



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Abraham Cronbach Papers
Manuscript Collection No. 9**



Collection Summary

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Title | Abraham Cronbach Papers |
| Dates | 1902-1965 (bulk 1920-1960) |
| Collection Number | MS-9 |
| Repository | The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives |
| Creator | Cronbach, Abraham, 1882-1965 |
| Extent | 4 linear feet (10 Hollinger boxes) |
| Language of the Material | English |

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Abraham Cronbach was born on February 16, 1882, the son of German immigrants, Marcus and Hannah (Itzig) Cronbach. He grew up in Indianapolis, where his father was a notions store retailer. In September 1898, Cronbach entered Hebrew Union College where, in conjunction with the University of Cincinnati, he studied for his bachelor's degree while training for the rabbinate. In 1902 he graduated from the University of Cincinnati and four years later (in 1906) he was ordained as rabbi.

Cronbach began his rabbinical career at the Reform congregation of Temple Beth El in South Bend, Indiana. Although he had assumed a pulpit immediately upon his ordination, he maintained his interest in education and his ties with Hebrew Union College. In 1910 he was called upon to give the eulogy for Ephraim Feldman, a professor at the College. In 1911, he spent a year abroad studying at the University of Cambridge (England) and the Hochschule (Lehranstalt) fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums. (Berlin) and in 1915 he received the Doctor of Divinity degree from Hebrew Union College.

Rabbi Cronbach resigned his pulpit in South Bend in 1915 and for the next seven years served in three different rabbinical capacities: from 1915 through 1917 he worked with the Free Synagogue in New York City; from 1917 through 1919 he was rabbi at the Akron (Ohio) Hebrew Congregation; and from 1919 through 1922 he served as institutional chaplain for the Chicago Federation of Synagogues.

In December 1920, Cronbach delivered a series of lectures on-chaplaincy procedures at Hebrew Union College ("The Ministry of the Jewish By-Ways." Hebrew Union College Monthly, January - April, 1921). In 1922, Cronbach was appointed a professor of social studies at Hebrew Union College, where he remained for the rest of his life.

As a professor at H.U.C. Cronbach participated in the civic activities of Cincinnati as well as activities on the H.U.C. campus. He was an active member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and he participated in Cincinnati's Jewish Fellowship House and the Cincinnati Big Brother's Association. In 1939, Cronbach became secretary to the Board of Editors of the Hebrew Union College Annual.

As a result of World War I, Cronbach became an ardent pacifist and, throughout his career, he ardently worked for pacifist causes. In 1923, he helped found the Peace Heroes Memorial Society, whose national headquarters was in Cincinnati. Dr. Cronbach served as national secretary and, as such, was instrumental in establishing Memorial Day services around the country in honor of the heroes of industry, maternity, pacifism, etc. The services were an annual event in Cincinnati from 1923 through 1941.

In 1924, Cronbach sought to establish a specifically Jewish pacifist organization. A "Pledge for Jewish Pacifists" was sent out and although at least fifteen signed pledges were returned, including ones from Max Heller and Jacob Weinstein, a formally structured organization never developed.

Rabbi Cronbach's pacifist activities increased with the threat and advent of World War II. In 1935, he called for a conference between Nazis and Jews in Philadelphia for the purpose of reconciliation. In that same year he worked with the American Friends Service Committee to raise \$5000 for an Austrian Relief Fund which was to aid persecuted Austrians as well as German Jews and Nazis who had fled to Austria from Hitler's Germany. Throughout the war, Cronbach supported conscientious objectors and, in 1942, he helped found the Jewish Peace Fellowship, which he described as a "religious organization of Jewish persons who believe war to be as futile as it is

fiendish." Immediately after the Allied victory, Cronbach addressed letters to Jewish organizations (the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Conference, and the

American Jewish Congress) asking that they not seek punishment of Nazi war criminals.

In 1952, Cronbach became a Sponsor of the Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case and for the next two years he worked diligently for the Committee. Cronbach carried on an active letter-writing campaign, urging others to help secure clemency-for the Rosenbergs and, on June 16, 1953, he met with President Eisenhower to beseech him to pardon the Rosenbergs. When this attempt failed, Cronbach addressed those at the Rosenberg's funeral (June 21), asking them not to lose heart at their defeat. Cronbach continued to work with the Committee throughout 1956 to secure justice for Martin Sobell and to bring out the complete truth in the Rosenberg trial.

Professor Cronbach retired from active teaching in 1950, becoming Emeritus Professor of Social Studies at Hebrew Union College. Thereafter he devoted much of his time to writing, and he published several books (Realities of Religion, Stories of Bible Stories, Reform Movement in Judaism) and numerous articles ("Patriotism of Peace," "Jewish Pioneering in American Social Work," "Judaism and Humanism").

Cronbach married Rose Hentil on October 7, 1917. They adopted a daughter, Marion, in 1923. Abraham Cronbach died on April 2, 1965 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Scope and Content

The collection contains correspondence, manuscripts, reports, minutes, newsclippings and miscellaneous items relating to Cronbach's publications, his rabbinical career, his activities at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, and his involvement with various Jewish and pacifistic societies and organizations.

Arrangement

Organized into three (3) series: A. Correspondence, 1902-1965; B. Manuscripts and Publications, 1913-1963; C. Miscellaneous, 1911-1957.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Terms of Reproduction and Use

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Preferred Citation

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

[Description], [Date], Abraham Cronbach Papers, MS-9, Box [#], Folder [#]. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Abraham and Rose Cronbach, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1949-1973. In July 1985, Maurice Davis, White Plains, N.Y., donated an additional supplement of material to the American Jewish Archives.

Processing Information

Processed by M. Carolyn Dellenbach, February 1977.

Index Terms

- Subjects** Jewish college teachers / Jewish educators / Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Pacifists / Peace movements / Rabbis / Reform Judaism / Social service
- Personal Names** Cronbach, Abraham, 1882-1965
- Corporate Names** Hebrew Union College. Faculty
- Media** Minutes

Series A. Correspondence, 1902-1965

Extent 2.6 linear feet (6.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement

This series is divided into two (2) subseries: 1. General and 2. Personal.

Subseries 1. General, 1907-1965

Extent 2.2 linear feet (5.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The subseries contains correspondence along with reports, minutes and subject-related nearprint, relating to Cronbach's rabbinic and professorial career and his activities with Jewish and pacifistic organizations. Among the significant correspondents in this subseries are: Mary Antin, Clarence Darrow, John Dewey, Ismar Elbogen, Nelson Glueck, Emil G. Hirsch, Cordell Hull, Carl G. Jung, Horace M. Kallen, Kaufmann Kohler, Lily H. Montagu, Julian Morgenstern, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Murray Seasongood and Stephen S. Wise. Of special interest are the "Rosenberg/Sobell espionage cases" files, which trace the fight for their clemency. These files also contain the responses to Cronbach's numerous letters urging others to join in the fight.

Arrangement The subseries is arranged alphabetically by correspondent or subject of correspondence with a chronological sub-arrangement.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A, General, 1924-1964

Box 1. Folder 2. Abrahams, Israel, 1911-1915

Box 1. Folder 3. Adler, Felix, 1916-1929

Box 1. Folder 4. Akron, Ohio - Akron Hebrew Congregation, 1917-1919

Box 1. Folder 5. American Council for Judaism, 1943-1965

Box 1. Folder 6. American Friends Service Committee, 1932-1947

Box 1. Folder 7. Antin, Mary, 1915-1916, 1937-1945

Box 1. Folder 8. Arnold, Thurman W., 1934-1938

Box 1. Folder 9. B, General, 1917-1965

Box 1. Folder 10. Bergmann, Hugo, 1927-1933

Box 1. Folder 11. Brotz, Howard M., 1947, undated

Box 1. Folder 12. C, General, 1917-1963

Box 1. Folder 13. Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1922-1942

Box 1. Folder 14. Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1944-1965

Box 1. Folder 15. Chicago Federation of Synagogues [correspondence, reports], 1920-1922

Box 1. Folder 16. Cincinnati, Ohio. General, 1936-1964

Box 1. Folder 17. Cincinnati, Ohio. Jewish Community House, 1924-1927

Box 1. Folder 18. Clinchy, Everett, 1934-1936

Box 1. Folder 19. Cronbach, Abraham "Autobiography", 1956, 1959-1960

Box 1. Folder 20. Cronbach, Joseph J., 1938

Box 1. Folder 21. Cronbach, Rose, 1916-1918

Box 1. Folder 22. D, General, 1924-1952

Box 1. Folder 23. Darrow, Clarence, 1931 March 1

Box 1. Folder 24. Dewey, John, 1933, 1941, 1951

Box 2. Folder 1. E, General, 1916-1964

Box 2. Folder 2. Elbogen, Ismar, 1922-1924, 1940-1942

Box 2. Folder 3. Ellis, Anna, 1940-1941

Box 2. Folder 4. Ethical codes, 1944-1952, undated

Box 2. Folder 5. F, General, 1917-1965

Box 2. Folder 6. Feibelman, Julian B., 1935-1943

Box 2. Folder 7. Feldman, Ephraim, 1903-1910

Box 2. Folder 8. Fichman, David, 1917, 1924

Box 2. Folder 9. Folkman, Jerome D., 1944-1946

Box 2. Folder 10. Friedland, N., 1929-1941

Box 2. Folder 11. G, General, 1917-1964

Box 2. Folder 12. Gelfman, Harold L., 1945-1950

Box 2. Folder 13. Gradwohl, Bernard S., 1944-1946

Box 2. Folder 14. Greenebaum, Simon, 1907, 1909

Box 2. Folder 15. Grossfield, Avery J., 1940-1950

Box 2. Folder 16. Grossmann, Louis, 1917, 1919

Box 2. Folder 17. H, General, 1917-1965

Box 2. Folder 18. Hebrew Union College Annual, 1943-1962

Box 2. Folder 19. Helder, Jacob, 1931-1932, 1948

Box 2. Folder 20. Holmes, John Haynes, 1922-1960

Box 2. Folder 21. I, General, 1931-1945

Box 2. Folder 22. Israel, Edward L., 1926-1933

Box 2. Folder 23. J, General, 1917-1940

Box 2. Folder 24. Jewish Peace Fellowship. [correspondence, nearprint], 1942-1964

Box 2. Folder 25. Jewish Peace Fellowship - Cincinnati Chapter [correspondence, minutes, lists], 1942-1965

Box 2. Folder 26. K, General, 1917-1964

Box 2. Folder 27. Kallen, Horace M., 1927-1939, 1957

Box 3. Folder 1. L, General, 1908-1964

Box 3. Folder 2. Lipman, Eugene J., 1945-1957

Box 3. Folder 3. M, General, 1917-1965

Box 3. Folder 4. Mayer, Eli, 1917-1918

Box 3. Folder 5. The Menorah Journal, 1959-1961

Box 3. Folder 6. Monroe, Louisiana - Congregation B'nai Israel, 1917

Box 3. Folder 7. Morgenstern, Julian, 1922-1'957

Box 3. Folder 8. N-O, General, 1924-1961

Box 3. Folder 9. P-Q, General, 1917-1950

Box 3. Folder 10. Peace Heroes Memorial Society, 1921-1937

Box 3. Folder 11. Peace Heroes Memorial Society, 1938-1942

Box 3. Folder 12. Peace Heroes Memorial Society, 1946-1948, undated

Box 3. Folder 13. Peace Heroes Memorial Society. Executive Committee [minutes], 1926-1942

Box 3. Folder 14. Peace Heroes Memorial Society. Memorial Day service in Cincinnati [programs, addresses], 1924-1941

Box 3. Folder 15. Peace Heroes Memorial Society. Nearprint [indexed], 1922-1930, undated

Box 3. Folder 16. Peace Heroes Memorial Society. Nearprint, 1924-1948

Box 3. Folder 17. Peace Heroes Memorial Society. Nearprint, 1924-1948

Box 3. Folder 18. Peace Heroes Memorial Society. Newsclippings, 1924-1949

Box 4. Folder 1. Peace Heroes Memorial Society. "Peace Heroes" [lists], 1928-1948

Box 4. Folder 2. Peace Heroes Memorial Society. "Service of Remembrance for Heroes of Social Construction" [booklets].

Box 4. Folder 3. Penney, Marjorie, 1943-1948

Box 4. Folder 4. Pledge, for Jewish Pacifists. Correspondence, signed pledges, newsclippings.

Box 4. Folder 5. Psychoanalysis and Religion (1926), 1926-1927

Box 4. Folder 6. R, General, 1919-1965

Box 4. Folder 7. Realities of Religion (Twayne Publishers, Inc.), 1957

Box 4. Folder 8. Reform Movement in Judaism (American Council for Judaism, 1963), 1961-1965

Box 4. Folder 9. Rosenberg/Sobell espionage cases, 1951-1952 October

Box 4. Folder 10. Rosenberg/Sobell espionage cases, 1952 November

Box 5. Folder 1. Rosenberg/Sobell espionage cases, 1953 January

Box 5. Folder 2. Rosenberg/Sobell espionage cases, 1953 June

Box 5. Folder 3. Rosenberg/Sobell espionage cases, 1953 July-December

Box 5. Folder 4. Rosenberg/Sobell espionage cases, 1954-1956

Box 5. Folder 5. Rosenberg/Sobell espionage cases.

Box 5. Folder 6. Rosenberg/Sobell espionage cases.

Box 5. Folder 7. Rosenberg/Sobell espionage cases [newspapers and newsclippings].

Box 5. Folder 8. Rosenthal, Jacob, 1917, 1933

Box 5. Folder 9. Roth, Cecil, 1930-1942

Box 5. Folder 10. Rubinow, Isaac Max, 1931-1935

Box 5. Folder 11. S, General, 1917-1964

Box 5. Folder 12. Schappes, Morris U., 1945-1948

Box 5. Folder 13. Schultz, Benjamin, 1934, 1947-1948

Box 5. Folder 14. Sion, Rahmin, 1930-1932

Box 5. Folder 15. Stolz, Joseph, 1917-1919, 1935

Box 5. Folder 16. Stories Made of Bible Stories (Twayne Publishers, Inc.),

1959-1961

Box 5. Folder 17. Sunrise Co-Operative Farm. Correspondence, Sunrise News, 1934-1930s

Box 5. Folder 18. T, General, 1924-1964

Box 6. Folder 1. U-V, General, 1938-1964

Box 6. Folder 2. W, General, 1917-1965

Box 6. Folder 3. Wasserman, Jesse H., 1917

Box 6. Folder 4. Weinstock, Abraham, 1948

Box 6. Folder 5. Weitz, Martin M. [correspondence, essays], 1933-1937

Box 6. Folder 6. Wise, Stephen S., 1915-1917, 1937, 1945

Box 6. Folder 7. Wolf, Sidney, 1944-1959

Box 6. Folder 8. Y-Z, General, 1917-1963

Box 6. Folder 9. Anonymous, unsigned or indecipherable signatures, 1913-1946

Subseries 2. Personal, 1902-1965

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note The subseries contains letters to Cronbach from his family, congratulatory letters and telegrams on Cronbach's 75th and 80th birthdays, and miscellaneous items.

Arrangement The subseries is arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 6. Folder 10. Personal, 1902-1917

Box 6. Folder 11. "Stories about Abraham Cronbach on the Occasion of His Seventy-Fifth Birthday", 1957

Box 6. Folder 12. Congratulatory letters, telegrams and addresses on his eightieth birthday, 1962

Box 7. Folder 1. Miscellaneous [certificates, resolutions, records].

Series B. Manuscripts and Publications, 1913-1963

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The series consists of the manuscript, typescript and published copies of many of Cronbach's writings such as theses, addresses, essays and sermons.

Arrangement The series is arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 7. Folder 2. "Fasting on the Day of Atonement", 1903

Box 7. Folder 3. "The Problem of Evil", 1909

Box 7. Folder 4. "Socialism from a Jewish Point of View", 1913

Box 7. Folder 5. "Socialism from a Jewish Point of View", 1913

Box 7. Folder 6. "Socialism from a Jewish Point of View", 1913

Box 7. Folder 7. "Socialism from a Jewish Point of View", 1913

Box 7. Folder 8. Manuscripts and publications, 1914-1922

Box 8. Folder 1. Manuscripts and publications, 1923-1924

Box 8. Folder 2. Manuscripts and publications, 1926-1927

Box 8. Folder 3. Manuscripts and publications, 1928-1929

Box 8. Folder 4. Manuscripts and publications, 1930

Box 8. Folder 5. Manuscripts and publications, 1931-1939

Box 8. Folder 6. Manuscripts and publications, 1936-1939

Box 8. Folder 7. Manuscripts and publications, 1940-1948

Box 8. Folder 8. Manuscripts and publications, 1952-1953

Box 8. Folder 9. "Jewish Pioneering in American Social Work.", 1956

Box 9. Folder 1. "Jewish Pioneering in American Social Work." Bibliographic citation sources, Nos. 5-29, 1956

Box 9. Folder 2. "Jewish Pioneering in American Social Work." Bibliographic citation sources, No. 31, 1956

Box 9. Folder 3. "Jewish Pioneering in American Social Work." Bibliographic citation sources, Nos. 32-73, 1956

Box 9. Folder 4. "Jewish Pioneering in American Social Work." Bibliographic citation sources, Nos. 100-163, 1956

Box 9. Folder 5. Manuscripts and publications, 1960-1963

Box 9. Folder 6. Stories Made of Bible Stories, 1961

Box 9. Folder 7. Manuscripts and publications, undated

Box 9. Folder 8. Manuscripts and publications, undated

Box 10. Folder 1. Manuscripts and publications, undated

Box 10. Folder 2. Prayers, 1926-1960, undated

Series C. Miscellaneous, 1911-1957

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note The series contains two folders of material from Hebrew Union College doctoral students (scrapbook and rabbinic thesis) and six folders of pamphlets, magazines, articles and newsclippings of special interest to Cronbach.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 10. Folder 3. Davis, Maurice. "The History of the Jewish Center Movement in America" [Rabbinic thesis].

Box 10. Folder 4. Parker, Benjamin. Scrapbook.

Box 10. Folder 5. Nearprint, 1911-1964, undated

Box 10. Folder 6. Nearprint, 1911-1964, undated

Box 10. Folder 7. Nearprint, 1911-1964, undated

Box 10. Folder 8. Nearprint, 1911-1964, undated

Box 10. Folder 9. Nearprint, 1911-1964, undated

Box 10. Folder 10. Newsclippings, 1929-1958



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MS-9: Abraham Cronbach Papers

Subject Tracings

Note: The following list represents a selective guide to the significant subjects and correspondents within the ABRAHAM CRONBACH PAPERS. References are to boxes and folders, e.g. 2/7 = Box 2, Folder 7. This list should be used in conjunction with the Box and Folder List of this inventory.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| American Council for Judaism | 4/8 |
| Austrian Relief, Fund | 1/6 |
| Bamberger, Bernard J. | 1/9 |
| Baron, Salo W. | 1/9 |
| Bernstein, Philip S. | 1/9 |
| Billikopf, Jacob | 1/9 |
| Bjerre, Paul | 1/9 |
| Black, Hugo | 1/9 |
| Brann, Marcus | 1/9 |
| Brill, Abraham Arden | 1/9 |
| Central Conference of American Rabbis - Social Justice Committee | 1/13,14; 2/22 |
| Cincinnati, Ohio - Robert Krohn Livingston Memorial Camp | 3/1 |
| Cohen, Morris R. | 1/12 |
| Conference between Nazis and Jews (1935) | 1/18; 2/6 |
| Conscientious objectors | 1/6; 2/24 |
| Douglas, William O. | 1/22 |
| Fram, Leon | 2/5 |
| Glueck, Nelson | 2/11 |
| Hirsch, Emil Gustav | 2/17 |
| Holmes, John Haynes | 3/10,12 |
| Hull, Cordell | 2/17 |
| Hurwitz, Henry | 3/5 |
| Jacobson Temple organ, obtaining for HUC | 2/10 |
| Jung, Carl G. | 2/23 |



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MS-9: Abraham Cronbach Papers

Subject Tracings

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Kohler, Kaufmann | 2/26 |
| Leopold, Nathan F., Jr. | 3/1 |
| Mark, Alexander | 3/3 |
| Montagu, Lily H. | 3/3 |
| National Conference of Christians and Jews | 1/18 |
| Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - Fellowship House | 4/3 |
| Philipson, David | 3/9 |
| Pickett, Clarence E. | 1/6 |
| Reform Judaism | 2/13; 3/9 |
| Roosevelt, Franklin D. | 4/6 |
| School of Jewish Studies (New York, N.Y.) | 5/12,13 |
| Schultz, Benjamin | 4/9,10 |
| Seasongood, Murray | 5/11 |
| Silver, Abba Hillel | 4/9; 5/11 |
| South Bend, Indiana - Temple Beth El | 2/14 |
| Union of American Hebrew Congregations | 1/13; 6/1 |
| Wolsey, Louis | 6/2 |
| Zielonka, David L. | 6/8 |