

Acquisitions

Although the American Jewish Archives was established just about six months ago, it has already assembled a small collection of important historical manuscripts sent in by various congregations, organizations, and private persons, some as gifts, others as permanent loans, some in their original form, others as photostatic or typewritten copies.

Among the more important acquisitions are about fifty congregational minute-books which are now available in photostatic form. Most of the records of this type were sent in by communities here in the Middle West but there are also a number from other parts of the country.

Of interest and of particular importance for the student of early American Jewish history are the following minute-books:

Mikve Israel Congregation, Philadelphia, Pa., 1782-1936

Mickve Israel Congregation, Savannah, Georgia, 1790-1912

Hebrew Benevolent Society, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1838-1889

Brith Sholom Congregation, Easton, Pa., 1843-1929 (German and English)

B'nai El Congregation, St. Louis, 1847-1886 (German)

Sherit Israel Congregation, San Francisco, Calif. 1851-1900

Congregation Share Shamayim, Madison, Wisconsin, 1856-1922

Congregation Kahl Montgomery, Montgomery Ala., 1858-1893 (German and English)

Beth Israel Congregation, Jackson, Michigan, 1861-1874

B'nai Israel Congregation, Elmira, N. Y., 1862-1929

Temple Beth Zion Congregation, Buffalo, N. Y., 1866-1910

Congregation Rodef Shalom, Youngstown, Ohio, 1867-1874

Anshe Chesed Congregation,

Scranton, Pa., 1868-1889 (German)

Hebrew Benevolent Congregation, Atlanta, Georgia, 1877-1899

For the student of the American Jewish Reform movement and of the educational, religious, and cultural trends of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the following congregational minute-books are available:

Anshe Emeth, Piqua, Ohio, 1874-1920

Temple Beth El, San Antonio, Texas, 1874-1910

B'nai Sholem, Huntsville, Ala., 1876-1893

Temple Israel, Paducah, Ky., 1880-1910

B'rith Sholom, Louisville, Ky., 1880-1915 (English and German)

Kol Sherith Israel, Republic of Panama, 1886-1917

B'nai Jehuda, Kansas City, Mo., 1895-1916

B'nai Brith, Los Angeles, Calif., 1895-1929

Sons of Israel, Bellaire, Ohio, 1896-1918

Beth Sholem, Danville, Va., 1893-1930

Beth El Congregation, Alexandria, Va., 1904-1943

B'nai Israel, Kalamazoo, Mich., 1907-1924

Temple Beth El, South Bend, Ind., 1919-1935

North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, Ill., 1920-1938

B'nai Abraham, Decatur, Ill., 1920-1927

Temple Sinai, Sioux City, Iowa, 1925-1936

Temple Israel, New Castle, Pa., 1926-1928

B'nai Israel, Galveston, Texas, 1921-1937

Congregation Habonim, New York, N. Y., 1941-1945

ACQUISITIONS

Temple Emanu-El, Tucson, Ariz., 1910-1945

House of Israel, Staunton, Va., 1885-1947

Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto, Canada, 1890-1912

Temple Emanu-El, Chicago, Ill., 1900-1910

The Temple on the Heights, Cleveland, Ohio, 1891-1904 (German)

We are particularly grateful to the congregational officers, rabbis, and other interested persons who made it possible for us to collect or to copy these record books which we have just listed.

Besides these minute-books, which include also the constitutions of the organizations as well as many documents and letters connected with the inner life of the communities, the Archives is in possession of manuscript congregational histories of which the following are typical:

"The 50 years of the Congregation Ahaveth Chesed, Jacksonville, Fla., organized and chartered February 1882"

"History of the Congregation B'nai B'rith, Los Angeles (1862-1947)" written by Marco R. Newmark

"History of Mizpah Congregation, Chattanooga, Tenn., 1866-1947" compiled by Rabbi Abraham Feinstein

The minutes of women's socio-philanthropic organizations, such as the following, are of value for a knowledge of the social work and eleemosynary activities of a generation ago:

Ladies Hebrew Social Circle, 1895-1910, Harrisburg, Pa.

Ohev Sholem Sisterhood, 1918-1925, Harrisburg, Pa.

Hebrew Ladies Aid Society, 1895-1899, Sioux City, Iowa

Constitution and Nebengesetze des Israelitischen Wohltätigkeits-

vereins of the Congregation, The Gates of Prayer, Lafayette, La., 1849

A valuable gift—for which we wish to express our thanks to Temple Sinai and to the Rev. Dr. Julian B. Feibelman of New Orleans—are the manuscript sermons, addresses, and lectures of Rabbi James Koppel Gutheim 1817-1886). Included in this collection are his:

"Installation Sermon" 1854; "Eulogy of Judah Touro" 1854, delivered in Temple Ohabei Shalom, Boston; his "Installation Sermon" in Temple Emanu-El, New York, 1872; his Thanksgiving Sermon" relating to the Franco-Prussian War, delivered at Temple Emanu-El, New York 1870; his German Lecture on Schiller, delivered in New Orleans, 1859; his Sermons on Reform Judaism, on Moses Mendelssohn, on Theology, delivered on various occasions; his "Translations of some chapters of Graetz," his "Biblical Translations," and his "Notes for Lectures on Jewish History." A number of clippings and papers dealing with Mrs. Gutheim were presented to us by Miriam H. Goldsmith, through the courtesy of Mr. Henry S. Jacobs.

Among the personal papers which the Archives have received and are now in the process of cataloguing, the most important are, without doubt, several hundred letters of Gotthard Deutsch (1859-1921), who was Professor of Jewish History at the Hebrew Union College for a generation.

This distinguished historian—he was also active as a publicist and novelist—wrote to friends, colleagues, relatives, and newspaper editors both in Europe and America, from 1894 to 1920. His letters deal with personal, professional, literary, religious, political, economic, and historical matters,

ACQUISITIONS

and, of course, with affairs of the Hebrew Union College. His most famous correspondents, in Germany, were A. Berliner, M. Brann, A. Brill, Ludwig Fulda, Ludwig Geiger, Jakob Guttmann, Eugen Kuhnemann, Max Nordau, G. Karpeles, Hermann Strack; in Austria: M. Gudemann, Moritz and Nahida Remy Lazarus, Samuel Krauss; in Hungary: M. Bacher; in Denmark, D. Simonsen; in Holland: Sigmund Seeligmann; in France: Edmond de Rothschild; in England: M. Gaster, A. Hyamson, Claude Montefiore, and Israel Zangwill; in America: Louis Brandeis, Theodore Dreiser, Professor Gottheil, Cyrus Adler, Alexander Kohut, Judah Magnes, Jacob Schiff, Henrietta Szold, Stephen S. Wise, Mary Antin, and President Theodore Roosevelt.

Gotthard Deutsch was not only a prolific correspondent but also a faithful writer of diaries. His diaries, kept for the years 1892 to 1920, throw much light on his personal and professional affairs, his relations to the President of the Hebrew Union College and the members of the faculty, to his wife, his children, relatives, friends and pupils. His entries, in spite of their brevity, are of value for an understanding of his views on Jewish and general history, literature, religion and politics, his opinions about books, magazines and the many interesting people he met during his lifetime.

The Archives also possesses a few holograph letters of Rabbi Isaac M. Wise, the founder and first president of the Hebrew Union College, dated 1856, 1875, 1892, 1898, as well as the Hebrew Union College Daily Record Book, 1875-1883, and the Hebrew Union College Alumni Association Minute-Book, 1898-1900. Holograph letters of Isaac M. Wise are quite

rare. Mrs. Marx Levy of Shreveport, La. was kind enough to send us a photostatic copy of a letter of Isaac M. Wise to her grandfather, Rabbi M. Wurzel, April 3, 1860.

The Rev. Dr. Max Raisin was gracious enough to send us about 20 letters which had been addressed to him by G. Deutsch, Max Margolis, Louis Grossman, Judah Magnes, Julian Morgenstern and others (1903-1917). An anonymous friend of Rabbi Isaac M. Wise was the donor of several letters written by Dr. David Philipson to Julius Freiberg (1888), to the President of the Hebrew Union College, to Dr. Louis Wolsey (1925), and to Albert Wolf, among others.

Among the papers now in the Archives are a number touching on the life of Rabbi Ferdinand Sarner (1820-1878) of Memphis, Tennessee, presented by his daughter, Mrs. Martha Sarner Levy. Material from the clipping and pamphlet collection of the late Rabbi Charles Hoffman of Newark, N. J. was loaned by his son, Dr. M. David Hoffman. Through the courtesy of Dr. Joshua Bloch, the Archives received a confirmation sermon by Rabbi L. Merzbacher of Temple Emanu-El, New York 1853, and a letter of Dr. Solomon Schechter to Dr. Kaufmann Kohler, October 12, 1903. Both of these items came from the collection of Lili Kohler. The scrapbook of the late Rabbi George Jacobs (1834-1884), of Richmond and Philadelphia, was lent to us for copying by his daughter Miss Rebecca Jacobs; items dealing with the life of the Rev. Mr. Jacob Frankel (1808-1887) were sent us by Mr. Joseph Frankel and by Mrs. Pearl E. Whitely. Rabbi Stanley Brav was good enough to send the Archives photographs of Rabbis B. H. Gottlieb and H. M. Bien of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Rabbi David Wice

has helped us with certain letters and pamphlets touching on Rodeph Shalom Congregation in Philadelphia.

We are grateful to D. Arthur Bowman for his permission to copy a series of about fifty letters written by an American Jewish boy from Missouri, by the name of Arthur Amson, to his parents. The correspondence, carried on in the German language while he was a student at the Universities of Heidelberg and Leipzig (1873-1875), sheds some light on the cultural, economic, and political conditions in Germany after the Franco-Prussian War, his archaeological, philosophical, and philological studies at the universities, his travels in Europe, and his personal affairs. They have no specific Jewish references.

Professor Mordecai M. Kaplan of New York was kind enough to permit us to copy selected items of his correspondence — covering the years 1899 to 1920 — with men like Cyrus Adler, Herman Bernstein of *The Day*, Israel Friedlaender, Justice Irving Lehman, Judah Magnes, Felix Warburg, Chaim Weizmann, Stephen S. Wise, and many others. The Kaplan papers — which also include copies of lectures, addresses, sermons, and drafts of pamphlets — present a detailed picture of the cultural and religious life of American Jewry during the first two decades of the twentieth century. They deal also with scientific, educational, rabbinical, congregational, journalistic and social matters; for instance, with the National Hebrew School, the Young Men's Hebrew Association, the Jewish Teachers Association, the League of the Jewish Youth of America, the Menorah Society, with questions of Reform and Orthodoxy, the Yiddish Press, the Jewish Renaissance Movement, the Palestine problem, and the like.

A detailed analytical index of this collection has been prepared by the Archivist, Dr. Selma Stern-Taeubler.

The American Jewish Archives contain also a number of wills; for instance, those of a number of Jewish citizens of Charlestown, South Carolina, whose wills were probated in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Among the manuscript or typescript memoirs in the Archives are: "Galleries of Memory," by Edmond Uhry, one of the founders of the Free Synagogue, who came to these shores as a young immigrant from Ingweiler, in Alsace, in 1890. It was this same obscure Alsatian village that many of the most prominent Jews of present day Cincinnati look back to as their home. The Uhry manuscript was made available for copying through the courtesy of the Rev. Dr. Louis I. Newman. Through the kindness of Mr. Thomas J. Tobias we were permitted to copy the diary of Joseph Lyons, who lived in Savannah, Georgia, and began to describe his impressions of America, and his own personal activities, as early as 1833.

Edward Rosewater, editor and founder of the newspaper, *The Omaha Bee*, is described in an interesting manuscript biography which tells of his early childhood days in a small village in Bohemia, and of his immigration with his parents to the United States in 1855. The Archives possess a copy of this work.

All personal papers, whatever their nature — now in the possession of the Archives — will be subject to "library restrictions," that is, they will be offered for use to researchers only on condition that nothing will be published which might in any degree offend the donors.