

## **MS 2526 Papers of Constance Davis, 20th century**

### **Administrative History**

Constance Bella Davis was born in Birmingham into a Jewish family on 12 June 1917. At the time of her birth, her family was living at 273, Great Colmore St, Edgbaston; her parents are listed on her birth certificate as David Papowich, a journeyman tailor, and Esther Papowich (nee Cohen). According to the executor of her will, the family came to Birmingham from Russia and Poland.

Constance Davis was the youngest of three children. The eldest in the family, Rose (or 'Sis' to Constance Davis), 'the family queen', a 'forceful character with a liking for clothes and a facility with the piano', was born on 22 February 1901; next came Harry, 'the kindest and dearest of brothers', born in 1909; and finally, in 1917, Constance, 'a bubble of fun' and the perennial baby of the family. Constance Davis and her sister changed their names by deed poll in 1948; they had been using the name Davis for some time before this. Constance changed her surname only, becoming Constance Bella Davis instead of Constance Bella Papowich; Rose became Betty Rose Davis instead of Rebecca Rose Papowich.

A family tree in the collection gives some information about Constance Davis's extended family: according to this, her mother's parents Amelia Bandell and Alexander Cohen were married at Singers Hill Synagogue, Birmingham in c. 1878. They had three children: Emmy; Annie, who married Mr Gillman and had two children, Rosie and Dorothy; and the youngest, Esther, Constance Davis's mother, born in 1879, who married David Leib (Lewis) Papowich in c. 1900.

On her father's side, the tree lists David Papowich's parents as Mona and Mattisyahu Papowich.

Neither Constance nor Rose married; their brother Harry married Lilian Cohen on 24 December 1939 and they had one daughter, Leslie.

The earliest information about the family comes from a group of letters written by Constance Davis's mother Esther to her sister Rose during the Second World War, beginning in early 1941 and ending in 1943. Constance and her mother, with Harry and his wife Lilian, have moved out of Birmingham to Hereford, leaving Rose in Birmingham. Esther describes their search for accommodation in Hereford, mentions that Constance is working in munitions, and confides in Rose about her distress at not being able to cook kosher food.

Constance Davis's diaries for the years 1945-46 give an insight into her social life, her work, her interest in fashion, and her family life. Around 1946, she began working for the Post Office, eventually becoming a supervisor.

In 1948, the family was living at 9, Bournbrook Rd, Selly Park; they were still there in 1962. By 1948, Constance Davis's father David had died. In 1951, she visited Paris; this was the first of many trips abroad, and the large collection of holiday photographs in the archive includes trips to India, Thailand, Tenerife, Israel, and Switzerland, often with her close friend Frances Cohen.

Most of the rest of the archive dates from the years following Constance Davis's retirement in 1977. As well as the holiday photographs, it contains a large collection of pictures of family

and friends, some dating from the 19th century. Apart from Frances Cohen, who was like a sister, other close friends included Ben Tossman, some ten years her senior, and her cousin Dorothy Gillman, whose papers are catalogued as MS 2525.

Constance Davis's mother Esther died in 1967 at the age of 88. In 1977, Constance Davis retired from her job at the Post Office, having worked there for over 31 years.

Her brother Harry died on 9 February 1981, following an accident.

By 1990, Constance and Rose were living together at 30 Dollery Drive, Priory Rd, Edgbaston, Birmingham B5, the address given on Rose's death certificate.

Constance Davis's last years were overshadowed by depression, following the loss of her close friends and family: her sister Rose died on 26 March 1993; Frances Cohen at the end of 1992/c. 1993 and Ben Tossman in 1999.

In 2000, she moved from Dollery Drive to sheltered housing at 1, Silverstone Court, River Brook Drive. Her health failed in 2000, and she went into hospital several times before her death in the Selly Oak Hospital on 5 July 2000. She was buried in the Jewish cemetery at Witton.

Information from notes written by the executor of Constance Davis's will (see MS 2526/E/1/2).

Family photographs, some 19th-century, holiday photographs, letters, diaries, greetings cards and other personal papers belonging to Constance Davis and her family and friends. The collection includes birth and death certificates and correspondence between her executor and her solicitor following her death in 2000. This is one of several collections deposited by the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation. Most of the material deposited relates to Singers Hill Synagogue (JA), but there is also a small collection of records from the New Synagogue, Park Road (JB), which merged with Singers Hill in 1997. The archive also contains records of the Birmingham Jewish Arts Society (MS 2520), Birmingham Youth Council (MS 2522), Young Israel Council (MS 2523), Birmingham Shechita Board (MS 2529), Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid Society (MS 2539), and the personal papers of the historian Zoe Josephs (MS 2524). The personal papers of Dorothy Gillman (MS 2525) and Constance Davis (MS 2526) were also deposited by the Congregation.

Other collections held by Birmingham City Archives which may be of interest include Birmingham and District War Refugees Fund (MS 652), which includes minute books, registration forms, and correspondence, and may include information about Jewish refugees; records of Henry Yeoville Thomason (MS 1460), which include architectural drawings of Singers Hill Synagogue; personal papers of CB Lander (1904-1989), including family papers about naturalization, Jewish friends, and Jewish affairs and history (MS 1515); microfilms of minutes of the Birmingham Hebrew Philanthropic Society, the Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid and Clothing Society, the Ladies Benevolent Board, and the Board of Guardians (MS 1678); and papers of Dr Carl Chinn (MS 1902), which contain some material about the Jewish community in Birmingham, including several autobiographies.

Birmingham Central Library Local Studies and History holds material about the Jewish community including a set of Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Yearbooks, 1913-1971; an Order of Service held to celebrate the opening of the Birmingham Hebrew School at St Luke's

Rd, Edgbaston, May 1, 1932.

Access: Partially closed. See individual items.

Copyright: Unknown unless otherwise specified.

Condition is good unless otherwise specified.

### **MS 2526/A Family photographs, 20th century**

#### **MS 2526/A/1 Group of photographs,n.d. [1950s-late 20th century]**

- |                  |   |                      |
|------------------|---|----------------------|
| MS<br>2526/A/1/1 | <p><u>Photograph of a bride and groom</u><br/>         Photograph of a bride and groom, labelled on the reverse 'To Auntie Esther, Rose, and Connie With love from [Jean] and Martin<br/>         Access: Closed until 01/01/2041.<br/>         Extent: 1 Photograph</p>  | n.d. [1950s - 1960s] |
| MS<br>2526/A/1/2 | <p><u>Photographs of Constance Davis</u><br/>         /1-4 Envelope labelled 'Photos of me' containing four black and white photographs of Constance Davis, with negatives, 1960s?; /5 photograph of Constance Davis as a young woman, n.d; /6 photographic postcard of Constance Davis on holiday, n.d; /7 photographic postcard of Constance Davis in a bridesmaid's dress, n.d.<br/>         Access: Open.<br/>         Extent: 1 File</p> | n.d. [               |
| MS<br>2526/A/1/3 | <p><u>Photographs of Constance Davis and guests at her birthday party</u><br/>         Access: Open.<br/>         Extent: 1 File</p>  | late 20th century    |
| MS<br>2526/A/1/4 | <p><u>Passport photographs of Constance Davis</u><br/>         Access: Open.<br/>         Extent: 1 Photograph</p>  | late 20th century    |

#### **MS 2526/A/2 Group of photographs,Late 19th - early 20th cent.**

- |                  |   |                              |
|------------------|---|------------------------------|
| MS<br>2526/A/2/1 | <p><u>Photograph of two men wearing prayer shawls and holding a document</u><br/>         The man on the left of the picture may be David Papowich (later known as David Davis), Constance Davis's father.<br/>         Access: Open.<br/>         Extent: 1 Photograph</p> | Late 19th - early 20th cent. |
| MS<br>2526/A/2/2 | <p><u>Photograph of a man wearing a prayer shawl and holding a book</u><br/>         This may be David Papowich, later known as Davis Davis, Constance Davis's father.<br/>         Access: Open.<br/>         Extent: 1 Photograph</p>                                     | Late 19th - early 20th cent. |

MS 2526/A/2/3	<u>Photograph of a bride and groom</u> This is probably a photograph of Constance Davis's parents, David Papowich, later David Davis, and Esther Papowich, later Esther Davis. Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	Late 19th - early 20th cent.
MS 2526/A/2/4	<u>Photograph of a young woman</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	Late 19th - early 20th cent.
MS 2526/A/2/5	<u>Photograph of a young woman</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	Late 19th - early 20th cent.
MS 2526/A/2/6	<u>Photograph of an old lady, seated, holding a book</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	Late 19th - early 20th cent.
MS 2526/A/2/7	<u>Photograph of a middle-aged woman</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	Late 19th - early 20th cent.
MS 2526/A/2/8	<u>Photographic postcard of a young child</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photographic postcard	Late 19th - early 20th cent.
MS 2526/A/2/9	<u>Photographic postcard of a young child</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	Late 19th - early 20th cent.
MS 2526/A/2/10	<u>Photograph of a young girl wearing a white dress and large bonnet</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	Late 19th - early 20th cent.
MS 2526/A/2/11	<u>Photograph of a young girl in a white frilly dress wearing a large white hat</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	Late 19th - early 20th cent.
MS 2526/A/2/12	<u>Photograph of a young girl in a white dress, possibly Rose Davis</u> Labelled 'Rose D' on the back of the photograph. Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> cent.

**MS 2526/A/2/13 Group of miscelleaneous items,1910 -- [1960]**

MS 2526/A/2/13/1	<u>Photograph album</u> Various group and individual photographs of the Davis/Papowich family. Access: Open. Extent: 1 Album	n.d. [1920-1960]
MS 2526/A/2/13/2	<u>Press cutting about a doll dressing competition</u> Press cutting from the Yorkshire Post of an article about Mrs E. Gladstone, aged 84, who won a prize in a doll dressing competition. Access: Open. Extent: 1 Item	1956
MS 2526/A/2/13/3	<u>Letter from Wolfe to Esther</u> Letter written from [HMS] Impregnable, Devonport and signed 'your affectionate Brother, Wolfe'. Access: Open. Extent: 1 Item	11 October 1910
MS 2526/A/2/14	<u>Photograph of Rose Davis</u> Labelled on the back 'To dear Annie sincerely Yours Betty Rose 28-8-18' Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	28 August 1918
MS 2526/A/2/15	<u>Photograph of three women</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2041. Extent: 1 Colour print	n.d. [1960?]
MS 2526/A/2/16	<u>Photograph of an old lady</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	n.d. [1960s?]
MS 2526/A/2/17	<u>Photograph of a woman sitting in a garden</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	mid-20th century
MS 2526/A/3	<u>Group of photographs</u> /1 Photographic postcard, possibly of David Papowich, later known as David Davis, n.d.; /2 colour photograph of an old lady in a garden holding a cat, n.d.; /3 photographic postcard of a small child, taken in a studio, annotated on the back in Yiddish, n.d.; /4 colour photograph of an old lady and a younger lady in a garden, n.d. [1960s] (closed until 1/01/2041); /5 colour photograph of two old ladies, taken in a garden, n.d. [1960s?]; /6-7 two photographs of a small child, n.d. (closed until 1/01/2081); /8 photograph of a man wearing a prayer shawl and holding a book, n.d. [late 19th-early 20th century]; /9 photograph of a young girl wearing a white lacy dress, taken in a studio, n.d. [Late	late 19th century - 1960s

19th - early 20th cent.].

Access: Partially closed until 01/01/204101/01/2081.

Extent: 9 Photographs

#### **MS 2526/A/4 Photographs, letters, and invitations,1939 - 2000**

Various family photographs, letters, and other documents including /3 invitation to the wedding of Harry Davis and Lilian Cohen, 1939; /4 letter to Constance Davis from Queenie and Syd, 2000; /5 framed photograph of an elderly man, possibly David Papowich, n.d.; /7 group of photographs filed together in a folder labelled 'with a few added remarks by yours sincerely' including a photograph taken during a concert party aboard HMS Princess Royal, n.d.

#### **MS 2526/A/5 Group of photographs,early - mid 20th century**

Various family photographs filed together in an envelope labelled 'To Cousins Rose and Connie (with love from Dorothy)' including /2 photograph of a bride and groom labelled 'with love from Hymie and Rose', n.d.; /9 photograph of Rose Davis, 1929; /15 photograph of a man in uniform taken in a studio and labelled 'Trimulgherry, India', n.d.; /18 photograph of a small child taken in a studio labelled 'Harry - growing up', n.d.

#### **MS 2526/A/6 Group of photographs,early 20th century - mid-20th century**

MS 2526/A/6/1	<u>Folder of black and white family snapshots</u> Various black and white photographs of Constance Davis, Rose Davis, and other members of their family. Access: Partially closed until 01/01/2080. Extent: 1 File	n.d. [1960s- 1970s?]
MS 2526/A/6/2	<u>Two photographs of Rose Davis and Constance Davis</u> Access: Open. Extent: 2 Photographs	late 20th century
MS 2526/A/6/3	<u>Black and white photograph of a young woman, taken in a studio</u> This may be a photograph of Rose Davis. Access: Open. Extent: 1 Photograph	early 20th century - mid- 20th century
MS 2526/A/7	<u>Various documents associated with Constance Davis's brother Harry Davis</u> /1 Various birthday cards to Constance Davis from Harry Davis, late 20th century; /2-/3, /5 photographs of Harry Davis's wedding to Lilian Cohen, taken by Ernest Dyche, 1939; /4 typed copy of a classified announcement in memory of Harry Davis, posted in the Birmingham Jewish Recorder, 1984. Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	n.d.
MS 2526/A/8	<u>Various documents associated with Harry Davis</u> /1-/3 photographs of Harry Davis; /4-/5 two copies of a poem about Harry Davis by Constance Davis, n.d.; /6	late 20th century

press cuttings from the Jewish Chronicle and Birmingham Mail announcing Harry Davis's death, 1981.

Access: Open.

Extent: 6 Items

### **MS 2526/A/9 Group of photographs, mid-20th century**

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|------------------|--|--|
| MS<br>2526/A/9/1 | <p><u>Group of photographs</u><br/>/1 note, probably from Dorothy Gillman, apologising for the delay in sending the photographs, 1967; /2 photograph of a young girl labelled on the back "To Auntie Esther, With love from Leslie', n.d.; /3-/5 photographs of a wedding, n.d.<br/>Access: Closed until 01/01/2046.<br/>Extent: 5 Photographs</p>   | 1967                                       |
| MS<br>2526/A/9/2 | <p><u>Two photographs</u><br/>Photograph of a young woman and photograph of a baby, mid-20th century<br/>Access: Closed until 01/01/2046.<br/>Extent: 2 Photographs</p>  | mid 20th<br>century                        |
| MS 2526/A/10     | <p><u>Various photographs of children</u><br/>Access: Closed until 01/01/2100.<br/>Extent: 1 File</p>  | late 20th<br>century                       |
| MS 2526/A/11     | <p><u>Group of family photographs</u><br/>/1 Black and white photograph of Constance Davis, Rose Davis, and other members of their family sitting at a table during a party, n.d. [1960s-1970s?]; /2 photograph of a woman sitting in a garden, possibly of Esther Davis, Constance Davis's mother, n.d. [1960s?]; /3 framed photograph of a seated woman wearing a suit, possibly Esther Davis, n.d.; /4 photograph of three women and a man in uniform, possibly Constance Davis, Esther Davis, Harry Davis, and Lilian Davis, 1940s?; /5 group of photographs including photographs of Harry Davis and Esther Davis and Constance Davis on holiday, n.d.<br/>Access: Open.<br/>Extent: 1 File</p> | mid-20th<br>century - late<br>20th century |
| MS 2526/A/12     | <p><u>Various photographs of Constance Davis, her family and friends</u><br/>/1-/2 photographs of a group of elderly people on a visit, possibly to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, late 20th century; /3 envelope of photographs labelled 'Photos of Sis Dora and Frances'; /4 envelope labelled 'Photo of Frances Dora and Me', late 20th century; /5 Photograph of Constance Davis, Frances Cohen, and another friend sitting outside on a garden bench, labelled 'Rake Way</p>   | late 20th<br>century                       |

1989', 1989; /6 photograph of a small girl and a baby, 1994 (closed).

Access: Closed until 01/01/2095. MS 2526/A/12/6 has been withdrawn and closed.

Extent: 1 File

### **MS 2526/A/13 Various photographs, mid 20th century - late 20th century**

/1 folder containing two photographs of Constance Davis, n.d.; /2 photograph of Constance and Rose Davis with two small girls holding paper parasols, 3 July 1949 (closed until 01/01/2050); /3 folder of photographs labelled 'Photos of Lloyd, Rosie, Dorothy, Big Harry, also club outings', n.d.; /4 folder of photographs of Constance Davis on holiday, n.d.; /5 folder labelled 'Photos of Mom and Pop' containing photographs of Esther Davis, David Papowich, Constance Davis, and other unidentified photographs, n.d.; /6 folder of photographs of Constance Davis and Frances Cohen on holiday, n.d.; /7 two wedding photographs, one annotated 'with best wishes, Queenie and Syd', n.d.; Photograph of a seated woman in a suit, labelled 'MOM', probably of Esther Davis, n.d.; /9 folder of photographs of Constance Davis on holiday, n.d.; /10 folder of Constance Davis and Frances Cohen on holiday, n.d.; /12 group of photographs: 12/1 photograph of a man wearing a suit holding a hat and a cane, possibly David Papowich, later David Davis, n.d.; 12/2 photograph of a group of people standing in the street in the centre a boy holds up a blackboard showing the number 326, n.d.; 12/3 photograph of a cat; 12/4 photograph of Constance Davis as a young woman, n.d.; /13 photograph of Constance Davis as a young woman and two photographs of young children (closed until 01/01/2080); /14 three photographs of Rose Davis in old age, late 20th century; /15 folder of photographs of Constance Davis on holiday, probably late 20th century; /16 folder of photographs of Frances Cohen and Constance Davis on holiday, n.d.; /17 photograph of a woman and a young girl taken in a studio, Late 19th - early 20th cent.; /18 photographic postcard of a man dressed in a suit, wearing a hat and white shoes, n.d.; /19 folder of holiday photographs of Constance Davis, n.d.; /20 folder of holiday photographs of Constance Davis, n.d.; /21 photographs of Rose Davis and Constance Davis with two small girls holding parasols, probably 1949.

Access: Partially closed until 01/01/2050, and 01/01/2080.

### **MS 2526/A/14 Various family photographs, early 20th century - mid-20th century**

Includes: /1 envelope labelled 'Cuttings Mom' containing a photograph of a young woman, probably Esther Davis and a man, probably David Papowich, later David Davis, with press cuttings announcing the death of Esther Davis, 1968; framed photographs, probably of Harry Davis, David Papowich, and Esther Davis, n.d.; /3 photograph of a wedding group including Constance Davis as a bridesmaid, n.d.; /4 closed until 1/01/2078; /5 press cutting announcing the death of Rosie Dancyger, n.d.; /6 press cutting obituary of Isaac Radom, n.d.; /9 envelope containing a birthday card labelled 'Birthday card from Mom to Auntie Annie', n.d.; /11 photograph, probably of Harry Davis in uniform, n.d.; /12 envelope of photographs of a family gathering, n.d.

Access: Partially closed until 01/01/2078.

### **MS 2526/B Holiday photographs, 20th century**

Arranged in approximate chronological order, according to the original groupings of the photographs.

MS 2526/B/1	<u>Folder of holiday photographs</u>	mid-20th
	Includes pictures of Constance Davis and Frances Cohen.	century



	Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	
MS 2526/B/2	<u>Photographs of a holiday in Ostend</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Album	1956
MS 2526/B/3	<u>Photographs of a holiday in Paris and Nice</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Album	1950
MS 2526/B/4	<u>Two albums of holiday photographs including pictures of Paris, Nice, and Lugano</u> Access: Open. Extent: 2 Volumes	1950 - 1951
MS 2526/B/5	<u>Photographs of a holiday with Frances Cohen</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	n.d. [1960s?]
MS 2526/B/6	<u>Photographs of a holiday in Thailand</u> The photographs in MS 2526/B/7 may be from the same holiday. Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	n.d. [1980s]
MS 2526/B/7	<u>Photographs of a holiday in Thailand</u> The photographs in MS 2526/B/6 may be from the same holiday. Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	late 20th century
MS 2526/B/8	<u>Photographs of a holiday in Israel</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	1976
MS 2526/B/9	<u>Photographs of a holiday in Israel</u> The file also includes a poem by Constance Davis about the holiday. Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	1970 - 1976
MS 2526/B/10	<u>Various photographs of Constance Davis and Frances Cohen on holiday</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	mid-20th century
MS 2526/B/11	<u>Photographs of Frances Cohen and Constance Davis on holiday</u> Access: Open.	mid-20th century

Extent: 1 File

**MS 2526/B/12 Group of holiday photographs, late 20th century**

MS 2526/B/13	<u>Folder of holiday photographs</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	n.d. [1970s?]
MS 2526/B/14	<u>Folder of holiday photographs</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	1973
MS 2526/B/15	<u>Folder of photographs labelled 'Bulgaria'</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	late 20th century
MS 2526/B/16	<u>Postcards from Israel</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	n.d. [1970s?]
MS 2526/B/17	<u>Folder of photographs</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	n.d. [1960s?]
MS 2526/B/18	<u>Folder of holiday photographs</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	1970
MS 2526/B/19	<u>Folder of holiday photographs</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	n.d. [1970s]
MS 2526/B/20	<u>Packet of holiday photographs</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	1972
MS 2526/B/21	<u>Photographs of a holiday in Thailand and Delhi</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	late 20th century
MS 2526/B/22	<u>Photographs of a holiday</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	late 20th century
MS 2526/B/23	<u>Packet of photographs of a holiday, probably in Cefallu, Sicily</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	late 20th century
MS 2526/B/24	<u>Photographs of a holiday in Israel</u>	late 20th

	Photographs of Constance Davis and Rose Davis. Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	century
MS 2526/B/25	<u>Slide photographs of a holiday in Paris with Rose Davis</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	late 20th century
MS 2526/B/26	<u>Slides of a beach holiday with Frances Cohen</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	late 20th century
MS 2526/B/27	<u>Various negatives</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	mid-20th century - late 20th century

### **MS 2526/C Certificates and other official documents, 20th century**

MS 2526/C/1	<u>Birth certificate, family photographs, and other papers</u> Birth certificate of Constance Bella Papowich, born 12 June 1917 and copy of birth certificate, 1942; photograph of Harry Davis in uniform, n.d. [1940s?]; deed poll changing Constance Davis's surname from Papowich to Davis, 1948; envelope of family photographs, one of Constance Davis dated 31 October 1948, two of an unnamed man, possibly David Lewis Papowich, Constance Davis's father, one wearing a suit and carrying a cane, taken at the seaside, n.d.; one of a seated woman wearing a headscarf and a small girl holding a bucket, n.d. [possibly 19th century]; rough notes, probably by Constance Davis, written on an envelope: 'April 1950 first met Queenie Hymie died 2 May 1950. Met Frances May 1950'; receipt from the Central Synagogue for a plaque in memory of Rose Davis, August 1993. Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	20th century
MS 2526/C/2	<u>Certificate presented to C.B. Davis by the Post Office on her retirement</u> Access: Open. Extent: 1 Printed document	20th century
MS 2526/C/3	<u>Will and related correspondence</u> Will of Constance Bella Davis, 1 March 1999 and other papers including instructions for her next of kin and executors, correspondence ordering a stone for her sister's grave, 1993; letters from her solicitor, 1997. Access: Open. Extent: 1 File	20th century

**MS 2526/D Diaries, 20th century**

Diaries kept by Constance Davis. Diaries survive for the years 1945, 1946, August 1951 (labelled 'Paris Holiday. First Abroad'), 1952, and 1953.

Access: Open.

**MS 2526/E Papers of family and friends, 20th century****MS 2526/E/1 Esther Davis, 1826-1997**

Access: Open.

MS 2526/E/1/1	<p><u>Letters</u></p> <p>8 letters from Esther Davis to her daughter Rose Davis, written between 1941 and 1943, describing her experiences following her family's evacuation from Birmingham to Hereford during the Second World War. Although some of the letters are undated, all except one probably date from 1941. There is also one letter from Harry Davis, her son, to Esther Davis, written 23 July 1965 from Saltdean, probably during a holiday, with a photograph of a man in a suit, possibly David Leib Pappowich/Davis, Constance's father, enclosed.</p> <p>Access: Open. Copyright: With depositor. Extent: 10 Items</p>	20th century
MS 2526/E/1/2	<p><u>Transcripts of letters and biographical notes about the Davis family</u></p> <p>Transcripts of letters from Esther Davis to Rose Davis, made by the Honorary Archivist to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation in 2000, with brief history and personal recollections of the Davis family, and a family tree.</p> <p>Access: Open. Copyright: Honorary Archivist to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation. Extent: 1 File</p>	20th century
MS 2526/E/1/3	<p><u>Yarzeit card</u></p> <p>Card listing the anniversaries of Esther Davis's death and noting her date of death (20 August 1967), date of burial, and her age at death (88).</p> <p>Access: Open. Extent: 1 Printed document</p>	20th century
MS 2526/E/1/4	<p><u>Envelope addressed to D Pappowitz</u></p> <p>Envelope addressed to D Pappowitz Esq, 273, Gt Colmore St, Birmingham from The Soncino Press, 5, Gower St, London WC1.</p> <p>Access: Open. Extent: 1 Envelope</p>	20th century

**MS 2526/E/2 Rose Davis,20th century**

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|------------------|---|--------------|
| MS<br>2526/E/2/1 | <u>Will and death certificate</u><br>Will of Rose Davis, 26 March 1979, which leaves all her property to her brother and sister, Constance and Harry Davis; 3 copies of Rose Betty Davis's death certificate, 29 March 1993; notes by Judith Joseph about Rose Davis's will.<br>Access: Open.<br>Extent: 5 Items  | 20th century |
| MS<br>2526/E/2/2 | <u>Examination certificates</u><br>Examination certificates awarded by the Midland Institute to Rose Davis for Ear Training, Singing, and Solo Singing.<br>Access: Open.<br>Extent: 5 Printed document  | 20th century |
| MS<br>2526/E/2/3 | <u>Receipts for grave and memorial</u><br>/1 Letter from Ronnie Singer, Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation to Constance Davis, checking the wording to be used on a plaque to be fixed to the piano donated to Singers Hill Synagogue by Constance in memory of Rose Davis, 21 October 1993; /2 receipt from the Jewish Welfare Board and the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Cemetery Fund for the cost of Rose Davis's funeral, 1993.<br>Access: Open.<br>Extent: 2 Items | 20th century |

**MS 2526/E/3 Ben Tossman,20th century****MS 2526/E/3/1 Photographs,20th century**

/1 Envelope containing photographs of Constance Davis with Ben Tossman and other friends, late 20th century (one photograph of children has been withdrawn and closed until 01/01/2096); /2 photograph of a group including Constance Davis and Ben Tossman in front of the Taj Mahal, with postcard from Constance Davis to Rose Davis, sent from the Taj Mahal, and essay by Constance Davis describing their trip, 1982; /3 photograph of Constance Davis and Ben Tossman, n.d. [late 20th century]; /4 photograph in an envelope labelled 'Ben and Family', n.d. [late 20th century] closed until 01/01/2076; /5 photograph of Constance Davis and Ben Tossman with a baby girl, n.d. [late 20th century, closed until 01/01/2096; /6 photograph of Constance Davis and Ben Tossman, holding a baby, n.d. [late 20th century]; /7 photograph in envelope labelled 'Sarah, Ted, and Girls', n.d. [late 20th century], closed until 01/01/2096; /8 invitation to a barmitzvah, 1984, closed until 01/01/2071.

Access: Partially closed until 01/01/2076; 01/01/2071; 01/01/2096.

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| MS<br>2526/E/3/2 | <u>Cards</u><br>Birthday cards from Ben Tossman to Constance Davis.<br>Access: Open. | 20th century |
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Copyright: With depositor.  
Extent: 4 Items

- MS 2526/E/4 Cora 20th century  
Card and framed cross-stitch picture of a flower sent to Constance Davis by Cora for Rosh Hashonah (Jewish New Year).  
Access: Open.  
Extent: 2 Items

**MS 2526/F Books and newspapers, 20th century**

- /1 'Cookery Made Easy', published by George Newnes Ltd, Southampton St, Strand, n.d.  
/2 'Some Traditional Jewish Recipes', n.d.  
/3 'The Jewish Gourmet Cookbook', published by nitty gritty productions, 1971  
/4 Souvenir edition of the Birmingham Evening Mail, 1977  
Access: Open.

**MS 2526/G Miscellaneous, 20th century**

- MS 2526/G/1 Miscellaneous 20th century  
Certificate issued by the Jewish National Fund to Misses B.R. and C. Davis commemorating the planting of 4 trees in the Royal Forest for the silver wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, 1972; invitation to a wedding dinner, 22 September 1957; certificate commemorating the ascent of Mount Zion, Jerusalem, n.d.; Chanukah and Rosh Hashonah (Jewish New Year) cards, n.d.; label for an Easter basket, n.d.; brochure for James Bennett and Son, Monumental Sculptors, Severn St, Birmingham, n.d.; '1949 Souvenir Programme for a concert following the Annual National Remembrance Service and Parade' organized by the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, 1949; poem by Constance Davis about telephone operators entitled 'The Supervisor's Lament', n.d; cutting, possibly from the Birmingham Jewish Recorder, of a poem by Constance Davis entitled 'An Israel Spring Tour', 1971; letter to Constance Davis from Edith, written while Constance Davis is in hospital, 1 May 2000; card addressed to Miss D. Gillman, c/o Andrew Cohen House, n.d.  
Access: Open.  
Extent: 1 File
- MS 2526/G/2 Autograph book 20th century  
Constance Davis's autograph book, which includes friends' signatures and messages and cuttings of newspaper articles by Patience Strong and others.  
Access: Open.  
Condition: Poor.

Copyright: With depositor.

Extent: 1 Volume

MS 2526/H

Executor's papers

20th century

Envelope of papers relating to Constance Davis's move to the Jewish retirement home at Silverstone Court, 1999; invitation to a bar mitzvah, March 2000; Constance Davis's death certificate, dated 23 November 2000 for her death on 5 July 2000; copy of Constance Davis's will, 1 March 1999; estate and distribution accounts, 17 November 2000; letters from her executor to her solicitor, July-November 2000; newspaper cuttings of death announcements in the Jewish Chronicle and Birmingham Evening Mail, 2000; Tenancy agreement between Constance Davis and the Birmingham Jewish Housing Association, 21 June 1999.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2081.

Extent: 1 File