



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Bertram W. Korn Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 99



Collection Summary

Title	Bertram W. Korn Papers
Dates	1938-1979
Collection Number	MS-99
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Korn, Bertram Wallace
Extent	20.2 linear feet (48 Hollinger boxes and 1 oversize box)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Bertram Wallace Korn was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 6, 1918 to Manuel and Blanche (Bergman) Korn. He attended the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University prior to earning his A.B. degree, with honors, from the University of Cincinnati in 1936. In 1943, Korn received an M.H.L. degree from and was ordained rabbi by the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. In 1949 he earned a D.H.L. degree from HUC.

Following his ordination, Korn became rabbi at the Government Street Temple in Mobile, Alabama. He remained there until the next year, 1944, when he entered the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant in the chaplaincy. He served at Marine Corps bases in California then was assigned to the China theatre with the 1st and 6th Marine Divisions.

Korn's entrance into the chaplaincy began a long involvement with the military that culminated on July 1, 1975 when he was promoted to Rear Admiral in the Chaplain Corps, U.S. Naval Reserve. He was the first Jewish chaplain to obtain flag rank in any of the United States armed forces.

Following his return from overseas duty, Korn, in 1946, returned to HUC in Cincinnati to work on his doctorate and serve as assistant professor of American Jewish history from 1948-1949.

In 1949 Korn became the senior rabbi at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, the same congregation where he was confirmed. He remained there as senior rabbi until his death in 1979.

Korn remained active as a historian throughout his rabbinical career. In 1962 he was named visiting professor of American Jewish history at the New York campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and was named to the same position in 1970 at Dropsie University in Philadelphia. He authored 12 books on American Jewish history, the most known of which was his 1951 volume, *American Jewry and the Civil War*, acclaimed as the definitive work on the subject.

Other books by Korn include: *The Jews of Mobile, Alabama, 1763-1841* (1971); *Benjamin Levy: New Orleans Printer and Publisher* (1961); *Jews and Negro Slavery in the Old South, 1789-1865* (1961); *The American Reaction to the Mortara Case: 1858-1859* (1957); and *The Early Jews of New Orleans* (1969).

Korn was also active in communal and organizational affairs. Some of his activities included being a president of the American Historical Society, a board member of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia, a member of the board of governors of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, a member of the President's Commission on the Observance of the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations, and a member of the executive board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Korn received many awards and honors during his lifetime. He received honorary degrees from Temple University, Delaware Valley College, HUC-JIR and Dropsie University. His military awards included the China Service Medal, American Theatre Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, Naval Reserve Medal and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal.

Dr. Korn had two children: Judith Carole and Bertram Wallace, Jr. He died in New Orleans, on December 11, 1979 at the age of 61.

Scope and Content

The collection describes the dual careers of Bertram W. Korn as rabbi and historian. The bulk of the collection consists of research materials, notes, and documents collected by Korn during his research into American Jewish history. The remainder of the collection consists of correspondence, sermons, and personal items of Rabbi Korn.

Arrangement

Organized into two (2) series: A. Research Materials; B. 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 Bertram W. Korn Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Bertram W. Korn Papers, MS-99, Box [#], Folder [#]. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Provenance	Received from the estate of Bertram W. Korn, Philadelphia, Pa., 1980.
Processing Information	Processed by Michael Matuson and John D. Fortner, November 1982.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jewish historians / Jews -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia / Jews -- United States -- History / Military chaplains / Rabbis / United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Personal Names	Korn, Bertram Wallace
Corporate Names	Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel (Elkins Park, Pa.)
Media	Photographs / Sermons

Series A. Research Materials

Extent 15.6 linear feet (39 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of documents, notes, correspondence, photographs, clippings and miscellaneous items used by Korn in the research and writing of his many books and articles.

Arrangement The materials are arranged alphabetically using the headings given them by Korn. The materials within each folder are not necessarily arranged in any specific order.

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- Box 1. Folder 5. Aereon Corp, 1964-1970
- Box 1. Folder 6. Alabama: Encyclopedia article.
- Box 1. Folder 7. Albany, N.Y.: History of Reform Judaism in Albany.
- Box 1. Folder 8. Allen, Michael: Diary and Sermons.
- Box 1. Folder 9. Alschuler, Samuel, 1961-1978, undated
- Box 1. Folder 10. American Jewish Archives.
- Box 1. Folder 11. American Jewish Committee.
- Box 1. Folder 12. American Jewish Congress: Korn's articles on Jewish Contributions to American Life.
- Box 1. Folder 13. American Jewish History: Korn's lecture notes for Ministers' Institute.

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Box 1. Folder 15. American Jewish Life A Century Ago-1849.

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Box 23. Folder 10. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [correspondence], 1940-1964

Box 23. Folder 11. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [correspondence], 1965

Box 24. Folder 1. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [correspondence], 1966

Box 24. Folder 2. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [correspondence], 1967

Box 24. Folder 3. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [correspondence], 1968

Box 24. Folder 4. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [correspondence], 1969

Box 25. Folder 1. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [correspondence], 1970-1971

Box 25. Folder 2. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [correspondence], 1972-1973

Box 25. Folder 3. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [correspondence], 1973-1979, undated

Box 25. Folder 4. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [illustrations and photos].

Box 25. Folder 5. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [miscellaneous names, lists, documents].

Box 26. Folder 1. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [miscellaneous names, lists, documents].

Box 26. Folder 2. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [miscellaneous names, lists, personal notes].

Box 26. Folder 3. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [promotion].

Box 26. Folder 4. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [publication mechanics and pre-publication criticisms].

Box 26. Folder 5. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [reviews].

Box 26. Folder 6. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [sales and autograph requests].

Box 27. Folder 1. New Orleans (Early Jews of) [slavery research].

Box 27. Folder 2. New Orleans [guides, maps, pictures].

Box 27. Folder 3. New Orleans: History of Judaism [miscellaneous essays].

Box 27. Folder 4. New Orleans-Vital Statistics (St. Louis, Cathedral).

Box 27. Folder 5. Newton, A. Edward.

Box 27. Folder 6. New York-Temple Emanuel.

Box 27. Folder 7. New York-Temple Emanuel Theological Seminary.

Box 27. Folder 8. Noah, Mordecai M.

Box 27. Folder 9. Nones, Benjamin.

Box 27. Folder 10. Ohio Biographical Dictionary of Authors.

Box 27. Folder 11. Oppenheim Family.

Box 27. Folder 12. de Paiva, Jaques.

Box 27. Folder 13. Pember, Phoebe Yates.

Box 27. Folder 14. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: "History of Judaism"-by Korn.

Box 27. Folder 15. Philadelphia Rabbinical Conference-1869.

Box 28. Folder 1. Philipson, David.

Box 28. Folder 2. Phillip, Alexander and Isaac.

Box 28. Folder 3. Phillips, Abraham.

Box 28. Folder 4. Phillips, Alexander (Asher).

Box 28. Folder 5. Phillips, Eugenia.

Box 28. Folder 6. Phillips, Isaac.

Box 28. Folder 7. Phillips, Naftali.

Box 28. Folder 8. Phillips, Phillip.

Box 28. Folder 9. Phillips, Rachel Rosalie.

Box 28. Folder 10. Picard Family-Alabama.

Box 28. Folder 11. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: The Role of Jews in Civic Life.

Box 28. Folder 12. Pool, David de Sola.

Box 28. Folder 13. Poznanski, Gustavus.

Box 28. Folder 14. Prayers Offered by Jews in 19th Century Legislatures.

Box 28. Folder 15. Prayers Offered by Rabbis in Contemporary Legislatures.

Box 28. Folder 16. Proffit, George.

Box 28. Folder 17. Proskauer, Adolph.

Box 28. Folder 18. Proskauer, John & Family.

Box 29. Folder 1. Psychiatry-Child Rearing.

Box 29. Folder 2. Raphael, Samuel.

Box 29. Folder 3. Raphall, Morris.

Box 29. Folder 4. Real Estate, 1805.

Box 29. Folder 5. Reform Judaism.

Box 29. Folder 6. Refugees/Immigration, 1938-1940, undated

Box 29. Folder 7. Religious Education.

Box 29. Folder 8. Research for German-Jewish Influence in America.

Box 29. Folder 9. Research Projects-Ideas for Studies.

Box 29. Folder 10. Rice, Abraham J.-Baltimore, Maryland.

Box 29. Folder 11. Richmond, Va.: History of Judaism.

Box 29. Folder 12. Richter, John Henry.

Box 29. Folder 13. Rochester, New York: Jewish Community During Civil War.

Box 29. Folder 14. Rodef Shalom Congregation-Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Box 29. Folder 15. Rose, Herbert A.

Box 29. Folder 16. Rosenbaum, Jonathan.

Box 29. Folder 17. Rosenthal, Arndt.

Box 29. Folder 18. Rothman, Murray I.

Box 29. Folder 19. Rudolph Lecture-Syracuse, N.Y.

Box 29. Folder 20. Rush, Benjamin.

Box 29. Folder 21. Sacerdote Family.

Box 29. Folder 22. Sacramento, California: Early Judaism.

Box 29. Folder 23. St. Louis-Jewish Cemeteries.

Box 29. Folder 24. Salas, Abram E.

Box 29. Folder 25. Salomon Family.

Box 30. Folder 1. Salvador, Francis.

Box 30. Folder 2. San Francisco, California: History of Judaism.

Box 30. Folder 3. Sarnier, Ferdinand.

Box 30. Folder 4. Schappes, Morris.

Box 30. Folder 5. Schiff, E.L.

Box 30. Folder 6. Schiff Family.

Box 30. Folder 7. Schinedling, Abraham I.

Box 30. Folder 8. Schlesinger, Sigmund.

Box 30. Folder 9. Schoyer, Solomon.

Box 30. Folder 10. Schwab, Jacob (Genealogy).

Box 30. Folder 11. Scott, Edwin J.

Box 30. Folder 12. Seligman, Joseph and William.

Box 30. Folder 13. Selma, Alabama: Early Jews of.

Box 30. Folder 14. Semenoff, E.: The Russian Government and the Massacres-A Review.

Box 30. Folder 15. Sephardic Studies.

Box 30. Folder 16. Sermons and Address (Miscellaneous)-Korn.

Box 30. Folder 17. Services-Special Themes.

Box 30. Folder 18. Settlers, Other Jewish Before 1815-Korn.

Box 30. Folder 19. Shepherd, Rezin D.

Box 30. Folder 20. Simms, William Gilmore.

Box 31. Folder 1. Slavery: Jewish Participation in-1450-1860 C.E.-Bibliography.

Box 31. Folder 2. Slavery: Jewish Participation in-1450-2860 C.E.-Correspondence, 1970-1975

Box 31. Folder 3. Slavery: Jewish Participation in-1450-1860 C.E.-Documentation.

Box 31. Folder 4. Slavery: Jewish Participation in-1450-1860 C.E.-Foreign Language Materials.

Box 31. Folder 5. Slavery: Jewish Participation in-1450-1860 C.E. "Jews in the Slave Trade in the Americas"-Korn.

Box 31. Folder 6. Slavery: Jewish Participation in-1450-1860 C.E.-Korn's notes.

Box 32. Folder 1. Slavery: Jewish Participation in-1450-1860 C.E.-Korn's notes.

Box 32. Folder 2. Slavery and Abolitionism-Korn.

Box 32. Folder 3. Smith, G.W.P.

Box 32. Folder 4. Society of Concord-Syracuse, N.Y., 1964

Box 32. Folder 5. Solis, Jacob S.

Box 32. Folder 6. Solis, Manuel.

Box 32. Folder 7. Solomon, Adolph.

Box 32. Folder 8. Solomon, Ezekiel.

Box 32. Folder 9. Solomon, Henry.

Box 32. Folder 10. Solomon, Joseph.

Box 32. Folder 11. Solomons, Adolphus S.

Box 32. Folder 12. Solomons, Samuel.

Box 32. Folder 13. Sonnenschein, Solomon H.

Box 32. Folder 14. Soria Family (Natchez, Miss.).

Box 32. Folder 15. Souza Family (New Orleans).

Box 32. Folder 16. Soviet Jewry.

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Box 32. Folder 18. Spitzer, Benjamin.

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Box 32. Folder 20. Sterne, Adolphus.

Box 32. Folder 21. Strauss, Isidore.

Box 33. Folder 1. Tessier, Charles.

Box 33. Folder 2. Texas: Early Jews of.

Box 33. Folder 3. Theater Notices.

Box 33. Folder 4. Tim, B.L. (Philadelphia and Mobile).

Box 33. Folder 5. Tolstoi, Leo: "A Visit to Tolstoi at Yasnaya Polyana"-L. Bramson.

Box 33. Folder 6. Tombstones.

Box 33. Folder 7. Touro, Judah.

Box 33. Folder 8-9. Unidentified Materials.

Box 33. Folder 10. Unidentified Non-English Notes and Documents.

Box 33. Folder 11. Union of American Hebrew Congregations Encyclopedia Judaica-Korn.

Box 33. Folder 12. Universal Jewish Encyclopedia.

Box 33. Folder 13. Vicksburg, Mississippi: History of Judaism.

Box 33. Folder 14. Virgin Islands: History of Judaism.

Box 33. Folder 15. Vorspan, Max.

Box 33. Folder 16. Wachs, Saul.

Box 34. Folder 1. Warburg, Eugene and Daniel.

Box 34. Folder 2. Washington, D.C.: History of Judaism.

Box 34. Folder 3. Weil, Louis.

Box 34. Folder 4. Wells, Ken.

Box 34. Folder 5. Wise, Isaac Mayer.

Box 34. Folder 6. Wolf, Arnold J.

Box 34. Folder 7. Wood, John: History of the Administration of John Adams, New York 1802.

Box 34. Folder 8. Yulee, David Levy.

Box 34. Folder 9. Zacharie, Samuel Issachar.

Box 34. Folder 10. Zedek, Dorshay.

Box 34. Folder 11. Zimmerman, Solomon.

Box 34. Folder 12. Zionism.

Box 35. Folder 1. Nearprint.

Box 35. Folder 2-4. Notes (miscellaneous).

Box 35. Folder 5-6. Reference cards.

Box 36. Folder --. Reference cards.

Box 37. Folder --. Reference cards.

Box 38. Folder --. Reference cards.

Box 39. Folder --. Reference cards.

Series B. Personal

Extent 4.6 linear feet (9 Hollinger boxes and 1 oversize box)

Arrangement

Arranged in three (3) subseries: 1. Correspondence; 2. Writings; 3. General.

Subseries 1. Correspondence, 1944-1980, undated

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or organization. Letters are arranged chronologically within each folder.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 40. Folder 1-5. American Jewish Historical Society, 1963-1980

Box 40. Folder 6. Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1945-1971

Box 40. Folder 7. Chaplaincy, 1944-1960

Box 40. Folder 8. Correspondence, Miscellaneous.

Box 40. Folder 9. Encyclopedia Judaica, 1966-1970, undated

Box 41. Folder 1. Korn family/children/parents/wife.

Box 41. Folder 2. Korn, Manuel (Bertram Korn's father).

Box 41. Folder 3. Marcus, Jacob R., 1945-1978, undated

Box 41. Folder 4. Mobile, Ala.-Personal Correspondence.

Box 41. Folder 5. Morgenstern, Julian, 1944-1945

Box 41. Folder 6. Snow, Lord Charles P., 1959-1970, undated

Subseries 2. Writings

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Box and Folder Listing

Box 42. Folder 1-4. American Jewry: The Formative Years (manuscript).

Box 43. Folder 1-3. Eventful Years and Experiences (manuscript).

Box 43. Folder 4-9. Early Jews of Louisiana (manuscript).

Box 44. Folder 1-5. Early Jews of New Orleans (manuscript).

Subseries 3. General

Extent 2.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes and 1 oversize box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of appointment books, financial papers, notes and miscellaneous items. This subseries also contains six files of correspondence dealing with a bicentennial festschrift for Dr. Jacob R. Marcus that was planned, compiled and edited by Korn.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 45. Folder 1-15. Appointment books, 1948-1961 September

Box 46. Folder 1-14. Appointment books, 1961-1974 October

Box 47. Folder 1-5. Appointment books, 1974-1979

Box 47. Folder 6. Appointment schedules, 1978-1979

Box 47. Folder 7. Address books.

Box 47. Folder 8. Day book.

Box 47. Folder 9. Financial papers, 1945-1970

Box 47. Folder 10. Lectures, Bertram W. Korn.

Box 48. Folder 1-5. Marcus, Jacob R. Festschrift contributors.

Box 48. Folder 6. Marcus, Jacob R. Festschrift miscellaneous.

Box 48. Folder 7. Travel notes, Summer 1970

Box 48. Folder 8. Personal miscellaneous.

Box X-187. Diplomas, awards.