



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Meir Ben-Horin Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 129



Collection Summary

Title	Meir Ben-Horin Papers
Dates	1943-1988
Collection Number	MS-129
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Ben-Horin, Meir, 1918
Extent	2.8 linear feet (7 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English and Hebrew

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Meir Ben-Horin was widely known as scholar, educator, writer and editor. He was born in Königsberg, East Prussia, Germany on 31 December 1918, attending the Kanzler Privatschule in Danzig from 1925-1928 and the Staedtisches Gymnasium und Realgymnasium zu Dansig from 1928-1937, graduating from the Humanistic Greek and Latin Department. He attended the Hebrew University in Palestine from 1937-1939, and received his Bachelor of Jewish Pedagogy from the Teachers Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1941. He earned his MA (1948) and PhD (1952) from Columbia University.

During World War II, Ben-Horin served with the United States Army in Italy, Germany, and Austria from 1943-1946 as a Combat Engineer and Interpreter-Translator. He was a Special Agent and Special Agent in Charge (Counter-Intelligence Corps, Department of the Army, U.S. Zone of Austria) from 1946-1948, during which time he investigated neo-Nazi activities, suspected war criminals, and participated in denazification. He remained in the U.S. Army Reserves in the Civil Affairs branch beginning in 1948, and retired in 1974 with the rank of Colonel.

Ben-Horin was the acting Executive Secretary and Field Director for Western Europe, Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc., New York City and Wiesbaden, Germany from 1949-1950, during which time he worked with the West German Land governments regarding the recovery of heirless and unclaimed Jewish cultural property. He then began his academic career at the Hebrew Teachers College in Brookline Massachusetts, first as an Assistant to the Dean and Instructor in Education (1951-1955), and then as the Acting Registrar and Assistant Professor of Education (1955-1957). Ben-Horin was the Associate Professor of Education at Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning in Philadelphia beginning in 1957, and became a full professor and Chairman of the Department of Education in 1962; he held these positions until 1975, when Dropsie terminated the Department of Education and Ben-Horin's employment. A five year lawsuit ensued, ending with a settlement in 1980. While still employed at Dropsie, Ben-Horin became the Dean and Professor of Modern Jewish Thought and Education in the Graduate Division of the Horace M. Kallen Center for Jewish Studies of Herzliah at the Jewish Teachers Seminary in New York City, as well as the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Ben-Horin held these positions until assuming the Presidency and Professor of Modern Jewish Thought and Education position at the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies in 1978; he retired in 1981.

Ben-Horin authored and edited a multitude of publications, articles, and reviews. He was the managing editor of *Jewish Social Studies*, a quarterly journal devoted to contemporary and historical aspects of Jewish life from 1957-1969. Ben-Horin married Alice Neugebauer in 1946; they had three children, Judith, David, and Gideon. He died on 7 January 1988.

Scope and Content

The Meir Ben-Horin Papers consist of the professional correspondence of Ben-Horin as an educator, scholar, editor, and author, along with a sample of Ben-Horin's articles and reviews. The bulk of the collection includes files documenting his professional affiliations with multiple educational organizations and his lawsuit against Dropsie University, 1975-1980.

Arrangement

The collection has been arranged into three (3) series: A. Correspondence, 1943-1988; B. Writings, 1951-1981; C. Professional Affiliations, 1949-1980.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

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Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Meir Ben-Horin Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-129. Meir Ben-Horin Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Meir and Alice Ben-Horin, Cleveland, Ohio, 1980-1988.

Processing Information

Processed by Jennie Cole, September 2008.

Index Terms

Subjects

College teachers / Deans (Education) / Editors / Encyclopaedia Judaica / Judaism -- Study and teaching

Personal Names

Ben-Horin, Meir, 1918- / Dushkin, Alexander M. (Alexander Mordecai), 1890-1976 / Grayzel, Solomon, 1896-1980 / Kallen, Horace Meyer, 1882-1974 / Kaplan, Mordecai Menahem, 1881-1983 / Katsh, Abraham Isaac, 1908- / Marwick, Lawrence, 1909-

Corporate Names

Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning / Dropsie University / Herzliah-Jewish Teachers Seminary (New York, N.Y.) / United States. Army

Series A. Correspondence, 1943-1988

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note

Consists of letters to and from Ben-Horin regarding professional matters, mainly Ben-Horin's work on and interest in Jewish education and intellectual thought, research, editing, and publishing. The series also includes a small amount of photocopies of correspondence and letters of commendation from Ben-Horin's time in the Counter Intelligence Corps and on his work in the U.S. Army Reserves. Correspondence with select individuals is contained within separate files, although researchers should consult the general alphabetical run for additional correspondence with these individuals. Further correspondence on publishing and organizations with which Ben-Horin was affiliated is included in Series B, Writings and Series C, Professional Affiliations. The Correspondence Series includes original letters, carbon copies, and photocopies.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by subject, beginning with the "General" files.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A, 1956-1978

Box 1. Folder 2. B, 1956-1986

Box 1. Folder 3. C, 1954-1979

Box 1. Folder 4. D-F, 1952-1973

Box 1. Folder 5. G, 1955-1984

Box 1. Folder 6. H-I, 1956-1976

Box 1. Folder 7. J-K, 1956-1977

Box 1. Folder 8. L, 1953-1988

Box 1. Folder 9. M, 1954-1985

Box 1. Folder 10. N-P, 1955-1981

Box 2. Folder 1. R-S, 1954-1988

Box 2. Folder 2. W, 1961-1982

Box 2. Folder 3. Dushkin, Alexander M., 1965-1975
Box 2. Folder 4. Grayzel, Solomon, 1965-1980
Box 2. Folder 5. Kallen, Horace M., 1954-1972
Box 2. Folder 6-7. Kaplan, Mordecai M., 1943-1981
Box 2. Folder 8. Marwick, Lawrence, 1976-1981
Box 2. Folder 9. U.S. Army, 1946-1974

Series B. Writings, 1951-1981

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of articles authored by Ben-Horin in English and in Hebrew on topics related to Jewish education and Jewish intellectual thought. The series also contains book reviews written by Ben-Horin for the journal, *Jewish Social Studies*. Files on the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* illuminate Ben-Horin's work on the publication both as an editor and contributor, including correspondence and drafts of some of his essays. Ben-Horin also contributed to *Grolier's 1971 New Book of Knowledge Annual*, as that file documents.

Arrangement This series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 10. A-K, 1954-1985
Box 3. Folder 1. L-U, 1957-1984
Box 3. Folder 2. Hebrew, 1964-1981
Box 3. Folder 3. Book reviews, 1951-1973, undated
Box 3. Folder 4. Curriculum vitae, undated
Box 3. Folder 5. *Encyclopedia Judaica*, Editor, 1964-1965
Box 3. Folder 6. *Encyclopedia Judaica*, Contributor, 1965-1970
Box 3. Folder 7. *Grolier Inc., 1971 New Book of Knowledge Annual*, 1969-1971

Series C. Professional Affiliations, 1949-1980

Extent 1.8 linear feet (4.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The series documents portions of Ben-Horin's professional career as a writer, researcher, and academic. The materials within many of these files consist of correspondence, minutes, reports and notes taken by Ben-Horin for organizations such as the Association For Jewish Education, the National Council for Jewish Education, the Philadelphia Branch of the United Synagogue of America Board of Jewish Education and the Philadelphia Zionist Federation. Other files in this series document two of Ben-Horin's academic posts, at Dropsie College and at Herzliah - Jewish Teachers Seminary. The Herzliah - Jewish Teachers Seminary materials document his appointments and positions there, and include minutes he recorded as the dean, class schedules, staff lists, and correspondence.

The bulk of the Professional Affiliations Series is comprised of material documenting Ben-Horin's time at Dropsie College. Files include Faculty and Graduate committee minutes and notes documenting Ben-Horin's work on these committees; materials gathered for work on a faculty handbook and faculty salary increase at Dropsie, materials documenting a student strike in 1971, and proposals drafted by Ben-Horin for improvements to the Education Department and the college in general. Other materials relate more specifically to the lawsuit he initiated against Dropsie after his dismissal in 1975. Files include documents regarding Ben-Horin's hiring; correspondence documenting his problems at receiving tenure,

retirement, and sabbaticals; other materials gathered for the lawsuit, including financial documents of the college, Board of Governor Meeting minutes, Faculty Meeting minutes, correspondence, and copious notes taken by Ben-Horin, as well as materials documenting the case itself such as depositions and court documents. The bulk of the correspondence in this section is between Ben-Horin and the American Association of University Professors, and between Ben-Horin and his lawyer, Labron K. Shuman of Shuman and Markowitz, and between Ben-Horin's lawyer and the university's counsel, first Sidney Margulies of Cohen, Shapiro, Polisher, Shiekman and Cohen, and then Frederick Herman and Abraham Leizerowski of Herman, Bayer, and Presenza. The case does not appear to have ever gone to trial; materials abruptly stop in 1980 with drafts of a settlement between Dropsie and Ben-Horin.

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically by organization name.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 8. Association For Jewish Education, National Board of License, 1956-1959

Box 3. Folder 9. Association for Jewish Education, National Curriculum Research Institute [correspondence with Judah Pilch, Director], 1959-1962

Box 3. Folder 10. Association for Jewish Education, National Curriculum Research Institute. Notes and papers, 1964-1969

Box 4. Folder 1. Association for Jewish Education, National Curriculum Research Institute. Project: Developing a Philosophy of Jewish Education, Norman Schanin, 1967

Box 4. Folder 2. Dropsie University. Faculty Handbook Draft and Resources, 1964-1974

Box 4. Folder 3. Dropsie University. Faculty and presidential matters, notes and correspondence, 1966-1975

Box 4. Folder 4. Dropsie University. Faculty salary resources and correspondence, 1967-1972

Box 4. Folder 5. Dropsie University. Graduate and Faculty Committees, 1967-1975

Box 4. Folder 6. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. General files, 1949-1969

Box 4. Folder 7. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. General files, 1970-1972

Box 4. Folder 8. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. General files, 1973-1975

Box 4. Folder 9. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. General files, 1976

Box 5. Folder 1. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. General files, 1977 February-March

Box 5. Folder 2. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. General files, 1977 April-May

Box 5. Folder 3. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. General files, 1977 July-September

Box 5. Folder 4. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. General files, 1978-1979

Box 5. Folder 5. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. General files, 1980

Box 5. Folder 6. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. General files, undated

Box 5. Folder 7. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. Board of Governors meeting minutes, 1975-1977

Box 5. Folder 8. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. Deposition materials, 1973-1977

Box 5. Folder 9. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. Dismissal materials, 1974-1977

Box 6. Folder 1. Lawsuit, Ben-Horin vs Dropsie University and President Abraham Katsch. Faculty minutes, 1972-1976

Box 6. Folder 2. Notes and Correspondence on Litigation, 1968-1980

Box 6. Folder 3. Resources from Published Materials, 1974-1978

Box 6. Folder 4. Proposals For improvement of Dropsie/Education Department, 1967-1975

Box 6. Folder 5. Publicity File, 1968-1975

Box 6. Folder 6. Student Strike Information, 1971

Box 6. Folder 7. Miscellaneous, 1964-1978

Box 6. Folder 8-9. Herzliah - Jewish Teachers Seminary, 1970-1978

Box 7. Folder 1-2. Herzliah - Jewish Teachers Seminary, 1970-1978

Box 7. Folder 3. National Council for Jewish Education, 1953-1966

Box 7. Folder 4. Philadelphia Branch of the United Synagogue of America Board of Jewish Education, 1968-1971

Box 7. Folder 5. Philadelphia Zionist Federation, Advisory Council Member and General, 1967-1978

Box 7. Folder 6. Philadelphia Zionist Federation, Education Committee Chairman, 1970-1972