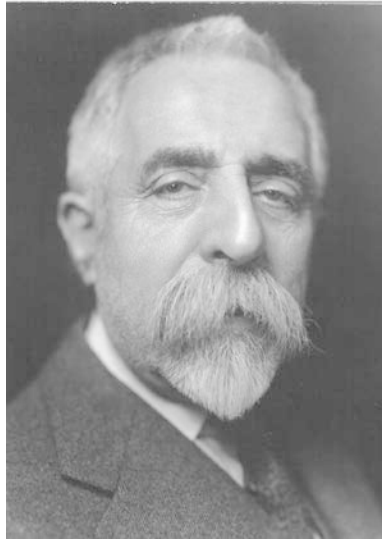




THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Richard J. H. Gottheil Papers
Manuscript Collection No. 127**



Collection Summary

Title	Richard J. H. Gottheil Papers
Dates	1886-1982
Collection Number	MS-127
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Gottheil, Richard J. H. (Richard James Horatio), 1862-1936
Extent	0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English, French, German, Hebrew, and Yiddish

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Richard James Horatio Gottheil was born in Manchester, England in 1862 to Rabbi Gustav and Rosalie Wollman Gottheil. In 1873, the family emigrated to New York City where Rabbi Gottheil ascended the pulpit at Temple Emanu-El. Richard Gottheil earned a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University in 1881 and returned to Europe to study at the Universities of Berlin, Tübingen and Leipzig and received a Doctor of Philosophy from Leipzig in 1886. Gottheil later returned to the United States, earning his doctorate from Columbia University in 1929.

Gottheil was appointed chair of Semitic languages and rabbinical literature at Columbia University in 1887 after one year on the faculty as a lecturer. He was trained in Semitics, Judaica, Orientalism and Wissenschaft methodology. In 1897, Gottheil became the director of the Oriental department at the New York Public Library. He would retain both positions until his death.

He inherited from his father a strong commitment to Zionism at a time when it was not popular. He served as the president of the Federation of American Zionists from its inception in 1898 until 1904. Gottheil was vice-president of the Universal Zionist Society. He also served on various committees of the World Zionist Organizations and in 1910 took charge of the American School of Archeology in Jerusalem.

Gottheil was also a noted Syriac studies scholar. He served from 1902-1903 as president of the Society of Biblical Literature. He was a contributor to several encyclopedias and journals and was the editor of the Semitic Study Series (1901-1911) and Columbia University Oriental Series (1901-1936). Individual works include Zionism and The Belmont-Belmonte Family.

Gottheil died in New York City on 23 May 1936. One of his final official acts was to represent Columbia University at the 400th anniversary of the University of Granada, in Spain.

Gottheil married Emma R. Leon, a widow with two sons, in September 1891. They had no children.

Scope and Content

The Richard J. H. Gottheil Papers consist of the papers of Richard Gottheil, an Orientalist and Semitic language professor. Gottheil was a strong supporter of the Zionist movement at a time when it was unpopular within the American Reform movement. He was in close contact with journalist Theodor Herzl about starting the movement in the United States, as is reflected in the correspondence series.

The correspondence series strongly reflects Gottheil's Zionist activities. There is an early correspondence with Israel Zangwill, with whom Gottheil was to break in 1923 after Zangwill criticized the Zionist movement. There is also an extensive correspondence with Stephen S. Wise about his involvement in Zionist activities and Gottheil's support in the creation of the Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. The personal series includes a series of clippings, writings and material about birthday celebrations and Zionist activities.

Arrangement

The papers are divided into two (2) series: A. Correspondence; 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 Richard J. H. Gottheil Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-127. Richard J. H. Gottheil Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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

Processing Information Processed by Kevin Proffitt. Additional processing by Melinda McMartin, August 2002.

Index Terms

Subjects Jewish college teachers / Jews -- New York (State) -- New York / Judaism -- Study and teaching / Zionism

Personal Names Brandeis, Louis Dembitz, 1856-1941 / Ehrlich, Arnold B., 1848-1919 / Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955 / Friedlaender, Israel, 1876-1920 / Gottheil, Richard J. H. (Richard James Horatio), 1862-1936 / Herzl, Theodor, 1860-1904 / Jastrow, Morris, Jr., 1861-1921 / Lipsky, Louis, 1876-1963 / Magnes, Judah Leon, 1877-1948 / Marshall, Louis, 1856-1929 / Schiff, Jacob H. (Jacob Henry), 1847-1920 / Straus, Oscar S. (Oscar Solomon), 1850-1926 / Wise, Stephen S. (Stephen Samuel), 1874-1949 / Zangwill, Israel, 1864-1926

Corporate Names Columbia University

Series A. Correspondence, 1893-1936

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Correspondents include Zionist leaders such as Louis Brandeis, Theodor Herzl, Judah Magnes, and Stephen Wise.

Arrangement Correspondence is arranged alphabetically with general correspondence followed by individuals. Within folders, correspondence is arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A-K, General.

Box 1. Folder 2. L-Z, General.

Box 1. Folder 3. Actions Committee Vienna, 1898-1903

Box 1. Folder 4. Benjamin, 1902-1903

Box 1. Folder 5. Brandeis, Louis Dembitz, 1914-1919, 1934

Box 1. Folder 6. Hadassah, 1909-1931

Box 1. Folder 7-8. Herzl, Theodor [English and German], 1898-1903

Box 1. Folder 9. Jusserand, 1915-1924, undated

Box 1. Folder 10. Lipsky, Louis, 1898-1922

Box 1. Folder 11. Magnes, Judah L., 1915-1917

Box 1. Folder 12. Moore, George F., 1889-1906, 1927

Box 1. Folder 13. Reich, A.W., 1899-1903

Box 1. Folder 14. Rice, Cecil S., 1915-1918

Box 1. Folder 15. Straus, Oscar S., 1897-1910

Box 1. Folder 16. Universite de Strausbourg, 1917-1921, undated

Box 2. Folder 1-4. Wise, Stephen S., 1901-1936, undated

Box 2. Folder 5. Zangwill, Israel, 1898-1917

Series B. Personal, 1886-1937

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains a variety of materials such as writings for and about Gottheil, including obituaries and newspaper clippings. There is also Zionist memorabilia.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by topic.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 6. Clippings.

Box 2. Folder 7. Gottheil, Gustave re: biography, 1936

Box 2. Folder 8. Gottheil, Richard J.H. 60th birthday, 1922

Box 2. Folder 9. Gottheil, Richard J.H. 70th birthday, 1932

Box 2. Folder 10. Gottheil, Richard J.H. Writings, 1893, 1933-1935

Box 2. Folder 11. Obituaries, 1936

Box 2. Folder 12. Unidentified, 1896-1934, undated

Box 2. Folder 13. Writings by others, 1931, 1937, undated

Box 2. Folder 14. Zionist memorabilia, undated

Box 2. Folder 15. Personal miscellaneous, 1886-1937, undated