



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Gitelson Family Papers**

**Manuscript Collection No. 178**



## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Gitelson Family Papers, 1888-2011
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-178
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Gitelson Family Gitelson, Nehemiah, 1853 - 1932 Gitelson, M. Leo (Moses Leo), 1896-1964 Gitelson, Susan Aurelia
<b>Extent</b>	35.6 linear feet (54 Hollinger boxes, 1 record carton, 13 oversize boxes)
<b>Abstract</b>	Collection consisting of business correspondence and records, including papers of M. Leo Gitelson and Susan Gitelson; together with family correspondence and papers, photographs, newsclippings, genealogy materials, speeches and miscellaneous items. Includes information on the Gitelson-Kamaiko Foundation and the Nehemiah Gitelson Foundation.
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English, Russian, and Yiddish

## Administrative Information

<b>Biographical Sketch</b>	<p>Nehemiah Gitelson</p> <p>Nehemiah Gitelson was born in Svenziany, Poland in 1853. He studied at the Yeshivas in Mir and Volozhin, obtaining ordination, although he never entered the rabbinate. He first came to the United States in 1880, and made his home in New York City, running the company Nehemiah Gitelson and Sons, cotton converters and commission merchants. Gitelson was a strong supporter of Talmudic study. In 1905, he founded the Chevra Shass at the Congregation Sons of Israel Kalwarie in New York City, leading this organization for more than twenty five years. His personal collection of over 1100 volumes was bequeathed to the Jewish Theological Seminary library, where it is known as the Nehemiah Gitelson Talmudic Library. The JTS, as well as Alpha Epsilon Pi, a national Jewish college fraternity, award a medal annually in Gitelson's memory. Nehemiah Gitelson was married to Bailey Weiseiski and had several children including Moses Leo Gitelson, Bertha Gitelson, and Tessie Gitelson Feinfeld.</p> <p>M. Leo Gitelson</p> <p>Born in Mariampol, Russia (currently Lithuania) on December 12, 1896 to Nehemiah and Bailey Gitelson, Moses (M.) Leo was brought to America in 1901. Gitelson was educated at public schools and at the Teachers Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, receiving a diploma in 1915. Gitelson received a B.S. from the College of the City of New York in 1916 and a Master's of Business Administration from New York University in 1921. In 1926, he received a Ph.D. in Economics and Business Administration from New York University. Gitelson was a veteran of World War I, serving in the Chemical Warfare Service. Beginning in 1916, Gitelson worked for his father's firm, Nehemiah Gitelson and Sons. He developed it into the Gitelson Fabrics Corp. and the Benguitelle Corp. Gitelson was also involved in the New York Board of Trade and the Textile Fabrics Association. An ardent bibliophile, Gitelson took an interest in microfilms, and through the Gitelson Library Foundation gave copies of rare books, manuscripts and other documents to many institutions including the Library of Congress, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and the British Museum. Gitelson was publisher of The Chronicle and The Magnet, scholarly quarterlies. He was an overseer of the Jewish Theological Seminary and a trustee of the Jewish Publication Society of America. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, honorary scholarship fraternity, and Alpha Epsilon Pi. M. Leo Gitelson married Miriam Silverman on July 14, 1935 and had two daughters, Consuelo (Connie) Gitelson Gruber and Dr. Susan Aurelia Sarah Gitelson. He died on August 23, 1964.</p> <p>Susan Aurelia Sarah Gitelson</p> <p>Susan Gitelson was born on April 17, 1941, in New York, N.Y. She studied history at Barnard College and then worked for The Rockefeller Foundation as a trainee in office procedures. She earned a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University in 1966 and a Ph.D. from Columbia in 1970. Dr. Gitelson has worked as an entrepreneur, author, professor, international consultant, and philanthropist. She was an assistant professor of International Relations and African Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1970-1975) and then a Research Associate at the Columbia University Middle East Institute. She was also the director of international and third world affairs of the World Jewish Congress. In business ventures, she has been president of International Consultants, Inc., SJ International Corp., and Magic Touch Icewares International Corp. Gitelson serves on the Board of several major educational institutions including The Hebrew University, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs, the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Sutton Place Synagogue. In addition, she sponsors scholarships and symposia at these institutions as well as the</p>
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Truman Institute's Gitelson Peace Publications.

**Scope and Content**

The Gitelson Family Papers consist of business and personal correspondence and records of this prominent New York City family, beginning with Nehemiah Gitelson, continuing through his son, M. Leo Gitelson, and his granddaughter, Susan Aurelia Sarah Gitelson. The business records include correspondence, ledgers, business cards and other various materials documenting the firm of Nehemiah Gitelson and Sons, as well as Gitelson Fabrics Corp. and the Benguitelle Corp. Business correspondence also documents M. Leo Gitelson's work with the New York Board of Trade and the American Standards Association. Personal correspondence and records includes letters to and from Nehemiah Gitelson and his children (M. Leo, Bertha, and Tessie), information on the education of his children, as well as correspondence of Susan Gitelson.

The collection also documents M. Leo and Susan Gitelson's involvement in the Gitelson-Kamaiko Cousins Club and the Gitelson-Kamaiko Foundation through the publication of the Chronicle and the Magnet, including proofs and drafts of these publications. Furthermore, the collection thoroughly documents the Nehemiah Gitelson Foundation and its sponsorship of various microfilming and library projects, as well as awards and scholarship.

**Arrangement**

The collection has been maintained in original order as donated.

**Terms of Access**

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

**Terms of Reproduction and Use**

This collection has been placed in the permanent care, custody, and control of the American Jewish Archives (AJA) by the donors of the collection. Questions concerning rights to use or publish materials from the collection should be addressed to the Executive Director of the AJA. For more information, see the American Jewish Archives copyright information webpage.

**Preferred Citation**

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-178. Gitelson Family Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance**

Received from M. Leo Gitelson and Susan Gitelson, New York, N.Y. An accrual to the Gitelson Family Papers was received from Susan A. Gitelson, New York, N.Y. in August 2009.

**Processing Information**

Processed by American Jewish Archives staff. Additional processing by Elisa Ho, August 2011.

**Index Terms**

**Subjects** Jewish families / Textile industry  
**Personal Names** Gitelson, M. Leo (Moses Leo), 1896-1964 / Gitelson, Nehemiah, 1853-1932 / Gitelson, Susan Aurelia  
**Corporate Names** Gitelson family  
**Media** Genealogies / Photographs

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