

# **Super Family Papers**

## **SUPER.US.01**

**Finding aid prepared by Kathryn Miller**

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Super Family Archives

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Super Family Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Super Family
<b>Title</b>	Super Family Papers
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1945-1987
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1909-2013
<b>Extent</b>	3.5 Linear feet (3 archival boxes; 2 file boxes)
<b>Finding Aid Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials</b>	English and Hebrew
<b>Abstract</b>	The records of the Super Family, as collected by Stacia Super. The collection includes biographical papers, financial records, correspondence, FBI files, manuscripts, legal documents, and genealogical work reflecting the activities of Tilla Hyams (Minowitz, Super), Sol Benjamin Minowitz, and Arthur Saul Super.

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## Biographical Note

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### **Arthur Saul Super**

Arthur Saul Super was born July 1, 1908 in Great Yarmouth, England. He graduated from Cambridge in 1929, and studied at Jews College, London where he was ordained a Rabbi in 1933. He married Helen Sarah "Sally" Berko in England in 1933. They moved to Canada from 1933 to 1936, where Arthur was the spiritual head of Shaar Hashamaim congregation in Montreal. While in Canada, Arthur and Sally had a son, Bernard Super, in 1935. The family moved back to England from 1937 to 1940, where Arthur was minister of the United Hebrew Congregation in Leeds. Arthur was then a chaplain in the Britain armed forces during World War II (exact dates unknown). After World War II, he was disheartened with Orthodox Judaism, and decided to leave religion to focus on journalism and Zionism. At this time, Arthur also sought a divorce from Sally Berko. The exact date of the divorce is unknown.

Arthur met Tilla Minowitz (nee Hyams) in England, 1950, at a Zionist meeting. They were married in a civil ceremony the same year, changing Tilla's name to Tilla Super. Arthur took Tilla and her four-year-old daughter Stacia Iona Minowitz to Israel in 1951 where Arthur had accepted a job at the Jerusalem Post. Tilla and Arthur had a religious marriage in Jerusalem in 1956, and Arthur legally adopted Stacia in 1957, changing Stacia's name to Stacia Iona Super. The family stayed in Israel until 1960, when they moved to South Africa so Arthur and Tilla could work on the South African Zionist Federation's publication Zionist Record. In 1964, Arthur became the chief Rabbi of the Johannesburg United Progressive Jewish Congregation. Arthur retired in 1975 and moved with Tilla back Israel to the Neve Aviv retirement home in Kfar Saba. Arthur Saul Super died in the Neve Aviv retirement home on July 30, 1979.

### **Sol Benjamin Minowitz**

Sol Benjamin Minowitz was born September 5, 1887 in Yurevichi, Russia. He was naturalized as a United States citizen in 1913. His first wife was Sarah Atlas, and he had three children with her: Pauline (b. 1909), Kate (b. 1911), and Benjamin (b. 1915). Sol and his brother Joseph Minowitz ran the Superior Print Shop located at 607 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington D.C. In 1941, the FBI began a file on Sol for allegedly using the print shop to print Communist literature.

Sol met Tilla Hyams in 1945 through the Zionist Federation and Communist Party meetings in Washington, D.C. and they were married the same year. Sol and Tilla had a child, Stacia Iona Minowitz, in 1946. Sol Minowitz died of acute leukemia in Washington, D.C. on December 17, 1947.

### **Tilla Rebecca Hyams**

Tilla Rebecca Hyams was born December 10, 1906 in Brooklyn, New York. She moved to Washington, D.C. in 1945 where she worked for the Zionist Federation and the Labor

party and was a member of the Thomas Jefferson Club of the Communist Party of District of Columbia and the Montgomery County Committee of the Communist Party of the District of Columbia.

Tilla met Sol Benjamin Minowitz in 1945 through the Zionist Federation and Communist Party meetings and they were married the same year, changing her name to Tilla Minowitz. Tilla and Sol had a child in 1946, Stacia Iona Minowitz, and Tilla was named part-owner of the Superior Print Shop the same year. Tilla then became Chairman of the Management Committee of the Washington Bookshop Association. At this time, the FBI also started a file on Tilla for her membership in the Washington Bookshop Association, a suspected communist cell, and her activities with Sol in the Superior Print Shop.

After Sol's death in 1947, Tilla was made full owner of the Superior Print Shop and continued her membership in the Washington Bookshop Association. In 1949, she was called before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and questioned about her Communist activities. She refused to answer any incriminating questions. In 1950, Tilla sold the Superior Print Shop and planned to use the funds to, according to her daughter Stacia, move herself and her daughter to the U.S.S.R after a brief stay in England.

While in England, Tilla met Arthur Saul Super at a Zionist meeting. They were married in a civil ceremony in 1950, changing Tilla's name to Tilla Super. Tilla and Stacia moved with Arthur to Israel in 1951. Tilla and Arthur had a religious marriage in Jerusalem in 1956. The family stayed in Israel until 1960, when they moved to South Africa so Arthur and Tilla could work on the South African Zionist Federation's publication *Zionist Record*. Arthur and Tilla retired in 1975 and moved Israel to the Neve Aviv retirement home. After Arthur's death in 1979, Tilla moved to Shoshanat HaCarmet Nursing Home in Haifa, Israel. Tilla Super died in Shoshanat HaCarmet Nursing Home on April 30, 1987.

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## Scope and Content

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The Super Family Papers is an artificial collection in the possession of Stacia Super. The collection contains records that document Stacia's biological and adoptive families, previously scattered throughout Stacia's household. The collection focuses on three figures: Tilla Hyams (Minowitz, Super), Sol Minowitz, and Arthur Super.

The collection includes biographical papers, financial records, correspondence, FBI files, manuscripts, legal documents, and genealogical work. The collection is divided into four series: *Arthur Saul Super Papers*, *General Correspondence*, *Sol Benjamin Minowitz Papers*, and *Tilla Rebecca Hyams Papers*.

The *Arthur Saul Super Papers* series ranges from 1933-2001 (bulk dates: 1950-1979) and has been broken into three subject-based subseries and chronological file units.

The *General Correspondence* series ranges from 1947-1987 and has been broken into five subject-based subseries and chronological file units.

The *Sol Benjamin Minowitz Papers* series ranges from 1909-2013 (bulk dates: 1945-1947) and has been broken into two subject-based subseries and chronological file units.

The *Tilla Rebecca Hyams Papers* series ranges from 1947-2008 (bulk dates: 1947-1987) and has been broken into three subject-based subseries and chronological file units.

See series and subseries descriptions for more information.

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## Contents List

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### **[Series 1.0. Arthur Saul Super Papers, 1933-2001, n.d.](#)**

[Subseries 1.1. Biographical 1933-2001, n.d.](#)

[Subseries 1.2. Financial Records 1970-1984, n.d.](#)

[Subseries 1.3. Manuscripts 1959-1989, n.d.](#)

### **[Series 2.0. General Correspondence, 1947-2013, n.d.](#)**

[Subseries 2.1. Arthur Super Death Condolences 1979](#)

[Subseries 2.2. Minowitz Family Quarterly Newsletters 1995-2013](#)

[Subseries 2.3. Miscellaneous 1947-1979](#)

[Subseries 2.4. South African Zionist Federation 1979-1987](#)

[Subseries 2.5. Super Immediate Family 1955-1987, n.d.](#)

### **[Series 3.0. Sol Benjamin Minowitz Papers, 1909-2013, n.d.](#)**

[Subseries 3.1. Biographical 1909-2013, n.d.](#)

[Subseries 3.2. FBI File 1941-1979](#)

**[Series 4.0. Tilla Rebecca Hyams Papers, 1946-2008, n.d.](#)**

[Subseries 4.1. Biographical 1947-2008, n.d.](#)

[Subseries 4.2. Financial Records 1948-2000](#)

[Subseries 4.3. FBI File 1946-1990](#)

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Conditions Governing Access**

Restricted to Super Family members only.

### **Custodial History**

All records in the Super Family Papers were transferred to Stacia Super after death of the record creators. Stacia Super previously kept these records in no particular order, scattered throughout her household.

## Collection Inventory

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### **Series 1.0. Arthur Saul Super Papers 1933-2001, n.d. 1.5 Linear feet (1 archival box and 1 file storage box)**

#### **Scope and Content**

Contains documents reflecting Arthur Super's life before he met Tilla Minowitz and during his marriage to Tilla through his death in 1979. Also includes Super Family genealogical information and papers reflecting the settlement of Arthur's estate after his death.

#### **Arrangement**

Arranged into subseries and thereunder, alphabetically by subject.

#### **Subseries 1.1. Biographical 1933-2001, n.d.**

#### **Scope and Content**

Contains documents reflecting Arthur Super's life including his first marriage (Sarah Berko) certificate, notes for Jerusalem Post and Zionist Record articles (in English and Hebrew), passport, two press passes, and driver's license. Contains documents reflecting Arthur Super's death including obituaries, memorial service plans and programs, and pieces written in Emmanuel College Magazine and Who's Who of South Africa. Also contains Super Family genealogical documents including family trees, notes by Stacia Super, and The Pen and the Blade (1992)—an unpublished Super Family genealogical manuscript by Arthur Super's nephew, Chaim Freedman.

#### **Arrangement**

Alphabetically by subject. Items in folders are arranged chronologically with undated items at end.

#### **Container List**

- Box 1, Folder 1: Biographical 1933-1979, n.d.
- Box 1, Folder 2: Super Family Genealogy 1992-2001, n.d.

#### **Subseries 1.2. Financial Records 1970-1984, n.d.**

#### **Scope and Content**

Contains records from Arthur's Super's financial accounts including a life insurance policy, unidentifiable stock certificate, and Barclays bank receipts from Arthur Super and Tilla Super (in Arthur's name). Contains documents reflecting the settlement of Arthur's estate after his death including correspondence between Stacia Super and Reeder, Teeger, and Rosettenstein Attorney Group in South Africa and receipts from payments made according to Arthur's



## Manuscripts

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will. Also contains copies of Arthur Super's will (in English and Hebrew) and other estate records as attachments to correspondence.

### Arrangement

Alphabetically by subject. Items in folders are arranged chronologically with undated items at end.

### Container List

- Box 1, Folder 3: Bank Records 1970-1979, n.d.
- Box 1, Folder 4: Will and Estate 1980-1984

### Subseries 1.3. Manuscripts 1959-1989, n.d.

### Scope and Content

Contains Arthur Super's unpublished manuscripts and indexes. Indexes include a list written by Arthur Super of his published and unpublished works and an index of the Tel Aviv University Archive's Arthur Super collection. Unpublished manuscripts include *The Role of the Jew in South Africa*, which deals with the relationship between "Blacks" and "Jews" in South Africa; *The Sephardim*, a nonfiction piece on Spanish Jews; *The Challenge of the Modern Age*, which explores being a Jew in the 1970s; *The Kulter Kampf Must Now Begin*, which touches on the necessity for reform Judaism; *John on Calvary*, a fiction piece about man looking back on his life as he awaits dangerous surgery; and Arthur Super's annotated, unfinished memoirs.

### Arrangement

Alphabetically by subject. Items in folders are arranged chronologically with undated items at end. Oversized items arranged alphabetically in separate large box.

### Container List

- Box 1, Folder 5: Short Manuscripts, n.d.
- Box 1, Folder 6: Tel Aviv University Index 1989
- Box 2, Item 1: *John on Calvary* 1959
- Box 2, Item 2: *Memoirs* 1975-1979

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## Series 2.0. General Correspondence 1947-2013, n.d. 1.0 Linear feet (1 file storage box)

### Scope and Content

Contains correspondence between Super Family members and external correspondents. Correspondence covers relationship and marriage between Tilla and Arthur Super, and the last years of Tilla's life.

### Arrangement

Alphabetically by correspondent.

## Arthur Super Death Condolences

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### **Subseries 2.1. Arthur Super Death Condolences 1979**

#### **Scope and Content**

Contains letters, cards, and telegrams from over 50 correspondents offering condolences after Arthur Super's death on July 30, 1979.

#### **Arrangement**

Chronological, undated telegrams at end.

#### **Container List**

Box 3, Folder 1: Arthur Super Death Condolences Jul - Sep 1979

### **Subseries 2.2. Minowitz Family Quarterly Newsletters 1995-2013**

#### **Scope and Content**

Contains newsletters sent by the Minowitz family to Stacia Super every quarter since October 1995. Includes updates and genealogical findings on living and deceased members of the Minowitz family.

#### **Arrangement**

Chronological by volume and issue number.

#### **Container List**

Box 3, Folder 2: Newsletters 1995-2013

### **Subseries 2.3. Miscellaneous 1947-1979**

#### **Scope and Content**

Contains miscellaneous correspondence between the Super Family and external correspondents. Includes letters between Arthur Super and Rabbinical Colleagues; Arthur Super and Super Family members; and Tilla Super, her mother, and Joseph Minowitz. Also includes letters addressed to both Arthur and Tilla Super from family friends inquiring about Arthur's health; Ari Hyams keeping the family up-to-date on the Hyams relatives; and from the Super Family maid, Dorah, in South Africa during her time in the hospital.

#### **Arrangement**

Alphabetically by correspondent, if more than 1 letter from a correspondent, arranged chronologically.

South African Zionist Federation

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**Container List**

Box 3, Folder 3: Single Correspondence 1947-1979

Brichto, Sidney Rabbi, August 20, 1974

Chase, Leslie, July 2, 1979

Davis, Prinze (nee Super), April 19, 1960

Glaser, Joseph Rabbi, November 26, 1974

Herman, Anne, May 11, 1979

Hyams, Fannie, June 2, 1947

Maluka, Dorah, February 15, 1971

Minowitz, Joseph, November 5, 1951

Stalson, Benny, July 5, 1979

Super, Albert, July 8 1975

Super, Bernard, December 29, 1967

Box 3, Folder 4: Hyams, Ari 1958-1971

**Subseries 2.4. South African Zionist Federation 1979-1987**

**Scope and Content**

Contains correspondence from the South African Zionist Federation office in Israel including writing assignments for Arthur Super and letters updating Stacia Super about Tilla Super's condition while she was in Shoshanat HaCarmet Nursing Home in Haifa, Israel.

**Arrangement**

Chronological.

**Container List**

Box 3, Folder 5: South African Zionist Federation 1979-1987

**Super Immediate Family**

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**Subseries 2.5. Super Immediate Family 1955-1987, n.d.****Scope and Content**

Contains correspondence between the immediate Super Family members. Includes letters written between Tilla and Arthur during his travels abroad to the US, England, and Canada for the Zionist Federation (1955-1964); letters sent by Stacia to Tilla and Arthur while they were aboard (1963-1966); letters sent by Stacia to Tilla and Arthur while she was away at college (1967-1971) letters sent by Stacia to Tilla and Arthur while she was away at graduate school in Chicago (1972-1979), and the corresponding letters sent to Stacia from Tilla and Arthur to Stacia. Also includes letters between Stacia and Tilla after Arthur's death from 1980-1987 while Stacia was in Chicago and Tilla was in Israel. All letters are written in English with handwritten Hebrew notes in margins.

**Arrangement**

Alphabetically by correspondent(s). Items in folders are arranged chronologically with undated items at end.

**Container List**

- Box 3, Folder 6: Curtis, Patrick and Super, Arthur/Tilla 1978-1979
- Box 3, Folder 7: Super, Arthur and Super, Tilla 1955-1964, n.d.
- Box 3, Folder 8: Super, Arthur/Tilla to Super, Stacia 1968-1975, n.d.
- Box 3, Folder 9: Super, Arthur/Tilla to Super, Stacia 1976-1979
- Box 3, Folder 10: Super, Stacia to Super, Arthur/Tilla 1963-1978, n.d.
- Box 3, Folder 11: Super, Stacia and Super, Tilla 1980-1987

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**Series 3.0. Sol Benjamin Minowitz Papers 1909-2013, n.d. 0.5 Linear feet (1 archival box)****Scope and Content**

Contains biographical, genealogical, and FBI documents received by Tilla and Stacia Super after Sol Minowitz's death.

**Arrangement**

Arranged into subseries, and thereunder alphabetically by subject.

**Subseries 3.1. Biographical 1909-2013, n.d.****Scope and Content**

Contains biographical documents reflecting Sol's life and death including his death certificate, last will and testament, USA citizenship papers, driver's licenses, obituaries, and undated notes. Also contains Minowitz Family genealogical

**FBI File**

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work done by Stacia Super from 1960-1999 including Tilla Super's handwritten biography of Sol, various genealogical notes and emails from Minowitz family members, and genealogical database and family tree printouts.

**Arrangement**

Alphabetically by subject. Items in folders are arranged chronologically with undated items at end.

**Container List**

- Box 4, Folder 1: Biographical 1909-1947, n.d.
- Box 4, Folder 2: Minowitz Family Genealogy 1960-1999, n.d.

**Subseries 3.2. FBI File 1941-1979**

**Scope and Content**

Contains Sol B. Minowitz's FBI file, started April 1941 as he was a suspected member of the Communist party. The file includes copies of the biographical documents in Subseries 3.1. The file was declassified on February 6, 1979 and a copy was sent to Stacia Iona Super.

**Arrangement**

Report arranged chronologically.

**Container List**

- Box 4, Folder 3: Complete FBI file 1941-1979

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**Series 4.0. Tilla Rebecca Hyams Papers 1946-2008, n.d. 0.5 Linear feet (1 archival box)**

**Scope and Content**

Contains documents which reflect Tilla's activities from 1945-1987, arranged by her married names including biographical documents, financial records, and the FBI file. Also includes genealogical information and papers reflecting the settlement of Tilla's estate after her death.

**Arrangement**

Arranged into subseries, and thereunder alphabetically by subject.

**Subseries 4.1. Biographical 1947-2008, n.d.**

## Financial Records

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### Scope and Content

Contains Hyams family genealogical documents including family trees, notes by Stacia Super, and printouts from commercial genealogical databases. Contains biographical papers reflecting Tilla Minowitz's activities including a driver's license, membership cards, insurance/health cards, doctor's prescriptions, Stacia Iona Minowitz's birth certificate, marriage certificate, passports (in English and Hebrew), and a photograph of Tilla and Sol Minowitz. Contains biographical papers reflecting Tilla Super's activities including Tilla's obituary, South African immigration papers, essay in the South African Zionist Federation journal, and Tilla's mother (Fannie Hyams)'s 1958 Israel immigration papers (in Hebrew).

### Arrangement

Alphabetically by family name. Items in folders are arranged chronologically with undated items at end.

### Container List

Box 5, Folder 1: Hyams Family Genealogy 1992-2008, n.d.

Box 5, Folder 2: Minowitz Biographical 1947-1950

Box 5, Folder 3: Super Biographical 1958-1987

### Subseries 4.2. Financial Records 1948-2000

### Scope and Content

Contains financial records reflecting Tilla Minowitz's activities including a bill of sale for a duplicator model 40, insurance policy, loan documentation, and law office payment receipts. Contains financial records reflecting Tilla Super's activities after Arthur Super's death including payment receipts from Bank Leumi (in Hebrew). Also contains records reflecting the settlement of Tilla Super's estate after her death including bank statements and correspondence between Stacia Super, Slood, Broido, Hesselson, and Liknaitzky Attorney Group, Lieb Frank (an inheritor and executor of Tilla's estate), Bank Leumi in Israel, Barclays in England, and First National Bank in South Africa.

### Arrangement

Alphabetically by family name. Items in folders are arranged chronologically.

### Container List

Box 5, Folder 4: Minowitz 1948-1950

Box 5, Folder 5: Super 1980-2000

### Subseries 4.3. FBI File 1946-1990

### Scope and Content

Contains complete FBI file which documents the movements of Tilla, starting in 1946 after her marriage to Sol Minowitz and ending with the confirmation of her residence in South Africa in 1963. The file includes an interview transcript when Tilla was brought before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and questioned about her involvement in The Washington Bookshop Association (a suspected communist cell) and her activities in the Superior Print Shop in July

## FBI File

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1949. Tilla Minowitz declined to testify or answer incriminating questions, but the FBI continued to follow her through her passport renewal in 1963. The file was declassified on February 6, 1990 and a copy was sent to Stacia Iona Super.

### **Arrangement**

Report arranged chronologically.

### **Container List**

Box 5, Folder 6: Complete FBI file 1946-1990