



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Isidore Singer Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 42



Collection Summary

Title	Isidore Singer Papers
Dates	1895-1938
Collection Number	MS-42
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Singer, Isidore, 1859-1939
Extent	0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Isidore Singer was born in Weisskirchen, Moravia in 1859. He studied at the Universities of Vienna and Berlin, receiving his Ph.D. in 1884. In 1884-1885 he founded and published the *Allgemeine Oesterreichische Literaturzeitung*. Following his first experience in publishing, Singer became a literary secretary to Count Alexandre Foucher de Careil, French Ambassador at Vienna. Moving to Paris, Singer joined the press bureau of the French Foreign Office, and became editor-in-chief of *La Vraie Parole* in 1893-1894, a journal which he founded in order to counteract anti-Semitism. Within the pages of *La Vraie Parole* Singer staunchly defended Alfred Dreyfus.

In 1895, Singer immigrated to the United States in order to publish a Jewish encyclopedia. He became the managing editor of the encyclopedia, raising money for its publication, finding a publisher, enlisting scholars to contribute articles, and serving as head of the department of modern biography. The first volume of *The Jewish Encyclopedia* was published in 1901 and the final volume appeared in 1906.

Singer also served as managing editor of the *International Insurance Encyclopedia* (1909), and was co-editor of *German Classics of the 19th and 20th Centuries* (20 volumes).

Isidore Singer was an inveterate proposer of ideas, concepts, programs and multi-volume scholarly works. Proposed works which were never published include an *Encyclopedia of Palestine*, *The Slavonic Classics*, *The Young People's Encyclopedia of Jewish Knowledge*, and an *Encyclopedia of Prayers*. A frequent contributor of articles to Jewish newspapers and journals, Singer also composed and distributed widely a number of semi-scholarly "open letters" addressed variously to "The Jews of America," "Christian Theologians," "College Presidents and Deans," etc. He proposed a merger of all the Jewish seminaries in America into one Jewish University, and believed until the end of his life that the world stood on the threshold of creating one universal religion based upon humanism and scientific scholarship. Yet, in his later years Singer grew bitter toward the Jewish community in America which would not support its scholars in a dignified manner. His correspondence overflows with proposals, new thoughts and plans.

In 1922 Singer founded and became the literary director of the *International Amos Society*, a monotheistic world league promoting world peace and ecumenical understanding. He died in New York City in 1939.

Scope and Content

Consists of correspondence, nearprint and newsclippings, and reflect the career, activities and interests of Dr. Singer, a Jewish editor, thinker and writer. A large portion of the collection concerns Dr. Singer's involvement with the *International Amos Society*. Of interest are the files of correspondence between Dr. Singer and Harry Schneiderman and Morris D. Waldman. The miscellaneous files contain pamphlets and articles collected by Dr. Singer and other unidentified materials.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically.

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 Isidore Singer Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-42. Isidore Singer Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Provenance** Received from the Klau Library, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Processing Information** Processed by Kevin Proffitt, July 1987.

Personal Names

Schneiderman, Harry, 1885-1975 / Singer, Isidore, 1859-1939 / Waldman, Morris D. (Morris David), 1879-1963

Corporate Names

Amos Society / Jewish Encyclopedia

Series A. General, 1895-1938

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. A-E, General.
- Box 1. Folder 2. Amos Society, 1926-1935, undated
- Box 1. Folder 3. F-K, General.
- Box 1. Folder 4. L-M, General.
- Box 1. Folder 5. N-R, General.
- Box 1. Folder 6. S, General.
- Box 1. Folder 7. Schneiderman, Harry, 1927-1934
- Box 2. Folder 1. Schneiderman, Harry, 1935-1938, undated
- Box 2. Folder 2. T-Z, General.
- Box 2. Folder 3. Waldman, Morris D., 1928-1936
- Box 2. Folder 4. Unidentified correspondence.
- Box 2. Folder 5. Miscellaneous, undated
- Box 2. Folder 6. Miscellaneous, undated