A Finding Aid to the
Louis I. Newman Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 109
Biographical Sketch


Newman was affiliated with the faculty of the Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City from its 1922 inception. He served as a professor of apologetics intermittently until 1933. During this period, Newman was also the president of the Intercollegiate Menorah Association. In 1924 he left New York City to serve as rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco. Newman returned to New York City in 1930 to become the rabbi at Temple Rodef Shalom, where he remained until retirement.

During the 1930s, Newman became identified with the Zionist revisionist movement. He believed that Zionism was primarily a political movement and that the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine was essential. Newman was both the honorary chairman of the Revisionist Tel Hai fund and the chairman of the Palestine Mandate Defense Fund. Additionally, he was an honorary chairman of the American Friends of a Jewish Palestine and served on the American advisory committee for Hebrew University. In the 1920s, he was a vice-president of the American Jewish Congress.

His books include Jewish Influence on Christian Reform Movements (1924); Jewish People, Faith and Life (1935), and a translation/compilation entitled Hasidic Anthology (1934). His 1922 work, A Jewish University in America?, influenced the founding of Brandeis University. Newman was also a poet and a playwright, creating numerous plays and cantatas. His "The Woman at the Wall" became the libretto for the opera Tamar and Judah.


Scope and Content

Consists of the papers of Louis I. Newman, a rabbi and scholar who was ordained by Stephen S. Wise and became a leader of the Zionist revisionists in the United States. Contained is an expansive amount of Newman's writings including unpublished works and sermons as well as plays and poetry. Five boxes of correspondence include correspondence with Stephen S. Wise; correspondence and manuscripts concerning the (Adolph) Sutro Library in San Francisco, California; correspondence concerning the founding of the Jewish Institute of Religion, and family correspondence. The Personal series features material related to his college career, newscippings and miscellaneous items.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in three (3) series: A. Writings, 1901-1970; B. Correspondence, 1897-1975; C. Personal, 1905-1972.

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Series A. Writings, 1901-1970

Extent 3.2 linear feet (8 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of various sermons, writings, and creative works of Newman. Many of these writings are undated. Four boxes contain an unpublished manuscript and notes on "Alexander Hamilton and the Reynolds Affair," a monograph he never published. Material concerning New England also appears and may be related to his Roger Williams and John Cotton: Bible Utopias and Religious Liberty in Colonial America. Several bound volumes of sermons, compiled by Newman, appear along with several plays. The final box in this series contains miscellaneous sermons and essays on a variety of topics such as serenity, healing, youth, relationships with religion, and trust. Often the title provides context to the time in which the undated pieces were written, such as "Religion in the Age of Aquarius." It should be noted that some of these writings may not have been written by Newman and were items he referenced or had interest in.

Arrangement Arranged with unpublished materials appearing first, followed by poetry and plays, sermon and address volumes, and finally miscellaneous writings.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 4. Folder 8. Sketches of the History of America. Ch. V. "Remarks on Mr. Alexander Hamilton's Explanation of His Correspondence with James Reynolds.", undated
Box 5. Folder 1. Hebraic Aspects of Early New Haven Legalism, undated
Box 5. Folder 2. Judaizing, undated
Box 5. Folder 3. Legalism versus Revolutionary Doctrine in New England by Richard B. Morris, 1931
Box 5. Folder 4. Puritans. Resource material, 1901-1926
Box 5. Folder 5-6. Poetry and plays, 1929-1970, undated
Box 5. Folder 7-8. Sermons and addresses, 1924-1970
Box 7. Folder 5-6. Nearprint, 1923-1969
Box 8. Folder 1-4. Miscellaneous, undated
Box 8. Folder 5. Miscellaneous. Outlines and beginnings of documents, undated
Box 8. Folder 6. Miscellaneous. Including outlines, undated
Series B. Correspondence, 1897-1975

Extent  2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note  Newman had a long and close relationship with Stephen S. Wise, who appointed him to the faculty of the fledgling Jewish Institute of Religion as a professor of apologetics. Newman also shared Wise’s enthusiasm for Zionist causes and was an honorary vice-president of the American Jewish Congress. Their correspondence reflects these and mundane topics such as fellow rabbis and the activities of Newman in his pulpits and writing endeavors, including his poetry. Other correspondents and topics include John Haynes Holmes and the Adolf Sutro Library in San Francisco, California. Newman researched at the library and was a strong supporter of the institution. There are also several decades of family correspondence relating to visits, trips and daily activities. Many letters to Newman’s wife, Lucile Uhry can also be found in this series.

Arrangement  Arranged alphabetically by correspondent and topic.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 9. Folder 3-5. Family correspondence (Newman), 1912-1918
Box 9. Folder 6-7. Family correspondence (Newman, Lucile Uhry), 1922
Box 9. Folder 10. Family correspondence (Newman), 1929
Box 10. Folder 1. Family correspondence (Uhry), 1930-1939
Box 10. Folder 2. Family correspondence (Newman’s sons), 1937
Box 10. Folder 3-13. Family correspondence, 1942-1975
Box 11. Folder 1. Family correspondence, undated
Box 11. Folder 2. Family correspondence (Uhry), undated
Box 11. Folder 4. Miscellaneous, 1913-1951, undated
Box 11. Folder 5. Puritan material, 1936-1942
Box 11. Folder 6. Sachar, Abram L. (Brandeis University), 1948
Box 12. Folder 1. Wessel, Morris J., 1912-1916, undated
Box 13. Folder 1-10. Wise, Stephen S., 1928-1942, undated

Series C. Personal, 1905-1972

Extent  0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
Scope and Content Note
Contains material related to Louis I. Newman's personal life. This series includes several college papers written by Newman, together with clippings, a few unidentified photographs and other miscellaneous items such as his Felix M. Warburg Award. Also included are signed photographs of Stephen S. Wise and Hubert Humphrey. The original Humphrey photograph is located in the AJA's rare documents file.

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing
Box 14. Folder 1. Clippings, 1909-1942, undated
Box 14. Folder 2. Clippings (by Newman), 1921-1942
Box 14. Folder 3. Clippings (death of), 1972
Box 14. Folder 4. Clippings (miscellaneous), 1930-1947
Box 14. Folder 5. College, 1911-1913
Box 14. Folder 6. College papers and exams, 1911-1915, undated
Box 14. Folder 9. Grammar school, 1905
Box 14. Folder 10. Jewish Institute of Religion, undated
Box 14. Folder 11. Memorial registers, undated
Box 14. Folder 15. Photograph. Humphrey, Hubert. Signed, undated
Box 14. Folder 17. Photographs, undated
Box 14. Folder 18. School for Jewish Studies, 1925
Box 14. Folder 19. Warburg, Felix M. Memorial Award, undated
Box 14. Folder 20. Wedding announcement, 1923