



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Herbert H. Paper Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 871



Collection Summary

Title	Herbert H. Paper Papers
Dates	1937-1999 (bulk 1960-1984)
Collection Number	MS-871
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Paper, Herbert H., 1925-2012
Extent	11 linear feet (11 record cartons)
Language of the Material	English and Yiddish

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Herbert H. Paper was born on January 11, 1925 in Baltimore, Maryland. At the age of 15, he began college at Yeshiva University in New York and later transferred to the University of Colorado in Boulder, where he received his B.A. in Classics in 1943. On the day of his college graduation, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, trained in horsemanship and then sent for intensive Chinese language training at the University of California, Berkley. He served as a member of the mounted U.S. Cavalry and then the Finance Corps in Calcutta, India, at the end of World War II. He then received his Ph.D. from the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago in 1952. In 1952, he went to Iran on a post-doctoral Fulbright Scholarship to translate texts written in the ancient Babylonian language of Elamite into English and Hebrew.

Paper was among the first people to teach university level Yiddish courses in the United States and had to create course materials for his students at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he specialized in Near Eastern languages. During his 24-year tenure there, he also played an instrumental role in founding their Jewish Studies program.

In 1977, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Cincinnati, Ohio, hired Paper as dean of Graduate Studies. He taught there for 22 years, helping to build HUC-JIR's reputation in linguistics, introducing languages that had not been taught there before, including Yiddish, Sanskrit and modern Farsi. He served as editor of the Hebrew Union College Annual and as an early president of the Association of Judaic Studies, which he was instrumental in founding. He was a major influence on many students who went on to hold influential posts in the rabbinate, scholarly and secular world.

--Adapted from "Herbert Paper, renowned linguist, Yiddishist, and university professor, dies at 87". American Israelite, February 2nd, 2012. (<http://americanisraelite.com/archives/16081>). Accessed July 30, 2012.

Scope and Content The Herbert H. Paper Papers consist of correspondence, course materials, and research materials in both English and Yiddish. Correspondence is mostly related to Paper's academic activities at the University of Michigan and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Also included are correspondence and minutes for various committees and professional societies in Linguistics and Near and Middle East Studies. These committees and societies address issues in scholarship, fellowships, and collaboration among professionals in the field.

Arrangement This collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Herbert H. Paper Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-871. Herbert H. Paper Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Herbert H. Paper, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2008.

Processing Information Processed by Michelle Wirth Detroit, July 2012.

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Index Terms

Subjects Middle East -- Study and teaching / Yiddish language
Personal Names Paper, Herbert H. (Herbert Harry), 1925-2012
Corporate Names Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Faculty / University of Michigan. Department of Near Eastern Studies

Series A. General, 1937-1999

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1-25. Correspondence. A-O, 1952-1976
- Box 2. Folder 1-21. Correspondence. P-Z, 1946-1970
- Box 3. Folder 1-18. Correspondence. A-K, 1950-1968
- Box 4. Folder 1-25. Correspondence. L-Z, 1961-1968
- Box 5. Folder 1-57. Correspondence. A-He, 1977-1984
- Box 6. Folder 1-39. Correspondence. Ho-O, 1977-1984
- Box 7. Folder 1-39. Correspondence. P-Z, 1977-1984
- Box 8. Folder 1-20. Correspondence. A-Z, 1982-1984
- Box 9. Folder 1-29. Committees/conferences/writings, 1937-1973
- Box 10. Folder 1-20. Committees/conferences/writings, 1958-1968
- Box 11. Folder 1-45. Committees/conferences/writings, 1977-1999