A Finding Aid to the
Samuel L. Haber Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 584
Collection Summary

Title: Samuel L. Haber Papers
Collection Number: MS-584
Repository: The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator: Haber, Samuel L., 1903-1984
Extent: 13.4 linear feet (31 Hollinger boxes, 1 oversize box)
Language of the Material: English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
Samuel Loeb Haber was born to Loeb and Etta Haber on October 12, 1903 in Hirlau, Rumania. In 1911, at the age of eight, Samuel emigrated to the United States with his widowed mother, two brothers, and two sisters. The family settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where Sam and his brothers, William and Frank, helped support the family by selling newspapers. All three boys earned University degrees and Samuel graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1924. Trained as an economist, Haber worked in the Statistical and Reporting Division of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Washington, D.C. from 1935 to 1942, then as Chief Statistician for post-war planning with the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation. From 1943 to 1946 he served in the United States Army, finishing as a military government officer in Germany and holding the rank of Major.

In March of 1947, Samuel Haber joined the staff of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) as director for the American Occupation Zone of Germany, later adding responsibility for the remainder of Germany, as well as Austria. For the next seven years he directed the JDC in Germany and Austria giving social, economic and cultural aid to nearly 200,000 Jewish displaced persons (DPs). Haber developed and directed programs to assist in the DPs' rehabilitation and emigration to Israel, the United States and other friendly countries.

In 1954 Haber was sent to Morocco to organize a social welfare program for more than 50,000 of the country's 240,000 Jews. In 1957 he was given the additional responsibility of helping the impoverished Jews of Poland, a country that had been closed to the JDC since 1950.

Haber moved from Morocco to the JDC Geneva office in 1958 to become Assistant Director-General of the organization. In 1964 he was transferred to the New York office and in 1967 was elected Executive Vice-Chairman of the JDC. Although Haber retired from the JDC at the end of 1975, his co-workers honored him by electing him Honorary Executive Vice-President of the organization.

In addition to the JDC, other social welfare organizations received benefit from Haber's experience and abilities from the 1960s to the early 1980s. He was a frequent speaker in American Jewish communities during the 1960s and 1970s at fundraising campaign meetings, usually on the topic of the JDC. Haber was Vice-Chairman of the American Council of Agencies, Vice-President of the Israel Education Fund of the United Jewish Agency (UJA), National Chairman of the Associates Division of the American Friends of Hebrew University, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry of Hebrew University, consultant for the Jewish Studies program of Columbia University and Trustee of the interfaith Hunger Appeal (which he helped establish in 1978).

Haber married Angela Press in 1941. They were divorced eleven years later. Samuel's son, Michael Haber, was born January 25, 1942. On October 11, 1952, Samuel married Zipporah (Perry) Glazer Herz in Munich, Germany. At the age of 81, Samuel L. Haber died of a heart attack on November 3, 1984 while visiting his son, Dr. Michael Haber, in Akron, Ohio.

Scope and Content
The collection describes the career of Samuel L. Haber, particularly his work with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The collection includes correspondence, speeches, writings, news articles, reports, awards, personal items and photographs.

Arrangement

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

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-584. Samuel L. Haber Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Mrs. Samuel L. Haber, New York, N.Y., October 1989.

Processing Information


Index Terms

Subjects

Holocaust survivors / Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) / Refugees, Political -- Germany -- History -- 1945-1955

Personal Names

Haber, Samuel L., 1903-1984

Corporate Names

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

Media

Oral histories / Photographs

Series A. Correspondence, 1961-1988

Extent

1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note

Consists of correspondence and some miscellaneous materials.

Arrangement

The series is divided into three (3) subseries: 1. General Correspondence; 2. Correspondence and Articles Regarding Speaking Engagements (UJA and JDC); 3. Alphabetical Correspondence Files.

Subseries 1. General Correspondence, 1975-1984

Extent

0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Arrangement

The subseries is chronologically arranged.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1975
Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1977-1978
Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1979
Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1982
Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1983
Box 1. Folder 6. Correspondence, 1984

Subseries 2. Correspondence and Articles Regarding Speaking Engagements (UJA and JDC), 1973-1984

Extent

0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note

Contains letters, news articles, and miscellaneous materials relating to Haber's speeches, mainly for United Jewish Appeal fundraising campaign meetings and usually on the topic of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.
Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 7. Correspondence, 1973-1977
Box 1. Folder 8. Correspondence, 1978
Box 1. Folder 9. Correspondence, 1979
Box 1. Folder 10. Correspondence, 1980-1983

Subseries 3. Alphabetical Correspondence Files, 1961-1988

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of letters, minutes, by-laws, annual reports, publicity brochures and miscellaneous materials, arranged in alphabetical order by name of the organization or person to whom the material pertains. The bulk of the material pertains to the American Friends of Hebrew University and the Interfaith Hunger Appeal.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 3. American Friends of the Hebrew University (AFHU). Correspondence (M-Z), 1977-1984
Box 2. Folder 5. American Friends of the Hebrew University (AFHU). Re: Einstein's Papers, 1982
Box 2. Folder 8. American Friends of the Hebrew University (AFHU). Professions and Trades (pharmacy fraternity mailing campaign), 1982
Box 2. Folder 15. American Friends of the Hebrew University (AFHU).
Correspondence. Krueger, Harvey, 1982-1984


Box 4. Folder 3. Halpern, Marcel (JDC-Israel), 1981
Box 4. Folder 5. Interfaith Hunger Appeal. Board of Trustees (correspondence, minutes and misc.), 1979-1984
Box 4. Folder 10. Interfaith Hunger Appeal. Film project, 1983

Series B. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 1927-1990

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains correspondence, memos, reports (published and unpublished) and miscellaneous other materials concerning the history and work of the JDC and Samuel Haber’s career in the organization.

Arrangement The series is divided into four (4) subseries: 1. Correspondence, Memos and Reports from JDC offices in New York and Jerusalem; 2. General JDC Activity Reports; 3. Reports Arranged by Geographic Topic; 4. Holocaust and Miscellaneous.

Subseries 1. Correspondence, Memos and Reports from JDC Offices in New York and Jerusalem, 1945-1957

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence, memos, and reports pertaining to Haber’s work with Jewish DPs in Germany and Austria from 1945-1953, and with the Jewish communities in Morocco, Poland and Italy from 1954-1957. Included are document lists generated by Mrs. Perry Haber after she obtained the copies from the JDC in 1990.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 1. List of documents, 1990
Box 5. Folder 2. Germany and Austria, aid to Jewish DPs, 1945-1947
Box 5. Folder 3. Germany and Austria, aid to Jewish DPs, 1948
Box 5. Folder 4. Germany and Austria, aid to Jewish DPs, 1949
Box 5. Folder 5. Germany and Austria, aid to Jewish DPs, 1950-1951
Box 5. Folder 6. Germany and Austria, aid to Jewish DPs, 1952-1953
Subseries 2. General JDC Activity Reports, 1927-1965

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of reports, speeches and books pertaining to the general history and activities of the JDC from 1914 to about 1965 and to the situation of Jews, especially DPs, in Europe and Israel in the late 1940s, including the JDC role in aiding them.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 6. Folder 1. Book, Addresses of Paul Baerwald in behalf of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 1927 October 22-1936 January 28

Box 6. Folder 2. Book, Jewish Workers and Farmers in the Crimea and Ukraine, by Evelyn Morrissey, 1937


Box 6. Folder 4. Booklet, 30 Years: The Story of the JDC, 1945


Box 6. Folder 9. Report on trip to "Israel and Germany: Notes and Observations..., in Late 1953,..." by Harry Greenstein, 1954 April


Box 6. Folder 11. Two speeches re: JDC, 1958, 1965

Subseries 3. Reports Arranged by Geographic Topic, 1949-1978

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of reports, articles, and correspondence pertaining to JDC activities in Argentina, Morocco, Iran, Eastern Europe, India and South Africa.

Box and Folder Listing


Box 6. Folder 13. Reports and articles re: Arab Area and Iran, 1949-1970

Box 7. Folder 1. Reports and articles re: Eastern Europe, 1957-1972

Box 7. Folder 2. Reports and articles re: India, 1959-1969

Box 7. Folder 3. Items on 1976 visit to South Africa, 1976
Subseries 4. Holocaust and Miscellaneous, 1940, 1949, undated

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of paper currency (from a concentration camp) and books dated from 1940 to 1949 pertaining to the Holocaust. The materials relate to Haber’s work with DP's in the late 1940s. Two books contain pictures of the Holocaust and a third book records cartoons drawn by an Israeli artist during the 1940s (including a representation of Samuel Haber).

Box and Folder Listing

Box 7. Folder 4. Book of cartoons, From Here to There, by Arie Navon (see p. 176 for drawing of Samuel Haber at JDC), 1949


Box 7. Folder 6. Paper currency for Jews from German concentration camp, 1940


Series C. Speeches, Writings and Oral History Interviews, 1924-1981

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of speeches, articles and reports by Samuel L. Haber. Includes Haber’s B.A. thesis submitted to the University of Wisconsin in 1924 and a report he wrote for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1942. Also in this series is the typewritten transcript for a series of interviews of Haber conducted as part of the Oral History Project of the JDC in 1980-1981.

Box and Folder Listing


Box 8. Folder 2. Speeches by Samuel Haber, 1956-1968


Box 8. Folder 4. Jokes for speeches (notes and article), undated

Box 8. Folder 5. Correspondence and notes from William Haber re: speech concerning Hebrew University, 1977

Box 8. Folder 6. Reports by Samuel Haber to JDC, 1967-1971

Box 8. Folder 7. Reports by Samuel Haber to JDC, 1972-1975

Box 8. Folder 8. Article in Yiddish, "Two Years in the She'erit Ha'pleita," by Samuel Haber, Munich, July 1949, 1949 July

Box 8. Folder 9. Thesis, A History of the International Association of Machinists (1888-1924), by Samuel L. Haber, submitted for Bachelor of Arts degree at University of
Series D. Personal Papers and Awards, 1943-1988

Extent  1.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box, 1 oversize box)

Scope and Content Note  Consists of biographical sketches, news articles, obituaries, programs for speaking engagements, U.S. Army service records, passport, marriage certificate, favorite poetry, condolence letters, awards and citations, and scrapbooks of correspondence commemorating Haber's retirement from the JDC. Subjects include Haber's birthplace in Rumania, his sister (Sarah Ginsberg) and his brother (William Haber).

Box and Folder Listing

Box 9. Folder 4. Programs and announcements for speaking engagements, 1959-1964
Box 9. Folder 7. Article re: Harlau, Rumania (birthplace of Samuel Haber), 1947
Box 9. Folder 8. Obituaries for Sarah Ginsberg (oldest sister of Samuel Haber), 1980
Box 9. Folder 11. List of condolences received (for Haber’s death), 1984-1985
Box 9. Folder 16. Mordecai Ben David Award, Yeshiva University, New York, N.Y., 1972 June 8
Box X-367. Folder Award (autographed photograph of Golda Meir) from the United Jewish Appeal Study Mission, 1971
Box X-367. Folder Award. JDC-Germany, 1954
Box X-367. Folder Award. National Study Conference, 1973
Box X-367. Folder Award. Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations, 1981
Box X-367. Folder Award. United Jewish Appeal (UJA)/Federation of Jewish, undated
Box X-367. Folder Award. Philanthropies, undated
Box X-367. Folder Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1976 August
Box X-367. Folder Award. State of Israel to 1968 UJA Study Mission member, 1968
Box X-367. Folder Insignia of Israel's Defenders, 1968 October 27
Box X-367. Folder Award. B'nai B'rith Women District One, 1974 June 10
Box X-367. Folder Award. Ozar Hatorah, undated
Box X-367. Folder Award. Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund, 1955 September 21
Box X-367. Folder Award. UJA/Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Joint Campaign (mosaic), 1976 April 8
Box X-367. Folder 1 book, Unzer Churban in Bild (Our Destruction in Pictures).
Box X-368. Folder 3 scrapbooks of letters and telegram presented to Samuel L. Haber from his friends on the occasion of his retirement from JDC, 1975 December 10

Series E. Photographs, 1920-1984

Extent 8.8 linear feet (22 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains mounted and labeled photographic prints, mostly in black and white. The photographs include the following subjects: Samuel L. Haber, Perry Haber, other members of the Haber family and friends; vacation trips; business trips and meetings; JDC offices and activities in Europe, Morocco, India, Israel, Iran and the United States; DPs and DP camps.

Container List

Box 10. In United State and Europe: Etta Haber, William Haber, Michael Haber, Milwaukee (Wisconsin) newstand, Samuel in U.S. Army, 1920-1946.
Box 11. In Europe: Perry Herz (later Mrs. Samuel Haber), DP camps, JDC activities, 1947-1948.
Box 12. In Europe: Perry Herz (later Mrs. Samuel Haber), DP camps, JDC activities, Aden, Israel, 1948.
Box 13. In Europe: Perry Herz (later Mrs. Samuel Haber), DP camps, JDC activities, 1949.
Box 14. In Europe: Perry Herz, DP camps, 1st Hard Core Transport to Israel (from Bad Worishofen in March 1950), 1950.
Box 15. In Europe: Perry Herz, Marseilles Aliyah Camp (France), 1951.
Box 16. In Europe: includes the wedding of Samuel Haber and Perry Herz, 1952.
Box 17. In Germany and Israel: Perry Haber, 1953.
Box 20. In Geneva, France, United States, Canada and Iran, 1959.
Box 21. In Israel, United States and Europe, 1960.
Box 22. In Europe, India, Israel, Iran and United States, 1961-1964.
Box 24. Meeting of JDC leaders and Roshei Yeshivot of Israel at Jerusalem Convalescent Home of Vaad Hayeshivot, Israel, 1968.
Box 27. Visit to Nachlat-Chabad, Israel, 1972.


Box 30. In United States, Europe and Israel, 1974.

Box 31. In United States and Israel: includes Haber family members, 1975-1984.