



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Joseph Rauch Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 91



Collection Summary

Title	Joseph Rauch Papers
Dates	1900-1957 (bulk 1915-1955)
Collection Number	MS-91
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Rauch, Joseph, 1880-1957
Extent	5.2 linear feet (13 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Joseph Rauch was born in Podhajce, Galicia, Austria on December 25, 1880. Little is known of his childhood in Austria, but it is known that his family came to the United States ahead of him and that Rauch traveled alone to the United States to meet them when he was 12. They settled in Galveston, Texas, where Rauch lived in an atmosphere that was radically different from that of the Eastern Seaboard where most immigrant Jews settled. Later in his life Rauch would comment that he felt his childhood in Texas gave him a perspective on American life that other immigrants, who lived in the East, were unable to obtain.

Rauch and his family eventually moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he studied at the University of Cincinnati and the Hebrew Union College, and was ordained a rabbi in 1905. Rauch continued his studies in later years at the University of Chicago, Columbia University, Cambridge University in England and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned a Doctor of Theology degree. In 1944, the Hebrew Union College awarded him with an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Following his ordination in 1905, Rauch moved to Sioux City, Iowa to become rabbi of Mt. Sinai Temple. He remained there until April, 1912 when he accepted a call to become rabbi at Congregation Adath Israel in Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained for 44 years, until his death in 1957.

In 1942 the congregation, as part of the 30th anniversary celebration of his rabbinate in Louisville, elected him rabbi for life. Also, in 1953, the congregation decided to name the chapel in their newly built education building in his honor.

Throughout his career Rauch was a tireless participant in organizational and civic activities. He was active in the Central Conference of American Rabbis, serving on the executive committee and serving as chairman of the CCAR's Special Publication Committee. Rauch was also a founding member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in 1926, delivering the inaugural sermon at the WUPJ's founding. He also gave the principal address at the WUPJ's 25th anniversary and was the first honorary life member elected by the organization. In addition, Rauch was active in many other major organizations, including the Jewish Welfare Board, the YMHA, the International Prison Congress and the Hebrew Union College Alumni Association, of which he served as president.

In Louisville, Rauch, in 1918, was an organizer of the Louisville Federation of Social Agencies. In 1922 he became a member of the Louisville Free Public Library Board of Trustees, served 18 consecutive terms as president and led a successful drive to end segregation in the Library system. Rauch was also a member of the University of Louisville's Board of Trustee from 1933-1946 and served on numerous other local committees and organizations.

Rauch was very active in inter-faith work, often preaching in Protestant pulpits and always striving for better understanding and communication between Christians and Jews. Rauch traveled often, crossing the Atlantic 57 times after his arrival in America. He also authored two books, *The Origin and Development of the Apocalypse in the Bible* and *The Meaning of the Torah*.

Rauch was married to Etta Rosenfelder. He died on February 18, 1957, in Louisville, Kentucky.

Scope and Content

Documents the career of Joseph Rauch, rabbi, community leader, and founding member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. The bulk of the collection consists of sermons, but also includes correspondence, congregational records, personal and miscellaneous items.

Arrangement	Organized into four (4) series: A. Sermons and Addresses; B. Correspondence; C. Congregational Records; D. Personal.
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 Joseph Rauch Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-91. Joseph Rauch Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Provenance	Received from Etta Rauch, Louisville, Ky., 1959.
Processing Information	Processed by Kevin Proffitt, November 1981.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jews -- Kentucky -- Louisville / Judaism -- Relations -- Christianity / Rabbis
Personal Names	Rauch, Joseph, 1880-1957
Corporate Names	Congregation Adath Israel (Louisville, Ky.) / World Union for Progressive Judaism
Media	Sermons

Series A. Sermons and Addresses, 1900-1956

Extent 3.2 linear feet (8 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of sermons, addresses and lectures given by Rauch. Also included in this series are eulogies, statements of appreciation and prayers.

Arrangement The sermons in boxes 1-3 are arranged alphabetically by title. The sermons in boxes 4-8 are in ledgers that have been numbered and are arranged chronologically according to the first dated sermon in each ledger.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. A.
- Box 1. Folder 2. B.
- Box 1. Folder 3. Ca-CI.
- Box 1. Folder 4. Co-Cr.
- Box 1. Folder 5. D.
- Box 1. Folder 6. E.
- Box 1. Folder 7. F.
- Box 1. Folder 8. G.
- Box 1. Folder 9. Ha-he.
- Box 1. Folder 10. Hi.
- Box 1. Folder 11. Ho-Hu.

Box 2. Folder 1. I.
Box 2. Folder 2. J.
Box 2. Folder 3. K-L.
Box 2. Folder 4. M.
Box 2. Folder 5. N.
Box 2. Folder 6. O.
Box 2. Folder 7. Pa-Ph.
Box 2. Folder 8. Pl-Po.
Box 2. Folder 9. Pr-Pu.
Box 2. Folder 10. Q.
Box 2. Folder 11. Ra-Ref.
Box 2. Folder 12. Rel-Rev.
Box 2. Folder 13. Ri-Ru.
Box 3. Folder 1. Sa-Si.
Box 3. Folder 2. So-Sp.
Box 3. Folder 3. St-Sy.
Box 3. Folder 4. Ta-Th.
Box 3. Folder 5. To-Tw.
Box 3. Folder 6. U-V.
Box 3. Folder 7. W.
Box 3. Folder 8. Y-Z.
Box 3. Folder 9. Untitled, 1905-1912
Box 3. Folder 10. Untitled, undated
Box 4. Folder 1. Ledger 1, 1916 April 2 - 1921 February 22
Box 4. Folder 2. Ledger 2, 1919 October 25 - 1922 June 20
Box 4. Folder 3. Ledger 3, 1922 May 7 - 1925 May 17
Box 5. Folder 1. Ledger 4, 1925 June 9 - 1930 September 22
Box 5. Folder 2. Ledger 5, 1930 September 6 - 1933 September 30
Box 5. Folder 3. Ledger 6, 1932 March 26 - 1935 December 6
Box 5. Folder 4. Ledger 7, 1932 May 26 - 1934 October 9
Box 6. Folder 1. Ledger 8, 1933 October 28 - 1935 October 7
Box 6. Folder 2. Ledger 9, 1934 October 13 - 1935 September 21
Box 6. Folder 3. Ledger 10, 1934 October 15 - 1936 October 31
Box 6. Folder 4. Ledger 11, 1935 October 5 - 1936 September 26
Box 6. Folder 5. Ledger 12, 1935 December 19 - 1939 May 15
Box 6. Folder 6. Ledger 13, 1936 September 12 - 1937 December 11
Box 7. Folder 1. Ledger 14, 1936 October 9 - 1938 March 19
Box 7. Folder 2. Ledger 15, 1937 September 5 - 1944 September 27
Box 7. Folder 3. Ledger 16, 1946 March 29 - 1955 November 27

Box 7. Folder 4. Ledger 17, 1946 September 25 - 1953 September 19
Box 8. Folder 1. Ledger 18, 1946 November 27 - 1951 January 25
Box 8. Folder 2. Ledger 19, 1952 September 7 - 1956 February 5
Box 8. Folder 3. Ledger 20, 1954 September 27 - 1956 September 15
Box 8. Folder 4. Ledger 21, 1956 June 26 - December 11
Box 8. Folder 5-6. Eulogies A-W.
Box 8. Folder 7. Statements of appreciation, memorials A-W.
Box 9. Folder 1. Prayers, 1913-1955, undated

Series B. Correspondence, 1907-1957

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Arrangement Letters arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or organization. The letters within the folders are arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 9. Folder 2. A-E, General.
Box 9. Folder 3. Central Conference of American Rabbis [Manual for Instruction of Proselytes], 1926-1927
Box 9. Folder 4. Cincinnati [University of], 1953
Box 9. Folder 5. Committee on the Referendum for Budgeting, 1941
Box 9. Folder 6. G-K, General.
Box 9. Folder 7. Jerusalmi, Isaac, 1953
Box 9. Folder 8. Jewish Chautauqua Society.
Box 9. Folder 9. L-R, General.
Box 9. Folder 10. Montagu, Lily H., 1949-1957
Box 9. Folder 11. National Conference of Christians and Jews, 1955-1956
Box 9. Folder 12. S-U, General.
Box 9. Folder 13. Southern Council on International Relations, 1947, undated
Box 9. Folder 14. Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, 1941
Box 9. Folder 15. World Union for Progressive Judaism, 1937-1956
Box 9. Folder 16. Unidentified, 1909-1919, undated

Series C. Congregational Records, 1906-1956

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of materials gathered by Rauch during his 44 year tenure as rabbi of Congregation Adath Israel in Louisville, Kentucky. The materials pertain to activities and organizations of the congregation but are in no way either the complete or official records of the congregation.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 10. Folder 1-6. Bible study class, 1923-1929, undated
- Box 10. Folder 7-12. Confirmation, 1917-1956, undated
- Box 10. Folder 13. Holiday and special services [B-S], 1927-1951, undated
- Box 10. Folder 14. Rauch, Joseph. Appreciation night, 1945
- Box 10. Folder 15. Religious School, 1922-1956, undated
- Box 10. Folder 16. Miscellaneous, 1906-1949, undated

Series D. Personal, 1913-1957

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of items pertaining to Rauch's personal life and interests. Of particular interest are the diaries of Rauch's many trips abroad.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 11. Folder 1. Appointment book, 1924
- Box 11. Folder 2. Crusade for Children, 1956-1957
- Box 11. Folder 3. Funeral records, 1921-1952
- Box 11. Folder 4. Last will and testament, 1955
- Box 11. Folder 5. Marriage records, 1941-1957
- Box 11. Folder 6-7. Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth, 1950
- Box 11. Folder 8. Notes.
- Box 11. Folder 9. Religious education, 1916-1941, undated
- Box 12. Folder 1-5. Travel diaries, 1913, 1933-1936
- Box 13. Folder 1-3. Travel diaries, 1936-1938, 1949
- Box 13. Folder 4. Personal miscellaneous, 1926-1957, undated
- Box 13. Folder 5. Clippings.
- Box 13. Folder 6. Miscellaneous, 1922-1956, undated



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MS-91: Joseph Rauch Papers

Subject Tracings

Note: The following list of subjects is a selective index to many of the topics and individuals in the JOSEPH RAUCH 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., 2/13 means Box 2, Folder 13.

Alexander, Jerome 9/2
Anti-Semitism 1/1, 10

Berkowits, Henry J. 9/3
Blaustein, Jacob 9/5
Brandeis, Louis D.
Brickner, Barnett R. 9/10

Church Peace Union 9/2
Central Conference of American Rabbis-Commission on Jewish Education 11/8

Education 1/6; 2/2; 3/1; 11/5
Eisendrath, Maurice N. 9/10

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society 9/6
Hebrew Union College 9/12

Isserman, Ferdinand M. 9/15

Krock, Arthur 9/6
Ku Klux Klan 2/3

Marcus, Jacob R. 9/2
Mattuck, Israel 9/9
Montagu, Lily H. 9/15

Nazism 1/8; 2/3

Russia 1/4; 2/13; 3/5, 8

Schulman, Samuel 9/3, 12



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MS-91: Joseph Rauch Papers

Subject Tracings

Wolsey, Louis 9/3

Zangwill, Israel 3/8

Zionism 1/4; 2/9; 3/8