



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Maurice Beck Hexter Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 338



Collection Summary

Title	Maurice Beck Hexter Papers
Dates	1928-1938
Collection Number	MS-338
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Hexter, Maurice Beck, 1891-1990
Extent	2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English, French, and German

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Maurice Beck Hexter was born on June 30, 1891 in Cincinnati Ohio to Max Hexter and Sarah Beck Hexter. His father ran a small candy store. Since both parents emigrated from Germany, Hexter grew up speaking German as his first language. He worked as a newsboy, selling in all parts of Cincinnati including the red light district.

Hexter graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1912. He considered a career as a political science professor but was advised against it because of his religion. Through his work teaching English at the Jewish Settlement House, Hexter became interested in a career in social work. In 1913, he entered the office of the United Jewish Charities of Cincinnati, directed by Dr. Boris Bogen. Hexter became the director of the Federation of Jewish Charities in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1914 before returning to Cincinnati to succeed Bogen as superintendent in 1916.

When the opportunity came to move to Boston, as the Executive Director of the Federation of Jewish Charities in 1919, Hexter readily accepted. He stayed until 1929, serving simultaneously as an instructor in Social Ethics at Harvard. He received a Ph.D. in Social Ethics from Harvard in 1924. Hexter also served during this period as a representative of the United Jewish Campaign commission investigating conditions in Russia and Eastern Europe as well as a special investigator in Mexico for the Emergency Committee on Jewish Refugees. Accompanying him on his trip to Russia was Jacob Billikopf, son-in-law of Louis Marshall.

Hexter's work as the secretary of the Joint Palestine Survey Committee (1927-1929) led him to develop a stronger interest in Palestine. In 1929, Hexter was appointed as a non-Zionist member of the Council of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, although he resigned that same year to become a member of the Executive of the Agency. He remained with the Agency until 1938. Hexter moved to Jerusalem in 1929 to direct the Palestine Emergency Fund. During 1930-31 he was heavily involved in the negotiating committee with the British cabinet. In 1935, he took over as head of the Agency's colonization department.

Following his return to the United States, Hexter was the assistant to Dr. Solomon Lowenstein, Executive Vice-President for the New York Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies. By 1941, Hexter had become co-executive vice-president with Joseph Willen. After 1967, he remained active as a consultant to the Federation. Hexter was a key figure in establishing social work schools at Hunter College, Brandeis University and Yeshiva University. In later years, he received acclaim as a sculptor.

Maurice Hexter married Marguerite Mock, whom he met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 11, 1921. They had one daughter, Marjorie Hexter Cohen, born in 1930.

Maurice Hexter died October 28, 1990 in New York City. In that same year, his autobiography (co-written with Murray Teigh Bloom) entitled *Life Size* was published by Phoenix Publishing.

Scope and Content

Correspondence, reports, cablegrams, and other materials relating to Zionism, the development of Palestine, and the Balfour Declaration.

Arrangement

The records are divided into two (2) series: A. Correspondence; B. Miscellaneous.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-338. Maurice Beck Hexter Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Index Terms

Subjects Balfour Declaration / Palestine / Zionism
Personal Names Hexter, Maurice Beck, 1891-1990 / Hyman, Joseph C., 1889- / Warburg, Felix M. (Felix Moritz), 1871-1937 / Weizmann, Chaim, 1874-1952
Corporate Names Jewish Agency for Palestine / Jewish Colonization Association

Series A. Correspondence, 1929-1938

Extent 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence of Maurice Beck Hexter during his period in Jerusalem as the Director of the Palestine Emergency Fund, supervisor of rebuilding homes and a negotiating member with the British Cabinet. Topics include his work in Jerusalem, the international funding backing the Palestine project, Zionism, the Hope-Simpson report and the Balfour Declaration. Over half of the correspondence is with Felix M. Warburg. The correspondence includes letters, cablegrams, and reports enclosed in letters.

Arrangement The folders are arranged alphabetically according to the correspondent's name. Within each folder, the arrangement is chronological.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. EMICA, 1932-1934
Box 1. Folder 2. Hyman, Joseph C, 1931-1933
Box 1. Folder 3. Jewish Agency for Palestine [Weizmann/Warburg correspondence], 1929
Box 1. Folder 4. Jewish Agency for Palestine, 1930 January-April
Box 1. Folder 5. Jewish Agency for Palestine, 1930 May-September
Box 1. Folder 6. Jewish Agency for Palestine, 1930 October-December
Box 1. Folder 7. Jewish Agency for Palestine, 1931
Box 1. Folder 8. Jewish Colonization Society, 1932
Box 2. Folder 1. Jewish Colonization Society, 1933
Box 2. Folder 2. Warburg, Felix [with Hexter], 1929-1930
Box 2. Folder 3. Warburg, Felix, 1931-1933
Box 2. Folder 4. Warburg, Felix and family, 1937-1938
Box 2. Folder 5. Warburg, Felix. Miscellaneous cablegrams and correspondence, 1928-1929
Box 2. Folder 6. Warburg, Felix, 1930 January-April
Box 2. Folder 7. Warburg, Felix, 1930 May-September
Box 3. Folder 1. Warburg, Felix, 1930 October-December
Box 3. Folder 2. Warburg, Felix, 1931 January-April
Box 3. Folder 3. Warburg, Felix, 1931 May-December
Box 3. Folder 4. Warburg, Felix, 1932
Box 3. Folder 5. Warburg, Felix, 1933
Box 3. Folder 6. Warburg, Felix, 1934
Box 3. Folder 7. Warburg, Felix, 1935 January-June
Box 3. Folder 8. Warburg, Felix, 1935 July-December

- Box 4. Folder 1. Warburg, Felix, 1936 January-March
- Box 4. Folder 2. Warburg, Felix, 1936 April-September
- Box 4. Folder 3. Warburg, Felix, 1936 October-December
- Box 4. Folder 4. Warburg, Felix, 1937 January-March
- Box 4. Folder 5. Warburg, Felix, 1937 April-June
- Box 4. Folder 6. Warburg, Felix, 1937 July-August
- Box 4. Folder 7. Warburg, Felix, 1937 September-December

Series B. Miscellaneous, 1929-1938, undated

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of reports and other materials related to Maurice B. Hexter's stay in Palestine. It includes reports on Palestine, information relating to a October 1929 testimonial dinner and other memorabilia.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 5. Folder 1. General correspondence.
- Box 5. Folder 2. Reports on Palestine, 1928, undated
- Box 5. Folder 3. Testimonial dinner, 1929 October
- Box 5. Folder 4. Miscellaneous.