Judaica Sound Archives at FAU receives recordings collection

The Judaica Sound Archives (JSA) at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Libraries has received a gift of 4,408 Judaica recordings, many of them rare and in mint condition, from the family of the late Dr. Harold Kahn, of Toledo, Ohio. The collection is the largest and best preserved collection received by the JSA, which houses more than 94,000 tracks of recorded music on FAU’s Boca Raton campus.

"Many of the LPs were still sealed in cellophane, and the 78s still snugged in their original paper sleeves," said JSA Founder and Director Nathan Tinanoff. "It is amazing to see 78s produced between 1910 and the 1930s in mint condition."

In addition to the quality and the rarity of the recordings, the collection is comprehensive and includes cantorial, Israeli and Yiddish music.

"This collection contained recordings that we didn't even know existed," Tinanoff said. "Our JSA collection has grown in both size and quality as a result of this gift."

For 60 years, Kahn collected Jewish music and humor albums, as well as classical music, finding treasures in record stores wherever he traveled.

"Harold's passion for the music he collected was sharing it with his family and friends," said his widow, Dorothy Kahn.

The Kahns' children, Linda Weingart, David Kahn and Nancy Lindauer, decided to donate their father's lifelong collection of recordings after their mother moved into a smaller home.

For more information about the Kahn collection or the JSA, call Tinanoff at (561) 297-2207, or Dr. Maxine Schackman at (561) 297-3765. Visit www.fau.edu/jsa for additional information or to listen to the music.

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