



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Ezra Spicehandler Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 912



Collection Summary

Title	Ezra Spicehandler Papers
Dates	1935-2008, undated (bulk 1960-1990)
Collection Number	MS-912
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Spicehandler, Ezra
Extent	15 linear feet (37.5 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English, Hebrew, German, Yiddish, and Persian

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Ezra Spicehandler was born in Brooklyn, New York on 6 April 1921. He was the second son of Abraham and Esther (née Orkin) Spicehandler. Ezra had an older brother Amiel (1919-1984), and a younger brother Daniel (1923-2010). Spicehandler's love of Israel and Hebrew Literature was instilled during his childhood in a family where "Palestine was central."

Upon completing his freshman year at Brooklyn College in 1939 and graduating from the Herzliah Hebrew teachers college, Spicehandler left for Cincinnati to begin rabbinical school. While studying for the rabbinate, he received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Cincinnati in 1942.

Spicehandler's rabbinical studies were interrupted during World War II as American rabbis were drafted and student rabbis assumed their pulpits. Before leaving for his pulpit in Elmira, New York, Spicehandler married his sweetheart, Shirley 'Skippy' Horn on 20 August 1944.

After the war, Spicehandler returned to Cincinnati and was ordained and awarded the Masters of Hebrew Letters in 1946. He held teaching fellowships at HUC Cincinnati for two years while working on his doctorate.

In the fall of 1947, Spicehandler was awarded a traveling fellowship and the Spicehandlers moved to Palestine so that he could study at Hebrew University, Jerusalem. A few weeks into his studies, the Arab-Israeli war erupted. Spicehandler was recruited by the Haganah to serve as a machine gunner in a hastily enlisted 'support company'; served almost a year as an infantry man in the Jerusalem Haganah and following the truce of July 1948, as a staff officer in the newly formed air force. It was during this time that Spicehandler first met T. Carmi, the American-born Hebrew poet. Spicehandler and Carmi would later collaborate with Stanley Burnshaw on their seminal book, *The Modern Hebrew Poem Itself*, first published in 1965.

In 1949, the Spicehandlers returned briefly to Cincinnati. Soon after, Nelson Glueck offered Spicehandler an instructorship at HUC's New York school where he taught for five years while completing his doctoral work on the local community in Talmudic Babylonia (PhD, 1951). During this time Spicehandler also served as founding rabbi of Temple Emanuel of Westfield, New Jersey.

While working on his PhD, Spicehandler started studying Persian at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1955, the Spicehandler family moved back to Cincinnati, where Spicehandler became Professor of Hebrew literature. It was during the latter half of the 1950s that Spicehandler brought the language learning lab to HUC and worked on the Towanda language program (1955-1960) which would serve as the blueprints for teaching Hebrew at HUC-JIR.

In 1959, Spicehandler was awarded a National Defense Education Fellowship in Oriental Languages, and studied modern Persian at the University of Michigan, and in 1960 it was renewed for study at Princeton. In 1962, Spicehandler received a Fulbright Research Professorship at the University of Tehran, Iran.

During this year, Spicehandler researched Baba'i ibn Lutf, a Jewish poet and historian in 17th-century Safavid Iran. Baba'i ibn Lutf, was the author of the first Judeo-Persian chronicle, the *Kitab-i anusi*. Spicehandler also taught Judeo-Persian history at Tehran University, lectured on Judeo-Persian history to the community, and collected many Persian manuscripts and Judeo-Persian materials, which are now housed in HUC-JIR's Klau Library.

It was in 1966 that Spicehandler returned to Israel to serve as Director and then Dean (1971) of HUC-JIR/Jerusalem, where he would remain for fourteen years. At the time, the institution was primarily an archaeology school, and under Spicehandler's leadership it grew to include a mandatory Year-in-Israel Program for first year HUC-JIR students and the Israel Rabbinical Program.

In 1980, at the behest of his wife, the Spicehandlers moved back to Cincinnati and Spicehandler returned to full-time teaching until his retirement in 1991.

Spicehandler served on the Committee of the World Zionist Organization throughout his tenure in Jerusalem, and was eventually appointed to the organization's National Committee, which at that time was called 'Avodah.' He was once offered a seat in the Knesset, which he turned down to devote his time to the rapidly growing programs of HUC-JIR Jerusalem.

Spicehandler was vice president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. He was an active member of the Jewish Agency Assembly and the Council of the World Zionist Organization and served on its presidium. Spicehandler served as the National President of the Labor Zionist Alliance from 1982-1988.

Spicehandler made major contributions to the fields of Modern Hebrew Literature, Israel and Zionism, Judeo-Persian studies, and Talmudic history. His anthology, *The Modern Hebrew Poem Itself*, written with T. Carmi and Stanley Burnshaw, was used as the standard textbook in advanced studies in Modern Hebrew Literature in the United States and Israel for decades.

On sabbaticals from the College-Institute, Spicehandler was a visiting professor at the Oriental Institute at Oxford University from 1983 through 1984, and prior to that from 1973 to 1975 he was a visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Post-Graduate Hebrew studies at Oxford University. Spicehandler also served as a visiting professor at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand; University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; Logos Theological Seminary, Kyoto, Japan; and Hebrew University.

In 1990, Spicehandler was awarded the Friedman Prize for his achievements in the field of Modern Hebrew Literature and in 1992 he received a doctorate in Humane Letters, honoris causa from HUC-JIR. In 1994, Spicehandler was named as an honorary senior fellow of the Oxford Centre for Post Graduate Hebrew and Judaic Studies.

In his retirement, Spicehandler worked on a translation of the works of Yosef Hayim Brenner, an early 20th-century Zionist novelist, which he started with David Patterson of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. His translation of Haim Nachman Bialik's short stories, also written with Patterson, appeared in the book *Random Harvest & Other Novellas* (1999).

Supporting and encouraging him throughout these numerous accomplishments was Skippy (1925-2017), his wife and partner of 70 years. His daughters Reena (b.1949) and Judy (b.1952) both became rabbis; Reena as a reconstructionist rabbi, and Judy as a 1999 graduate of HUC-JIR. Ezra Spicehandler died in Cincinnati on 26 March 2014.

- Some text taken and adapted from HUC-JIR's "Esteemed Emeritus Faculty" article, 2006.

Scope and Content

The Ezra Spicehandler collection documents the life and work of Spicehandler during his time as Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature (1955-1991) and as Director, then Dean, of the Jerusalem school (1966-1980) at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The collection includes professional and personal correspondence, manuscripts, writings, sermons, addresses, as well as administrative and teaching materials.

The collection also includes WWII correspondence between Spicehandler and his brothers, and Spicehandler's correspondence with family during his time in Israel when he served in the Arab-Israeli war 1947-1949.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in six (6) series: A. Correspondence. 1939-2003, undated; B. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. 1949-2000, undated; C. Professional Organizations. 1958-2002, undated; D. Lectures, Sermons and Addresses. 1944-2000, undated; E. Publications, Writings, and Research. 1943-2001, undated; and F. Personal and Family. 1935-2008, undated.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Ezra Spicehandler Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-912. Ezra Spicehandler Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from the Spicehandler family in 2012, 2019, 2020.

Processing Information

Processed by Aliza Spicehandler, December 2019-July 2021.

Index Terms

Subjects

Burnshaw, Stanley, 1906-2005 / Carmi, T., 1925-1994 / Glueck, Nelson, 1900-1971 / Gottschalk, Alfred / Hebrew literature, Modern / Hebrew Union College / Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion / Jews -- Iran -- Tehran / Jews -- Israel -- Jerusalem / Jews -- New York (State) -- Brooklyn / Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Judeo-Persian literature / Labor Zionist Alliance (U.S.) / Rabbis / Reform Judaism / Spicehandler, Shirley / World Union for Progressive Judaism

Personal Names

Баба́н, אֲבִיבָן אֲבִיבָן, active 17th century / Spicehandler, Abraham, 1888-1968 / Spicehandler, Ezra

Corporate Names World Zionist Organization

Media Lectures / Sermons

Series A. Correspondence, 1939-2003, undated

Extent 3.1 linear feet (7.75 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Correspondence files in this series are from Spicehandler's life and include communications of both a professional and personal nature.

Correspondence is in Hebrew and English.

The series includes correspondence addressed to Spicehandler and his wife Skippy. In a personal context they were often viewed as a unit, and to some extent, interchangeable. Family correspondence has been moved to Series F. Personal and Family.

Arrangement

The series begins with General files which are organized chronologically and then continues with alphabetical correspondence files. Some correspondence files were organized by Spicehandler at different periods around particular projects or correspondents and are present in their original order.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. General, 1939-1946
- Box 1. Folder 2. General, 1948-1949
- Box 1. Folder 3. General, 1950-1955
- Box 1. Folder 4. General, 1956
- Box 1. Folder 5. General, 1957 January-May
- Box 1. Folder 6. General, 1957 June-December
- Box 1. Folder 7. General, 1958 January-March
- Box 2. Folder 1. General, 1958 April-July
- Box 2. Folder 2. General, 1958 August-December
- Box 2. Folder 3. General, 1959
- Box 2. Folder 4. General, 1960 January-April
- Box 2. Folder 5. General, 1960 May-August
- Box 2. Folder 6. General, 1960 September-December
- Box 3. Folder 1. General, 1961 January-April
- Box 3. Folder 2. General, 1961 May
- Box 3. Folder 3. General, 1961 June-December
- Box 3. Folder 4. General, 1962 January-February
- Box 3. Folder 5. General, 1962 March-December
- Box 3. Folder 6. General, 1963-1965
- Box 3. Folder 7. General, 1966
- Box 4. Folder 1. General, 1967-1969
- Box 4. Folder 2. General, 1970-1979
- Box 4. Folder 3. General, 1980
- Box 4. Folder 4. General, 1981, undated
- Box 4. Folder 5. General, 1982, undated
- Box 5. Folder 1. General, 1983

Box 5. Folder 2. General, 1984
Box 5. Folder 3. General, 1985
Box 5. Folder 4. General, 1986
Box 5. Folder 5. General, 1987
Box 5. Folder 6. General, 1988
Box 5. Folder 7. General, 1989
Box 6. Folder 1. General, 1990-1991
Box 6. Folder 2. General, 1992-1994
Box 6. Folder 3. General, 1995-1996
Box 6. Folder 4. General, 1997-1999
Box 6. Folder 5. General, 2000
Box 6. Folder 6. General, 2001
Box 6. Folder 7. General, 2002-2003
Box 7. Folder 1. Abramson, Glenda, 1986-1998, undated
Box 7. Folder 2. Band, Arnold, 1960-1962, undated
Box 7. Folder 3. Beerman, Leonard, 1986, undated
Box 7. Folder 4. Bernstein, Miriam and Leonard, 1967-1998
Box 7. Folder 5. Burnshaw, Stanley, 1962-1999
Box 7. Folder 6. Carmi, T. [Charney], 1959-1992
Box 7. Folder 7. Center for the Translation of Hebrew Literature, 1973-1978; 1987-1988
Box 7. Folder 8. Eden, Nachum and Sham, 1967, 1991-1999
Box 7. Folder 9. Friedlander, Albert, 1958, 1991-1998
Box 7. Folder 10. Fulbright scholarship, 1961-1963
Box 7. Folder 11. Gerstle family, 1967-1979
Box 7. Folder 12. Gottschalk, Alfred, 1958-1987
Box 8. Folder 1. Grad, Martin and Shoshana, 1966-1998
Box 8. Folder 2. Greenberg, Uri Zvi, undated
Box 8. Folder 3. Gryn, Hugo and Jackie, 1958, 1972-1978, 1996
Box 8. Folder 4. Haberman, Joshua and Maxine, 1968-1998, undated
Box 8. Folder 5. Halkin, Simon, 1959, 1961, undated
Box 8. Folder 6. Harman, Avraham [Ambassador of Israel], 1961-1962
Box 8. Folder 7. Heschel, Abraham Joshua, 1962
Box 8. Folder 8. Kaufman, Jay, 1962
Box 8. Folder 9. Kramer, Fradie and Milton, 1968
Box 8. Folder 10. Kurzweil, Baruch, 1959
Box 8. Folder 11. Kwiatek, Lottie, 1967
Box 8. Folder 12. Lowenthal, Irene, 1966-1968
Box 8. Folder 13. Marcus, Jacob Rader, 1986
Box 8. Folder 14. Newman book, 1960-1965, undated
Box 8. Folder 15. Patterson, David, 1983-2003, undated
Box 8. Folder 16. Sherman, Joseph, 1992-1993

Box 8. Folder 17. Shlonsky, Abraham, 1958, undated

Box 8. Folder 18. Wohl, Amiel, 1958-1964

Series B. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1949-2000, undated

Extent 2.1 linear feet (5.25 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This series contains materials relating to Spicehandler's professional and administrative duties during his tenure as professor at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Content includes general administrative materials, internal memos, project proposals, academic committee minutes, and class teaching materials.

Spicehandler greatly impacted the way that Hebrew was taught at HUC-JIR. In the 1950s he proposed acquiring the Language Learning Lab which at the time was an innovative approach to language learning. Spicehandler also ran the Hebrew language summer intensive based in Towanda, Pa.

Spicehandler believed that in order for HUC-JIR students to be fluent in Hebrew, they needed to have full language immersion and this support of Hebrew and Israel ultimately led to his involvement in the establishment of the Year-in-Israel program.

Spicehandler was director, then dean, of the Jerusalem school from 1966-1980, and during his time in Israel, he frequently interacted with high-ranking Israeli political figures, fostered ties between HUC-JIR and Hebrew University, and more broadly between American Reform Judaism and Israel.

Spicehandler's student materials can be found in Series F. Personal and Family.

Arrangement Series B is arranged in three (3) subseries: 1. General; 2. Committees; and 3. Teaching.

Subseries 1. General, 1960-2000, undated

Extent 0.5 linear feet (1.25 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This subseries contains materials relating to Spicehandler's administrative duties during his tenure at HUC-JIR. If HUC-JIR materials about a specific event or regarding a particular person are not available in these files, please refer to Series A. Correspondence. There are some time periods which have less material: 1962-1963 when Spicehandler was in Iran and 1966-1980 when Spicehandler was in Jerusalem.

Arrangement Files are arranged chronologically, followed by a general folder on the Jerusalem School.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 8. Folder 19. General, 1960-1963

Box 8. Folder 20. General, 1964-1969

Box 8. Folder 21. General, 1970-1979

Box 9. Folder 1. General, 1980-1984

Box 9. Folder 2. General, 1985-1989

Box 9. Folder 3. General, 1990-2000, undated

Box 9. Folder 4. HUC-JIR Jerusalem, 1980-1988, undated

Subseries 2. Committees, 1959-1999, undated

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This subseries contains materials relating to Spicehandler's work on various

committees during his time at HUC-JIR, including a file on the Fraternal Faculty Forum, an unofficial organization for HUC faculty.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by committee/subject name.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 10. Folder 1. Academic and Faculty Affairs, 1963-1964, 1980-1988, undated
- Box 10. Folder 2. Curriculum, 1986, 1988, 1999
- Box 10. Folder 3. DHL Program, 1964-1965
- Box 10. Folder 4. Faculty Welfare, 1979-1981
- Box 10. Folder 5. Faculty Welfare, 1984-1985
- Box 10. Folder 6. Faculty Welfare, 1986-1989, undated
- Box 10. Folder 7. Fraternal Faculty Forum, 1974-1988, undated
- Box 10. Folder 8. Hebrew Union College Annual (HUCA), 1980-1986
- Box 11. Folder 1. Israel Interfaith, 1978-1982
- Box 11. Folder 2. Long Range Planning, 1974-1976
- Box 11. Folder 3. Pension, 1975-1979
- Box 11. Folder 4. Pension, 1980-1988, undated
- Box 11. Folder 5. Publications, 1978-1983
- Box 11. Folder 6. Publications, 1984-1988
- Box 11. Folder 7. Student Welfare, 1960-1964
- Box 11. Folder 8. Study in Israel, 1959-1965
- Box 11. Folder 9. Tenure and Promotion, 1980-1983

Subseries 3. Teaching, 1949-1988, undated

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Included in this subseries are materials from Spicehandler's teaching, which began in 1949. Between his teaching and his central involvement in the development and running of key institutional programs relating to Hebrew education and Israel, there might be overlap in Series A. Correspondence, and Series B., Subseries 1. General.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by subject name.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 12. Folder 1. Ahad Haam, 1961, undated
- Box 12. Folder 2. Educational testing service, 1961-1962
- Box 12. Folder 3. Hebrew, 1953-1957, undated
- Box 12. Folder 4. Hebrew Language Learning Lab, 1954-1961, undated
- Box 12. Folder 5. Hebrew Language Learning Lab research materials, 1951-1955, undated
- Box 13. Folder 1. Hebrew Language Learning Lab research materials, 1956-1960, undated
- Box 13. Folder 2. HUC entrance exam, 1961
- Box 13. Folder 3. Intro to Judaism, 1949-1950

Box 13. Folder 4. Modern Hebrew literature, 1958-1963, undated

Box 13. Folder 5. Modern Hebrew literature, 1984-1988, undated

Series C. Professional Organizations, 1958-2002, undated

Extent 2.8 linear feet (7 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This series contains materials from various professional organizations in which Spicehandler was involved. Notable materials include the Labor Zionist Alliance of which Spicehandler was National President from 1982-1988, and the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) in which Spicehandler was vice president.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically by organization.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 14. Folder 1. American Zionist Council, 1960-1965, undated

Box 14. Folder 2. American Zionist Federation (AZF), 1978-1988, undated

Box 14. Folder 3. American Zionist Youth Foundation (AZYF), 1982-1993, undated

Box 14. Folder 4. Anti-Defamation League (ADL), 1960-1985, undated

Box 14. Folder 5. Association for Jewish Studies, 1992-1997

Box 14. Folder 6. Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA), 1981-1994, undated

Box 14. Folder 7. Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), 1988-1989, undated

Box 14. Folder 8. Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, 1982-1987

Box 14. Folder 9. Friends of Labor Israel, 1986-1987, undated

Box 14. Folder 10. Israel Interfaith Association, 1986, undated

Box 15. Folder 1. Israel Labor Party, 1983-1985

Box 15. Folder 2. Jewish Agency for Israel, 1976,1980-1984

Box 15. Folder 3. Jewish Agency for Israel, 1985-1988, 1991, undated

Box 15. Folder 4. Jewish Frontier, 1965, 1983-1986

Box 15. Folder 5. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1958

Box 15. Folder 6. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1960 October-December

Box 15. Folder 7. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1961 January-March

Box 16. Folder 1. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1961 April-May

Box 16. Folder 2. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1961 June-July

Box 16. Folder 3. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1961 August-September

Box 16. Folder 4. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1961 October

Box 16. Folder 5. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1961 November-December

Box 17. Folder 1. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1962 January-February

Box 17. Folder 2. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1962 March-December

Box 17. Folder 3. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1963-1964

Box 17. Folder 4. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1965 January-July

Box 17. Folder 5. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1965 August-December

Box 17. Folder 6. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1966 January-May

Box 18. Folder 1. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1966 June-December

Box 18. Folder 2. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1967-1969

Box 18. Folder 3. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1979-1982

Box 18. Folder 4. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1983, undated

Box 18. Folder 5. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1984-1985

Box 19. Folder 1. Labor Zionist Alliance, 1986-1995, undated

Box 19. Folder 2. Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, 1966, 1999-2002

Box 19. Folder 3. Moshe Sharett Institute, 1966-1990

Box 19. Folder 4. National Committee for Labor Israel, 1963, 1985

Box 19. Folder 5. Pioneer Women, 1966, 1983, 1987

Box 19. Folder 6. World Labor Zionist Movement, 1982-1987, 1990, undated

Box 20. Folder 1. World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), 1979-1993, undated

Box 20. Folder 2. World Zionist Organization (WZO), 1983-1985, undated

Box 20. Folder 3. World Zionist Organization (WZO), 1986-1988

Box 20. Folder 4. World Zionist Organization (WZO), 1990-1993, undated

Series D. Lectures, Sermons and Addresses, 1944-2000, undated

Extent 3.2 linear feet (8 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This series contains lectures, sermons and addresses given during Spicehandler's lengthy career.

There is a separate subseries of the sermons and divrei Torah delivered by Spicehandler in Israel. Most of the material from 1966 to 1980 is in Hebrew and the folders contain handwritten and typescript versions.

Arrangement Series D is arranged in two (2) subseries: 1. General; and 2. Sermons and divrei Torah in Israel.

Subseries 1. General, 1944-2002, undated

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note As a rabbi, Spicehandler held visiting pulpits, including a High Holiday pulpit in Laredo, Texas, in Puerto Rico (2000-2001), and New Zealand (1992-1996). Spicehandler also held visiting professorships at Oxford University; Victoria University (Wellington, New Zealand); University of Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa); Logos Theological Seminary (Kyoto, Japan); and Hebrew University (Jerusalem, Israel).

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 21. Folder 1. Addresses, undated

Box 21. Folder 2. CCAR, 1950, 1974, 1983

Box 21. Folder 3. China Judaic Studies Association conference, 1995-1996, undated

Box 21. Folder 4. HUC Iran trip, 1974-1978

Box 21. Folder 5. JCC lecture series, 1955-1956

Box 21. Folder 6. Lecture appointments, 1953-2002, undated
Box 21. Folder 7. Lectures, undated
Box 21. Folder 8. Memorial service/prayers, 1944, 1983, undated
Box 22. Folder 1. Sermons, 1950-1993, undated
Box 22. Folder 2. Sermons, 1967-1977, undated
Box 22. Folder 3. South Africa seminar series, 1987
Box 22. Folder 4. South America lecture tour, 1988-1989
Box 22. Folder 5. USSR, 1979
Box 22. Folder 6. Wellington, New Zealand pulpit, 1992-1994, undated

Subseries 2. Sermons and divrei Torah in Israel, 1966-1980, undated

Extent 2.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note While in Israel, Spicehandler gave a weekly dvar torah at the shabbat service held in the HUC chapel.

Please note that there were a few sermons that were for other events, but they were included in the initial donation and have been left for the purpose of collection integrity.

Arrangement

The materials are organized based on the parsha of the Jewish liturgical calendar. Box 23 contains the Jewish holidays, Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot; Box 24 contains Bereshit (Genesis); Box 25 contains Shmot; Box 26 contains Vayikra (Leviticus); Box 27 contains Bamidbar (Numbers); and Box 28 contains Devarim (Deuteronomy).

Box and Folder Listing

Box 23. Folder 1. Rosh Hashanah, 1966-1978
Box 23. Folder 2. Yom Kippur, 1966-1979, undated
Box 23. Folder 3. Sukkot, 1966-1980, undated
Box 23. Folder 4. Simchat Torah, 1966, 1968, 1970
Box 23. Folder 5. Hanukkah, 1967-1979
Box 23. Folder 6. Purim, 1968, 1974, undated
Box 23. Folder 7. Pesach, 1967-1980
Box 23. Folder 8. Shavuot, 1967-1969, 1972
Box 24. Folder 1. Bereshit, 1966-1979
Box 24. Folder 2. Noach, 1966-1978
Box 24. Folder 3. Lech-Lecha, 1966-1978
Box 24. Folder 4. Vayera, 1966-1979, undated
Box 24. Folder 5. Chayei Sarah, 1966-1978
Box 24. Folder 6. Toldot, 1966-1978
Box 24. Folder 7. Vayetzei, 1966-1979, undated
Box 24. Folder 8. Vayishlach, 1966-1979, undated
Box 24. Folder 9. Vayeshev, 1971-1979
Box 24. Folder 10. Miketz, 1969-1978
Box 24. Folder 11. Vayigash, 1969-1979

Box 24. Folder 12. Vayechi, 1966-1980

Box 25. Folder 1. Shmot, 1966-1980, undated

Box 25. Folder 2. Vaera, 1967-1979

Box 25. Folder 3. Bo, 1967-1978

Box 25. Folder 4. Beshalach, 1967-1977

Box 25. Folder 5. Yitro, 1967-1980

Box 25. Folder 6. Mishpatim, 1967-1978

Box 25. Folder 7. Terumah, 1967-1976

Box 25. Folder 8. Tetzaveh, 1969-1973

Box 25. Folder 9. Ki Tisa, 1968-1980

Box 25. Folder 10. Vayakhel, 1972, 1974

Box 25. Folder 11. Vayakhel-Pekudai, 1969, 1980

Box 25. Folder 12. Pekudai, 1967-1978

Box 26. Folder 1. Vayikra, 1967-1980, undated

Box 26. Folder 2. Tzav, 1969-1980

Box 26. Folder 3. Shmini, 1967-1979, undated

Box 26. Folder 4. Tazria, 1972, undated

Box 26. Folder 5. Tazria-Metzora, 1969-1979

Box 26. Folder 6. Metzora, 1968-1980

Box 26. Folder 7. Achrei Mot, 1970, 1973, 1980

Box 26. Folder 8. Achrei Mot-Kedoshim, 1971-1972, 1975

Box 26. Folder 9. Kedoshim, 1978

Box 26. Folder 10. Emor, 1969-1980, undated

Box 26. Folder 11. Behar, 1967-1978

Box 26. Folder 12. Behar-Bechukotai, 1969-1979

Box 26. Folder 13. Bechukotai, 1967-1980

Box 27. Folder 1. Bamidbar, 1967-1979

Box 27. Folder 2. Nasso, 1968-1979

Box 27. Folder 3. Beha'alotcha, 1968-1978, undated

Box 27. Folder 4. Sh'lach, 1969-1979, undated

Box 27. Folder 5. Korah, 1969, 1974, undated

Box 27. Folder 6. Chukat, 1969- 1975

Box 27. Folder 7. Balak, 1968-1977, undated

Box 27. Folder 8. Pinchas, 1967-1977

Box 27. Folder 9. Matot, 1968-1977

Box 27. Folder 10. Matot-Masei, 1967

Box 27. Folder 11. Masei, 1968, undated

Box 28. Folder 1. Devarim, 1966-1973

Box 28. Folder 2. Vaetchanan, 1966-1978, undated

Box 28. Folder 3. Eikev, 1966-1978

Box 28. Folder 4. Re'eh, 1966-1979, undated

- Box 28. Folder 5. Shoftim, 1966-1977, undated
- Box 28. Folder 6. Ki Teitzei, 1966-1978
- Box 28. Folder 7. Ki Tavo, 1966-1979
- Box 28. Folder 8. Nitzavim, 1966-1979, undated
- Box 28. Folder 9. Nitzavim-Vayeilech, 1970, 1972
- Box 28. Folder 10. Vayeilech, 1966-1978
- Box 28. Folder 11. Ha'Azinu, 1969-1978, undated

Series E. Publications, Writings, and Research, 1943-2001, undated

Extent 2.7 linear feet (6.75 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Spicehandler made major contributions to the fields of Modern Hebrew Literature, Israel and Zionism, Judeo-Persian studies, and Talmudic history. His anthology, *The Modern Hebrew Poem Itself*, written with T. Carmi and Stanley Burnshaw, was used as the standard textbook in advanced studies in Modern Hebrew Literature in the United States and Israel for decades. Spicehandler served as an editor of Modern Hebrew for the *Encyclopedia Judaica* and published widely in academic journals.

Arrangement Arranged into four (4) subseries: 1. General; 2. Modern Hebrew Poem Itself; 3. Judeo-Persian; and 4. Encyclopedia/Reference contributions.

Subseries 1. General, 1943-2001, undated

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Materials included in this subseries are drafts of published articles/excerpts of books, miscellaneous writings and research from Spicehandler's career. Of note are Spicehandler's early temple bulletins from when he was a rabbinical student at HUC-JIR and his writing on T. Carmi (1925-1994). Spicehandler and Carmi met during Israel's War of Independence and later co-edited the *Modern Hebrew Poem Itself* with Stanley Burnshaw.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 29. Folder 1. Ameriq'a'yut in American Hebrew literature, 1993
- Box 29. Folder 2. The Attitude towards the Land of Israel in Spanish Hebrew Poetry, undated
- Box 29. Folder 3. Bialik research material, 1960-1996, undated
- Box 29. Folder 4. Bialik writings and translations, 2001, undated
- Box 30. Folder 1. Book reviews/writings, 1951-1985, undated
- Box 30. Folder 2. Carmi, T., 1965-1995, undated
- Box 30. Folder 3. CCAR prayerbook project, 1981-1988
- Box 30. Folder 4. General, 1957-1996, undated
- Box 30. Folder 5. Hebrew at Hebrew Union College, 1995
- Box 30. Folder 6. Hebrew Language and Literature at HUC 1876-1930, 1976, 1994, undated
- Box 30. Folder 7. Jewish idea of Messiah, undated
- Box 31. Folder 1. Jewish Mysticism, undated

- Box 31. Folder 2. Latin American Jewry, 1960-1967
- Box 31. Folder 3. Modern Hebrew Stories, 1971, undated
- Box 31. Folder 4. New School of Israeli Novelists, 1960, undated
- Box 31. Folder 5. New Writing Anthology, 1975-1977, undated
- Box 31. Folder 6. Notes on Gentile Courts in Talmudic Babylonia, 1955, undated
- Box 31. Folder 7. Random Harvest (Bialik) book reviews, 1998-2001
- Box 31. Folder 8. Sabra School of Israeli Novelists, undated
- Box 31. Folder 9. Temple bulletins, 1943-1944, 1950
- Box 31. Folder 10. Zweifel, Eliezer, undated

Subseries 2. Modern Hebrew Poem Itself, 1962-2000, undated

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note This subseries is focused on Spicehandler's seminal work, *The Modern Hebrew Poem Itself*, which he edited with T. Carmi and Stanley Burnshaw. It was first published in 1965 by Schocken Books, with a reprint in 1989, and a third reprint by Harvard University Press in 1995. A second and revised edition was published by Wayne State University in 2003, with Ariel Hirschfeld included as an editor.

Arrangement The folders are arranged alphabetically by subject. There was an effort by Spicehandler to keep the correspondence relating to *The Modern Hebrew Poem Itself* separate from his general correspondence; however, it is worthwhile to check in Series A. Correspondence for materials from T. Carmi and Stanley Burnshaw.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 32. Folder 1. Contracts, 1965-1998
- Box 32. Folder 2. Correspondence between T. Carmi, Stanley Burnshaw and Ezra Spicehandler, 1962-1972, undated
- Box 32. Folder 3. First edition draft of MHPI, 1963-1965
- Box 32. Folder 4. General, 1980-2000, undated
- Box 32. Folder 5. Reviews, 1965-1969, 1996, undated

Subseries 3. Judeo-Persian, 1951-1985, undated

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Spicehandler received a Fulbright grant to study in Tehran, from 1962 to 1963. In Iran, Spicehandler focused much of his research on Baba'i ibn Lutf, a Jewish poet and historian in 17th-century Safavid Iran. Baba'i ibn Lutf was the author of the first Judeo-Persian chronicle, the *Kitab-i Anusi*. It was written in Persian using Hebrew script and consists of some 5,300 verses.

Spicehandler worked on a translation for years before losing his manuscript; it was recovered during the processing of this collection and exists as '*Kitab-i Anusi* by Babai ben Lotf: A Scientific Edition with Hebrew Translation by Ezra Spicehandler' (in Hebrew text).

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically by title.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 33. Folder 1. Contemporary Iranian Jewry, 1951-1974, undated

Box 33. Folder 2. Iranian Jewry, 1975, undated

Box 33. Folder 3. Kitab-i-Anusi and Babai ben Lotf research and translation, 1962-1965, undated

Box 34. Folder 1. Kitab-i-Anusi by Babai ben Lotf: A Scientific edition with Hebrew translation by Ezra Spicehandler (manuscript), 1985, undated

Box 34. Folder 2. Persian translations, undated

Subseries 4. Encyclopedia/Reference contributions, 1958-2000, undated

Extent 0.5 linear feet (1.25 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note This subseries includes some of Spicehandler's contributions to various encyclopedias and reference volumes. Spicehandler served as divisional editor of Modern Hebrew Literature of the Encyclopedia Judaica (1971-1972). He was an advisory editor of the Oxford Companion to Jewish Culture (1989) and a divisional editor for Modern Hebrew Literature in the Encyclopedia of Zionism (1994).

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically by publication.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 34. Folder 3. Blackwell Companion to Jewish Culture, 1980-1989

Box 34. Folder 4. Encyclopedia Britannica, 1958

Box 35. Folder 1. Encyclopedia Judaica, 1963

Box 35. Folder 2. Encyclopedia of Poetics, 1986-1990, undated

Box 35. Folder 3. Encyclopedia of Zionism, 1986-1987, undated

Box 35. Folder 4. Jewish Writers of the Twentieth Century, 2000

Box 35. Folder 5. Who's Who in American Jewry, 1986, 1989

Series F. Personal and Family, 1935-2008, undated

Extent 1.1 linear feet (2.75 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Correspondence between Spicehandler and various family members starting from 1939 when he left Brooklyn for HUC. Of note is the World War II correspondence between Spicehandler and his brothers, his brother-in-law Bob, and the correspondence between the Spicehandlers and various family while they were in Israel during the Arab-Israeli war in 1947-1949.

Spicehandler and his father Abraham only wrote to one another in Hebrew, and this was the same with his younger brother Daniel (1923-2010), known to the family as 'Butch' (sometimes referenced as Dunny/Doni). Daniel was married to Louise, and she and Skippy often wrote to each other. When Spicehandler and his older brother Amiel (1919-1984), known as 'Ami' (sometimes spelled Amy), corresponded, they mostly wrote in English.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically by person/subject name.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 35. Folder 6. Certificates, 1935-1946, undated

Box 35. Folder 7. Condolence letters about Abraham Spicehandler, 1968-1969

Box 35. Folder 8. Horn, Max and Helen, 1944-1968

Box 35. Folder 9. Horn, Robert and Evie, 1944-1982

Box 36. Folder 1. HUC student sermons/prayers, 1940-1946

Box 36. Folder 2. HUC student work, 1940-1946

Box 36. Folder 3. Israel War of Independence correspondence, 1947-1949

Box 36. Folder 4. Japan trip diaries, 1989, undated

Box 36. Folder 5. Miscellaneous family correspondence, 1978-2008, undated

Box 36. Folder 6. Rabbinical thesis, 1946

Box 37. Folder 1. Spicehandler, Abraham, 1939-1960

Box 37. Folder 2. Spicehandler, Amiel and Florence, 1945-1984

Box 37. Folder 3. Spicehandler, Daniel (Butch) and Louise, 1940, 1945-1993, undated

Box 37. Folder 4. Spicehandler, Esther, 1939-1944

Box 37. Folder 5. Spicehandler, Esther, 1945-1961, undated

Box 37. Folder 6. Spicehandler, Shirley and Ezra, 1942-1959, undated

Box 37. Folder 7. Spicehandler, Shirley and Ezra, 1960-1969

Box 38. Folder 1. Spicehandler, Shirley and Ezra, 1970-1995, undated

Box 38. Folder 2. WWII family correspondence, 1942-1945