



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Ismar Elbogen Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 110



Collection Summary

Title	Ismar Elbogen Papers
Dates	1898-1938
Collection Number	MS-110
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Elbogen, Ismar, 1874-1943
Extent	0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
Language of the Material	English, German, Greek, Modern (1453-), Hebrew, and Latin

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Ismar Elbogen was born in Schildberg, Posen on 1 September 1874. He received his Ph.D. after attending both Breslau University and the Jewish Theological Seminary in Breslau. From 1899-1902, Elbogen served as a lecturer in history and Bible exegesis for the Collegio Rabbinico Italiano, in Florence, Italy.

In 1904, Elbogen returned to Berlin to become professor of history and Bible exegesis at the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums. The Hochschule was one of the most well-known and respected rabbinical training schools in Europe. In 1919, Elbogen was given the title of professor by the Prussian government. Elbogen observed the rise of anti-Semitism in his native land and in 1931 wrote a letter to a national conference of Jewish leaders describing the discrimination and subjugation of Jews. He sent his children away- his daughter to Palestine and his son to the United States. Elbogen himself left Germany in 1938 with a joint appointment to four United States Jewish universities (Dropsie College, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, Jewish Theological Seminary), acknowledging that Jewish culture was no longer possible under the Nazi regime in Germany.

Elbogen was strongly committed to the Jewish lay community. He belonged to the Union of Prussian Jewish Communities and the B'nai B'rith. Elbogen was also an early intellectual leader of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

Elbogen was a noted scholar in many fields of study, but was particularly known for his contributions to the history of Jewish liturgy. His *Der jüdische Gottesdienst in seiner geschichtlichen Entwicklung* (1913) remained a standard work twenty years later. He wrote several volumes supplementing the Graetz history on German Jewry for the Jewish Publication Society of America. Elbogen also wrote several individual community histories. He edited the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* and the *Germania Judaica*.

Ismar Elbogen died suddenly on 1 August 1943. He married Regina Klemperer (sister of conductor Otto Klemperer) and had two children: Herman Z. Elbogen and Shoshanah Rosenberg.

Scope and Content

The Ismar Elbogen Papers consist of the correspondence and manuscripts of Ismar Elbogen, who was an internationally known German scholar invited to the United States in 1938 as a joint professor for Dropsie College, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Elbogen was a noted liturgist who taught rabbis in Germany and Italy. The papers do not have much material about Elbogen as an instructor in Europe, although there is a police passport issued to Elbogen in 1938.

The correspondence and manuscripts relate primarily to Elbogen's historical research and some liturgical materials. The correspondence relates primarily to the publication of his work. Manuscripts are not dated and are in English, German, Greek, Hebrew and Latin. The papers span the dates 1898-1938 but the bulk of materials are undated.

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 Ismar Elbogen Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Ismar Elbogen Papers, MS-110, Box [#], Folder [#]. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Klau Library, New York, N.Y., 1979.

Processing Information

Processed by Kevin Proffitt. Additional processing by Melinda McMartin, June 2002.

Index Terms

Subjects Jewish scholars

Personal Names Elbogen, Ismar, 1874-1943

Series A. General, 1898-1938**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1898-1938

Box 1. Folder 2. Historical materials, 1934-1938

Box 1. Folder 3. Manuscripts, undated

Box 1. Folder 4. Manuscripts, undated

Box 1. Folder 5. Manuscripts. Liturgy, undated

Box 1. Folder 6. Manuscripts (not authored by Elbogen), undated