



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Boris D. Bogen Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 3



Collection Summary

Title	Boris D. Bogen Papers
Dates	1891-1929 (bulk 1920-1929)
Collection Number	MS-3
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Bogen, Boris David, 1869-1929
Extent	3.6 linear feet (9 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English, German, Hebrew, Polish, and Russian

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Boris David Bogen was an educator and a social worker. He began his career in educational administration but due to a philosophical controversy over the education of immigrant Jews he became disenchanted with the field. He rechanneled his career in the direction of Jewish social work and served as the superintendent of local Jewish social service agencies. He became associated with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and served as its general director of European relief operations. During this period, he traveled with the JDC and the American Relief Administration and helped to implement programs aiding destitute Jews in post World War I Europe and Russia. After his return to the United States, he continued his involvement in social work and Jewish affairs and served as an officer in many of the major Jewish organizations.

Boris Bogen's career is historically significant for it traces the growth of American Jewish social work from a local to an international level. A chronology of the high points of Bogen's life follows:

- 1869 Born July 15 in Moscow, son of David Katzenelenbogen and Leah Meerowitz.
- 1888 Graduated from the University of Moscow.
- 1890 Married Elizabeth Sholtz.
- 1892 Immigrated to the United States (New York City). Studied English and became the teacher/librarian at the Jewish Educational Alliance.
- 1894-1896 Instructor, Baron de Hirsch Trade School, Woodbine, New Jersey.
- 1896-1900 Instructor, Hebrew Technical Institute.
- 1897 Ph.D., New York University. School of Pedagogy.
- 1900-1904 Principal, Baron de Hirsch Trade School
- 1904 Naturalized as an American citizen, Cape May County, Courthouse, New Jersey.
- 1904-1910 Superintendent, United Jewish Charities, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 1910-1917 Field Secretary, Conference of Jewish Charities.
- 1913 Field Agent, National Conference of Jewish Social Services.
- 1916 Director, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.
- 1917-1924 Involved in relief work in post World War I Europe and Russia with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the American Relief Administration (ARA).
- 1917 Sent to Holland by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to organize the relief organizations.
- 1919 Sent to Poland as a member of the American Relief Administration and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Recalled from Warsaw to Paris. Returned to the United States to organize the first unit of social workers sent by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.
- 1920 Accompanied his unit to Warsaw as the General Director of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee relief operations.
- 1921 Returned to the Paris office to serve on the Executive Council of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

- 1922 Sent to the Ukraine with the American Relief Administration to act as a liaison officer between the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the American Relief Administration.
- 1924 Returned to the United States. Services with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee terminated. Superintendent of the Federated Charities of Los Angeles.
- 1925-1929 International Secretary, Independent Order of B'nai B'rith.
- 1926 Honorary Degree, Doctor of Law, Hebrew Union College.
- 1929 Elected President of the National Conference of Jewish Social Services. Died June 29, survived by his wife Elizabeth and their six children; Emil, Robert, Esther, Sophie, David, Jessie.
- 1930 Autobiography, *Born A Jew*, published

Scope and Content

The Boris D. Bogen Papers contain organizational correspondence, records, speeches, pamphlets, and reports representative of Bogen's career as an educator and social worker. Although there is little family correspondence in the collection (mostly from his children), some biographical material may be gleaned from his autobiography, *Born A Jew*, and the folder of autobiographical notes.

Many of the Bogen papers were damaged or destroyed, which accounts for the poor physical condition of the collection. The collection consists of eight Hollinger boxes of material spanning the dates 1891-1929 which cover Bogen's professional career.

Arrangement

Organized into three (3) series: A. Correspondence; B. Writings and Addresses; C. Personal.

Terms of Access

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Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Boris D. Bogen Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Boris D. Bogen Papers, MS-3, Box [#], Folder [#]. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from the Bogen family, 1948.

Processing Information

Processed by American Jewish Archives staff.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jews -- Europe, Eastern / Reconstruction (1914-1939) / World War, 1914-1918
Personal Names	Bogen, Boris David, 1869-1929
Corporate Names	American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Media	Photographs

Series A. Correspondence, 1891-1929, undated

Extent 2.8 linear feet (7 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement

The series is arranged in two (2) subseries: 1. General; 2. Foreign Language Materials.

Subseries 1. General, 1907-1929, undated

Extent 2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note General consists of four and one-half Hollinger boxes. The vast majority of the materials in this subseries pertain to Bogen's involvement in the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Also included are files on the American Relief Association, family correspondence, and a 1919 letterbook.

Arrangement The subseries is arranged alphabetically then by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A, General.

Box 1. Folder 2. Adler, Cyrus, 1921-1923

Box 1. Folder 3. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC), 1916-1920

Box 1. Folder 4. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC), 1921

Box 1. Folder 5. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC), 1922

Box 1. Folder 6. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC), 1923

Box 1. Folder 7. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC), 1924-1929

Box 1. Folder 8. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC), undated

Box 1. Folder 9. AJJDC [budgets], 1923

Box 2. Folder 1. AJJDC [draft of agreement between the AJJDC and Russian government], 1921-1922

Box 2. Folder 2. AJJDC [Executive Committee minutes], 1921

Box 2. Folder 3. AJJDC [field reports], 1920

Box 2. Folder 4. AJJDC [financial reports - Russian unit], 1922-1924

Box 2. Folder 5. AJJDC [internal allocation notes], 1923

Box 2. Folder 6. AJJDC [Latvia child care reports], 1923

Box 2. Folder 7-9. AJJDC [photographs - Russian unit], 1924

Box 2. Folder 10. AJJDC [Polish reports], 1920

Box 2. Folder 11. AJJDC [Polish workers - statistical tables], 1921

Box 2. Folder 12. AJJDC [Poland - miscellaneous], 1919-1921

Box 3. Folder 1. AJJDC [reports], 1922-1924

Box 3. Folder 2. American Relief Association (ARA), 1919-1924

Box 3. Folder 3. American Relief Association (ARA) [European Children's Fund Mission to Poland Report], 1922

Box 3. Folder 4. American Relief Association (ARA) [miscellaneous reports], 1922

Box 3. Folder 5. B, General.

Box 3. Folder 6. Billikopf, Jacob, 1917-1925, undated

Box 3. Folder 7. Bureau of Jewish Social Research (BJSR) [foster homes reports], 1924

Box 4. Folder 1. Bureau of Jewish Social Research (BJSR) [juvenile delinquency report], 1924

Box 4. Folder 2. Bureau of Jewish Social Research (BJSR) [Philadelphia child care study], 1924

Box 4. Folder 3. Bureau of Jewish Social Research (BJSR) [Hebrew Orphan Home of Philadelphia report].

Box 4. Folder 4. C-E, General.

Box 4. Folder 5. F-G, General.

Box 4. Folder 6. Federation of Jewish Charities [Executive Director report], 1922

Box 4. Folder 7. H-J, General.

Box 4. Folder 8. Jewish Welfare Board [curriculum of training course], 1921

Box 4. Folder 9. K, General.

Box 4. Folder 10. L, General.

Box 4. Folder 11. M-O, General.

Box 4. Folder 12. P-R, General.

Box 5. Folder 1. S-T, General.

Box 5. Folder 2. Senior, Max, 1907, 1924-1925

Box 5. Folder 3. Strauss, Lewis L., 1922-1924

Box 5. Folder 4. U-Z, General.

Box 5. Folder 5. Voorsanger, Elkan C., 1921-1922, undated

Box 5. Folder 6. Warburg, Felix M., 1919-1926

Box 5. Folder 7. Family correspondence, 1917-1928, undated

Box 5. Folder 8. Letter book, February-March 1919

Box 5. Folder 9. Letters of condolence [written at the time of the death of Boris D. Bogen], 1929

Box 5. Folder 10. Unidentified correspondence, 1920-1929, undated

Subseries 2. Foreign Language Materials, 1891-1929, undated

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Foreign Language Materials consists of three Hollinger boxes of Russian correspondence arranged chronologically, plus German, Hebrew and Polish correspondence. This sub-series also contains miscellaneous foreign language pamphlets and news clippings. Some of the Russian letters in this series are accompanied with English translations.

Arrangement Correspondence is arranged by language.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 11. Russian correspondence, 1891-1900

Box 5. Folder 12. Russian correspondence, 1901-1919

Box 5. Folder 13. Russian correspondence, 1920-1922

Box 6. Folder 1. Russian correspondence, 1923

Box 6. Folder 2. Russian correspondence, 1924

Box 6a. Folder 1. Russian correspondence, 1925-1926

Box 6a. Folder 2. Russian correspondence, 1927-1929
Box 6a. Folder 3. Russian correspondence, undated
Box 6a. Folder 4. Russian correspondence, undated
Box 6a. Folder 5. German correspondence, undated
Box 6a. Folder 6. Yiddish correspondence, undated
Box 6a. Folder 7. Polish correspondence, undated
Box 6a. Folder 8. Russian syllabi and lecture notes, undated
Box 7. Folder 1. Russian fragments, undated
Box 7. Folder 2. Miscellaneous pamphlets [foreign language].
Box 7. Folder 3. News clippings [foreign language].

Series B. Writings and Addresses, 1924-1930, undated

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Series B consists of one Hollinger box of writings and speeches of Bogen, plus a draft manuscript copy of his autobiography, *Born a Jew*. This series also contains miscellaneous reports and pamphlets not written by Bogen but pertaining to his professional activities.

Arrangement Writings are arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 7. Folder 4. Writings and addresses [A-Y].
Box 7. Folder 5. Writings and addresses [untitled].
Box 7. Folder 6. Autobiographical notes, 1924-1930
Box 7. Folder 7. *Born A Jew* [published articles - incomplete], 1926
Box 7. Folder 8. *Born A Jew* [notes to book and articles], 1924-1930
Box 7. Folder 9-11. *Born A Jew* [draft manuscript], undated
Box 8. Folder 1-3. *Born A Jew* [draft manuscript], undated
Box 8. Folder 4. Jewish Welfare Services [miscellaneous papers], 1924-1929
Box 8. Folder 5. Russia [notes], 1924-1930
Box 8. Folder 6. Symposium on Unifying and Disrupting Forces in Jewish Community Life in the United States [report], undated
Box 8. Folder 7. "What Have To Be the Contents of a Reader" [miscellaneous article].

Series C. Personal, 1899-1929

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Series C consists of one-half Hollinger box of awards, honors, news clippings, passports and travel passes.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 8. Folder 8. Awards and honors, 1899-1929

Box 8. Folder 9. News clippings.

Box 8. Folder 10. Passports, 1921

Box 8. Folder 11. Travel passes, 1919-1924