



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Simon Cohen Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 77



Collection Summary

Title	Simon Cohen Papers
Dates	1911-1971, undated
Collection Number	MS-77
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Other/Variant Title	Universal Jewish Encyclopedia
Creator	Cohen, Simon, 1894-1977
Extent	0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Simon Cohen was born in 1894 in Baltimore, Maryland. He was educated at the Friends School and John Hopkins University. Cohen later received his ordination from Hebrew Union College in 1916, and earned the HUC Doctor of Divinity degree in 1924.

Cohen served as a congregational rabbi in numerous locations including Providence, Rhode Island, Springfield, Ohio, Pueblo, Colorado, Greensboro, North Carolina, Selma, Alabama, and New York City (an assistant rabbi at both Temple Beth El and Temple Emanu-El) before turning to an academic career.

In 1924, he became a staff member at the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, where he was to remain until 1944. During this period, Cohen also taught at the Hebrew Union School for Teachers and the Jewish School for Teachers. In 1952, Simon Cohen joined the staff of the Hebrew Union College Klau Library, in Cincinnati. He retired from HUC-JIR in 1971.

Cohen wrote numerous books including *Essence of Judaism* (1932) and *Shaary Tefila: A History of the Hundred Years, 1845-1945* (1945). He also wrote and edited hundreds of articles for the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, the *Interpreter's Bible Dictionary and Religion in Geshichte und Gegenwart*.

Simon Cohen died on 3 June 1977 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was married to Dagmar Abramson in 1944.

Scope and Content

The Simon Cohen Papers (1911-1971) consist primarily of articles and lectures by Dr. Cohen, reflecting his career as a rabbi, editor of the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia and librarian at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia was the first Jewish reference work to stress American history and sociology. Cohen also wrote a centennial history of Shaary Tefila of New York City, but material relating to this project is not included in the collection.

The papers also contains correspondence, personal documents, work guidelines for encyclopedia assignments and miscellaneous material. The correspondence relates both to Cohen's personal life and professional career as both a rabbi and editor.

The span dates for the collection are 1911-1971, with the bulk of the material being undated drafts of encyclopedia articles.

Terms of Access

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Preferred Citation

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-77. Simon Cohen Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Mrs. Simon Cohen, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1977.

Index Terms

Subjects Editors / Jewish librarians / Jewish libraries / Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Judaism -- Encyclopedias / Rabbis / Reform Judaism

Personal Names Cohen, Simon, 1894-1977

Corporate Names Hebrew Union College

Media Lectures

Series A. General, 1911-1971, undated

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1911-1971

Box 1. Folder 2. Personal papers, documents, 1911-1957

Box 1. Folder 3. Article. Amos the Pathfinder.

Box 1. Folder 4. Articles, lectures, plays. [titles include: Amos and Amaziah, Codes in Judaism, An Early Name of the God of Israel, Inside Jael's Tent, Jewish Philosophy, Kenites and Rechabites, Moses among the Kenites, New Light on Yom-Tob Lipmann Heller, The Quest of the Holy Dagesh, The Story of Cain Re-examined, The Trial of Amos, Two Years Before the Earthquake], undated

Box 1. Folder 5. First draft of encyclopedia articles, undated

Box 1. Folder 6. First draft of encyclopedia articles, undated

Box 1. Folder 7. Second draft of encyclopedia articles, undated

Box 1. Folder 8. Work aids for encyclopedia article assignments, undated

Box 1. Folder 9. Dictionary articles by various authors, undated