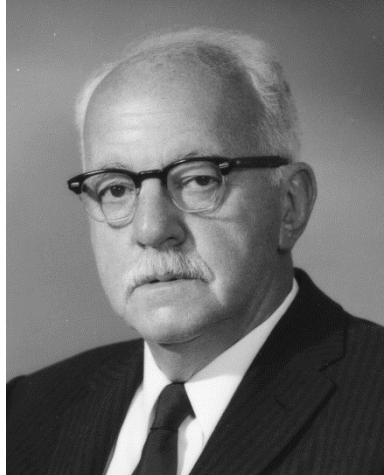




THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Walter S. Hilborn Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 37



Collection Summary

Title	Walter S. Hilborn Papers
Dates	1855-1976
Collection Number	MS-37
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Hilborn, Walter S. Hilborn, Jacob Heilborn, Julius
Extent	0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Walter S. Hilborn was born in Boston, Massachusetts on September 11, 1879. He attended Boston public schools, graduating from English High in 1898. In 1898, Hilborn entered Harvard and graduated magna cum laude in 1901. That same year he began studies at Harvard Law School, serving on Law Review and graduating cum laude in 1903.

Hilborn began his law career in the law offices of Warren and Brandeis, headed by Louis D. Brandeis. In 1905 he moved to New York City and joined the firm of Gallert, Hilborn and Raphael. During this period, Hilborn became active in Stephen S. Wise's Free Synagogue, serving as a trustee and a member of its executive committee.

While with the firm of Gallert, Hilborn and Raphael, Mr. Hilborn served two years as acting director of the Russell Sage Foundation which worked to help create a Small Loans Law in New York State.

In 1908 Walter S. Hilborn married Aimee Gallert, sister of his law partner David Gallert.

In 1920 Hilborn served as Special Assistant to the Attorney General of New York State after having been a Deputy Assistant District Attorney for New York County. In 1922 Hilborn wrote the charter for the Jewish Institute of Religion and served as a trustee of the Institute and later of the combined Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

In 1927, Hilborn became a trustee of the estate of King Gillette, inventor of the razor blade and safety razor. This position gave him reason to move to Los Angeles in 1929 where he resided the remainder of his life. In 1933, Hilborn began work at the law firm of Loeb and Loeb, a position he maintained until his death.

From 1935 to 1976 Walter S. Hilborn was active in community organization work in both the Jewish and general communities. In 1945 he organized the Los Angeles chapter of the American Jewish Committee and served as its first chair. Later he was elected a national vice-president.

In 1950 Hilborn helped incorporate the Reiss Davis Child Guidance Clinic, and worked to sustain the Clinic over the next several years. From 1952 to 1954 he served as president of the Welfare Planning Council of Los Angeles (Community Chest).

Perhaps Hilborn's most significant achievement was the crucial role he played in the merger of the Los Angeles Jewish Community Council and the Federation of Jewish Welfare Organizations. This merger, which was one of the most important occurrences in the Jewish communal life of Los Angeles, was completed in 1959.

Hilborn continued his work as an attorney and his involvements in the community until six weeks before his death. He died on July 9, 1976.

Scope and Content

Contains reports, speeches, certificates, testimonials, and newspaper articles dealing with the private and public activities of Walter S. Hilborn. Also includes papers of Hilborn's father, Jacob Hilborn, and his grandfather, Julius Heilborn.

Arrangement

Organized into seven categories based on subject. Arranged chronologically within each folder.

Terms of Access

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Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Walter S. Hilborn Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-37. Walter S. Hilborn Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Walter S. Hilborn, Los Angeles, Calif., 1966 and 1969, and the Jules Hilborn family, 1976.

Processing Information Processed by Gary T. Greenebaum, October 1977.

Index Terms

Subjects Jewish lawyers / Jews -- California -- Los Angeles

Personal Names Brandeis, Louis Dembitz, 1856-1941 / Hilborn, Walter S. (Walter Stern) / Wise, Stephen S. (Stephen Samuel), 1874-1949

Corporate Names Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Series A. General, 1855-1976

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Biography [newspaper articles, testimonials, an interview and an incomplete family tree].

Box 1. Folder 2. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion [letters to Hilborn from Alfred Gottschalk and others associated with HUC JIR; dedication of the Walter S. Hilborn Chapel; miscellaneous material].

Box 1. Folder 3. Community Organization [letters to Hilborn concerning Welfare Planning Council of Los Angeles, Brandeis University, etc., primarily of a personal rather than business nature; tributes and commemorations of Hilborn's service to the community; miscellaneous letters and papers dealing with Hilborn's involvement in community work and philanthropy].

Box 1. Folder 4. Business and Law [correspondence from fellow attorneys commending Hilborn for his handling of certain cases; tribute to Hilborn by Loeb and Loeb; Bar Association Certificates; miscellaneous letters and articles; note from Louis D. Brandeis].

Box 1. Folder 5. Speeches [numerous speeches by Hilborn covering a variety of subjects], undated

Box 1. Folder 6. Personal Items [personal correspondence from friends and associates; commemorative book from ninetieth birthday celebration; miscellaneous items].

Box 2. Folder 1. Personal Items continued.

Box 2. Folder 2. Letters from Stephen S. Wise [twenty letters to Hilborn from Stephen Wise, discussing the possibility of a merger between HUC and JIR, difficulties in raising funds for Palestine, anti-Semitism in the U.S., Chaim Weizmann, Louis D. Brandeis, Upton Sinclair, and personal sentiments which depict the friendship between Hilborn and Wise], 1934-1941

Box 2. Folder 3. Louis D. Brandeis [one page statement by Hilborn concerning Louis D. Brandeis], undated