



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Graenum Berger Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 352



Collection Summary

Title	Graenum Berger Papers
Dates	1940-1996 (bulk 1970-1990)
Collection Number	MS-352
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Berger, Graenum
Extent	5.6 linear feet (14 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch	<p>Graneum Berger was born in Gloversville, New York, in 1908. In 1927, Berger and Emma Finestein of Albany eloped to Missouri where Berger was studying. Berger completed his bachelor's degree in 1930 from the University of Missouri. Two years later, he earned a masters degree from the Graduate School of Jewish Social Work in New York, New York. He then took a job with the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, and worked with Jewish community centers in New York, Israel, and other countries. Beginning in 1938, he taught social work at the New York School of Social Work.</p> <p>In 1965, Berger visited Ethiopia where he saw the plight of the Falashas and vowed to help them. He began by trying to enlist American Jewish leaders to help relocate the Ethiopians to Israel but met with little success. Berger formed the American Association for Ethiopian Jews in 1965, and he began giving lectures to educate others about their plight. The Association began raising money for educational and medical programs to benefit the Ethiopians. After his retirement in 1973, Berger devoted himself wholeheartedly to the cause.</p> <p>Berger died March 31, 1999, at his home in New Rochelle, New York. He was 90 years old. His survivors included his wife of 71 years, a son, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.</p> <p>--Adapted from "Graenum Berger". Gale Biography in Context. Detroit: Gale, 1999. Gale Biography In Context. Web. 25 May 2012.</p>
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Scope and Content	Consists of correspondence, writings, diaries, journals, and other materials relating to the Association of Jewish Center Workers (earlier name: National Association of Jewish Center Workers) and his work with the American Association for Ethiopian Jews to help relocate the Falashas (Ethiopian Jews). Also included are notes and correspondence relating to his autobiography Graenum, along with extensive correspondence with family and friends relating both to his professional life and his personal life.
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Terms of Access	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
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Preferred Citation	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Graenum Berger Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-352. Graenum Berger Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
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Provenance	Received from Graenum Berger, New Rochelle, N.Y., 1989-1997.
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Processing Information	Processed by American Jewish Archives staff. Additional processing by Michelle Wirth Detroit, November 2011.
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Index Terms

Subjects	Jewish community centers / Jews, Ethiopian
Personal Names	Berger, Graenum
Corporate Names	American Association for Ethiopian Jews / Association of Jewish Center Workers (U.S.) / National Association of Jewish Center Workers (U.S.)
Media	Diaries

Series A. General, 1940-1996

Box Listing

- Box 1. Correspondence. A-H, General.
- Box 2. Correspondence. Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York- L, General.
- Box 3. Correspondence. Keren Yaldenu-S.
- Box 4. Correspondence. T-Z; Writings. A-K, General.
- Box 5. Writings. "Groupwork with the Aged"-Y, General.
- Box 6. Writings. "Violence and Defense in Jewish History" and untitled [notes, book reviews, personal, miscellaneous].
- Box 7. Diaries and journals, 1949-1971
- Box 8. Diaries and journals, 1972-1981
- Box 9. Diaries and journals, 1982-1986
- Box 10. Correspondence. A-P, 1941-1988
- Box 11. Correspondence. Personal, 1988-1990
- Box 12. Correspondence. Personal, 1990-1992
- Box 13. Correspondence. Personal-S, 1993-1996
- Box 14. Writings and topical files, 1973-1986