



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
William Rosenau Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 41



Collection Summary

Title	William Rosenau Papers
Dates	1889-1944
Collection Number	MS-41
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Rosenau, William, 1865-1943
Extent	4.8 linear feet (12 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

William Rosenau was born in Wolstein, Germany in 1865, the son of Rabbi Nathan and Johanna (Braun) Rosenau. The family came to the United States and settled in the Philadelphia area when William Rosenau was eleven.

Much of Rosenau's early education was acquired from his father. The atmosphere of a rabbinic home no doubt influenced Rosenau's decision to enter the rabbinate. He studied at the University of Cincinnati and received his A.B. in 1888. In 1889 he became a rabbi after graduating from the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. In 1900 he received a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1923 he received an honorary degree of Doctor of Hebrew law from the Hebrew Union College.

After graduation from the seminary, Rosenau served at Temple Israel in Omaha, Nebraska from 1889 to 1892. He then received a call from Baltimore to become rabbi at Congregation Oheb Shalom. He served as active rabbi in Baltimore until 1939, when he became rabbi emeritus. In 1942 he completed his fiftieth consecutive year as rabbi of the congregation. While at Congregation Oheb Shalom he succeeded in the introduction of English prayers and sermons (from the previous German), the abolishment of the compulsory wearing of hats during services, and the introduction of the Friday evening service. He also served on the faculty of Johns Hopkins University in the Department of Semitics (1902-1932).

Rosenau was involved in the activities of the general and Jewish communities of Baltimore. He was a member of the Baltimore School Board from 1900 to 1910 and served on the Maryland Society for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. He was a member of a commission which made a study of state-aided colleges in Maryland, the Board of the Prisoners Aid Association and the Maryland Commission for the Higher Education of Negroes. He served on the board of the Associated Jewish Charities and was for a time its director. He was a secretary of the central Conference of American Rabbis and later served as president (1916-1918). He was a founder of the Jewish Welfare Board, a member of the Board of Jewish Education, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College (1917-1943). He served for several years as chancellor of the Jewish Chautauqua Society.

In addition to numerous articles in periodicals, Rosenau also wrote the following: Hebraisms in the Authorized Version of the Bible (1901); Jewish Ceremonial Institutions and Customs (1903, 1925); Jewish Biblical Commentators (1904); The Seder Haggada (1905); Jewish Education (1912); Book of Consolation (1914); and The Rabbi in Action (1937). He contributed a number of articles to the Jewish Encyclopedia, and translated Esther for the Jewish Publication Society of America.

Dr. Rosenau was married twice. He married his first wife, Mabel Hellman, in 1893. They had two children, William H. and Marguerite (Mrs. Carl K. Kiefer). Mabel Rosenau died in 1923. Rosenau married Myra Krause in 1925. Rabbi William Rosenau died in December 1943.

Scope and Content

The collection documents many of the interests and activities in the career of the rabbi and scholar, William Rosenau. The collection consists of materials relating to his more than fifty years of service as rabbi of Congregation Oheb Shalom in Baltimore, Maryland and to his anti-Zionist position. Types of materials in the collection are correspondence with rabbis, congregations, and individuals in the Reform Jewish movement; sermons, addresses, confirmation services, reviews, prayers, editorials, newsclippings, and photographs.

Arrangement

Organized into four (4) series: A. Correspondence, 1889-1944; B. Literary Productions, 1892-1943; C. Newsclippings, 1892-1939; D. Miscellaneous, 1914, 1943-1944.

Terms of Access	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
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Preferred Citation	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the William Rosenau Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-41. William Rosenau Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Provenance	Received from the Rosenau family, circa 1948.
Processing Information	Processed by James W. Clasper, March 1979.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jews -- Maryland -- Baltimore / Rabbis / Zionism
Personal Names	Rosenau, William, 1865-1943
Corporate Names	American Council for Judaism / Congregation Oheb Shalom (Baltimore, Md.)
Media	Photographs / Scrapbooks / Sermons

Series A. Correspondence, 1889-1944

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement

The series has been subdivided into two (2) subseries: 1. General; 2. Commemorative.

Subseries 1. General, 1892-1944, undated

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Much of the material discusses books written by Rosenau, his involvement in Reform Judaism, and his interest in anti-Zionism.

Arrangement The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name of the correspondent.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A, General.

Box 1. Folder 2. Adler, Cyrus, 1903, 1906, 1924, 1933, 1938, 1939

Box 1. Folder 3. Albright, William Foxwell, 1931-1942

Box 1. Folder 4. American Council for Judaism, 1942

Box 1. Folder 5. American Council for Judaism, 1943-1944

Box 1. Folder 6. B, General.

Box 1. Folder 7. Bamberger, Bernard J., 1942 February-September

Box 1. Folder 8. Berger, Elmer, 1942-1943

Box 1. Folder 9. Berkowitz, Henry, 1892-1921
Box 1. Folder 10. C, General.
Box 1. Folder 11. D, General.
Box 1. Folder 12. E, General.
Box 1. Folder 13. Elbogen, Ismar, 1931, 1942-1943
Box 1. Folder 14. F, General.
Box 1. Folder 15. Friedenwald, Harry F, 1906-1934
Box 1. Folder 16. G, General.
Box 1. Folder 17. Gamoran, Emanuel, 1938-1943
Box 1. Folder 18. Gibbons, James, 1912-1921
Box 1. Folder 19. Gittelsohn, Roland B, 1941 July
Box 1. Folder 20. H, General.
Box 1. Folder 21. I, J, General.
Box 1. Folder 22. K, General.
Box 1. Folder 23. L, General.
Box 1. Folder 24. Leiser, Isidor and Mathilde, 1938-1943
Box 1. Folder 25. M, General.
Box 1. Folder 26. N, General.
Box 1. Folder 27. O, General.
Box 1. Folder 28. P, Q, General.
Box 2. Folder 1. R, General.
Box 2. Folder 2. S, General.
Box 2. Folder 3. Synagogue Council of America, 1943
Box 2. Folder 4. T, General.
Box 2. Folder 5. V, General.
Box 2. Folder 6. W, General.
Box 2. Folder 7. Weiner, Max, 1938-1942
Box 2. Folder 8. Wolsey, Louis, 1938-1942
Box 2. Folder 9. Y-Z, General.
Box 2. Folder 10. Unidentified.

Subseries 2. Commemorative, 1917-1939

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists primarily of letters and telegrams dealing with Rosenau's twentieth anniversary as rabbi of Congregation Oheb Shalom in Baltimore (1917), the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination as a rabbi (1939), and his seventieth birthday (1935). Some newsclippings and pamphlets are also included.

Arrangement The material in this series was originally bound in scrapbooks. The arrangement reflects the original order.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 11. Twenty-fifth anniversary as rabbi of Congregation Oheb Shalom in Baltimore, Md., 1917

Box 2. Folder 12. Fiftieth anniversary of his ordination as a rabbi, 1939

Box 2. Folder 13-14. Seventieth birthday greetings, 1935

Box 3. Folder 1-3. Seventieth birthday greetings, 1935

Series B. Literary Productions, 1892-1943

Extent 2.6 linear feet (6.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of sermons, addresses, lectures, notes relating to sermons and addresses, abstracts of sermons and addresses, prayers, confirmation services, and book reviews, and editorials. Much of the material is in bound volumes. This causes the basic chronological arrangement to be broken and overlapped. Box 3 Folder 4 contains lists of sermon subjects and titles which may be helpful in locating a particular sermon or address.

Arrangement Abstracts of the sermons and addresses follow the sermons and addresses while confirmation services, prayers, book reviews, and editorials are placed at the end of the series.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 4. Lists of sermon subjects and titles.

Box 3. Folder 5. Sermons [bound], 1892-1899

Box 4. Folder 1. Sermons [bound], 1900-1910

Box 4. Folder 2. Sermons [bound], 1911-1914

Box 4. Folder 3. Sermons and addresses, 1889-1899

Box 5. Folder 1. Sermons and addresses [bound], 1901-1902

Box 5. Folder 2. Sermons and addresses, 1903-1910

Box 5. Folder 3. Sermons and addresses [bound], 1910-1911

Box 5. Folder 4. Sermons and addresses [bound], 1911

Box 5. Folder 5. Sermons and addresses, 1911-1915

Box 5. Folder 6. Sermons and addresses [bound], 1913-1914

Box 5. Folder 7. Sermons and addresses [bound], 1915-1917

Box 6. Folder 1. Sermons and addresses, 1916-1920

Box 6. Folder 2. Sermons and addresses, 1921-1934

Box 6. Folder 3. Sermons and addresses [bound], 1922-1923

Box 6. Folder 4. Sermons and addresses [bound], 1929-1931

Box 6. Folder 5. Sermons and addresses-- undelivered [bound], 1931-1931

Box 6. Folder 6. Sermons and addresses [bound], 1932-1934

Box 6. Folder 7. Sermons and addresses [bound], 1935-1943

Box 6. Folder 8. Sermons and addresses, 1935-1943

Box 7. Folder 1-2. Sermons and addresses [bound], undated

Box 7. Folder 3-5. Notes [some dated and undated material relating to sermons and addresses].

Box 7. Folder 6. Abstracts of sermons and addresses, 1923 December-1926 April

Box 7. Folder 7. Abstracts, 1926 April-December

Box 8. Folder 1. Abstracts, 1926 December-1928 June

Box 8. Folder 2. Abstracts, 1928 November-1929 June

Box 8. Folder 3. Abstracts, 1929 October-1930 October

Box 8. Folder 4. Abstracts, 1930 October-1931

Box 8. Folder 5. Abstracts, 1932

Box 8. Folder 6. Abstracts, 1933-1934 May

Box 8. Folder 7. Abstracts, 1934 June-1936

Box 8. Folder 8. Abstracts, 1937-1939

Box 9. Folder 1. Abstracts, 1940-1943

Box 9. Folder 2. Confirmation services, 1927-1938

Box 9. Folder 3. Prayers.

Box 9. Folder 4. Book reviews, 1909-1940

Box 9. Folder 5. Editorials, 1906-1942

Box 10. Folder 1. Editorials, 1906-1942

Series C. Newsclippings, 1892-1939

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of bound newsclippings. The newsclippings generally discuss Dr. Rosenau or document events in which he was involved. Because of the bound condition of the material, some sermons, addresses, or abstracts may be found in this series, too.

Arrangement The series is arranged chronologically with an overlap in the chronology occurring because of the bound volumes.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 10. Folder 2. Newsclippings [bound], 1892-1908

Box 10. Folder 3. Newsclippings [bound], 1893-1897

Box 10. Folder 4. Newsclippings [bound], 1896-1897

Box 10. Folder 5. Newsclippings [bound], 1900-1906

Box 11. Folder 1. Newsclippings [bound], 1906-1910

Box 11. Folder 2. Newsclippings [bound], 1910-1911

Box 11. Folder 3. Newsclippings [bound], 1911-1917

Box 11. Folder 4. Newsclippings [bound], 1912-1913

Box 11. Folder 5. Newsclippings [bound], 1913-1914

Box 12. Folder 1. Newsclippings [bound], 1915-1922

Box 12. Folder 2. Newsclippings [bound], 1916-1931

Box 12. Folder 3. Newsclippings [bound], 1917-1924

Box 12. Folder 4. Newsclippings [bound], 1923-1930

Box 12. Folder 5. Newsclippings [bound], 1923-1935

Box 12. Folder 6. Newsclippings [bound], 1930-1939

Series D. Miscellaneous, 1914, 1943-1944

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of a diary written by Dr. Rosenau in the summer of 1914, photographs of his activities, and obituary material.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 12. Folder 7. Diary, 1914 Summer

Box 12. Folder 8. Photographs.

Box 12. Folder 9. Obituary material, 1934-1944



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Subject Tracings

Note: The following list of subjects is a selective index to the WILLIAM ROSENAU PAPERS. It is selective in that it only attempts to draw attention to the more significant items in the collection. It does not attempt to list every subject or individual nor does it try to list all places that a listed subject or individual appears in the collection. When used in conjunction with the Box and Folder List, the Subject Tracings should help the researcher locate topics. References are to boxes and folder: e.g., 3/10 means Box 3, Folder 10.

American Council for Judaism	1/8
Anti-Semitism	2/1
Anti-Zionism	1/4, 5, 8; 2/8
Religion in the Public Schools	1/6
Religious Education	1/6, 17, 22
Synagogue Activities	1/6
Taft, William Howard	2/4
Wise, Stephen S.	2/6
Zionism	2/1