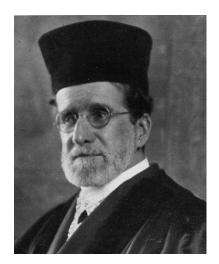


A Finding Aid to the Henry Pereira Mendes Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 39



Collection Summary

Title	Henry P. Mendes Papers
Dates	1862-1937
Collection Number	MS-39
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Mendes, Henry Pereira, 1852-1937 Pool, David de Sola, 1885-1970
Extent	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 ContentThe 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.

ArrangementOrganized 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 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 CitationFootnotes 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)

Deaf-Mutes, which developed out of the Horeb Home and School for the Deaf, and a folde 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