960-1964	1 folder
AA038.B001.F005	<b>File - Correspondence</b> <i>Creator:</i> Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J.	1965-1969	1 folder
AA038.B001.F006	<b>File - Correspondence</b> <i>Creator:</i> Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J.	1970-1979	1 folder
AA038.B001.F007	<b>File - Correspondence</b> <i>Creator:</i> Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J. Phillips, Seymour J.	1980-1987	1 folder