

**A Finding Aid to the Manny Batshaw Fonds
Jewish Public Library Archives, Montreal**



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INTRODUCTION

This finding aid was prepared by McGill University practicum student Morgannis Graham. The Manuel Batshaw Fonds was donated to the Jewish Public Library Archives directly due to the generosity of Mr. Manuel Batshaw, philanthropist and prominent Jewish Montrealer. The finding aid follows the guidelines for arrangement and description as dictated by the *Rules for Archival Description*.

Practicum Student
Morgannis Graham

Archivist
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FONDS DESCRIPTION

JPL011

Title: Manuel Batshaw Fonds, JPL 1059

Dates: 1918-2006

Extent: 60cm of textual records + 347 photographs and additional material.

Biographical Note:

Manuel Gilman Batshaw (Manny) was born in Montreal on April 17, 1915. His parents, Tuvieh Batshaw and Golda Batshaw (née Gelman) immigrated to Montreal from Russia in 1903, following the birth of Manny's older brother Harry in 1902 [?]. Harry was followed by Arthur in 1908, Frances in 1910 and finally, Manny. The family had a very limited income. While his father worked outside of the home, Batshaw's mother Goldie ran a small grocery store from their home's living room.

From childhood, Batshaw was quite active within the Montreal Jewish community. In 1928, as a bar mitzvah gift from his brother Harry, Batshaw received a membership to the YMHA. Over the years, he moved from member, to club leader, to being in charge of all clubs, and finally, to educational director. It was through this organization that Batshaw had his first experiences in the field of social work. At 15 years old, he joined Young Judea. At 16, he became a counselor at Camp B'nai Brith.

In the early 1930s when Batshaw was preparing to attend university, McGill had a quota system in place whereby all Jewish applicants had to have an average of at least 75% (this quota was lower for non-Jews). Despite being incredibly bright, Manny's average was lower than required due to a learning disability. In 1934 he enrolled at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, determined to bring up his average in order to be able to attend McGill. The next year he received his acceptance and completed his Bachelor of Arts at McGill from 1935-1937. He then enrolled in the Montreal School of Social Work, and worked at the Protestant Family Service Association while attending school. After graduation, he found a job in the Family Service Department at the Baron de Hirsch Institute.

In 1938, Batshaw met Rachel Levitt (Rachie). She was also a social worker, nine years his senior. Two years later in 1940, the two were married.

In 1942, Batshaw volunteered for the Canadian Armed Forces. He was placed in the Infantry and was made District Social Service Officer in charge of Social Services to the Canadian Armed Forces in the province of Quebec. He began his military career as a Private and by the time the War was over had attained the rank of Captain.

After the War he was invited to become the Executive Director of the Red Cross in Montreal. As tempting as the offer was, he wanted to play a larger role within the Jewish community, so he declined.

From 1947-1968, the Batshaw family moved quite a bit living in Philadelphia, Hamilton, Atlanta, Newark, New Jersey and New York. In 1968, the Allied Jewish Community Services (AJCS) contacted Batshaw, and asked him to return to Montreal as Executive Director of the organization. He agreed, and remained in that position until 1980. During the "Batshaw Era," fundraising increased five-fold and the organization expanded, made obvious by the many buildings which were constructed, including

Cummings House in 1973. He personally helped to reassure the community following the implementation of Bill 65. He insisted on making it the right of all Jewish children to have a Jewish education, he helped to integrate the Francophone Sephardic population into the AJCS, he organized trips for students to visit Israel, and in the face of possible Quebec separation (when many Anglophone Jews were leaving the province), he fought for French Immersion education in Jewish schools.

His compassion was felt beyond the walls of AJCS. In 1974, following a news story in *The Montreal Gazette* regarding the maltreatment of children in a welfare institution in La Prairie, Batshaw convinced Claude Forget, Minister of Health and Welfare for the province of Quebec, to allow him to form a small committee of professionals to go into the institution and make recommendations. The approval arrived the next day on a Thursday, the committee was formed the following day, and by Sunday night, the visit had been completed and the finished report had been delivered to the Minister. The recommendations were published in the local newspapers and soon after almost all of them had been implemented. Obviously impressed, Mr. Forget asked Batshaw to spearhead a thorough examination of the province's 60 other institutions. What followed 11 months later was an 11-volume report, informally titled *The Batshaw Committee Report*. This led to the enactment of Bill 24, Quebec's Youth Protection Act. In 1993, when the five Anglophone child welfare institutions of Quebec amalgamated, the new name was an easy choice: *Batshaw Youth and Family Centres*.

After his retirement from AJCS in 1980, Batshaw joined Claridge Inc. at the request of his friend Charles Bronfman as his Consultant on Philanthropy and Jewish Affairs. He retired from this position in 1998.

Custodial History

This material was donated to the Jewish Public Library Archives (JPL-A) directly by Mr. Manuel Batshaw. The material in the Fonds was in the possession of Mr. Batshaw from its creation or inclusion until its transfer to the JPL-A.

Scope and Content

The Fonds consists of correspondence regarding both personal and business matters, newspaper clippings (both loose and in scrapbooks), publications by AJCS and other Jewish organizations, a published biography of Manuel Batshaw, documents regarding his time as a social worker, photographs, audio and visual materials and awards.

There are three series present within the Fonds. *Series I* covers Mr. Batshaw's personal affairs, and consists mainly of photographs, degrees, certificates, scrapbooks and correspondence. *Series II* covers Mr. Batshaw's career as a social worker, and currently consists of a summary of the 1975 Batshaw Report, although further accruals are expected. *Series III* covers Mr. Batshaw's professional work within the Jewish community, and consists of annual reports, publications, awards and photographs.

Source of Supplied Title

The title of the Fonds was taken directly from the content and creator of the Fonds.

Languages of Material

English, French, Hebrew and Yiddish.

Restrictions

No restrictions were placed on the material in the Manuel Batshaw Fonds.

Finding Aid

Detailed finding aid available; file level control.

Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

SERIES I DESCRIPTION

Title: Personal

Dates: 1918-2006

Extent: 30cm of textual records and other material

(*Note:* Includes 326 photographs, 6 artifacts and 9 audiovisual materials)

Scope and Content

This series consists of personal documents relating to Mr. Batshaw's childhood, education, military career, family, and friends.

SERIES II DESCRIPTION

Title: Social Work

Date: 1975

Extent: 3cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series consists of seven copies of the summary of the *Report of the Study Committee on Socially Disturbed Children in Juvenile Institutions*, otherwise known as the *Batshaw Report*. Further accruals in this series are expected.

SERIES III DESCRIPTION

Title: Jewish Community Work

Dates: 1964-2000

Extent: 30cm of textual records and other material

(*Note:* Includes 21 photographs, 5 artifacts and 5 audiovisual materials)

Scope and Content

This series consists of evidence of Mr. Batshaw's professional participation within the Jewish Community, especially in Montreal. It includes correspondence, publications, awards and photographs.

SERIES I – PERSONAL

CONTAINER 001

1. Correspondence with sister, Frances Batshaw. – Textual. – [192?] 1928-1929.
Includes birthday card from young Manuel to his sister.
2. Correspondence with sister, Frances Batshaw. – Textual. – 1934.
Written while Manuel was away at Queen's University in Kingston.
3. Correspondence with sister, Frances Batshaw. – Textual. – [ca. 1934].
Written while Manuel was away at Queen's University in Kingston.
4. Correspondence with mother and sister, Francis. – Textual. – [ca. 1934].
In Yiddish and English, written while Manuel was away at Queen's University in Kingston.
5. Correspondence with friend, Simon [?]. – Textual. – 1934.
Written while Manuel was away at Queen's University in Kingston.
6. Correspondence with girlfriend, Judith Seidel. – Textual. – 1934.
Written while Manuel was away at Queen's University in Kingston.
7. Correspondence – Textual. – 1971-1994.
Includes poignant letter written to his son and daughter-in-law when he believed he was dying.
8. Newspaper clippings. – Textual. – 1967-1995.
Includes obituary for Esther Levitt.
13. McGill University: Convocation Programmes. – Textual. – 1937 and 1998.
*1937, Bachelor Of Arts.
1998, Honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.*
15. Architect of a Community: the Manny Batshaw Story / Joel Yanofsky. – Textual. – 1999.
Includes published book and reviews.

CONTAINER 002

23. Manuel Batshaw. – Scrapbook. – 1928-1978.
24. Levitt and Batshaw families. – Scrapbook. – 1950-1967.
25. Manuel Batshaw, South Africa. – Scrapbook. – 1976.
27. Manny's 80th birthday, Order of Quebec, etc. – Scrapbook. – 1993-1995.

CONTAINER 003

28. Royal Life Saving Society: Elementary Certificate. – Certificate. – 1929.
29. Royal Life Saving Society: Certificate. – Certificate. – 1929.
30. Royal Life Saving Society: Teaching Certificate. – Certificate. – 1931.
31. McGill University: Bachelor of Arts Degree. – Diploma. – 1937.
32. McGill University School of Social Work. – Diploma. – 1938.
33. Officer's Training Centre: Qualified for rank of Lieutenant. – Certificate. – 1944.

CONTAINER 004

34. Rachel and Manny Batshaw. – Photo Album. – 1918-1975.
108 photographs.
35. Batshaw Family. – Photo Album. – 1923-1990.
38 photographs.
36. Camp B'nai Brith. Lac Long, Quebec. Manuel Batshaw, Counselor. – Photo Album. 1931-1933.
58 loose photographs, some copies, some copy negatives.

37. Camp B'nai Brith. – Photo Album. – 1931-1933.
8x10 copies of photographs from originals from previous album.
38. Israel. – Photo Album. – 1965.
28 photographs.
39. Rachel and Manuel. – Photo Album. – 1967-1989.
38 photographs, obituaries, love letters, cards and letters of sympathy regarding Rachie's passing.
41. Photographs for "A Family Portrait." – Photographs and slides. – [ca. 1920-ca. 1994].
16 loose photographs and 3 slides.

CONTAINER 005

43. Rachel Batshaw. – Framed Photograph. – [ca. 1930].
44. Mark and Karen Batshaw wedding portrait. – Framed Photograph. – [ca.1965].
45. Lewis, Frances, Harry, Anne T. Batshaw and infant. – Framed Photograph. – [ca.1970-1980].
46. Manny and Rachel Batshaw. – Framed Photograph. – [ca. 1980].
48. Charles Bronfman. – Framed Photograph. – [ca. 1990].

CONTAINER 006

49. Rachel Batshaw: Family Fair. – VHS tape. – 1991.
50. Manuel Batshaw: A Family Portrait. – VHS tape. – 1995.
51. Family recollections about Manny on his 80th birthday. – VHS tape. – 1995.
52. Grandpa: 80th birthday recollections. – VHS tape. – 1995.
53. CFCE/CTV: Manny Batshaw, Living Will. – VHS tape. – 2005.
54. Mark Batshaw, re; Rare Diseases. – VHS tape. – 2006.
55. Happy Birthday Grandpa, Michael and Andrew. – Hi8 tape. – 1995.
61. Interview by Honey Dresher, Jewish Radio Program, CFMB, regarding book launch. – Audio cassette. – 1999.
62. Interview by Honey Dresher, Jewish Radio Program, CFMB, regarding book launch. – Audio cassette. – 1999.

SERIES II – SOCIAL WORK

CONTAINER 001

17. Batshaw Report Summary. – Textual. – 1975.

SERIES III – JEWISH COMMUNITY WORK

CONTAINER 001

7. Correspondence – Textual. – 1971-1994.
8. Newspaper clippings. – Textual. – 1967-1995.
9. AJCS Retirement. – Textual. – 1980.
10. AJCS Retirement: citation of appreciation from the Association of Jewish Community Personnel. – Textual. – [1980].
Certificate enclosed in a substantial folder.
11. Jewish National Fund: Negev dinner. – Textual. – 1981.
12. Samuel Bronfman Medal. – Textual. – 1984.
14. Montreal Jewish Community: The Distinguished Service Award. – Textual. – 1991.
16. International Jewish Organizations. – Textual. – 1975-1978.
Hamilton Jewish Community Centre, YM-YWHA of Metropolitan New Jersey, Association of Jewish Center Workers (New York, New York).
18. AJCS/CJA Annual Reports. – Textual. – 1975-1997.
19. AJCS Publications. – Textual. – 1967-1987.
*50 Years of Community Service Highlights.
Six Decades.
Three Score and Ten.*
20. Federation CJA: A Survey of Jewish Life in Montreal. – Textual. – 1996-1997.
21. Israel-Diaspora Relations Project Report. – Textual. – 1991.
22. Making Meaning, Participants' Experience of Birthright Israel. – Textual. – 2000.

CONTAINER 002

26. Negev Dinner, Jewish National Fund of Montreal, in Honour of Manuel G. Batshaw. – Scrapbook. – 1981.

CONTAINER 004

40. Bronfman Award. – Photo Album. – 1984.
18 photographs, correspondence, speeches and clippings.
42. Negev Dinner. – Slides. – 1981.
3 slides.

CONTAINER 005

47. Stamps and Envelope, "Coat of Many Colours" Exhibit. – 1990.

CONTAINER 006

56. Retirement function by Women's Federation AJCS. – Audio cassette. – 1980.
57. Staff party at AJCS for retirement. – Audio cassette. – 1980.
58. Tribute to Manny Ba[t]shaw, Board of Trustees. – Audio cassette. – 1980.
59. Negev dinner. – Audio cassette. – 1981.
60. Interview by Michael Solomon of Jewish Telegraphic Agency on occasion of Bronfman Medal. – Audio cassette. – 1984.

CONTAINER 007

63. NACJW National Award. – Plaque. – 1964.
64. Samuel Bronfman Medal. – Plaque. – 1984.
65. Chattan Torah Award. – Plaque. – 5750 (1989-1990).
66. AJCS Award. – Plaque. – 1991.
67. Camp Kadima Award. – Plaque. – 1997.

CONTAINER LISTING

CONTAINER 001

1. Correspondence with sister, Frances Batshaw. – Textual. – [192?] 1928-1929.
2. Correspondence with sister, Frances Batshaw. – Textual. – 1934.
3. Correspondence with sister, Frances Batshaw. – Textual. – [ca. 1934].
4. Correspondence with mother and sister, Francis. – Textual. – [ca. 1934].
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6. Correspondence with girlfriend, Judith Seidel. – Textual. – 1934.
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17. Batshaw Report Summary. – Textual. – 1975.
18. AJCS/CJA Annual Reports. – Textual. – 1975-1997.
19. AJCS Publications. – Textual. – 1967-1987.
20. Federation CJA: A Survey of Jewish Life in Montreal. – Textual. – 1996-1997.
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38. Israel. – Photo Album. – 1965.

39. Rachel and Manuel. – Photo Album. – 1967-1989.
40. Bronfman Award. – Photo Album. – 1984.
41. Photographs for “A Family Portrait.” – Photographs and slides. – [ca. 1920-ca. 1994].
42. Negev Dinner. – Slides. – 1981.

CONTAINER 005

43. Rachel Batshaw. – Framed Photograph. – [ca. 1930].
44. Mark and Karen Batshaw wedding portrait. – Framed Photograph. – [ca.1965].
45. Lewis, Frances, Harry, Anne T. Batshaw and infant. – Framed Photograph. – [ca.1970-1980].
46. Manny and Rachel Batshaw. – Framed Photograph. – [ca. 1980].
47. Launch of “A Coat of Many Colours” exhibit. – Framed Stamps and Envelope. – 1990.
48. Charles Bronfman. – Framed Photograph. – [ca. 1990].

CONTAINER 006

49. Rachel Batshaw: Family Fair. – VHS tape. – 1991.
50. Manuel Batshaw: A Family Portrait. – VHS tape. – 1995.
51. Family recollections about Manny on his 80th birthday. – VHS tape. – 1995.
52. Grandpa: 80th birthday recollections. – VHS tape. – 1995.
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