



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Henry Pereira Mendes Papers  
Manuscript Collection No. 39**



## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Henry P. Mendes Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1862-1937
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-39
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Mendes, Henry Pereira, 1852-1937 Pool, David de Sola, 1885-1970
<b>Extent</b>	1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

## Administrative Information

### Biographical Sketch

Born on April 13, 1852, H. Pereira Mendes came from a long line of Sephardic rabbis, including his father, Abraham Pereira Mendes, and his maternal grandfather, David Aaron de Sola. Mendes was born and raised in England. At the age of twelve he began his studies at London's Northwick College, a religious school founded and directed by his father. From 1870 through 1872, while continuing his studies at Northwick, Mendes also attended London's University College.

In 1873, Mendes began his ministry at the newly-formed Sephardic congregation in Manchester, England. In 1877, he was called to the United States to serve as preacher in New York City's Congregation Shearith Israel, where he was to remain the rest of his life. Apart from serving Shearith Israel as preacher, hazzan and pastor, Mendes was involved in a vast array of other activities. He received a medical degree from New York University in 1884 and he was awarded an honorary degree from Jewish Theological Seminary in 1902 and one from the Jewish Institute of Religion in 1937.

Rabbi Mendes was instrumental in the organization of many communal projects in New York, such as the Montefiore Hospital, the Institute for the Improved Instruction of Deaf-Mutes, the New York Guild for the Jewish Blind and the New York Kehillah. Mendes also participated in the founding and support of numerous national Jewish Organizations and institutions, such as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Board of Delegates of American Israelites. In addition, Mendes worked closely with other Sephardic congregations in the United States, helping to bring some into existence and to rejuvenate others.

Mendes was one of the first American Zionists. He was among the founders of the Zionist Organization of America and he served as vice-president of the Federation of American Zionists. Until his death, he worked to promote the religious ideals of Zionism.

Rabbi Mendes was also a writer. His books include religious books for children and adults, prayer books, poetry and plays.

Henry Pereira Mendes died October 21, 1937 in New York City. He was survived by his wife, Rosalie Piza Mendes, and his two sons, A. Piza Mendes and Samuel Pereira Mendes.

### Scope and Content

The papers reflect the career of Henry Pereira Mendes, a Sephardic rabbi who served congregations in England and New York City. The collection consists of correspondence, minutes, sermons, addresses, newsclippings, pamphlets, articles, Bible translations, memorabilia, and a biography of Mendes by David de Sola Pool.

### Arrangement

Organized into three (3) series: A. Correspondence, 1852-1937; B. Nearprint, 1873-1937; C. Memorabilia.

### 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 Henry Pereira Mendes Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-39. Henry Pereira Mendes Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance** Received from the Mendes family, New York, N.Y., 1976, and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, Calif., February 1992.

**Processing Information** Processed by Gary T. Greenebaum, May 1978. Additional processing by Melinda McMartin, March 2000.

## Index Terms

**Subjects** Bible / Jews -- England -- Manchester / Jews -- New York (State) -- New York / Rabbis / Sephardim / Zionism

**Personal Names** Mendes, H. Pereira (Henry Pereira), 1852-1937

**Corporate Names** Congregation Shearith Israel (New York, N.Y.)

**Media** Sermons

### Series A. Correspondence, 1862-1937, undated

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

**Scope and Content Note** The series deals with Mendes' rabbinic, charitable, and religious activities. Included in the General Correspondence files are Mendes' pastoral letters, Congregation Shearith Israel's letters and announcements to Mendes concerning congregational elections, regulations and activities. Also included is Mendes' correspondence with various organizations and individuals, such as Nicholas Murray Butler, Israel Zangwill, Dr. Solomon Schechter, Stephen S. Wise, Jacob Schiff and Felix Warburg concerning international peace, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the Hebra Hased Va-Amet and the United Synagogue of America. General Correspondence is arranged chronologically but the Subject Tracings of this inventory provide access to the significant correspondents and correspondence. This Series also contains a folder of correspondence dealing with the Institute for the Improved Instruction of Deaf-Mutes, which developed out of the Horeb Home and School for the Deaf, and a folder containing the records of the Mendes Jubilee Committee, which sponsored the celebration and commemorative activities honoring Mendes in 1927.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged chronologically.

#### Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. General, 1862-1892

Box 1. Folder 2. General, 1893-1905

Box 1. Folder 3. General, 1906-1937, undated

Box 1. Folder 4. Institute for the Improved Instruction of Deaf Mutes Jubilee Committee [correspondence; minutes; nearprint], 1927

Box 1. Folder 5. Mendes Jubilee Committee [correspondence; minutes; nearprint], 1927

### Series B. Nearprint, 1862-1937

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

**Scope and Content Note** The series consists of sermons, addresses, messages and articles written by Mendes and newsclippings and articles concerning Mendes.

#### Box and Folder Listing

- Box 2. Folder 1. Sermons, articles, etc. by Mendes, 1873-1937
- Box 2. Folder 2. Sermons, articles, etc. by Mendes, undated
- Box 2. Folder 3. Sermons, articles, etc. by Mendes [Bible related], undated
- Box 2. Folder 4. Bible Translation - Genesis, undated
- Box 2. Folder 5. Bible Translation - Exodus, undated
- Box 2. Folder 6. Bible Translation - Leviticus, undated
- Box 2. Folder 7. Bible Translation - Numbers, undated
- Box 2. Folder 8. Bible Translation - Deuteronomy, undated
- Box 2. Folder 9. Clippings, articles, etc. concerning Mendes, 1862-1937

### **Series C. Memorabilia, 1870-1938**

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

**Scope and Content Note** The series contains David de Sola Pool's biography of Mendes, which contains letters from Stephen S. Wise, Rabbi and Mrs. Judah Magnes. The text of the presentation of JIR's honorary degree to Mendes is contained in this series. Also included are invitations, programs, commemorative books, and various academic, professional and honorary certificates presented to Mendes over the years.

#### **Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 3. Folder 1. Pool, David de Sola. H. Pereira Mendes; A Biography, 1938
- Box 3. Folder 2. Invitations and announcements, etc, 1870-1937
- Box 3. Folder 3. Commemorative books, 1902-1937