



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
American Pro-Falasha Committee Records**

Manuscript Collection No. 61

THE AMERICAN PRO-FALASHA COMMITTEE, INC.
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SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS AT ADDIS-ABEBA, ABYSSINIA

Collection Summary

Title	American Pro-Falasha Committee Records
Dates	1922-1949
Collection Number	MS-61
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	American Pro-Falasha Committee
Extent	2.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes and 1 oversize box)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

The New York City based American Pro-Falasha Committee was organized in 1922 and incorporated in 1924 to promote educational efforts in Abyssinia (Ethiopia), to organize schools and synagogues in the Falasha communities, to translate educational works and the Bible into the Falasha language, and to improve their living conditions.

The Committee was organized largely through the efforts of Rabbi J. Max Weis, Dr. Norman Salit, and Dr. Jacques Faitlovitch, who assumed the duties of Educational Director in Abyssinia.

Throughout its nearly thirty year existence, from 1922-1949, the Committee was plagued by constant financial and political problems. Adequate monies rarely existed to support the Committee's educational efforts. In addition, the political status of Abyssinia, especially in the 1930s, was constantly in doubt because of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini's efforts to conquer Abyssinia.

Scope and Content

The American Pro-Falasha Committee records describe the efforts of a New York City based organization that was incorporated in 1924 to organize schools and synagogues in Abyssinia, to translate educational works and the Bible into the Falasha language, and to improve living conditions among the Falashas. The collection consists of correspondence, minutes, reports, financial records, membership lists, and nearprint which trace the activities of the Committee in the United States and in Abyssinia.

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 American Pro-Falasha Committee Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-61. American Pro-Falasha Committee Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Daniel L. Davis, director of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, New York, N.Y., 1952.

Processing Information

Processed by Mark Cowett, September 1978.

Index Terms

Subjects	Charities / Ethiopia / Jews -- Societies, etc. / Jews, Ethiopian / Rabbis
Personal Names	Faitlovitch, Jacques / Landman, Isaac, 1880-1946 / Salit, Norman / Weis, J. Max
Corporate Names	American Pro-Falasha Committee
Media	Minutes

Series A. General, 1922-1949

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence, letters of appeal for money, mailing lists, minutes, and incoming mail, together with a series of budgets. Among the important correspondents are Cyrus Adler, Alben W. Barkley, Louis D. Brandeis, David de Sola Pool, Jacques Faitlovitch, Herbert H. Lehman, and J. Max Weis. One oversize box contains receipt and disbursement ledgers.

Arrangement The series is arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. General, 1922-1929
- Box 1. Folder 2. General, 1930
- Box 1. Folder 3. General, 1931
- Box 1. Folder 4. General, 1932
- Box 1. Folder 5. General, 1933-1934
- Box 1. Folder 6-7. General, 1935
- Box 1. Folder 8. General, 1936
- Box 2. Folder 1. General, 1937
- Box 2. Folder 2. General, 1938
- Box 2. Folder 3. General, 1939
- Box 2. Folder 4. General, 1940-1941
- Box 2. Folder 5. General, 1942-1949
- Box 2. Folder 6-8. Correspondence, undated
- Box 2. Folder 9. Appeals to different organizations for money, 1928-1935
- Box 3. Folder 1-2. Mailing lists.
- Box 3. Folder 3. Ledger of incoming mail and minutes.
- Box 1928-1941. Folder 4. Budgets. (3)
- Box X-379. Folder 1. Cash receipt ledger, 1922-1926
- Box X-379. Folder 2. Disbursement ledger, 1930-1937