

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
MUSIC DIVISION

LEONARD FEIST
PAPERS, 1901-1991
(1940-1986)
3.5 Linear feet (12 boxes)

Call No.: JPB 02-7

Contact Information:
The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Music Division
40 Lincoln Center Plaza – Third Floor
New York, New York 10023-7498
Phone: 212/870-1650
Fax: 212/870-1794
Email: musicdiv@nypl.org
Web address: <http://www.nypl.org/research/mus/mus.html>

Processed by: [AMY AZZARITO, February, 2004]

© 2004 The New York Public Library. Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations. All rights reserved.

Abstract

Papers of Leonard Feist, publisher, advocate and expert in international copyright. The collection primarily contains professional papers in copyright law.

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Gift of Mrs. Mary Feist, 1999.
Access:	The collection is open for research.
Restrictions on Use:	For permission to copy or publish, please contact the Music Division.
Preferred Citation:	The Leonard Feist Papers, JPB 02-7, Music Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.

Biography/History

Leonard Feist, publisher and copyright expert, was the son of a ladies' corset salesman and a part-time songwriter, turned music publisher. After graduating from Yale in 1932, Feist joined his father's company. When, Leo Feist, Inc. was sold to MGM in the late 1930's, Feist began a career as an independent publisher. On December 6, 1937, Feist married Mary Regensburg, a well-known New York City interior designer, with whom he had two daughters--Linda and Betsy.

During his career as a music publisher, Feist was involved in the publication of concert, educational and sacred music. He was the first American publisher of Igor Stravinsky, and also represented Paul Hindemith and Arnold Schoenberg in the United States and published the works of ten Pulitzer Prize winners. In 1956, he assumed the presidency of Associated Music Publishers, Inc, and in 1966, he became president of the National Music Publishers' Association.

Feist became known for his work in Washington, D.C as an advocate on behalf of the music publishing industry. His first successful foray into legislative activity occurred in the early 1950s when he successfully supported the inclusion of printed material under the U.S. Postal Services "book rates." He worked extensively in helping to draft the 1976 U.S. Copyright Act. Feist was instrumental in shaping various other provisions of the new law that impact music publishing. As a well-regarded expert on international copyright, Feist served as an advisor to the United States Delegation to the Berne Convention Revision Conference to advising on revisions of international copyright in 1971 and on other previous occasions. In 1980, he published, *An Introduction to Popular Music Publishing in America*, which illustrates publishers' role in the music business.

Throughout his professional life, Feist was an integral part of the leadership in a number of organizations. He served as President of the National Music Council, President of the Century Music Publishing, President of Mercury Music Corporation and Vice-President of the National Academy of Popular Music (which sponsors the Songwriters Hall of Fame). Feist was the recipient of many awards including the Degree of Honorary Doctor of Music conferred by the Peabody Institute of Music.

Scope and Content Note

The majority of the collection consists of Leonard Feist's professional papers relating to his work in copyright law. The few personal papers in the collection are located in the Family Papers series, which also includes the papers of Feist's father, Leo Feist, and his brother, Milton Feist.

Organization

Series I:	Correspondence, 1928 - 1983	
	Sub series 1	Professional, 1928 - 1983
	Sub series 2	Copyright, 1935 - 1983
Series II:	Personal & Family Papers, 1901 - 1979	
	Sub series 1	Leo Feist, 1906 - 1928
	Sub series 2	Milton Feist, 1908 - 1979
	Sub series 3	Family ephemera, 1901 - 1930
Series III:	Photographs, 1941 - 1980	
Series IV:	Articles and Speeches, 1950 - 1986	
	Sub series 1	Articles, 1950 - 1983
	Sub series 2	Speeches, 1966-1986
Series V:	Clippings, 1909 - 1977	
Series VI:	Scores, 1941 - 1977	
Series VII:	Awards and Tributes, 1955 - 1991	
Series VIII:	Scrapbooks, 1976 - 1980	
Series IX:	Oversized Materials, 1920 - 1984	

Series Descriptions

Series I: Correspondence, 1928 - 1983 (44 folders)

Sub series 1 Professional, 1928 - 1983 (39 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetically by correspondent.

The majority of the correspondence is from various well-known composers and songwriters, included are Irving Berlin, Nadia Boulanger, Earle Brown, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Stephen Sondheim, and Igor Stravinsky.

Sub series 2 Copyright, 1935 - 1983 (5 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetically by correspondent.

This sub-series includes correspondence relating to copyright, one of Feist's most important contributions to the music industry was his work in shaping copyright law.

Series II: Personal & Family Papers, 1901 - 1979 (33 folders)

Sub series 1 Leo Feist, 1906 - 1928 (6 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetical.

This sub-series contains papers belonging to Leo Feist, father of Leonard. The majority is correspondence. Of particular note, are the childhood letters written by Leonard Feist to his father.

Sub series 2 Milton Feist, 1908 - 1979 (13 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetical by subject.

This sub-series contains papers belonging to Milton Feist, Leonard's brother, who was a rabbi and a composer. While there are only a few folders in this series, they span a wide range of dates. The collection includes his birth certificate and his eulogy as well as material relating to his work as a composer.

Sub series 3 Family ephemera, 1901 - 1930 (14 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetically by subject.

Material in this sub-series of family ephemera includes various items such as a postcard picture of the family residence in Mt. Vernon, NY and a 1901 autograph book.

Series III: Photographs, 1941 - 1980 (23 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetical by photographed subject.

Many of the photographs are portraits of composers including Ernst Toch and Igor Stravinsky, which have been inscribed to Feist.

Series IV: Articles and Speeches, 1950 - 1986 (25 folders)

Sub series 1 Articles, 1950 - 1983 (6 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetical by subject.

Leonard Feist wrote all of the articles in this sub-series. The majority of the articles are devoted to the subject of music copyright.

Sub series 2 Speeches, 1966-1986 (19 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetical by speech title.

With the exception of one speech given by Jon Baumgarten, Feist delivered all other speeches in the collection.

Series V: Clippings, 1909 - 1977 (8 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetical by subject.

The clippings in this series include profiles of Leonard and Leo Feist, and family obituaries.

Series VI: Scores, 1941 - 1977 (9 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetical by composer.

Of the small collection of scores in this series, the majority are reproductions. The series contains scores by Walton Piston and Virgil Thomson.

Series VII: Awards and Tributes, 1955 - 1991 (17 folders)

Arrangement - Chronological by date.

Many of the awards and tributes in this series were presented to Feist on behalf of his work with copyright law. Of particular note are the copies of the signed presidential acts complete with presidential pens, which Feist had mounted and displayed.

Series VIII: Scrapbooks, 1976 - 1980 (2 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetical

This series consists of two scrapbooks. One is a collection of Irving Berlin songs, which is inscribed to Feist. The other is a scrapbook presented to Feist on his 70th birthday, which is titled "An Alphabet of Friends" and includes many congratulatory letters.

Series IX: Oversized Materials, 1920 - 1984 (4 folders)

Arrangement - Alphabetical by subject.

Of the various items in this series, the most notable is an oil painting presented to Feist by Irving Berlin. In the center of the painting is a photograph of Feist's wife, Mary.

Box/Folder Description

Series I Correspondence**BOX 1**

Sub series 1: Professional

- F. 1 Associated Music Publishers, Inc., 1940 June 11-1941 Dec. 5
- F. 2 Auslander, Joseph, 1980 Dec. 12--includes 1894 contract for *Those Lost Happy Days*
- F. 3 Berlin, Irving, 1975 January 7- 1982 May 17 --1980 May 13 letter includes photostat copy of *The Best of Friends Must Part*
- F. 4 Boulanger, Nadia, 1961 May 13
- F. 5 Broido, Arnold P., 1992 Dec. 30
- F. 6 Brown, Earle, 1965 March 18--includes one undated letter
- F. 7 Brown, Earle Mrs., 1965 Feb. 2
- F. 8 Burch, Dean, 1976 Oct. 22 - 1977 Jan. 11 --related to presidential memorabilia in Box 9, F. 1
- F. 9 Burkat, Leonard, undated
- F. 10 Cowell, Henry, 1947 Aug. 20-1964 Nov. 30
- F. 11 Dallapiccola, Luigi, 1960 Jan. 16-1966 Aug.
- F. 12 Feist, Leo, 1928 Feb. 16
- F. 13 Feist, Leonard, 1964 Nov. 11-1965 Feb. 4
- F. 14 Feist, Leonard, 1976 Aug. 24-1977 August 30--correspondence related to establishing a scholarship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in memory of Milton Feist
- F. 15 Feist, Leonard, 1983 September--memo
- F. 16 Gretchaninoff, A., 1937 Oct. 29
- F. 17 Gould, Morton, 1980 Oct. 17
- F. 18 Grainger, Percy, 1928 Apr. 28
- F. 19 Hanson, Howard, 1967 Feb. 6
- F. 20 Kirchner, Leon, 1964 Nov. 28-1975 Sept. 29
- F. 21 Kravise, A, 1946 Oct. 22
- F. 22 Lacy, Dan, 1960 Feb. 24 --addressed to members of the National Committee for the Florence Agreement
- F. 23 Malipiero, Riccardo, 1966 Nov. 16-1966 Dec. 18
- F. 24 MCA Music Division, 1981 Jan. 7
- F. 25 Mennin, Peter, 1967 Dec. 27 and 1967 Dec. 15 -- related letter from L. Feist
- F. 26 Mercer, Johnny, undated
- F. 27 Murphy, Edward, 1986 Dec. 30
- F. 28 Nathan, Robert R., 1981 Nov. 30 and 1981 Dec. 16
- F. 29 Piston, Walter, 1964 Nov. 17
- F. 30 Regan, Ronald, 1983 Nov. 4--telegram
- F. 31 Schuman, William, 1965 Oct. 29-1986 Jan. 16 -- includes response letter from Feist
- F. 32 Sondheim, Stephen, 1973 Apr. 2-1973 June 12
- F. 33 Stockhausen, Karlheinz, 1961 June 6
- F. 34 Stonehill, C.A., 1934 June 18
- F. 35 Stravinsky, Igor, 1962 Jan. 5
- F. 36 Tehereporin, Alexander, 1945 June 22- 1946 Jan. 17 -- includes related letter from Feist
- F. 37 Thomson, Virgil, 1943 Feb. 12-1980 Dec. 12
- F. 38 Weinberger, Jaromir, 1943 Nov. 15
- F. 39 Weill-Davis, Lotte Lenya, 1958 Oct. 22

Box/Folder	Description
	<u>Series I cont.: Correspondence</u>
	Subseries II: Copyright
F. 40	Copyright Society Award, 1983 Sept. 26-1983 Nov. 11
F. 41	Lehair, Franz, 1935 Oct.17-1936 Oct. 15
F. 42	Schnitzer, Heinrich, 1937 Jan. 27
F. 43	Straus, Oscar, 1936 Oct. 15-1937 Jan. 27
F. 44	Von Dohnany, Ernst, 1937 Jan. 27
	<u>Series II: Personal & Family Papers</u>
BOX 2	
	Sub series 1: Leo Feist
F. 1	Blackburn, F.J, 1924 Oct. 22
F. 2	Feist, Leo, 1906 Jan. 9
F. 3	Feist, Leo, 1922 May 16
F. 4	Feist, Leonard, 1921 Sept. 4-1928 Mar.
F. 5	Feist, Leonard, undated
F. 6	Wildman, Edwin, 1926 June 9-1926 June 14
	Sub series 2: Milton Feist
F. 7	Articles, 1925 May 7 -1949
F. 8	Birth Certificate, 1908 Jan. 12
F. 9	Brief Candle, 1971 --1 vocal score
F. 10	Chipman, Jonathan "Rabbi Feist-a memoir," 1975 Fall
F. 11	Correspondence: unidentified, 1951 Nov. 24
F. 12	Eulogy, c1970
F. 13	Hebrew documents, undated
F. 14	Jewish law interpretation, 1969 Spring
F. 15	Laderman, Ezra, National Music Council meeting speech, 1979 June 6
F. 16	Photo, c1970 -- dedicated to the memory of Milton Feist)
F. 17	Publications of the Jewish Music Research Centre, c1970
F. 18	Program, 1975 July 16
F. 19	Royalty statements, contracts & correspondence, 1955 Dec. 21 - April 30
	Sub series 3: Family ephemera
F. 20	American Magazine, 1918 Feb.
F. 21	Autograph book, 1901 Dec. 31-1902 Jan. 1
F. 22	Business card, undated -- inscribed
F. 23	Feist, Leo profile, undated
F. 24	Feist, Leo Mrs., undated --postcard
F. 25	Induction Certificate, 1924 Nov. 11 -- presented to Leo Feist
F. 26	Journal of ASCAP, 1928 Feb.-1937 Oct. -- includes correspondence
F. 27	Menu, 1927 Sept. 17
F. 28	Poem, 1925
F. 29	Program, 1930 Nov. 14 -- dedication of Leo Feist memorial window
F. 30	Postcard, undated -- photo of family residence in Mt. Vernon, NY
F. 31	The Rivoli pamphlet, 1917 -1918
F. 32	Rorem, Ned, "Flight for Heaven" cover illustration, c1950
F. 33	Time: the weekly magazine, 1920 Dec.
	<u>Series III: Photographs</u>
BOX 3	
F. 1	Berk, Lawrence; Mabel Mercer and Leonard Feist, 1975 May 17
F. 2	Berman, Al and Leonard Feist, undated
F. 3	Channing, Carol, undated

Box/Folder	Description
<u>Series III cont.: Photographs</u>	
F. 4	Chiantia, Salvatore T., undated
F. 5	Creston, Paul, undated
F. 6	Feist, Leonard, Reception, 1947
F. 7	Feist, Leonard, La Musica El Il Suo Pubblico, 1962 September 27-30
F. 8	Feist, Leonard. Birthday photos, 1980 December-- removed from 3-ring binder labeled "Leonard Feist birthday album, numbers on the back of pictures reflect order in album
F. 9	Feist, Leonard, NMPA Delegation in Tokyo, 1983
F. 10	Feist, Leonard, National Music Publishers Association and Harry Fox Agency, undated
F. 11	Feist, Leonard, unidentified photos
F. 12	Feist, Leonard, unidentified photos
F. 13	Feist, Milton, 1979 August
F. 14	Goldman, Richard Franco, 1943
F. 15	Piston, Walter, 1943 Oct. 30 --includes other undated photos
F. 16	Rodger, Richard, undated
F. 17	Saver, Bob and Leonard Feist, undated
F. 18	Spivacke, Harold and Leonard Feist, undated
F. 19	Stravinsky, Igor, 1941 Mar. 8
F. 20	Tauhert, Rudolph; Morton Gould, Samuel Barber and Leonard Feist, undated
F. 21	Toch, Ernst, 1962 Dec. 18
F. 22	Weinberger, Jaromir, 1941 Nov. 3
F. 23	Wilder, Alec; Mabel Mercer; Cy Coleman; Lawrence Berk; Marian McPartland; Leonard Feist; Mrs. Lawrence Beck and Lee Eliot Berk, undated

Series IV: Articles and Speeches

BOX 4

Sub series 1: Articles	
F. 1	Copyright, 1976 July 4-1983 Oct. 30
F. 2	Copyright trial, 1979 August
F. 3	General Music, 1950 October-1954 July
F. 4	Laws, 1982
F. 5	Music publishing, 1966 August-1976
F. 6	Washington music office, undated
Subseries 2: Speeches	
F. 7	Boston graduation speech, undated
F. 8	Chiantia, Salvatore T. eulogy, 1985
F. 9	Compulsory license provisions in copyright legislation, c1985
F. 10	Copyright Revision '76 some random thought, 1976
F. 11	Music Publishers Consider '79 Goals, Prospects, 1979
F. 12	Music Publishers Face '83, 1983
F. 13	Music's Silent Subsidies, 1982
F. 14	Nashville Speech, 1969 April 15
F. 15	The National Music Publishers' Association luncheon, 1979 Mar. 15 --speech given by Jon Baumgarten
F. 16	The National Music Publishers' Association, 1983
F. 17	The National Music Publisher's Association/Harry Fox agency, undated
F. 18	N.F.M.C., 1968 Aug. 28
F. 19	N.F.M.C., 1966 Aug. 28 -- The Other World of American Music

Box/Folder	Description
	<u>Series IV cont.: Articles and Speeches</u>
F. 20	The role of the trade association in the copyright industries, 1986 Mar. 26
F. 21	Sigma Alpha Iota, 1971
F. 22	The Songwriter's 15% Solution, undated
F. 23	1981 - The Year of the Lawyer, 1981
F. 24	Untitled, undated --related to copyright
F. 25	1978 - Year One ACR, 1978

Series V: Clippings**BOX 5**

F. 1	Family Obits, 1941 Nov. 28-1975 May 21
F. 2	Feist, Leo, 1920 Jan. 31
F. 3	Feist, Leonard, c1923-1980 Nov. 4
F. 4	Gibson Girls, 1909 Jan. 10
F. 5	General music, 1926 Jan. 1-1986 Jan. 2
F. 7	Schuman, William, 1986 Jan. 2
F. 8	Tin Pan Alley, 1976 July 27-1977 Jan. 5

Series VI: Scores**BOX 6**

	Resident, A.
F. 1	<i>Mount Vernon</i> , undated --1 score (reproduction) Castling, Harry
F. 2	<i>His Lordship</i> , undated --1 score (reproduction) Cowell, Henry
F. 3	<i>Shoonthree</i> , undated --1 ms. full score Gretchminoff, A.
F. 4	<i>Petite Suite, piano, op. 176</i> , 1945 --1 score (reproduction) Ives, Charles
F. 5	<i>The Anti-Abolitionist Riots in Boston in the 1850s</i> , undated --1 score (reproduction) Piston, Walter
F. 6	<i>Passacaglia</i> , undated --1 score Strouse, Charles
F. 7	<i>Annie</i> , 1977 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction) Thomson, Virgil
F. 8	<i>Piano Sonata, no. 3</i> , 1943 --1 ms. score Weinberger, Jaromir
F. 9	<i>A Czech Rhapsody</i> , 1941 --1 ms. score

Series VII: Awards and Tributes**BOX 7**

F. 1	Certificate of membership to Phi Mu Alpha, 1958 July 30
F. 2	Music Publisher's Association, 1958 --laminated scroll
F. 3	National Federation of Music Clubs, 1965
F. 4	Tennessee Awards, 1966 Dec. 6-1983 Mar. 10
F. 5	Presidential photo and copy of Public Law 94-553, 1976 Oct. 19 -- inscribed and signed by Gerald Ford (related memorabilia in Box 9, F.1))
F. 6	National Music Council, 1979 June 6
F. 7	National Music Council, 1980 Dec. 12
F. 8	The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, 1980 Oct. 15
F. 9	Outstanding Example of Printing, 1981
F. 10	Ancient Order of the Samurai, 1983 Mar. 26

Box/Folder	Description
<u>Series VII cont.: Awards and Tributes</u>	
F. 11	Japanese calligraphy expressing deep appreciation, 1983 Mar. 29 -- includes telegram
F. 12	Copyright Society of the U.S.A., 1983 Nov. 4 --includes letter
F. 13	The Nashville Songwriters Association, 1983 Nov. 4
F. 14	The National Academy of Popular Music, 1986 Mar. 3 --includes program
F. 15	New York Sheet Music Society, 1991 May 11
BOX 8	
F. 1	Collage of presidential memorabilia, 1971 Oct. 15 --includes Public Law 92-140 and Richard Nixon pen
BOX 9	
F. 1	Collage of presidential memorabilia, 1976 Oct. 19 --includes Public Law 94-553, Gerald R. Ford pen, and signature (related memorabilia in Box 7, F. 5)
<u>Series VIII: Scrapbooks</u>	
BOX 10	
F. 1	Irving Berlin songbook and letter, 1976 Feb. 27 --songbook is inscribed, original letter located in correspondence series
BOX 11	
F. 1	Leonard Feist scrapbook, 1980 Dec. 12 -- includes award for Music Publishers Association and NMPA bulletin describing the birthday celebration
<u>Series IX: Oversized Materials</u>	
BOX 12	
F. 1	Advertisements for Feist Co., 1920 July - 1925 May 7
<u>Series IX: Oversized Materials</u>	
F. 2	Berlin, Irving painting and letter, 1980 Dec. 12 -- original letter located in correspondence series
F. 3	Clippings, 1926 Jan.
F. 4	Correspondence, 1984 Feb. 17