A Finding Aid to the
Morris S. Lazaron Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 71
Biographical Sketch

Morris Samuel Lazaron was born in Savannah, Georgia, on April 16, 1888 to Samuel L. and Alice (deCastro) Lazaron. He spent his childhood in Savannah, attending public schools and the Savannah Preparatory School.

Lazaron went north to Cincinnati, Ohio, to attend the Union College and the University of Cincinnati. In 1909 he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University and, in 1911, received a Master of Arts degree. He was ordained a rabbi by Hebrew Union College in 1914.

Soon after his ordination Lazaron accepted a call to become rabbi at the Congregation Leshem Shomayim in Wheeling, West Virginia. He remained there until the next year, 1915, when he moved to Baltimore, Maryland to accept the pulpit at the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation.


During World War I Lazaron served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army Officers' Reserve Corps. In 1918 he obtained the rank of major and remained in the Officers' Reserve Corps until 1953. In 1921 Lazaron was one of four officiating chaplains, representing the Jews of America, at the burial of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Also, in 1925 Lazaron was one of twenty founders of the Military Chaplains Association, an interfaith chaplains association.

While in Baltimore, in addition to his rabbinical duties, Lazaron became involved in and emerged as one of the leaders of a national effort to improve Jewish-Christian relations as well as becoming one of the most prominent spokesmen for the non-Zionist movement.

In 1933 and 1935, Lazaron, at the invitation of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, toured the United States with a Catholic priest and a Protestant minister, addressing meetings and conducting seminars in an effort to encourage inter-faith dialogue and support. In 1941, again at the invitation of the NCCJ, Lazaron toured England and Ireland with Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the Conference, and Father Vincent Donovan in order to further study inter-faith relations. While in England, Lazaron gave a blessing in Hebrew to then prime minister, Winston Churchill.

Lazaron's efforts in the non-Zionist movement brought him into conflict with many pro-Zionist leaders, such as Stephen S. Wise, and led to his assisting in the founding of the American Council for Judaism, an organization dedicated to supporting the efforts and goals on the non-Zionist movement. But Lazaron's effort in support of non-Zionism also brought him into conflict with his congregation in Baltimore. Following his resignation as rabbi in 1946 after 31 years of service and his subsequent election as Rabbi Emeritus, Lazaron was asked by the Board of Trustees not to speak on Zionism in his High Holiday sermons to the congregation. Lazaron refused to agree to this and resigned as Emeritus in 1949. In 1957 Lazaron and the congregation settled their differences and Lazaron returned many times thereafter to speak to the congregation.

Lazaron was a member of numerous community organizations and civic groups including the American Merchant Marine Library Association, the Masons, The Order of the Scottish Rite, and the League of Nations Association, Maryland branch. In 1934 Lazaron was awarded the Gottheil Medal by Zeta Beta Tau for the greatest contribution to the welfare of American Jewry in 1933. In 1936 he was awarded an honorary Litt. D. degree from Rutgers University and in 1963 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.
Lazaron authored many books, including: Common Ground: A Plea for Intelligent Americanism (1938); Seed of Abraham: Ten Jews of the Ages (1930); and Olive Trees in Storm (1955). Lazaron was the author of many articles, poems, and numerous other writings.

After his retirement Lazaron lived in New York and Florida, where he taught for a time at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida and North Carolina. He took up painting and his works were displayed in one-man shows in Paris, London, New York, and Boston.


Scope and Content


Arrangement


Access Restrictions

Box 15, Folder 12 is restricted.

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Provenance

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Processing Information

Processed by Samuel Weinstein and Kevin Proffitt, July 1981.

Index Terms

Subjects
Christianity and other religions / Jews -- Maryland -- Baltimore / Jews -- United States -- Societies, etc. / Judaism -- Relations -- Christianity / Rabbis / Zionism

Personal Names

Corporate Names
American Council for Judaism / National Conference of Christians and Jews

Media
Photographs / Sermons

Series A. Correspondence, 1918-1978, undated

Extent
8.2 linear feet (20.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement

The series is arranged in three (3) subseries: 1. Personal; 2. Organizations; 3. Family.

Subseries 1. Personal, 1919-1978, undated
Extent  3.6 linear feet (9 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note  Consists of correspondence from and with friends and acquaintances of Lazaron.

Arrangement  All correspondence in this series is arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or organization. Letters are arranged chronologically within each folder.

Box and Folder Listing

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Box 1. Folder 5. Ames, Joseph S., 1930
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Subseries 2. Organizations, 1922-1978, undated
Extent  4.2 linear feet (10.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note  Consists of correspondence with a wide variety of organizations. Of special interest are the files pertaining to the American Council for Judaism, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. These contain correspondence from such prominent Jewish and Christian leaders as Paul Baerwald, Elmer Berger, Jacob Billikopf, Everett R. Clinchy, Louis I. Egelston, Maurice N. Eisenrath, Solomon B. Freehof, Julian Morgenstern, Stephen S. Wise and Jonah B. Wise, pertaining to topics such as the World Jewish Congress, Zionism, and Jewish-Christian relations.

Arrangement  The subseries is alphabetically arranged.

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Box 13. Folder 15. American Legion, 1922-1939
Box 14. Folder 2. American Red Cross, 1925-1944
Box 14. Folder 4. American Unitarian Association, 1945
Box 14. Folder 6. Associated Groups for Repeal of Jim Crow Law, 1945
Box 14. Folder 7. Association for a Progressive Reform Judaism, 1974-1978
Box 14. Folder 8. Atlantic Monthly, 1941
Box 14. Folder 15. Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1937
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Box 15. Folder 3. Common Cause (National Religious Council), 1946-1948
Box 15. Folder 4. Council of Jewish Youth at Baltimore, 1931-1932, undated
Box 15. Folder 5. D-E, General.
Box 15. Folder 7. Emergency Committee in Behalf of Religious Liberty, 1940
Box 15. Folder 9. Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America (General Committee on Army and Navy Chaplains), 1923-1941
Box 15. Folder 10. Good Neighbor League, 1936-1938
Box 15. Folder 11. Goucher College, 1936
Box 15. Folder 12. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion [Restricted], 1939-1963
Box 15. Folder 13. Hoover Committee, 1941
Box 15. Folder 15. Institute of Public Affairs, 1938-1940
Box 15. Folder 18. The Jewish Advance, 1940-1941
Box 15. Folder 20. The Jewish Challenge, 1942 April-August
Box 15. Folder 21. The Jewish Challenge, 1942 September-November
Box 15. Folder 23. Jewish Federation of St. Louis, 1937-1938
Box 15. Folder 24. The Jewish Newsletter, 1950-1961
Box 16. Folder 1. Jewish Palestine Exploration Society, 1923
Box 16. Folder 2. Jewish Welfare Board, 1934-1940
Box 16. Folder 5. League of Nations Non-Partisan Association, 1923-1925
Box 18. Folder 7. National Republic, 1937
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Box 18. Folder 11. Rabbinical Assembly of America, 1939-1941
Box 18. Folder 12. Religious Union for Democracy, 1940
Box 18. Folder 13. Rollins College, 1931-1951
Box 18. Folder 14. Rutgers University, 1936
Box 18. Folder 16. Statistical Bureau of Synagogue Council of America, 1941-1942
Box 18. Folder 17. The Student Christian Movement in New York State, 1936-1938
Box 18. Folder 20. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Board of Managers-Department of Synagogue and School Extension, 1933
Box 18. Folder 22. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Board of Managers-Department of Synagogue and School Extension, 1934 October-1935
Box 19. Folder 15. United Jewish Appeal/United Palestine Appeal, 1932
Box 20. Folder 1. United Jewish Appeal/United Palestine Appeal, 1933
Box 20. Folder 4. United Nations Association (UNA). League of Nations Association,
1934-1942
Box 20. Folder 6. United Nations Association, 1944
Box 20. Folder 9. Unity Committee, 1933-1945
Box 20. Folder 10. Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, Inc., 1940-1942
Box 20. Folder 13. World Court Movement, 1930
Box 20. Folder 14. World Unity Foundation, 1930
Box 20. Folder 15. YMCA/YWCA, 1922-1927, undated

Subseries 3. Family, 1918-1977, undated
Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence with members of Lazaron's immediate family and a few of his relatives

Box and Folder Listing

Box 20. Folder 18. Castro, Morris F. de (cousin), 1938
Box 20. Folder 19. Laseron, Dora (cousin), 1967-1970
Box 21. Folder 1. Lazaron, Bertha (sister), 1920-1961, undated
Box 21. Folder 3. Lazaron, Pauline H. (first wife), 1918-1921, undated
Box 21. Folder 4. Lazaron, Mr. and Mrs. Morris, Jr. (son and daughter-in-law), 1941-1970, undated
Box 21. Folder 5. Lazaron, Pauline H. (first wife), 1918-1921, undated
Box 21. Folder 6. Lazaron, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. (father and mother).
Box 21. Folder 7. Ryttenerg, Mrs. Charles (sister), 1920-1921

Series B. Sermons and Addresses, 1908-1979
Extent 3 linear feet (7.5 Hollinger boxes)
Arrangement


Subseries 1. Sermons, 1908-1966, undated

Extent 2.2 linear feet (5.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of sermons mainly from Lazaron's years at Congregation Leshem Shomayim and Baltimore Hebrew Congregation.

Arrangement The sermons are arranged alphabetically by title with the untitled sermons placed at the end of the sub-series.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 21. Folder 10. Ab-Al.
Box 21. Folder 12. B.
Box 21. Folder 13. Ca-Ce.
Box 21. Folder 15. D.
Box 22. Folder 1. E.
Box 22. Folder 2. F.
Box 22. Folder 3. G.
Box 22. Folder 4. Ha-He.
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Box 22. Folder 6. I-If.
Box 22. Folder 7. Im-In.
Box 22. Folder 8. Is.
Box 23. Folder 1. Je-Jo.
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Box 23. Folder 3. K.
Box 23. Folder 4. L.
Box 23. Folder 5. M.
Box 23. Folder 6. N.
Box 23. Folder 7. New Year's messages (Rosh Hashanah), 1908-1951, undated
Box 24. Folder 1. O.
Box 24. Folder 2. P.
Box 24. Folder 3. Q.
Box 24. Folder 4. Ref-Rel.
Subseries 2. Addresses, Eulogies, Prayers, 1917-1979, undated

Extent  0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note  Consists of speeches before communal organizations and various life cycle addresses from Lazaron’s years in the rabbinate.

Arrangement  The material is arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 27. Folder 1. Addresses to auxiliary groups and communal organizations, 1921-1939
Box 27. Folder 2. Addresses to auxiliary groups and communal organizations, 1940-1975, undated
Box 27. Folder 3. Eulogies, weddings and other life cycle addresses, 1918-1979, undated
Box 27. Folder 4-5. Lecture notes.
Box 27. Folder 6. Liturgy, 1931, undated
Box 27. Folder 7. Poetry, 1937-1966, undated
Box 27. Folder 8. Prayers, 1917-1966, undated


Extent  0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Box and Folder Listing

Box 28. Folder 1-17. Speaking engagements, 1935-1944

Series C. Radio Broadcasts, 1926-1946
Extent: 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of addresses and correspondence pertaining to the many radio programs on which Lazaron appeared.

**Arrangement** The material is arranged alphabetically by the title of the radio program and the papers within each folder are arranged chronologically.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 29. Folder 1. "Church of the Air" sermons, 1932-1939
Box 29. Folder 2-6. "Church of the Air" correspondence, 1931-1939
Box 29. Folder 7. "Message of Israel Hour" sermons, 1934-1946
Box 29. Folder 8-11. "Message of Israel Hour" correspondence, 1934-1942
Box 29. Folder 12. "Town Hall meeting of the Air" sermons and correspondence, 1938
Box 30. Folder 1-2. "Town Hall Meeting of the Air" correspondence, 1939, 1945, 1954
Box 30. Folder 3. "Wheel of Life" sermons, 1932-1934
Box 30. Folder 4. "Wheel of Life" correspondence, 1932-1933
Box 30. Folder 5. Miscellaneous radio sermons, 1926-1945

**Series D. Scholarship, 1921-1977**

Extent: 2.8 linear feet (7 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of published and non-published scholarly writings. An earlier rough draft, handwritten by Lazaron, is included with the final draft for some of the larger manuscripts.

**Arrangement** Articles and manuscripts are arranged alphabetically according to title and subject. At the end of the series are four folders containing unidentified drafts of manuscripts.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 30. Folder 6. "The American Jew: His Problems and His Psychology", 1921
Box 30. Folder 7-11. Autobiography untitled, undated
Box 31. Folder 1-5. Autobiography draft of manuscript.
Box 31. Folder 7-12. Bridges-Not Walls, 1959
Box 31. Folder 13-15. Bridges-Not Walls draft of manuscript.
Box 32. Folder 1. Bridges-Not Walls correspondence, notes, 1955-1958
Box 32. Folder 2. Bridges-Not Walls clippings, reviews.
Box 32. Folder 3. "Christmas and Hanukah-Israel and the World", 1957
Box 32. Folder 4-7. Common Ground, 1938
Box 32. Folder 8. Common Ground reviews.
Box 32. Folder 9-11. Common Ground correspondence, 1937-1938 March
Box 33. Folder 1-9. Common Ground correspondence, 1938 March-1945, undated
Series E. Subject Materials, 1918-1977

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of materials relating to subjects of interest to Lazaron. Included in this series are two surveys conducted by Lazaron on Jews in Medicine and on Prohibition. Also of interest are a number of files pertaining to Lazaron's many years of involvement in and with the military.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 37. Folder 6. Adler, Mortimer Article: "This Pre-War Generation" correspondence, 1940-1941
Box 37. Folder 7. Civil Marriage Bill, 1926-1933, undated
Box 37. Folder 8. Coughlin, Charles E., 1931-1939
Box 37. Folder 9. Education, 1939-1941, undated
Box 37. Folder 10. Federal Relief Aid for States, 1931-1933
Box 37. Folder 11-13. German emigrants, 1933-1942
Box 37. Folder 15-16. Jews in Medicine Survey of Medical Schools, 1930-1934
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Box 38. Folder 5. Military Affairs (Veterans), 1922
Box 38. Folder 6. Military Affairs, 1924-1934
Box 38. Folder 7. Military Affairs (Chaplaincy), 1940-1977, undated
Box 38. Folder 8-9. Motion Picture Legislation, 1933-1944
Box 38. Folder 10. Neutrality Legislation, 1939
Box 38. Folder 11. Olympic Boycott, 1935
Box 38. Folder 15. People's Court Amendment, 1940
Box 38. Folder 16. Prohibition Survey, 1926

Series F. Congregational Records, 1914-1969

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement

The series is arranged in two (2) subseries: 1. Congregation Leshem Shomayim (Wheeling, W. Va.); 2. Baltimore Hebrew Congregation (Baltimore, Md.).


Scope and Content Note Consists of one file of miscellaneous papers relating to Lazaron's tenure with the congregation.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 39. Folder 1. Correspondence, bulletins, pamphlets, 1914-1935

Subseries 2. Baltimore Hebrew Congregation (Baltimore, Md.), 1915-1969, undated

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Of special interest are the files pertaining to Lazaron's tenure as Rabbi Emeritus, his resignation over a dispute with the congregation concerning Zionism, and his eventual reinstatement.
Box 39. Folder 2. Annual messages to congregation, 1919-1969
Box 39. Folder 3-4. Congregational newsletter, 1942-1946
Box 39. Folder 6-10. Lazaron, Morris S. 25th anniversary at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, 1940
Box 39. Folder 11-12. Rabbi Emeritus status, 1946 October
Box 40. Folder 1-4. Rabbi Emeritus status, 1946 November-1957
Box 40. Folder 5. "The Shofar", 1916-1922
Box 40. Folder 6-8. Synagogue bulletins, 1921-1958
Box 40. Folder 9. Miscellaneous correspondence and pamphlets, 1915-1968, undated

Series G. Personal, 1851-1979

Extent 3.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes and 1 oversize box)

Scope and Content Note Contains files on Lazaron's interest in art and a file on his family's genealogy.

Arrangement The materials are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 41. Folder 1. Art correspondence, 1951-1968
Box 41. Folder 2. Art programs, clippings, 1951-1978
Box 41. Folder 3. Art. Paris Art Show, 1955
Box 41. Folder 4. Art. Petite Galerie Show, Maison Francaise Show, 1964
Box 41. Folder 5-6. Art. Photographs of Paintings.
Box 41. Folder 7-8. 70th birthday celebration, 1958
Box 41. Folder 9. 75th birthday celebration, 1963
Box 41. Folder 10. 80th birthday celebration, 1968
Box 41. Folder 11. 90th birthday celebration, 1978
Box 41. Folder 12. England trip, 1941
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Box 42. Folder 1. European trip.
Box 42. Folder 2. Family tree and genealogy, 1851-1945
Box 42. Folder 3-6. Financial papers, 1928-1971, undated
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Box 42. Folder 8. Last will and testament, 1966
Box 42. Folder 9. Mene Grande Oil Company, 1939-1940
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Box 43. Folder 1-2. Photographs.
Box 43. Folder 3. Rollins College professorship, 1950-1951
Box 43. Folder 4. Personal miscellaneous.
Box 43. Folder 5. Miscellaneous.
Box 43. Folder 6-7. Clippings.
Box 44. Folder 1. Clippings.
Box 44. Folder 2-3. Scrapbooks.
Box 45. Folder 1. Scrapbook.
Box 46. Folder --. Diaries and datebooks, 1960-1972, 1974
Box X-178. Scrapbooks.
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#### Subject Tracings

Note: The following list of subjects is a selective index to many of the topics and individuals in the MORRIS S. LAZARON PAPERS. It is selective in that it only attempts to draw attention to the more significant items in the collection. It does not attempt to list every subject or individual nor does it try to indicate all places that a listed subject or individual appears in the collection. When used in conjunction with the Box and Folder List, the Subject Tracings should help the researcher locate topics. References are to boxes and folders: e.g., 2/2 means Box 2, Folder 2.

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