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## Inventory of the Naoum and Eugenia Blinder Papers, 1909-1988

### Collection number: ARCHIVES BLINDER 1

The Music Library

University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, California

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#### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Naoum and Eugenia Blinder Papers,

**Date (inclusive):** 1909-1988

**Collection number:** ARCHIVES BLINDER 1

**Creator:** Blinder, Naoum, 1889-1965

**Extent:** Number of containers: 1 carton, 1 oversize folder  
Linear feet: 1.25

**Repository:** The Music Library

Berkeley, California 94720-6000

**Shelf location:** For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

**Language:** English

#### Acquisition

The papers were given to the Music Library in three installments--September, 1981; October, 1981; and August, 1989.

#### Provenance

The first two installments of the Blinder Papers were from Mrs. Eugene Blinder; the last installment from the estate of Mrs. Eugene Blinder via the San Francisco Symphony.

#### Access

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Collection is open for research.

### **Publication Rights**

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Head of The Music Library.

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Naoum and Eugenia Blinder Papers, ARCHIVES BLINDER 1, The Music Library, University of California, Berkeley.

### **Biography**

Naoum Blinder, violinist and teacher, was born in Lutsk, Russia in 1889. He graduated from the Imperial Conservatory of Odessa at 14, where he studied with Alexander Fiedeman. From 1910 to 1913, he attended the Royal Manchester College of Music, where he studied with Adolph Brodsky. After graduation, he took up a teaching post at his alma mater, the Imperial Conservatory of Odessa, and remained there until 1920.

Blinder embarked on a concert tour in 1921. He gave concerts in the Ukraine, Turkestan, Leningrad, Moscow, and other cities. In 1926, Blinder went on a more extensive tour which included the Republic of Turkey, and Palestine, and returned to Russia by way of Siberia in January of 1927.

In 1928 Blinder (later joined by his wife and daughter) went on a concert tour in Japan which included 7 concerts in Tokyo alone, and 23 concerts in other cities of Japan. Instead of returning to Russia, he went to the United States (via Honolulu and San Francisco) to record for Columbia Records in New York. The Blinders remained in New York; Naoum taught at the Juilliard School between 1929 and 1931. It was around this time that his only daughter contracted tuberculosis and died at 13 years of age.

At the invitation of Issay Dobroven, Blinder accepted the concertmaster position at the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, where he played under Pierre Monteux and Enrique Jorda in addition to Dobroven. Blinder remained with the orchestra until 1957, when his failing eyesight forced him to retire. During his years with the SFSO, he was soloist with many orchestras around the country. He was one of the founders of the San Francisco String Quartet (1935), which was comprised of members of the orchestra, including his cellist brother, Boris.

Blinder was a dedicated teacher as well. His most noted student was Isaac Stern. At one time, he had 17 students in the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, and all the members of the first violin section of the Oakland Symphony Orchestra were Blinder students as well. Other noted students were David Abel, Austin Reller, and Glenn Dicterow, who was the concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic. Blinder died on November 21, 1965, of heart failure. He was 76 years old.

### **Scope and Content**

This collection contains materials for both Naoum and Eugenia Blinder; however, the majority of the materials concerns Naoum and his concert career. The types of materials include newspaper clippings of concert reviews, concert programs and posters, photographs of many professional musicians of his day, biographical documents such as naturalization papers, and a concert tape. The collection also includes photocopies of Blinder materials presently held at the American Jewish Archives. Some of the materials are duplicates of our holdings.

The materials are largely acquired in three installments. Two portions were acquired in the fall of 1981, donated by Eugenia Blinder. Eugenia Blinder left the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra her estate at her death in 1989. The San Francisco Symphony Orchestra subsequently donated more papers to the Music Library in August, 1989. (See Series I, folder 1 for more information.)

Numerous items have received conservation treatment. Newspaper clippings have been photocopied onto acid-free paper, scrapbooks are also dismantled and photocopied (though the original order was retained), photographs were also treated, and some items were encapsulated.

**Series I: Acquisition Correspondence.**

**Scope and Content Note**

**Arrangement**

Letters chronicling the acquisition of the collection, arranged in chronological order.

**Series II: Biographical Materials.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes naturalization papers and supporting documents, Manchester materials, obituaries, publicity press releases and other biographical documents such as awards.

**Series III: Concerts.**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series includes many newspaper clippings of concert reviews from Russia, Japan, Turkey, Israel, and the United States. The scrapbooks are also filled with newspaper reviews. (See also Series X).

**Series IV: Correspondence.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Letters from friends and colleagues.

**Series V: Blinder's students and friends.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Letters, newspaper clippings, and photographs of friends and students, including star pupil Isaac Stern.

**Series VI: Blinder's violin.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Appraiser's reports and photographs.

**Series VII: Photographs.**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series is divided into:

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**Naoum Blinder**

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes studio pictures as well as snapshots; all alone except one.

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**Pierre Monteux**

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes pictures of the Monteux school in Hancock, Maine, and family members of Monteux.

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**Signed studio pictures from friends and students.**

**Scope and Content Note**

If the only material on a student are pictures, they are arranged in this series. However, if there are letters as well as photographs, they are arranged under the series "Blinder's Students and Friends."

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**Other miscellaneous pictures.**

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**Series VIII: Blinder's music**

**Scope and Content Note**

One score with his fingerings.

**Series IX: Eugene Getzeld Blinder.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes an autobiography, various citizenship papers, photographs, and letters.

**Series X: American Jewish Archives.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Photocopies of materials from AJA, mostly newspaper clippings.

**Series 1: Acquisition Correspondence**

Folder 1

**Acquisition Correspondence**

**Physical Description:** 22 letters and memos

**Physical Description:** 1 newspaper clipping

**Physical Description:** 2 other items

**Scope and Content Note**

Correspondence regarding the acquisitions of various portions of the collection.

**Series 2: Biographical Materials**

Folder 1

**Immigration, 1928-1930**

**Physical Description:** 3 items

A statement (in English translation) from Moscow Conservatory stating that he was a professor of violin there from 1923 to September 1, 1927.

A letter from the Dean of the Juilliard School to the American Consul in Montreal, Canada.

A statement of his activities in the United States from January, 1928 to June, 1930.

Folder 2

**Manchester**

**Physical Description:** 7 items

4 documents (1910-1913) from The Royal Manchester College of Music pertaining to his studies there.

"Extracts from student register of (the) Royal Manchester College of Music"

History of the Royal Manchester College of Music (excerpts), mentioning Naoum Blinder.

"Extract from Annual Report of Royal Manchester College of Music, 1914."

Folder 3

**Other Biographical Materials**

**Physical Description:** 20 items

The Frank Mancini Music Teaching Award Certificate

A publicity release (biographical sketch)

Press Release No. 2, and No. 4

A script from KCBS radio station (San Francisco), dated July 26, 1957, announcing the retirement of Naoum Blinder from the San Francisco Symphony. Includes biographical sketch.

"*Naoum Blinder -- His Career*"

From *Famous Jewish Musicians* (p.321-322)

*International Musician* (January, 1947) --

**Additional Note**

Cover photo and article on Blinder

Incomplete clipping of article on Blinder. "The Remarkable Record fo the Symphony's Violin Teacher," *San Francisco Sunday Chronicle* (This World), January 14, 1962, page 26.

8 clippings from magazines and newspapers about Blinder.

Folder 3a

**Other Biographical Materials (Oversize) Ministere de l'Education Nationale Certificate**

Folder 4

**Obituaries (4 pages): Newspaper clippings.**

**Series III: Concerts**

- Folder 1            **Programs and Reviews, Russia, 1923-1926**  
**Physical Description:** 4 items  
**Physical Description:** 2 originals
- Folder 1a           **Programs and Reviews, Russia**  
**Physical Description:** Oversize, 2 items
- Folder 2            **Concert Posters.**  
**Programs and Reviews, Tel Aviv, 1926**  
**Physical Description:** 2 items  
**Physical Description:** 1 original
- Folder 3            **Programs and Reviews, Turkey, 1926-1927**  
**Physical Description:** 3 items  
**Physical Description:** 2 originals
- Folder 4            **Programs and Reviews, Japan, 1927**  
**Physical Description:** 17 items  
**Physical Description:** 10 originals
- Folder 5            **Programs and Reviews, United States**  
**Physical Description:** 20 items  
**Physical Description:** 12 originals  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes programs for San Francisco String Quartet. Also includes English translations of Foreign Press Reviews.
- Folder 5a           **Programs and Reviews, United States**  
**Physical Description:** Oversize, 2 items
- Folder 6            **Posters, New York.**  
**Scrapbook 1. Reviews of concerts from various stages of Blinder's career.**  
**Physical Description:** 59 pages of acid-free photocopies with 2 original inserts  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes an autographed program by Alexander Glazunov; an article on Pierre Monteux in the May, 1975 San Francisco Symphony Orchestra program.
- Folder 7            **Original of scrapbook 1 without inserts.**
- Folder 8            **Scrapbook 2 -- Original and acid-free photocopy (22 pp.)**
- Folder 9            **Tapes (3)-- Concert tapes with Fresno Philharmonic**

**Series IV: Correspondence**

Folder 1

**Letters and telegrams**

**A. Letters from Isaac Stern**

**Physical Description:** (3 letters)

**12-30-1939.**

**Physical Description:** 2 pp. typescript.

**11-9-1955.**

**Physical Description:** 2 pp. typescript.

**No date. Hobart, Tasmania.**

**Physical Description:** 7 pp.

**B. From others**

**Physical Description:** (19 items)

**Bloch, Ernest. 3-3-1945.**

**Physical Description:** 2 pp.

**Bobchinsky, Isaac and Shura. Telegram. 2-5-1958.**

**Busse, Phyllis. 1-13-1946.**

**Physical Description:** 1 p.

**Forbes, Robert J. 11-24-1925.**

**Physical Description:** 4 pp.

**Forbes, Robert J. 1-24-1930.**

**Physical Description:** 10 pp.

**Forbes, Robert J. 9-3-1950.**

**Physical Description:** 2 pp.

**Gaucheron, Roger. 12-1-1938.**

**Physical Description:** 1 p.

**Hapgood, Elizabeth. 3-30-1928.**

**Physical Description:** 1 p.

**Monteagle, Kenneth. 12-18-1957. 1 p. And reply from Blinder. 12-27-1957.**

**Physical Description:** 1 p. (and acid-free xerox)

**Monteux, Pierre. 3-6-1958.**

**Physical Description:** 2 pp.

**[Monteux, Pierre.] Letter from Charlotte, sister of Mrs. Monteux, describing the last illness of Pierre Monteux. [June 1964]**

**Physical Description:** 3 pp.

**Nimitz, Admiral Chester W. 4-20-1963.**

**Physical Description:** Card.

**Oistrakh, David. 2-1-1960. 2 pp. In Russian**

**Oistrakh, David. 6-23-1962.**

**Physical Description:** Post card. In Russian.

**Schumann-Heink, Henry. 2-23-1949.**

**Physical Description:** 1 p.

**Scope and Content Note**

With a copy of a letter from Howard Skinner to Schumann-Heink, complimenting Naoum Blinder. 2-23-1949. 1 p.

**Shostakovich, Dmitri. 1-7-1961.**

**Physical Description:** 2 pp. In Russian.

**Spitalny, Leopold. No date.**

**Physical Description:** 2 pp.

**Scope and Content Note**

Copy of text of a telegram, with text of the reply from Blinder.

**Series V: Blinder's Students and Friends**

- Folder 1            **General**
- Physical Description:** 2 photocopies  
**Physical Description:** 2 originals  
**Physical Description:** 1 photograph  
**Physical Description:** 4 snapshots
- Folder 2            **Brown, William Howard -- A log of his Russian tour August-September, 1960.**
- Physical Description:** 27 pp.
- Folder 3            **Dicterow, Glenn**
- Physical Description:** 3 photocopies of newspaper items  
**Physical Description:** photograph of Blinder and Dicterow.
- Folder 4            **Mana-Zucca**
- Physical Description:** 1 recording  
**Physical Description:** 1 autographed printed score
- Folder 5            **Reller, Austin**
- Physical Description:** 1 recording  
**Physical Description:** 1 newspaper clipping  
**Physical Description:** 1 signed photograph
- Folder 6            **Sheinfeld, David**
- Physical Description:** 1 score, 30 pp. Sonata for violin alone.
- Folder 7            **Stern, Isaac (1950s to 1989) Article on Stern in *Horizon*, outside folder 7.**
- Physical Description:** 6 photocopies of newspaper clippings  
**Physical Description:** 29 photograph/greetings cards  
**Physical Description:** 9 small b/w photographs (smaller than 4.5" x 6"), including 3 pictures of Blinder and Stern.  
**Physical Description:** 1 medium photograph of Stern and Blinder.  
**Physical Description:** 4 large b/w photographs (some with Blinder).  
**Physical Description:** 3 color photographs of Stern and Mrs. Blinder  
**Physical Description:** 1 letter from San Francisco Symphony thanking Mrs. Blinder for lending the Stern pictures for the May 1987 program.
- Folder 7a           **Stern, Isaac**
- Physical Description:** Oversize, 1 item  
Signed photograph of a young Isaac Stern.

**Series VI: Blinder's Violin**

Folder 1      **7 small and 3 large color photographs of the violin**  
**9 documents regarding appraisals, etc.**

**Series VII: Photographs**

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**Naoum Blinder-Some with Mrs. Blinder**

- Folder 1            **Large Studio Portraits, 13, 1 with Mrs. Blinder**
- Scope and Content Note**
- Includes one early portrait from Odessa (mounted) Medium sized photographs (3)
- Small b/w photographs of N. Blinder (4)**
- Small color photographs with Eugenia Blinder (3)**
- Pencil drawings of Naoum Blinder (2)**
- Oversized studio portrait of Naoum Blinder**
- Folder 2            **San Francisco Quartet**
- Physical Description:** 3 small photograph
- Physical Description:** 1 medium photographs
- Physical Description:** 8 large photographs
- Folder 2a           **San Francisco Quartet**
- Physical Description:** 2 oversized caricatures
- Folder 3a           **San Francisco Sumphony Orchestra**
- Physical Description:** 1 oversized photo
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**Signed Studio Photographs (29)**

- Folder 4            **Abel, David (3)**
- Blair, Zena (2)**
- Chavez, Carlos**
- Fiedler, Arthur**
- Heifetz, Jascha**
- Joffa, Betty (2) (signed Kee Coleman)**
- Kantor, Gerhard**
- Kozojian(?), Robert**
- Kraus, Lily**
- Monteux, Doris**
- Monteux, Pierre**
- Nugata, George**
- Piatigorsky, Gregor**
- Riedel, Ernestine**
- Rodzinski, Arthur**
- Rose, Kent**
- Skalar, Sabrina(?)**
- Szigeti, Joseph**
- Szeryng, Henryk**
- Tressel, Williard**
- Vannin, Luisa**
- Walter, Bruno**
- Linda**
- Norma**
-

Val

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**Pierre Monteux**

**Scope and Content Note**

Photographs of Pierre Monteux, his family, friends, and the Monteux School in Hancock, Maine.

Folder 5

**Large photographs (8)  
Medium photographs**

**Physical Description:** (6 b/w, 2 color)

**Scope and Content Note**

Color pictures include Bruno Walter.

**Small photographs --Monteux School.  
18 photographs of Monteux School in Hancock, Maine.  
6 photographs marked "On the way to Hancock, Maine"**

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**Miscellaneous (small, 32 items)**

Folder 6

**7 items -- picture with brother Boris (a cellist), picture with Arthur Fiedler.  
4 items -- picture with Howard Skinner and others Igor Stravinsky (1)  
Andres Segovia (1)  
"George [Nugata?] and Margaret ..."  
12 items of Eugenia Blinder and the scenery  
6 miscellaneous items**

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**Miscellaneous (10 large and 1 duplicate small picture)**

Folder 7

**Kimber Award (for best teaching)  
With Yehudi Menuhin  
With David Abel, Arthur Fiedler, etc. (3)  
With Bruno Walter (1 large, 1 small)  
With Enrique Gorda  
With an unidentified person  
Group picture (from Buenos Aires)**

Folder 7a

**Unidentified woman violinist  
  
Physical Description: (oversize)**

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**Series VIII: Music**

Folder 1

**Music owned by Blinder**

**Scope and Content Note**

A volume of Beethoven's violin sonatas with Blinder's fingerings.

**Series IX: Eugenia Getzeld Blinder**

- Folder 1      **Biographical Materials.**  
Autobiographical essay  
Newspaper clipping on Mrs. Blinder and Isaac Stern  
**Documents:**  
    Birth Certificate (1)  
    Daughter's (Yelena) birth certificate and synagogue document (2)  
    Citizenship papers (2)  
**Homemade recordings (2)**  
Interview with George Hellyer, her attorney,  
  
**Physical Description:** cassette tape  
  
**Additional Note**  
See also letter in Acquisition File (I:1).  
  
**Photographs**  
    1 group picture  
    3 with student  
Photograph with Mrs. Chikaring  
"Song"  
  
**Additional Note**  
(undated lyrics of a song)  
  
**2 unidentified studio portraits, possibly a young Eugenia Getzeld, or Yelena, their daughter.**  
  
**Additional Note**  
One of the portraits was kept on the family piano.
- Folder 2      **Condolence Letters (18)**  
**Telegrams (2)**
- Folder 3      **Other Correspondence**  
    Carmi, Celine (1) of Jerusalem Music Centre. 9-7-1980.  
    Commanday, Robert (1). 8-4-1980.  
    Pease, June (1). "Credo"  
    Stern, Isaac (2) 4-9-1985 regarding appraisal of Naoum Blinder's violin; and 5-16-1985 regarding his concert tours.  
    Stern, Vera (2) one note undated; one letter thanks Mrs. Blinder for attending Isaac Stern's birthday concert in Jerusalem in July 1980.  
    Postcard (1) from Margaret and Ken. Postmarked 2-28-89.  
    Postcards (11), miscellaneous.
- Folder 4      **Alexen, Vladimir and Tamara**  
    Certificates of Citizenship (2)  
    Certificate of Marriage (1)  
    Certificate of Death (1) -- Vladimir Alexen  
    Miscellaneous items (3)  
    13 photographs
- Folder 5      **Photographs (5) Possibly photographs of family from Russia**
- Folder 6      **Miscellaneous documents**  
  
**Physical Description:** (3 items [with 2 originals documents], and 2 photographs)-- folder originally marked "Mrs. Blinder."

**Series X: American Jewish Archives**

Folder 1

**Photocopies of the Blinder materials at the American Jewish Archives.**