A Finding Aid to the
Jewish Institute of Religion Records

Manuscript Collection No. 19
Collection Summary

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<td>The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives</td>
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<td>Creator</td>
<td>Jewish Institute of Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>20.8 linear feet (52 Hollinger boxes)</td>
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Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

The Jewish Institute of Religion (JIR) was founded in 1922 by Stephen Samuel Wise (1874-1949) to provide an alternative rabbinical training school to the already established rabbinical seminaries and to remedy the shortage of United States rabbis. The JIR introduced several significant innovations into the field of rabbinical training such as practical field experience, courses in sociological studies and an academic freedom, which enabled students to experiment with all denominations of Judaism before committing themselves to just one. In 1950, the JIR formally merged with Hebrew Union College (HUC) of Cincinnati, Ohio, thereby becoming the New York branch of HUC-JIR. A chronology of the major events of JIR history follows.

1917 Free Synagogue (New York City), under the direction of Rabbi Wise, established "training fellowships", to provide rabbinical students and beginning rabbis with practical experience.

1918 Louis I. Newman personally ordained by Wise and two rabbinical colleagues, even though he had had no formal rabbinical training.

1921 Abraham I. Elkus, President of the Free Synagogue, presented to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) the plan of the Free Synagogue to establish a rabbinical school in New York City. Co-operation between the UAHC and the Institute, was unanimously rejected by representatives of both UAHC and HUC.

1922 Jewish Institute of Religion chartered by a special act of the Legislature of the State of New York, with Stephen S. Wise as "Acting President." Lee K. Frankel elected Chairman of the JIR Board of Trustees.

1923 Completion of the new Free Synagogue building with facilities to house JIR.

1924 First Issue of Jewish Institute Quarterly, the student publication.

JIR Press established through a grant presented to the Institute by George Alexander Kohut. Placement service began for JIR students and graduates. Hannah Heyman bequest to JIR of approximately $163,000.

1926 First JIR commencence: 10 men received the degree of Rabbi and Master of Hebrew literature.

Guggenheimer (Bertha) Fellowship established, annually granting a JIR graduate or faculty member a year's study in Palestine (Israel).

1927 Stephen Wise assumed the title of President of JIR.

Hilda Stich Stroock Lectureship, to bring noted European Christian scholars to JIR, established by Joseph Stroock.

Julian W. Mack elected Chairman of the JIR Board of Trustees.

1929 Resolution to bring about cooperation among UAHC, HUC, and JIR passed at the Biennial UAHC Convention.

Department of advanced studies created.

1937 Summer Institute for Rabbis established under the auspices of the JIR Alumni Association.

1939 Negotiations for the merger of the JIR and HUC began.
1941 Compromise agreement for HUC-JIR merger reached.

1942 Creation of American Council for Judaism, which split the American reform rabbinate and delayed any attempts at a final merger agreement.

1943 Joseph W. Levine assumed the chairmanship of the JIR Board of Trustees.

1945 JIR $1,000,000 Maintenance and Expansion Fund Campaign launched.

1946 Greater cooperation between JIR and HUC unanimously called for by Biennial Council of UAHC.

1947 Nelson Glueck designated President of HUC.

1948 End of JIR $1,000,000 Campaign, which had netted only $60,000.

UAHC, HUC, and JIR formally announced the HUC-JIR merger. Stephen Wise resigned as President of JIR and duly elected President Emeritus.

Nelson Glueck inaugurated President of JIR.

19 April 1949 Stephen S. Wise died.

January 1950 HUC-JIR merger formalized.

Scope and Content

Traces the creation and administration of the Jewish Institute of Religion and its eventual merger with the Hebrew Union College. The records consist of correspondence, minutes, reports, addresses, and newsclippings.

It should be noted that any of Stephen Wise's activities independent of the JIR, i.e. his involvement with the United Palestine Appeal, the World Jewish Congress, or with New York City politics, are not contained in these records.

Arrangement


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Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Jewish Institute of Religion Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-19. Jewish Institute of Religion Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, N.Y. The Office of the President series was acquired in 1953 and the Printed Materials series in 1962.

Processing Information

Processed by M. Carolyn Dellenbach, September 1976.

Index Terms

Subjects

Jewish learning and scholarship / Rabbinical seminaries / Rabbis

Personal Names


Corporate Names

Hebrew Union College / Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion / Jewish Institute of Religion (New York, N.Y.)

Series A. Office of the President, 1921-1950

Extent 16 linear feet (40 Hollinger boxes)
Scope and Content Note
Contains the correspondence and subject files of President Wise. The material in this Series reflects all aspects of the administration and activities of JIR, including such things as the minutes of the Board of Trustees and other JIR committees; financial and statistical reports; and Dr. Wise's or the Office of the President's Correspondence with students, faculty, Board members, lecturers and contributors concerning the JIR curriculum, financial and student activities, and special events. Rabbi Wise's correspondence with trustees and faculty, notably George Alexander Kohut, Julian W. Mack and Henry Slonimsky is especially helpful in understanding the personalities and affairs affecting the Institute. Information regarding the HUC-JIR merger is found in the "Union of American Hebrew Congregations" and the "HUC-JIR Cooperation/Merger" files.

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Box 36. Folder 1. Student loans [correspondence, reports], 1923-1931
Box 36. Folder 2. Student loans [correspondence, reports], 1932-1947
Box 36. Folder 3. Students, General [correspondence, minutes, list], 1922-1930
Box 36. Folder 4. Students, General [correspondence, minutes, list], 1931-1941
Box 36. Folder 5. Students, General [correspondence, minutes, list], 1942-1950
Box 36. Folder 6. Students, Foreign [correspondence, reports], 1942-1949
Box 36. Folder 7. Students, Songs-Lyrics, undated
Box 36. Folder 8. Students, Theses [correspondence, lists], 1924-1949
Box 36. Folder 9. Sugarman, Ben [correspondence], 1923-1924
Box 36. Folder 10. Summer Institute [correspondence, programs], 1937-1940
Box 36. Folder 11. Summer Institute [correspondence, programs], 1941-1949
Box 37. Folder 3. Summer Sessions [correspondence, reports], 1923-1929
Box 37. Folder 2. Summer Sessions [correspondence, reports], 1944-1945
Box 37. Folder 3. Synagogue Council of America [correspondence], 1945-1946
Box 37. Folder 4. Szold, Henrietta [clippings, tribute to], 1945
Box 37. Folder 5. T, General, 1930-1958
Box 37. Folder 6. Tartakower, Leon Ayre [correspondence], 1939-1941
Box 37. Folder 7. Taxes, Real Estate and Capital Stock [correspondence, completed forms], 1923-1938
Box 37. Folder 8. Tchernowitz, Chaim [correspondence, clippings], 1923-1929
Box 37. Folder 9. Tchernowitz, Chaim [correspondence], 1930-1940
Box 37. Folder 10. Tchernowitz, Chaim [correspondence], 1941-1948
Box 37. Folder 11. Tchernowitz, Chaim. Publication Committee [correspondence], 1941-1943
Box 37. Folder 12. Tepfer, John J. [correspondence], 1935-1950
Box 37. Folder 13. Thackeray, Henry St. John [correspondence], 1925-1931
Box 37. Folder 14. Thackeray, Henry St. John. Josephus, the Man and the Historian (1929) [correspondence, reviews], 1927-1944
Box 38. Folder 1. Thurman, Israel N. [correspondence, clippings], 1920-1948
Box 38. Folder 2. Torczyner, Harry [correspondence], 1928-1932
Box 38. Folder 3. Torrey, Charles Cutler [correspondence], 1922-1934
Box 38. Folder 4. Torrey, Charles Cutler. The Jewish Foundation of Islam (1933) [correspondence], 1931-1933 July
Box 38. Folder 5. Torrey, Charles Cutler. The Jewish Foundation of Islam (1933) [correspondence, reviews], 1933 August-1943
Box 38. Folder 6. Touroff, Nisson [correspondence], 1922-1947
Box 38. Folder 7. The Training School for Jewish Social Work [correspondence], 1925
Box 38. Folder 8. Trustees, Board of [correspondence, minutes, lists], 1924-1928
Box 38. Folder 9. Trustees, Board of [correspondence, minutes, lists], 1930-1935
Box 38. Folder 10. Trustees, Board of [correspondence, minutes, lists], 1936-1942
Box 38. Folder 11. Trustees, Board of [correspondence, minutes, lists], 1943-1947
Box 39. Folder 1. Trustees, Board of [correspondence, minutes, lists], 1948-1950
Box 39. Folder 2. U, General, 1924-1927
Box 39. Folder 3. Ulmer, Solomon [correspondence], 1922 -1924
Box 39. Folder 4. Union Theological Seminary [correspondence], 1926 -1927
Box 39. Folder 5. United Jewish Appeal [reports], 1946
Box 39. Folder 6. Union of American Jewish Congregations [correspondence, reports], 1921-1944
Box 39. Folder 8. United States. Office of Education [correspondence, reports, form letters], 1936-1941
Box 39. Folder 10. V, General, 1926-1945
Box 39. Folder 11. Vogelstein, Herman [correspondence], 1942
Box 39. Folder 13. War Assets Corporation, Office of Surplus Property [correspondence], 1945-1946
Box 39. Folder 14. Wasserman, David [correspondence], 1923
Box 39. Folder 15. Wasserman, Samuel [correspondence], 1922 -1933
Box 39. Folder 16. Watstein, Harry [correspondence], 1922
Box 39. Folder 17. Weil, Jonas [correspondence], 1925
Box 39. Folder 18. Weis, J. Max [correspondence], 1922-1928
Box 39. Folder 19. Weitzner, Emil [correspondence], 1939-1940
Box 39. Folder 20. Weizmann, Chaim [letter, clippings], 1940, 1944 -1945
Box 39. Folder 21. Wischnitzer, Mark [correspondence], 1925
Box 39. Folder 22. Wise, Jonah. [correspondence], 1925-1926
Box 39. Folder 23. Wise, Leo M. [correspondence], 1922-1924
Box 40. Folder 1. Wise (Aaron and Joseph Hirsh) Foundation [correspondence], 1924-1936
Box 40. Folder 2. Wolfson, Harry A. [correspondence], 1921-1924
Box 40. Folder 3. Wolfson, Harry A. [correspondence], 1925-1931, 1947
Box 40. Folder 4. Wolman, Leo [correspondence], 1928
Box 40. Folder 5. Y, General, 1925-1945
Box 40. Folder 6. Yahuda, Abraham S.E [correspondence], 1941-1944
Box 40. Folder 7. Yellin, David [correspondence], 1924-1932, 1941
Box 40. Folder 8. Z, General, 1926-1948

**Series B. Printed Materials, 1921-1948**

**Extent** 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of several scrapbooks comprised of clippings, press releases, and excerpts relating to JIR. The scrapbooks are left intact and follow a rough chronological arrangement. A collection of JIR printed material, such as programs, brochures, and broadsides, spanning years 1945 through 1948, is located in the "Printed Archives" record group of the HUC-JIR Collection.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 41. Folder Clippings, 1923-1948

**Series C. Abraham Binder, 1920-1961**

**Extent** 4.4 linear feet (11 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of Abraham Binder's correspondence, course and other materials.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 42. Folder 1. A-Z, Correspondence, 1937-1938
- Box 42. Folder 2. A-Z, Correspondence, 1937-1938
- Box 42. Folder 3. Newsclippings, 1931
- Box 42. Folder 4. Newsclippings, 1932, 1934
- Box 42. Folder 5. Newsclippings, 1935
- Box 42. Folder 6. Newsclippings, 1936
- Box 42. Folder 7. Newsclippings, 1937
- Box 42. Folder 8. Newsclippings, 1938
- Box 43. Folder 1. A-Z, Correspondence (Hydnnis), 1938-1939
- Box 43. Folder 2. A-Z, Correspondence, 1929-1930
- Box 43. Folder 3. A-Z, Correspondence (outgoing concert correspondence), 1928 September
- Box 44. Folder 1. A-Z, Correspondence, 1943-1946
- Box 44. Folder 2. A-Z, Correspondence (personal) contracts and deeds, 1934-1948
Subject Tracings

Note: The following list represents a selective guide to the significant subjects and correspondents within series A of the Jewish Institute of Religion Records. References are to boxes and folders, e.g. 2/7 = Box 2, Folder 7. See also entries must be used in conjunction with the corresponding folder titles in the Box and File List.

Addresses [at JIR] see 5/9-18; 6/1-8; 28/8-11.
Admissions and Registration see also 18/13; 36/3-5.
Albright, William Foxwell see also 7/4; 35/5.
Alumni and Alumni Association see also 36/10-11; 38/9.
American Israelite see 39/22.
Aptowitzer, Avigdor see 7/5.
Arnold, William R. see 7/5.
Asch, Scholem see 7/4.

Banks see also 3/20; 4/9, 12-15; 5/2; 8/11.
Bequests see also 19/11-12.
Berman, Morton M. see 7/6; 11/2; 28/11; 30/2.
Bernstein, Phillip S. see 6/2; 7/6.
Bialik, Chaim Nachman see 7/2.
Billikopf, Jacob see also 13/6-9.
Blau, Ludwig see also 8/14-17.
Bloch, Ernest see 7/5.
Bloch, Joshua see also 27/18.
Bloch Publishing Company see also 19/7.
B’nai B’rith Hillel Foundation see also 3/18.
Brickner, Barnett Robert see 28/10.
Brody, Heinrich see 7/5.
Bureau of Jewish Education see 3/5.

Cardozo, Benjamin Nathan see 4/8; 5/14; 30/3.
Central Conference of American Rabbis see also 33/22.
Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company see also 27/10.
Central Union Trust Company see Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company.
Chajes, Hirsch P. see also 8/14-17.
Chaplains, [WWII] see also 11/2.
Columbia University see also 16/18-19.
Commencements see also 7/2-7.
Subject Tracings

Danby, Herbert see 7/4.
Dinners and Luncheons see also 5/14-16; 11/1-3; 15/14.
Dushkin, Alexander M. see 28/9.
Edman, Irwin see 28/9.
Einstein, Albert see 15/15-17.
Eisendrath, Maurice Nathan see 11/3; 39/6-7.
Elbogen, Ismar see also 7/4; 8/16; 19/15.
Eliot (Charles William) Lectureship see also 24/18; 29/5-6; 40/6.

Finances, General see also 12/1-13; 13/1-16; 14/1-20; 15/1-17; 16/1; 22/16-17; 27/10; 30/5-8; 31/1-8.
Finances, Reserve Funds see also 5/6; 8/6,9; 12/12; 17/10; 19/11-12; 20/3; 34/5; 35/3; 40/1.
Fineshriber, William H. see also 28/8; 30/2.
Finkelstein, Louis see 22/3.
Fishman, Yehuda Loeb see 7/7.
Founder's Day, 1944-45 see also Flat File, Cabinet 5, Drawer 3.
Freehof, Solomon B. see 7/6; 9/1.
Free Synagogue see also 27/10; 39/18.
Friedenwald, Harry see also 7/3.
Fund Raising, General see also 1/11-12; 2/1; 22/14-15; 26/7.
Fund Raising, General
   Illinois see also 22/12.
   Louisiana see also 24/8.
   Massachusetts see also 19/12.
   New Jersey see also 27/4-5.
   Pennsylvania, Philadelphia see also 17/3, 15.
   Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh see also 24/5.
   Pennsylvania, Reading see also 22/14.
Fund Raising, General, List of Contributors see also 25/15.
Fund Raising, "Million Dollar Campaign" see also 22/1.
Ginzberg, Louis see also 5/15; 7/3.
Glueck, Nelson see also 2/7; 7/7; 18/14; 28/1.
Goldman, Solomon see 5/15, 7/7.
Goldstein, Sidney see also 7/6.
Gottheil, Richard see also 7/3.
Granison, Abram M. see also 9/9; 12/5.
Granowitz, Abram M. see Granison, Abram M.
Gressman, Hugo see also 35/4.
Gressman, Hugo. The Tower of Babel (1929) see also 35/7.
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Guggenheimer (Bertha) Fellowship see 9/8; 26/2.
Guttman, Julius see also 19/5.
Guttmann, Michael see 6/3; 8/14-17.

Hagedorn, Joseph see also 5/14.
Hahn, Aaron see 39/6.
Halkin, Simon see also 7/7; 28/11.
HUC-JIR Cooperation/Merger see also 39/1, 6-7.
Hebrew University of Jerusalem see also 25/13.
Heller, James G. see also 18/16; 19/1.
Heller, Max see also 5/11.
Herford, R. Travers see also 7/5.
Herford, R. Travers. Pirke Aboth [ca. 1925] see also 30/1-3.
Hildesheimer, Meier see 8/14-17.
Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums see also 8/14-17.
Holmes, John Haynes see also 7/2; 28/8. Huberman, Bronislaw see 7/6.
Hurwitz, Henry see 27/1.

Isaacs, Nathan see 28/10.

Jewish Theological Seminary (Breslau, Germany) see 8/14-17.
JIR, Early History see 11/10.
JIR Placements see 9/9; 26/6.
JIR Statistics see 2/4; 4/7.
Jones, Rufus M. see 7/5.

Kabak, Abraham A. see 7/6.
Kaplan, Mordecai M. see also 28/9.
Klatzkin, D. Jacob see also 7/6.
Kligfeld, Bernard see 12/5.
Kohut, George A. see also 7/2; 30/1-3; 35/4-7; 37/13; 38/8.
Kohut, Rebekah see 7/4; 22/6-7.
Krass, Nathan see also 7/6.
Krass, Samuel see also 7/4-5.

Lehman, Irving see 5/9; 23/17.
Levi, Gerson B. see also 28/8.
Lewis, Harry S. see also 5/14; 7/3.
Library see 22/19.
Liebman, Joshua Loth see also 28/11.
Loew, Immanuel see also 7/2.
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Mack, Julian W. see also 5/10, 15; 11/1.
Maintenance and Expansion Fund see 15/15-17.
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Marx, Alexander see 7/4; 25/8.
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The Menorah Journal see 27/1.
Monsky, Henry see 5/18; 6/1.
Montefiore, Claude G. see also 7/2.
Montgomery, James Alan see 7/4.
Moore, George Foot see also 7/2; 35/4.
Morgenstern, Julian see 7/7; 25/8.
Mortgages see also 4/12-14; 11/10-11; 30/5-8; 31/1-8.

Neuman, Abraham Aaron see 7/7.
Newman, Louis I. see also 5/10.
New York-Walden School see 30/5-8; 31/1-8.

Parkes, James W. see also 7/7.
Personnel see also 32/9-10.
Philipson, David see 7/7.
Pinski, David see 7/7.
Porges Library see 7/7.
Publications [JIR] see also 33/14; 37/14.

Rabbiner-Seminar zu Berlin see 8/14-17.
Real Estate, General see also 19/10-11; 21/3-4; 24/10-11; 27/10.
Rosenau, William see also 28/8.
Rubin, Reubin see 7/6.

Sachar, Abram see also 6/1; 18/6.
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Schocken, Salmann see 7/5.
Schorr, Moses see 7/5; 32/4.
Sheil, Bernard J. see 7/7.
Shneour, Zalman see 7/6.
Shohl, Charles see 39/6.
Simon, Sir Leon see 11/3; 32/5.
Slonimsky, Henry see also 6/8; 11/1-3; 17/3.
Sokolow, Nahum see 7/3.
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Szold, Henrietta see also 7/2.

Talmud, JIR teaching of see 37/8-10.
Taubler, Eugen see 35/5.
Tchernikowsky, Saul see 7/5.
Tepfer, John J. see also 111/3; 27/2.
Thackeray, Henry St. John see also 35/4.
Thackeray, Henry St. John see also 35/4.
Thurman, Israel N. see also 11/2.
Tobias, Channing see 7/7.
Torrey, Charles Cutter see also 7/3; 35/5.
Torrey, Charles Cutter The Jewish Foundation of Islam (1933) see also 35/7.

Union Theological Seminary see 25/9.
Union of American Hebrew Congregations see also 18/13-15.
United States. Office of Education see also 2/3.
Ussischkin, Menachem Mendel see 7/3.

Van Paassen, Pierre see 7/6.
Vieness Scholars, JIR aid to. see 23/7.

Weizmann, Chaim see also 7/5,6.
Wolf, Lucien see 7/2.
Wolfson, Harry Austryn see 7/4; 25/10.
Workman, Robert Dubois see 7/6.
World Conference on Jewish Education (1947) see 19/2.

Yellin, David see also 7/3; 23/13.