

**MINTESS, LEWIS M. (LEWIS MEADE), 1895-1982.**  
**Lewis M. Mintess papers, 1942-1959**

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Mintess, Lewis M. (Lewis Meade), 1895-1982.  
**Title:** Lewis M. Mintess papers, 1942-1959  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1361  
**Extent:** .5 linear feet (1 box)  
**Abstract:** Papers of Lewis M. Mintess, African American representative to the Pennsylvania state legislature, including correspondence, invitations, photographs, programs, speeches, and other items documenting his political career.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

**Source**

Purchase, 2016

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Lewis M. Mintess papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Processing**

Arranged and described at the folder level by Sarah Quigley, May 2016.

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## **Collection Description**

### **Biographical Note**

Lewis Meade Mintess (1895-1982) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Lewis Meade and Sarah (Ross) Mintess. He attended Downingtown Independent School (Downingtown, Pennsylvania) and Lincoln University (Lincoln, Pennsylvania). He studied medicine at the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) and during World War I served in the 813th Infantry, Medical Detachment. After the war, he worked as a typist in the Philadelphia County office of the recorder of deeds and the City of Philadelphia receiver of taxes department. He was active in the state Republican Party and was chair of the 7th Ward Republican Executive Committee. In 1942, he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives; he was re-elected in 1946, 1948, and 1950. As a legislator, he was appointed to the Joint Legislative Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Child Welfare. He died on July 24, 1982.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of Lewis M. Mintess from 1942-1959 and includes correspondence, invitations, photographs, programs, speeches, and other items documenting Mintess' political career in Pennsylvania. Correspondence is primarily comprised of letters thanking Mintess for his support of various bills, congratulating him after successful elections, and thanking him for his service during legislative sessions. One letter dated February 28, 1943 and written by an anonymous white Philadelphian, expresses the wish that legislation to prohibit racial discrimination in labor unions, co-sponsored by Mintess, be defeated and warns Mintess that he will be forgotten during the next election cycle for abandoning the white voters who elected him. Invitations, programs, and event tickets predominately document government dinners and events. Speeches and speech fragments are unattributed but were likely given by Mintess, including one speech expressing his dismay that a fair labor practices bill, passed by the House in 1951, was defeated in the Senate. Some items in the collection appear to have been removed from a scrapbook. In cases where two letters were glued to one scrapbook page, they are arranged according to the date of the earliest letter.

### **Arrangement Note**

Arranged in alphabetical order.

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## Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	1	Better Philadelphia Exhibition, 1947
1	2	Calendar, 1948
1	3	Certificate of election, 1942
1	4	Clippings, circa 1943
1	5	Correspondence, Anna Mintess, 1933 and 1945
1	6	Correspondence, Lewis M. Mintess, undated
1	7	Correspondence, Lewis M. Mintess, 1940-1943
1	8	Correspondence, Lewis M. Mintess, 1944-1953
1	9	Duff, James H. (Governor), inauguration schedule, 1947
1	10	Event tickets, 1943-1947
1	11	Fliers, circa 1943-1948
1	12	House Bill 384, an act to prohibit racial discrimination in labor unions, 1943
1	13	Invitations, 1942-1953
1	14	Letterhead, undated
1	15	"List for 7th ward," undated
1	16	Martin, Edward (Governor), speeches, 1943-9144
1	17	Motion to approve the Journal, undated
1	18	Pennsylvania House of Representatives seating chart, 1943
1	19	Pennsylvania State Library borrower's card, 1943
1	20	Poem, "Soldiers in Burma," undated
1	21	Photographs, undated
1	22	"Prices [of whiskey] in the various monopoly states," undated
1	23	Proclamation of special legislative session, 1944
1	24	Programs, 1943-1959
1	25	Republican party sample ballot with unidentified notes on verso, 1944
1	26	Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania organizational chart, undated
1	27	Speeches and speech fragments, undated
1	28	"State Resolution on World Federation: A Declaration of Principles," undated
1	29	Unidentified secretarial service, list of duties, undated

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