



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Maximilian H. Heller Papers
Manuscript Collection No. 33**



Collection Summary

Title	Maximilian H. Heller Papers
Dates	1871-1929
Collection Number	MS-33
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Heller, Max
Extent	6.8 linear feet (17 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English, French, German, Hebrew, and Yiddish. The majority of the collection is in English, with some correspondence in French, German, Hebrew and Yiddish.

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Maximilian H. Heller, who was born on January 31, 1860 in the Bohemian city of Prague, was the only son and the third of five children born to Simon and Mathilde (Kassowitz) Heller. On both sides of the family, which was of German or Ashkenasic strain of Jews, Heller was descended from a long and distinguished line of European rabbis and scholars. Heller's early childhood and youth were spent in the ghetto of Prague, where his father was a well-to-do wool merchant.

In 1877, while a student at the Prague Gymnasium, Heller's father suffered such severe financial reverses that the family decided to emigrate to the United States. In order not to interrupt his preparation for a career in medicine, Maximilian was left behind. The family settled in Chicago, Illinois, where the father eked out a precarious living by preparing young boys for confirmation and by serving as a lodge secretary.

In 1879, Maximilian, hearing that his mother, who was afflicted with tuberculosis, had but a short time to live, followed the family to the U.S. Upon his arrival in Chicago, Max saw before him the necessity of having to help support the family and decided that his best course was to prepare himself for the rabbinate. He therefore entered the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the same time enrolling for courses at the University of Cincinnati. He received a B.L. (1882) and M.L. (1884) degrees from the University of Cincinnati and was ordained as a rabbi from HUC in 1884.

Upon graduation, Heller was appointed associate to Rabbi Bernard Felsenthal of Chicago's Zion Congregation, where he served for 1 1/2 years. Following this, he led the Reform Jewish congregation in Houston, Texas for five months. In 1887 he was elected rabbi of Temple Sinai of New Orleans, Louisiana. He remained there until 1927, when he was named rabbi emeritus.

On March 6, 1889 Heller married Ida Annie Marks, daughter of a distinguished Portuguese family of New Orleans, by whom he had four children.

Heller's literary work was extensive, though largely composed of published articles, sermons, and addresses. He was a professor of Hebrew language and literature at Tulane University and was elected vice-president (1907-1908) and president (1909-1910) of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Maximilian H. Heller died on March 30, 1929.

Scope and Content

Maximilian H. Heller was one of the most respected and best loved religious leaders of New Orleans and the South. He was known as a man who was diffident and timid in matters about which he did not feel himself well informed, but who did not hesitate to take a determined and courageous stand when he thought a moral principle was involved.

Heller was a leader in both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities of New Orleans. He was active in many causes and movements, often at great risk to his welfare and reputation. Together with Dr. Benjamin Morgan Palmer, Presbyterian divine, and state Senator (later Chief Justice) Edward Douglas White, Heller led the bitter and historic fight which resulted in the abolition of the Louisiana lottery. Equally characteristic was his early espousal of Zionism at a time when support of this cause meant vilification and loss of merited recognition. Heller was also actively engaged in promoting public education, serving from 1892-1896 as a member of the Louisiana State Board of Education.

The Heller papers document these activities, as well as his involvement in Jewish communal and organizational life, plus his pulpit and rabbinic duties. Heller's family correspondence deals with personal and domestic problems as well as the struggle of Bohemian immigrants

who came to Chicago in the 1870s.

- Arrangement** Organized into seven (7) series: A. Correspondence, 1871-1929; B. Personal, 1876-1923; C. Lectures and Sermons, 1885-1922; D. Manuscript Material; E. Printed Material, 1881-1929; F. Miscellaneous; G. Additional Family Correspondence, 1914-1917.
- Access Restrictions** Series B, Subseries 1, Box 6, Folder 16 to Box 8, Folder 14 and Box 17, Folder 6 to 14 are restricted.
- 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 Maximilian H. Heller Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-33. Maximilian H. Heller Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Provenance** Received from James G. Heller, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1952-1953. A supplement was received from Bobbie Malone, August 1993.
- Processing Information** Processed by James W. Clasper, November 1976.

Index Terms

- Subjects** Jews -- Louisiana -- New Orleans / Labor movement / Rabbis / Reform Judaism / Zionism
- Personal Names** Heller, Max, 1860-1929
- Corporate Names** Temple Sinai (New Orleans, La.)
- Media** Photographs / Sermons

Series A. Correspondence, 1871-1929

Extent 2.2 linear feet (5.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Subjects relate to congregational, rabbinic, religious, scientific, cultural, and political matters, the Reform movement, Zionism, the labor movement, conferences, meetings, the prayer book controversy, immigration problems, Hebrew Union College, and the careers of well-known rabbis, scientists, and writers.

Arrangement This series is arranged alphabetically by the name of the correspondent and chronologically within. Unidentified correspondence is placed at the end of this series.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. A, General, 1885-1916
- Box 1. Folder 2. Adler, Cyrus, 1902-1909
- Box 1. Folder 3. Antin, Mary, 1911
- Box 1. Folder 4. B, General, 1884-1926
- Box 1. Folder 5. Barnston [Barstein], Henry, 1903-1915
- Box 1. Folder 6. Bergman, Moise, 1900-1909
- Box 1. Folder 7. Berkowitz, Henry, 1881-1910
- Box 1. Folder 8. Bettman, Bernhard, 1884-1910

Box 1. Folder 9. Bienenstok, Montefiore, 1904-1905

Box 1. Folder 10. Brandeis, Louis D., 1915-1922, 1927

Box 1. Folder 11. Braunfeld, Julius, 1894-1911

Box 1. Folder 12. Braunscheveig, E., 1887-1888

Box 1. Folder 13. Buxbaum, E. Leopold, 1887, 1908

Box 1. Folder 14. C, General, 1885-1925

Box 1. Folder 15. Cahn, Edgar M., 1886-1892

Box 1. Folder 16. Calisch, Edward N., 1887-1914

Box 1. Folder 17. Cohen, Alfred M., 1918-1921

Box 1. Folder 18. Cohen, Henry, 1888-1917

Box 1. Folder 19. Cohen, Oscar J., 1889-1899

Box 1. Folder 20. Cowen, Philip, 1901-1909, 1914

Box 1. Folder 21. Crofton, Alfred C., 1914-1917

Box 1. Folder 22. D, General, 1885-1921

Box 1. Folder 23. Dannenbaum, Henry J., 1912-1914

Box 1. Folder 24. Davidson, David, 1885-1900

Box 1. Folder 25. De Sola Pool, David, 1907-1917

Box 2. Folder 1. Deutsch, Gotthard, 1897-1912

Box 2. Folder 2. Deutsch, Gotthard, 1913-1921, 1930

Box 2. Folder 3. E, General, 1890-1915

Box 2. Folder 4. Ehrlich, Arnold B., 1900-1911

Box 2. Folder 5. Elkin, Heiman J., 1890, 1911

Box 2. Folder 6. Enelow, Hyman G., 1902-1911, 1916

Box 2. Folder 7. Englander, Henry, 1916-1920

Box 2. Folder 8. F, General, 1878-1924

Box 2. Folder 9. Felsenthal, Bernhard [Bernard], 1884-1902

Box 2. Folder 10. Franklin, Leo M., 1913-1915

Box 2. Folder 11. Freiberg, J. Walter, 1911-1915

Box 2. Folder 12. Friedenwald, Harry, 1909-1917

Box 2. Folder 13. Friedlander, Joseph, 1901-1916

Box 2. Folder 14. Friedman, William S., 1892-1913

Box 2. Folder 15. Frisch, Ephraim, 1912-1915

Box 2. Folder 16. G, General, 1885-1920

Box 2. Folder 17. Gaster, Moses, 1911-1912, 1918-1919

Box 2. Folder 18. Gittelman, H., 1918-1922

Box 2. Folder 19. Goldberg, Jeanette Miriam, 1878, 1908-1909, 1915

Box 2. Folder 20. Goldstein, Julius, 1923

Box 2. Folder 21. Gottheil, Gustav and Gottheil, Richard, 1894-1911

Box 2. Folder 22. Gries, Moses J., 1892-1914

Box 2. Folder 23. Grossmann, Louis, 1888-1919

Box 2. Folder 24. Guttmacher, Adolph, 1889-1914

Box 3. Folder 1. H, General, 1882-1925

Box 3. Folder 2. Haas, Jacob de, 1902-1922

Box 3. Folder 3. Harris, Maurice, 1891-1924

Box 3. Folder 4. Harrison, Leon, 1895-1923

Box 3. Folder 5. Hecht, Sigmund D., 1886-1897

Box 3. Folder 6. Heinsheimer, Edward, 1895, 1917

Box 3. Folder 7. Hirsch, Emil G., 1888-1900, 1908

Box 3. Folder 8. Hurwitz, Henry, 1909-1916, 1924

Box 3. Folder 9. I, General, 1882-1922

Box 3. Folder 10. J, General, 1888-1918

Box 3. Folder 11. Jacobs, Joseph, 1891-1915, 1920

Box 3. Folder 12. Jacobson, Moses P., 1889-1917

Box 3. Folder 13. Jasin, Joseph, 1907-1910

Box 3. Folder 14. K, General, 1886-1923

Box 3. Folder 15. Kallen, Horace M., 1912-1916

Box 3. Folder 16. Kaplan, Jacob H., 1909-1920

Box 3. Folder 17. Kohler, Kaufmann, 1893-1916

Box 3. Folder 18. Kohn, Annette, 1903

Box 3. Folder 19. Kohut, George Alexander, 1876-1911

Box 3. Folder 20. Kory, Sol L., 1898-1905

Box 3. Folder 21. Krauskopf, Joseph, 1882-1920

Box 3. Folder 22. L, General, 1882-1925

Box 3. Folder 23. Lehman, Emanuel, 1899-1904

Box 3. Folder 24. Lemann, Monte M., 1906-1915

Box 3. Folder 25. Leucht, Isaac L., 1886-1895

Box 3. Folder 26. Levy, J. Leonard, 1899, 1911-1915

Box 3. Folder 27. Levy, Lipman, 1885-1915

Box 3. Folder 28. Lewinthal, Isidore, 1887-1905

Box 3. Folder 29. Lipsky, Louis, 1904-1919, 1928

Box 3. Folder 30. Lyon, J.A., 1913-1915

Box 4. Folder 1. M, General, 1884-1925

Box 4. Folder 2. Magnes, Judah L., 1906-1911

Box 4. Folder 3. Mannheimer, Sigmund, 1884-1905

Box 4. Folder 4. Margolis, Max, 1906-1908

Box 4. Folder 5. Marshall, Louis, 1903-1924

Box 4. Folder 6. Marx, David, 1887-1913

Box 4. Folder 7. Marx, Salomon, 1886-1913

Box 4. Folder 8. Mayer, Harry H., 1898-1914

Box 4. Folder 9. Mendes, Isaac P. and H. Pereira, 1899-1914

Box 4. Folder 10. Meyer, Martin A., 1909-1917

Box 4. Folder 11. Mielziner, Moses, 1884-1902

Box 4. Folder 12. Montefiore, Claude G., 1910-1914

Box 4. Folder 13. Morgenstern, Julian, 1908-1917

Box 4. Folder 14. Moses, Alfred G., 1904-1907

Box 4. Folder 15. Moses, Isaac S., 1890-1904

Box 4. Folder 16. N-O, General, 1884-1924

Box 4. Folder 17. P, General, 1880-1918

Box 4. Folder 18. Philipson, David, 1884-1913

Box 4. Folder 19. Pohl, Julius, 1889

Box 4. Folder 20. Pollak, Carl, 1881-1889

Box 4. Folder 21. R, General, 1879-1926

Box 4. Folder 22. Raisin, Jacob S., 1900-1914

Box 4. Folder 23. Raisin, Max, 1905-1916

Box 4. Folder 24. Raphael, E., 1886-1899

Box 4. Folder 25. Rauch, Blanche, 1885-1901

Box 4. Folder 26. Rosenau, William, 1904-1915

Box 4. Folder 27. Rosenwald, Julius, 1921

Box 5. Folder 1. Sa-Sp, General, 1871-1927

Box 5. Folder 2. St-Su, General, 1871-1925

Box 5. Folder 3. Samfield, Max, 1887-1893

Box 5. Folder 4. Schanfarber, Tobias, 1884-1912

Box 5. Folder 5. Schechter, Solomon, 1903-1912, 1917

Box 5. Folder 6. Schulman, Samuel, 1909-1925

Box 5. Folder 7. Seeman, George, 1897-1912

Box 5. Folder 8. Silber, Mendel, 1909-1915

Box 5. Folder 9. Silverman, Joseph, 1881-1910

Box 5. Folder 10. Singer, Isidor, 1904-1919

Box 5. Folder 11. Smith, William B., 1894-1929

Box 5. Folder 12. Son, Nathan A., 1892

Box 5. Folder 13. Sonneschein, Solomon H., 1887-1890, 1895

Box 5. Folder 14. Steeg, A., 1896-1897

Box 5. Folder 15. Stern, S. Walter, 1914-1920

Box 5. Folder 16. Sternheim, Emanuel, 1912-1915

Box 5. Folder 17. Sulzberger, Mayer, 1902-1907

Box 5. Folder 18. Szold, Henrietta, 1903-1917

Box 5. Folder 19. T, General, 1909-1923

Box 5. Folder 20. Temple Sinai (New Orleans, La.), 1898-1923
Box 6. Folder 1. U-V, General, 1885-1915
Box 6. Folder 2. W, General, 1883-1924
Box 6. Folder 3. Wagenheim, Isaac E., 1900
Box 6. Folder 4. Weil, Robert, 1876-1881
Box 6. Folder 5. Weis, I., 1893-1897
Box 6. Folder 6. Wise, Isaac M., 1879-1896
Box 6. Folder 7. Wise, Leo, 1885-1915
Box 6. Folder 8. Wise, Stephen S., 1896-1929
Box 6. Folder 9. Wolf, Simon, 1898, 1905-1918
Box 6. Folder 10. Wolsey, Louis, 1898-1915
Box 6. Folder 11. Z, General, 1885-1923
Box 6. Folder 12. Zangwill, Israel, 1900
Box 6. Folder 13. Zepin, George, 1912-1923
Box 6. Folder 14. Zielonka, Martin, 1900, 1909, 1911
Box 6. Folder 15. Unidentified, 1878, 1881-1917, 1927

Series B. Personal, 1876-1929

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement

The series has been divided into two (2) subseries: 1. Family Correspondence; 2. Miscellaneous.

Subseries 1. Family Correspondence, 1876-1929

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The subseries consists of Heller's exchanges with both immediate and extended family members. See also Box 17, folders 6-14 for additional family correspondence.

Arrangement The material is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 6. Folder 16. Cohen, George and Heller, Ruth [daughter], 1913-1921
Box 6. Folder 17. Heller, Ernestine [sister], 1884-1915, 1923
Box 6. Folder 18. Heller, Helen Bettman [daughter-in-law], 1916
Box 7. Folder 1-3. Heller, Ida Marks [wife], 1888-1915
Box 7. Folder 4. Heller, Isaac [son], 1916-1917
Box 7. Folder 5. Heller, James Gutheim [son], 1897-1920
Box 7. Folder 6. Heller, Jean Bettman [daughter-in-law], 1916-1923
Box 7. Folder 7. Heller, Louise [sister?], 1883-1915

Box 7. Folder 8-9. Heller, Mathilda Kassowitz and Heller, Simon [parents], 1876-1910

Box 8. Folder 1. Lasker, Edward and Heller, Cecile [daughter], 1900-1920

Box 8. Folder 2. Stein, Anna, 1882-1889, 1910

Box 8. Folder 3. Stein, Carrie, 1889-1910

Box 8. Folder 4. Stein, Samuel, 1878-1895, 1903-1913

Box 8. Folder 5. Stein, Sidney, 1895, 1899

Box 8. Folder 6-7. Stolz, Joseph [nephew?], 1881-1929

Box 8. Folder 8. Miscellaneous family correspondence, 1889-1920

Box 8. Folder 9. Unidentified family correspondence, 1882-1913

Subseries 2. Miscellaneous, 1871-1927, undated

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Box and Folder Listing

Box 8. Folder 10-11. Travel diary, circa 1927

Box 8. Folder 12. School reports, 1871-1879

Box 8. Folder 13. Receipts, 1890-1896

Box 8. Folder 14. Photographs, undated

Series C. Lectures and Sermons, 1885-1923

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The series consists of manuscript material such as sermons, lectures, and prayers.

Arrangement The series is organized by date and tied into individual packets that are grouped into Friday lectures, Saturday sermons, holiday sermons, and miscellaneous.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 9. Folder 1-4. Friday lectures, 1887-1922

Box 9. Folder 5-6. Saturday sermons, 1885-1904

Box 10. Folder 1-3. Saturday sermons, 1904-1922

Box 10. Folder 4-5. Holiday sermons, 1905-1923

Box 10. Folder 6. Miscellaneous, undated

Series D. Manuscript Material, undated

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of unorganized miscellaneous items including sermon and lecture notes, addresses, resolutions, and prayers.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 11. Folder 1. Resolutions and addresses, undated

Box 11. Folder 2-6. Miscellaneous, undated

Box 12. Folder 1-6. Miscellaneous, undated

Box 13. Folder 1-5. Miscellaneous, undated

Series E. Printed Material, 1881-1929, undated

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The series consists of scrapbook pages of newspaper clippings and articles. Box 16, Folders 4-6, consists of memorial material for Maximilian Heller that was prepared by Ida Marks Heller for her son James.

Arrangement The material is arranged as it was found in the scrapbooks.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 14. Folder 1-7. Scrapbooks, 1881-1925

Box 15. Folder 1-8. Scrapbooks, 1883-1925

Box 16. Folder 1-6. Scrapbooks, 1929, undated

Series F. Miscellaneous, 1889-1923

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note The series consists of Sunday school record books, minutes of meetings, assorted documents, picture postcards, and holiday program material. Minutes of the Board of Governors of Hebrew Union College for 1921 and those for the Commission on Jewish Religious Educational Literature for April 1923 are included. There is also a Theodor Herzl chronology in Box 17, folder 5.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 17. Folder 1. Record books, circa 1889-1899

Box 17. Folder 2. Minutes of meetings. Hebrew Union College Board of Governors Commission on Jewish Religious Educational Literature, 1921 March-November, 1923 April

Box 17. Folder 3. Holiday program material, circa 1921

Box 17. Folder 4. Picture postcards, undated

Box 17. Folder 5. Documents and assorted items, undated

Series G. Additional Family Correspondence, 1914-1917

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note This material is a supplement to the family correspondence contained in Series B. Personal.

Arrangement

The material is arranged alphabetically by the name of the correspondent.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 17. Folder 6. Heller, Cecile [daughter] to Heller, Isaac and Heller, James Gutheim [sons], 1914-1917, undated

Box 17. Folder 7. Heller, Ida Marks [wife] to Heller, Isaac and Heller, James Gutheim [sons], 1914-1917

Box 17. Folder 8. Heller, Isaac [son] from Heller, Maximilian H., 1914-1917

Box 17. Folder 9. Heller, Isaac [son] postal cards from Heller, Maximilian H., 1914-1916

Box 17. Folder 10-11. Heller, Isaac and Heller, James Gutheim [sons] from Heller, Maximilian H., 1914-1917

Box 17. Folder 12. Heller, Maximilian H. to "Dear Folks and Boys" [wife and children], 1915-1916

Box 17. Folder 13. Heller, Ruth [daughter] to Heller family, 1914-1915, undated

Box 17. Folder 14. Miscellaneous and unidentified family correspondence, 1916, undated