

## News from The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

One goal of the *News from The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives* is to give our readers regular updates on the interesting and important materials added to the collection of the American Jewish Archives during the previous year. In addition to this service we will also from time to time spotlight one or more of our existing holdings. In this way we hope to share with our readers a sense of the richness and diversity of our collection and to increase awareness—and thereby use—of what might be called our “hidden treasures.”

In this issue we will highlight the Fanny E. Holtzmann papers.

Fanny Ellen Holtzmann (1902–80) was born in Brooklyn and earned her law degree at Fordham University. Graduating in 1922 after attending night school classes while working as a clerk in a law firm, Miss Holtzmann began her law career in New York City a mere half hour after learning she had passed the bar exam by opening her own law firm, Holtzmann and Holtzmann.

Miss Holtzmann quickly built a lucrative practice that spread west to Hollywood and east to London. In 1934, however, Miss Holtzmann took on the case that catapulted her to international fame. In this London-based case, *Irina Youssoupoff v. MGM*, Miss Holtzmann’s law firm took part in a trial that pitted Russian nobility against the motion picture industry giant, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

The case centered on a dispute over the studio’s film version of the stabbing of Rasputin, the “mad monk” who was present in the Romanovs’ prerevolutionary court in the early 1900s. The plaintiff in the case was Princess Irina Alexandra Youssoupoff, the wife of Prince Felix. The princess contended that the film in question, *Nights of Rasputin*, gave the impression of an inappropriate relationship between herself and the monk.

After an initial award of \$125,000 for damages, Miss Holtzmann reached a later agreement in favor of the princess for a sum well into the hundreds of thousands of dollars concerning pending lawsuits in countries where the film was shown. From that time forward Miss Holtzmann’s legal prominence was assured and she became even more sought after as a lawyer in Hollywood.

Specializing in motion picture and copyright cases, Miss Holtzmann counted among her friends and clients celebrities and

personalities such as George Bernard Shaw, Gertrude Lawrence, Noel Coward, Clifton Webb, and Fred Astaire, as well as the cream of British nobility. The Holtzmann collection is rich with files on these and other celebrities, as well as legal cases handled by Miss Holtzmann.

Included in the collection are materials concerning cases involving Chiang Kai-shek, Madame Wellington Koo, and Phyllis (Potter) Astaire. Famous correspondents in the collection include Clementine Churchill, V. K. Wellington Koo, Emanuel Revici, and Gloria Vanderbilt.

The Fanny E. Holtzmann collection was donated to the American Jewish Archives by Miss Holtzmann in 1978. Additional supplements were presented to the AJA by the Holtzmann estate in 1980 and 1981. Access to the collection is restricted. Permission to use the papers may be obtained with the approval of the Holtzmann heirs.

A copy of the complete finding aid to the Holtzmann collection—as well as information about any other collections or holdings—may be obtained by writing or calling the chief archivist of American Jewish Archives at the address listed below. Or we invite you to visit our website, which contains descriptions and full-text finding aids of many of our collections at: [www.huc.edu/aja](http://www.huc.edu/aja).

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Here now are descriptions of selected materials added to the American Jewish Archives in 1999.

## PERSONAL PAPERS

**Backman, Jules.** Diaries. 1975–82. 200 pp.

Diaries kept by Jules Backman (1910–82), a renowned economist and professor at New York University, during his tenure as chairman of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion’s Board of Governors. The diaries detail plans and activities of the college-institute and of Backman’s work as board chairman for the years 1975–82.

Received from Alfred Gottschalk, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Isserman, Ferdinand M.** Scrapbook and tribute. 1930–72. 150 pp.

Tribute citation for Rabbi Ferdinand Myron Isserman (1898–1972) from the Rabbinical Association of Saint Louis, Missouri, on the occasion of his twenty-fifth anniversary at Temple Israel in Saint Louis. Also, a scrapbook containing letters, newsclippings, and other items pertaining to Rabbi Isserman’s life and career in Saint Louis for the years 1930–72.

Received from Ruth Isserman, Saint Louis, Missouri.

**Karff, Samuel E.** Tribute. 1999. 1 videocassette.

Videotape tribute produced for Rabbi Karff’s twenty-fifth anniversary at Congregation Beth Israel, Houston, Texas, entitled, *A Tribute to Rabbi Samuel E. Karff: Congregation Beth Israel, Houston, Texas, 1975–1999*.

Received from Congregation Beth Israel, Houston, Texas.

**Kellerman, Oscar.** Papers. 1978–99. 55 pp.

Letters of Oscar Kellerman, vice-president of Congregation Israel in Nicaragua, detailing the struggles of the Jewish residents there since the Sandinista revolution in 1978. Also contains articles published in the *Jewish Herald*.

In Spanish, with some English translations.

Received from Cliff Kulwin, Livingston, New Jersey.

**Landman, Louis H.** Papers. 1916–99. 50 pp.

Correspondence between Louis Hyamson Landman (1858–1922)

and his children (Isaac, Eva, Sarah, Miriam, and Solomon), primarily while living in Palestine from 1920 to 1922. Louis H. Landman was a peddler, eye specialist, and resident of Cincinnati who died in Cairo, Egypt, in 1922. The collection also includes letters and notes written by Nathan Landman (grandson of Louis) giving background information on the collection together with notes pertaining to Nathan's 1983–84 trip to Cairo to visit Louis's grave.

Received from Nathan Landman, Larchmont, New York.

**Mehlman, Bernard H.** Installation service. 1978. 2 audiocassettes.

Audio recording of the installation service for Rabbi Mehlman at Temple Israel, Boston, featuring an address by Rabbi Leonard A. Schoolman.

Received from Bernard H. Mehlman, Boston, Massachusetts.

**Plaut, W. Gunther.** Lecture. 1999. 1 videocassette.

Video recording of a lecture given by Rabbi Plaut at the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center on July 9, 1999, concerning the four platforms of Reform Judaism.

Received from W. Gunther Plaut, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

**Polish, David.** Papers. 1928–95. 1.6 linear feet.

Collection consisting of correspondence, sermons, and writings of Rabbi David Polish (1910–95). Includes correspondence with Stephen S. Wise and Abba Hillel Silver. Also includes a journal kept by Rabbi Polish during a 1936 trip to Palestine together with term papers and class notes from his student years at Hebrew Union College.

Received from Aviva Polish, Evanston, Illinois.

**Schulzinger, Morris S.** Papers. 1935–55. 500 pp.

Papers and documents reflecting the career of Morris S. Schulzinger (1900–1994) as a Cincinnati-based physician and his involvement in Zionist and other Jewish causes, both nationally and in the Cincinnati area.

Received from Judy Lucas, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Slonimsky, Marion Stanley and Henry.** Papers. 1894–1965. 5.2 linear feet.

Two collections, one containing research and lecture notes of Henry Slonimsky (1884–1970), a philosopher, scholar, and faculty

member of the Hebrew Union College as well as dean of the Jewish Institute of Religion; the other containing correspondence and lectures of Marion Stanley Slonimsky (1876–1926) pertaining to her career as a poet and teacher, including an appointment at the University of Arizona in the early twentieth century.

Received from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, New York.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL RECORDS**

**American Jewish Congress Feminist Center.** Records. 1994–96. 250 pp.

Records of the American Jewish Congress Feminist Center of Los Angeles. Includes a mission statement and organizational records; minutes and agendas; financial records and fund-raising materials; course syllabi, liturgy, and texts; correspondence; publications; and miscellaneous.

Received from Yaffa Weisman, Los Angeles, California.

**Central Conference of American Rabbis.** Papers. 1998. 75 pp.

Draft versions of a “Proposed Statement of Principles” prepared by the CCAR outlining beliefs and principles of American Reform Judaism. Includes responses and critiques of draft versions of the statement by rabbis, academicians, and other leaders of the American Reform movement.

Received from the Central Conference of American Rabbis, New York, New York.

**Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion.** Lectures and programs. 1994–98. 63 audiocassettes and 31 videocassettes.

Audio and video recordings of lectures, programs, and other events held at the New York campus of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion.

Received from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, New York.

**The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives.** Records and questionnaires. 1998–99. 300 pp.

Questionnaires gathered from participants in two Marcus Center

conferences: a 1998 college colloquium, and a 1999 symposium entitled "Hollywood, Blue Jeans, and E=MC<sup>2</sup> : An Exploration into the Archives of the North American Jewish Experience."

Received from Gary P. Zola, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Jewish Welfare Fund.** Scrapbook. 1946–49.

Scrapbook containing letters, clippings, advertisements, and other materials pertaining to a fund-raising drive of the Cincinnati chapter of the Jewish Welfare Fund.

Received from Regina Ransohoff, Cincinnati, Ohio.

## ORAL HISTORIES

**Blumberg, Sherry.** Oral history interview. 1999. 1 audiocassette.

Audio recording of an oral history interview with Sherry Blumberg, the first full-time woman faculty member at the New York school of the college–institute, concerning her tenure as associate professor of Jewish education.

Received from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, New York.

**Jacobs, Maurice.** Oral history interview. 1978/79(?). 1 audiocassette.

Audio recording of an interview with Maurice Jacobs (1896–1984), a publisher and past president of the American Jewish Historical Society. Interview conducted by Karen Franklin.

Received from Karen Franklin, New York, New York.

**Korn, Bertram W.** Radio interview. n.d. 1 audiocassette.

Undated radio interview on the *Famous Philadelphians Program* with Rabbi Bertram Wallace Korn (1918–79), a historian, chaplain, and rabbi at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Received from Jean Korn, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania.

**Malloy, Edwin A.** Oral history interview. 1998. 3 videocassettes.

Videotaped oral history interview of Edwin A. Malloy (1926–98). A real estate executive, past president of Temple Emanu-El of New York, and a member of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion's Board of Governors, Mr. Malloy discusses many topics, including his childhood, family and friends, experiences in Bermuda,

and other reminiscences.

Received from Susan Malloy, Westport, Connecticut.

**Tash, Eli.** Oral history interview. 1998. 7 pp.

Transcript of an interview with Eli Tash conducted by his grandniece, Melissa Sterne. The interview focuses on Tash's years as a student at the Hebrew Union College in the 1920s. Tash attended HUC as a rabbinic student for a time, then withdrew from the college without receiving a degree or ordination. He later became a businessman.

Received from Gary P. Zola, Cincinnati, Ohio.

## CONGREGATIONAL AND COMMUNITY RECORDS

**Congregation Beth El, Tyler, Texas.** Records. 1889–1951. 3 vols.

Minutes of the congregation, 1895–1951, together with a volume of life-cycle records listing births, deaths, confirmations, and marriages from 1889 to 1934.

Received from Congregation Beth El, Tyler, Texas.

**Congregation Beth Emeth, Albany, New York.** Congregational history. 1998. 1 videocassette.

Video history entitled, *Isaac Mayer Wise and Those Beth El Guys*, commemorating the 160th anniversary of the founding of the congregation, including its predecessor congregations, Congregation Beth El and Congregation Anshe Emeth.

Received from Sheldon Zimmerman, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Congregation B'nai Israel, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.** Records. 1884–1946. 500 pp.

Articles of incorporation, 1884; charter, 1886; minutes, 1936–46; plus bylaws, constitutions, membership lists, and other materials.

Received from Congregation B'nai Israel, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Kahila Kodesha Adath Israel Congregation, Cincinnati, Ohio.** Records. 1950–55. 300 pp.

Records, legal documents, correspondence, and other materials concerning primarily a 1954 debate at Kahila Kodesha Adath Israel (also known as the Louis Feinberg Synagogue) on whether the congregation should adopt mixed seating.

Received from Daniel P. Randolph, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Macon County and Bibb County, Georgia.** Marriage records. 1823–1998. 250 pp.

Nearly 1,500 listings of marriages in Macon and Bibb Counties from 1823 to 1998 where one or both spouses were of Jewish birth. Compiled by Marian W. Kaufman and Gus B. Kaufman.

Received from Marian W. Kaufman and Gus B. Kaufman, Macon, Georgia.

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.** Video history. 1999. 1 videocassette.

A video history of the Pittsburgh Jewish community entitled, *A Jewish Legacy: Pittsburgh, 1840–1999*. Narrated by Theodore Bikel.

Received from Gary P. Zola, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Yad Charutzim-Tiferes Israel Congregation, Cincinnati, Ohio.** Records. 1925–93. 0.4 linear feet.

Collection containing various items from the congregation. Also known as the North Avondale Synagogue, the congregation was organized in 1910 and disbanded in the early 1990s. The collection includes: a minute book of the Ladies Auxiliary, 1948–52; correspondence, 1974–92; cemetery trust agreements, 1967–92; financial records, 1974–91; materials relating to Rabbi Zvi Yehuda, 1992–93; and miscellaneous items including membership lists, board meeting notes, synagogue newsletters, and publications.

Received from Andrea Beck, Cincinnati, Ohio.

## **BIOGRAPHIES AND HISTORIES**

**Edlow, Frances S.** Autobiography. 1999. 58 pp.

"Zipping Along with Frances: The Story of My Life," the autobiography of Frances Schwartz Edlow, from her childhood in the Cleveland Children's Home to her life and retirement in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Received from Frances S. Edlow, Bethesda, Maryland.

**Greenbaum, Amy L.** Term paper. 1999. 10 pp.

"An Analysis of the Documentary Evidence of the Founding Meeting of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods," term paper submitted by Amy L. Greenbaum to Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Received from Gary P. Zola, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Komerofsky, David.** Rabbinic thesis. 1999. 84 pp.

"Julian Morgenstern: A Personal and Intellectual Biography," a rabbinic thesis submitted by David Komerofsky to Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Received from David Komerofsky, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Lobell, Rolfe M.** Autobiography. 1999. 81 pp.

*The First 100 Years: Autobiography of Rolfe Maier's Lobell*, edited by Virginia Lobell Rosen. Autobiography detailing Rolfe M. Lobell's family life and career in the confectionary industry. A resident of New York City and Chicago, Rolfe M. Lobell (1896–1999) was known as the "dean of the national confectionary industry."

Received from Herbert Bronstein, Glencoe, Illinois.

**Tucker, Beverly H.** Master's thesis. 1999. 73 pp.

"Southern Jewish Women as Pioneers, 1913–1940: The Untold Story of Progressivism in Houston, Texas." Master of arts thesis submitted by Beverly H. Tucker to Sam Houston State University.

Received from Beverly H. Tucker, Houston, Texas.

**Welt, Louis A.** Family history and memoir. 1999. 200 pp.

Family history, including genealogical chart, written and compiled by Louis A. Welt. Includes data on the family of his wife, Katherine Ronsheim Welt.

Received from Louis A. Welt, Dallas, Texas.

## GENEALOGIES

The American Jewish Archives receives dozens of family genealogies and histories each year. As a result, the AJA's collection of family trees is one of the largest and richest collections of American Jewish genealogies in the world. Though we are not able to list here all the genealogies we received in 1999, the following is a sample of the many family trees accessioned and cataloged into our collection during the past year.

**Kolbin Family.** Genealogy. 1999. 12 pp.

Genealogy and family history of the Kolbin, Shulman, Leizerik, and Kramer families, compiled by Berel Kolbin.

Received from Berel Kolbin, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**Kurzweil, Arthur.** Lecture. 1998. 1 audiocassette.

Audio recording of a lecture entitled, "The Changing Face of Jewish Genealogy," given at a conference of the Jewish Genealogical Society by Arthur Kurzweil, one of the leading Jewish genealogists in the United States.

Received from the Jewish Genealogical Society, New York, New York.

**Levin Family.** Genealogy. 1999. 243 pp.

"The Levin Family," a family history and genealogy of the Levin family of Columbus, Ohio, written and compiled by Joel M. Levin.

Received from Eric H. Cline, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Loewenberg Family.** Genealogy. 1999. 46 pp.

Genealogy and family history compiled by Frank M. Loewenberg.

Received from Frank M. Loewenberg, Jerusalem, Israel.

**Mack Family.** Genealogy. 1999. 13 pp.

Genealogy of the Mack family of Cincinnati, together with information on the Rau family.

Received from John Mack, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Waisbren Family.** Genealogy. 1998. 30 pp.

"Waisbren Family: The Descendants of Nathan and Matilda Waisbren," compiled by Carol Waisbren Gelman.

Received from Carol W. Gelman, Coconut Creek, Florida.

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*Kevin Proffitt is Chief Archivist of the American Jewish Archives, where he has worked since 1981. He earned his master of arts degree from Wright State University and his master of library science from the University of Kentucky and is the author of Starting from Scratch: Creating the Synagogue Archives.*