

A2181 Issy HEYMANN Papers  
HEYMANN, Isaac 1940 (1975-1989), papers, audio cassette, interview

The digitisation of the audio recording in this collection was made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Foundation in 2012

#### Access to digitised recording

The digital copy of the audio cassette may be accessed by contacting Historical Papers. Please refer to the Contacts on the Historical Papers website.

See heading G7 for the cassette

The reference/call number for the digital file is the number on the left of the entry.

Compiled by K. Green  
1990

#### Introduction

Issy Heymann was born on the 24th December 1910 in Lithuania. At the age of nineteen, in 1931, Issy arrived in South Africa. In 1935 he became an executive member of the Native Trade Assistance Union and in 1936 he joined the South African Communist Party. He was also a member of the Jewish Workers Club.

Issy Heymann fought during the Second World War and when the war ended he became a member of the Springbok Legion. After the Communist Party was banned in 1950 he became a member of the Congress of Democrats.

During the State of Emergency which was declared in 1960 Issy Heymann was detained for 90 days. He was arrested in 1966 and released in 1971.

Issy Heymann died in 1989.

#### Classification

- A Correspondence
- B Conferences
- C Notebooks
- D Unpublished Manuscripts
- E Poetry
- F Notes
- G Miscellaneous

A Correspondence 11 items  
Includes letters from family and friends.

B Conferences 1989 5 items  
Includes:  
Conference for A Democratic Future, 1989  
Address by Walter Sisulu at the National Welcome Back Rally. October 1989

C Notebooks 10 items  
C1 Essay on Prison Life. Written 11 November 1982  
C2 Essay on the life of political prisoners. Undated  
C3 Account of Issy Heymann's detention with Bram Fischer. Undated  
C4 Notes and Stories written in 1968  
C5 The Boss. An account of Heymann's early working life. Undated  
C6 Getting to Know Things. An account of Heymann's early life in Johannesburg. Undated  
C7 The Shop. Undated  
C8 Notes on Heymann's early life, Undated  
C9 Notes on Michael Dingake, a political prisoner. Undated  
C10 Notes on Heymann's childhood experiences. Written in 1984

D Unpublished Manuscript 20 items  
D1 Col Nidrei in Kelleem, 1910  
D2 First Day in Retirement. November 1988  
D3 Reminiscent of old Lithuania. June 1988  
D4 The A Team in Doornfontein. 1986  
D5 Another Potato Fritter Story, 1989  
D6 Can You throw More Light on the Subject, Undated  
D7 Phimeas and I, Undated  
D8 Kelern. 1975

D9 He did gather moss. Undated  
D10 Johanna. Undated  
D11 It does happen in the best of families. Undated  
D12 Essay on Sounds,  
D13 First impression and experiences in a "Native Shop,,  
D14 Prison Experiences. Undated  
D15 Discussion about the merits of Sport, April 1985  
D16 Trivia and Anxiety. Undated  
D17 Eli. 1954  
D18 Article on Prison Conditions\_ Undated  
D19 Every person who has experienced imprisonment  
D20 Early Life, Growth of Native Shops. The Boss.

E Poetry 19 items  
E1 Woodstock  
E2 Alsatian  
E3 Thanks for the Memory  
E4 If Poets Must have Flags by David Evans  
E5 the Sun  
E6 A Mother's Story  
E7 Tap, Tap  
E8 Flowers  
E9 Histrionics of a common law prisoner  
E10 Black is Beautiful  
E11 Rage  
E12 Judges  
E13 Maak oop die lick - flier kom die noordregulasies

F Notes 20 items  
Subjects include:  
Jews in Lithuania, prison conditions, linguistics, family, friends, etc.

G Miscellaneous  
G1 Congress of the People. Booklet 1955  
G2 Naturalisation, marriage and identification certificates  
G3 Newspaper article: 'Authors attack N.G. K "s Apartheid". 1951  
G4 Interview with Heymann by Colin Purkey. 1983  
G5 Christmas card from Carl Niehaus. 1989  
G6 Statement by the Executive Committee of the ANC, January 1989  
G7 Oral interview tape. Story told to Colin Purkey on Heymann's deathbed  
NOTE: The tapes in this collection have been digitised. Please refer to the list of digitised audio material on our website.