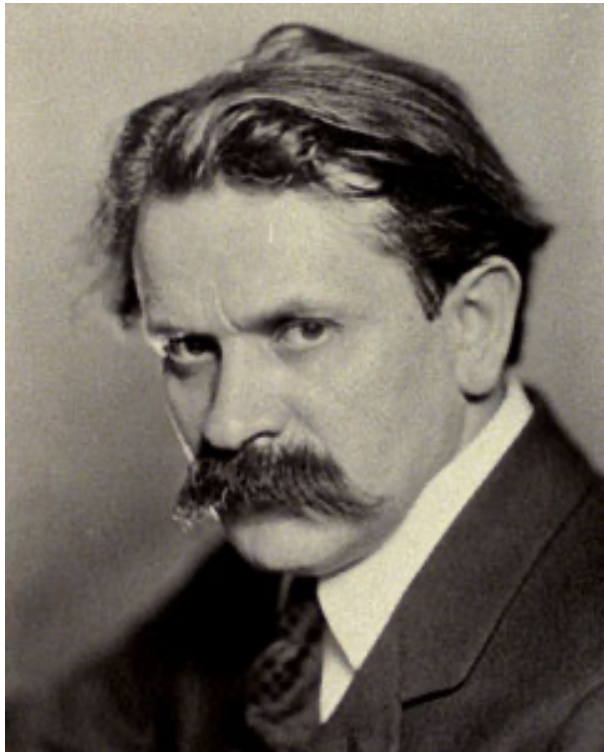


## Papers of Konrad Bercovici, Noted Lost Generation Author and Algonquinite, Acquired by New-York Historical Society



**NEW YORK, July 30** — The papers of Konrad Bercovici, illustrious Lost Generation author, journalist, and Algonquin Round Table regular – and friend of Hemingway, Chaplin, Fitzgerald, Dreiser, and so many luminaries of his era – have been acquired by the New-York Historical Society from Bercovici’s granddaughter, the writer and musician Mirana Comstock. These papers include manuscripts with handwritten edits on his published and unpublished work, as well as correspondence, photographs, and newspaper and magazine reviews

from around the world.

“The New-York Historical Society is honored to be the place where the legacy of his life and writing is preserved and made available to our visiting scholars and lifelong learners,” says Meredith Mann, former curator of manuscripts and archival collections at the Society. “We’re excited to see what future researchers will learn from the collection.”

Prolific and versatile, Bercovici authored 40 books and hundreds of short stories articles, and plays, including prize-winning fiction, innovative journalism, and work that straddled memoir, history, and sociology. Early in his career, he drew comparisons to Chekhov and de Maupassant, and was often anthologized in the yearly O’Brien’s *America’s Best Short Stories* collections. *Dust of New York*, *Manhattan Side Show*, and *Around the World in New York* are just a few of his New York based works.

The recent discovery by his granddaughter of a previously unpublished work resulted in *The Algonquin Round Table: 25 Years with the Legends Who Lunch* being published by SUNY Press, Excelsior Editions this past May, with a book launch at the legendary hotel in New York. “We are proud to have published Bercovici’s recently discovered manuscript on his years at the Algonquin Round Table. A groundbreaking journalist and author, his work deserves to be rediscovered by a new generation of readers,” says Richard Carlin, Executive Editor of SUNY Press.

“Konrad Bercovici was a writer of great gusto,” the *New York Times* once proclaimed. “A world traveler who enriched his writing talent in the tradition of the determined journeyman of life.” Born on a boat on the Bosphorus, he spent his early years playing violin in Roma camps and traveling across Europe with their caravans. Escaping from pogroms in Romania to Paris, he eventually joined the Montparnasse literary group, as well as befriending Brancusi and Modigliani, whose portrait of Bercovici is at MoMA.

Emigrating to New York City, he developed a clean prose style that pleased his editors at *The Nation*, the *New York Times*, and *The World*, as well as “The Slicks,” including *Esquire* and *Saturday Evening Post*, covering everything from Lindbergh’s landing in Paris to the Palace of Peace after World War 1 and the King’s abdication during the Spanish Civil War. He was also one of the earliest voices to warn about the dangers of Hitler and the Nazis. In Hollywood, he wrote for DeMille and Victor Fleming, as well as the original script for then-friend Chaplin’s *The Great Dictator*. The archives acquired by the New-York Historical Society include a rich representation of Bercovici’s exceptional work and life during an historically important era.

**Contact: Jesse Tisch (jtisch104@gmail.com)**