A Finding Aid to the
Moses Jacob Ezekiel Collection

Manuscript Collection No. 44
Collection Summary

Title: Moses J. Ezekiel Papers
Dates: 1864-1974 (bulk 1864-1921)
Collection Number: MS-44
Repository: The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator: Ezekiel, Moses Jacob, 1844-1917
Extent: 1.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes and 1 oversize box)
Language of the Material: English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Moses Jacob Ezekiel was born in Richmond, Virginia on October 28, 1844. He was the sixth child of Jacob and Catherine de Castro Ezekiel. In 1861 Moses Ezekiel entered the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and during the civil war he fought in the VMI Cadet battalion. In 1861, after studying anatomy at the Medical College of Virginia for one year, Ezekiel came to Cincinnati to study art. In 1869 he entered the Royal Academy of Art in Berlin, Germany. On the merits of his bust of Washington, he was admitted into the Berlin Society of artists. In 1873 Ezekiel became the first non-German to win the Michael Beer prize.

Throughout his life, Ezekiel was a prolific sculptor and, fortunately, many of his works have been preserved. In 1874 the B’nai B’rith commissioned him to execute a marble group for presentation at the U.S. Centennial in 1876 (this marble group, "Religious Liberty," is now located on the grounds of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.). In 1912 Ezekiel’s Confederate memorial monument, "New Southern," was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery. Included among his other works are statues and busts of Franz Liszt, Cardinal Gustav Adolf Hohenlohe, Eve, Homer, David, Jesus Christ, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Isaac Mayer Wise and Edgar Allen Poe.

During his lifetime, Ezekiel was widely acclaimed and honored for his sculptures. He received knighthood from both Germany and Italy. He was awarded the Crosses of Merit and Art from the Emperor of Germany. The Italian rank of "chavalier" was bestowed upon him by King Victor Emanuel and the title of "Officer of the Crown of Italy" by King Humbert. He received the Raphael Medal of Urbino, a silver medal from the St. Louis World Exposition, several medals from the Royal Art Association of Palermo as well as numerous other honorary medals and membership in art institutes and societies across the world.

During World War I Ezekiel participated in the formation of the American-Italian Red Cross Relief Committee.

In 1917 Moses Jacob Ezekiel died in Rome, Italy. Due to the war and its political aftermath, his body was not returned to the United States until 1921. Ezekiel's grave is in Arlington Cemetery, near the site of his memorial sculpture "New Southern".

Scope and Content

The collection documents the life and career of this Jewish sculptor. The collection includes original and photocopies of Ezekiel's correspondence and writings, photographs of many of his works, biographies, genealogies, memorial tributes, correspondence of Ezekiel's biographers, articles and newscuttings concerning Ezekiel and miscellaneous items.

Arrangement

Organized into two (2) series: A. Ezekiel Papers, 1866-1921; B. Ezekiel Collection.

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 Moses Jacob Ezekiel Collection and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-44. Moses Jacob Ezekiel Collection. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Provenance

Received through various sources: Esther Samuels, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1953-1954; Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Library, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1953; Hannah W. Bowman, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1962; and Sidney A. Peerless, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1985.

Processing Information

Processed by Carolyn Dunkelman, November 1978.

Index Terms

Subjects
Jewish artists / Sculptors / Sculpture

Personal Names
Ezekiel, Moses Jacob, 1844-1917

Media
Biographies / Photographs

Series A. Ezekiel Papers, 1866-1921

Extent
0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note
Contains original and photocopies of Ezekiel's personal papers. The Record Group consists of two folders containing his correspondence; one folder containing a series of articles he wrote for The Jewish Record concerning Roman Jews; a folder containing material generated upon his death in 1917 and his burial in the United States in 1921, which includes his will, memorial tributes to him, obituaries and funeral book; and one folder containing miscellaneous material which includes the announcement of Ezekiel's parents' 50th wedding anniversary and an 1883 check signed by Ezekiel.

Arrangement
The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1866-1899
Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1901-1921, undated
Box 1. Folder 4. Memorial tributes, funeral book, obituaries, 1917-1921
Box 1. Folder 5. Miscellaneous, 1864-1917

Series B. Ezekiel Collection, 1870-1974, undated

Extent
1.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger box and 1 oversize box)

Scope and Content Note
Contains material which was gathered by Ezekiel scholars: Zebulon Vance Hooker II, a grandson-nephew of Ezekiel, and Stanley F. Chyet and Joseph Gutmann, the editors of Moses Jacob Ezekiel: Memoirs from the Baths of Diocletian (1875). During his lifetime, Ezekiel wrote several autobiographical pieces--he kept diaries, began an autobiography from these diaries and recorded his memoirs as a sculptor in Italy. The attempts to find, as well as publish, these manuscripts are traced in the three folders of correspondence in this Record Group. Impressions from those who personally knew the sculptor and some biographical information are also found in this correspondence. The series also contains one folder of newscplings; a folder of autobiographical articles; one folder of Ezekiel family genealogies; a folder of photographs of Ezekiel, his studio and his grave at Arlington Cemetery; and four folders of photographs of his works, the majority of which depict his sculptures. The first three folders of these photographs note the name of the Ezekiel sculptures pictured. The fourth folder contains photographs for which the names have not been ascertained.

Arrangement
Most of the photographs have been dated and are chronologically arranged by the date of their completion or dedication.
Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 9. Biographical Articles.
Box 1. Folder 10. Ezekiel family genealogies.
Box 2. Folder 1. Lists of Ezekiel's works.
Box 2. Folder 3. Photographs of Ezekiel, his studio, and his grave, 1870-1921
Box 2. Folder 4. Photographs of Ezekiel's works, 1868-1884
Box 2. Folder 5. Photographs of Ezekiel's works, 1995-1915
Box 2. Folder 6. Photographs of Ezekiel's works, undated
Box 2. Folder 7. Photographs of Ezekiel's works [untitled].
Box X-327. Folder 1. Photographs of Ezekiel's work, 1879-1894
Box X-327. Folder 2. Photographs of Ezekiel's work, undated
Box X-327. Folder 3. Photographs of Ezekiel's work, undated
Box X-327. Folder 4. Photographs of Ezekiel's works [untitled].
Box X-327. Folder 5. Photographs of Ezekiel and his studio, undated
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**Subject Tracings**

Note: This list represents the significant subjects and correspondents contained in Record Group I of the MOSES JACOB EZEKIEL COLLECTION. References are to boxes and folders, i.e. 1/2 means Box 1, Folder 2. The specific date of the letter is noted in the parentheses following the box and folder reference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Date/Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil War</td>
<td>1/1</td>
<td></td>
<td>(May 10, 1866)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezekiel, Jacob, death</td>
<td>1/1</td>
<td></td>
<td>(May 18, 1899)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezekiel, Moses Jacob, death</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>(April 4, 1917)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisher, Dorothy Canfield</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>(n.d.--two letters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hohenlohe, Gustav Adolf</td>
<td>1/1</td>
<td></td>
<td>(September 12, 1889--photocopy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harding, Warren G.</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>(March 30, 1921--photocopy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straus, Oscar S.</td>
<td>1/1,2</td>
<td></td>
<td>(May 4, 1894, October 23, 1901)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, Andrew D.</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>(October 30, 1901)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This list details the contents of Box 2, Folders 4-6, and Box X-327 which contain photographs of Ezekiel's sculptures for which a title has been provided. The photographs are arranged chronologically by date that the sculpture was completed and/or dedicated.

**Box 2, Folder 4**

1868 "Industry" (3)  
1869 "Virginia Mourning Her Dead"  
1872 Sister Sally  
1873 "Israel"  
1874 Ezekiel's parents  
1876 "Religious Liberty" (4) commissioned by B'nai B'rith in order to commemorate the U.S. Centennial  
1877 "Faith"  
1879 "Francis Howard Baldwin"  
   "Raphael" (2)  
   "Phidias" (2)  
1879 and 1880 "Raphael" and "Michelangelo"  
1880 "Michelangelo" (2)  
   "Judith" (2)  
   "Durer" (2)  
   "Miss Nannie Whitmell Turnstall" (2)  
1881 "Homer and Guide" (2)  
   "Franz Liszt" (2)  
   "Franz Liszt" [clay model]  
1881-1883 "Reubens" (3)  
   "Crawford"  
   "Rembrandt" (2)  
   "Da Vinci" (2)  
   "Titian" (2)  
   "Murillo" (2)  
   "Canova" (2)  
1884 "Neptune"  
   "William Corcoran" [ca. 1884]  
   Statues on Renwick Gallery (originally the Corcoran Gallery of Art), Washington, D.C. [ca. 1884]
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Appendix

Box 2, Folder 5

1886 "Ecce Homo"
1887 "Cardinal Hohenlohe"
1888 "Mrs. Andrew D. White"
   "Mrs. Porter" [ca. 1888]
1889 "Mrs. Andrew D. White (Recumbent Statue)"
   "Thomas Jefferson" [bust]
   "Thomas Jefferson" [statue] [ca. 1889]
1890's "Madonna"
1890 "Bellamy Storer" [ca. 1890]
1891 "Shelley" (ca. 1891)
1892 Statue on face of Columbus Memorial Building, Chicago, Illinois
   "Equestrian Statue" and "Longfellow" [1892?]
1893 "David"
1894 "Jesse Seligman Memorial"
   "Refus King Fund"
1895 "Head of a Little Girl"
   "Lord Sherbrooke"
1897 "James E. Murdoch"
1898 "Virginia Virgo"
1903 "Allen Bennett" (11)
1904 "Eve Hearing the Voice"
   "Anthony J. Drexel"
   "Demosthenes"
   "Sophocles"
1906 "Goldwin Smith"
1907 "Professor Alfonso Sella" [ca. 1907]
1908 "Mrs. Jennie McGraw Fiske (Recumbent Statue)"
1909 "Stonewall Jackson" (2)
   Memorial window in Philadelphia's Keneseth Israel Congregation
1910 "Southern"
1912 "New Southern" Confederate monument at Arlington National Cemetery (6)
1913 "John W. Daniel" [ca. 1913]
1915 "Edgar Allen Poe" (2)
Appendix

Box 2, Folder 6

Not dated "Abraham Lincoln" (2)
   "Head of Christ with crown of Thorns"
   "Admiral David Glasgow-Farragut"
   "Portrait Medallion"
   "Mrs. Edith Lach"
   "Captain de Bosis"
   "Winged Victory"
   "Bas Relief Portrait"

Box X-327, Folder 1

1879 "Rafael"
1880 "Judith" (2)
   "Duerer"
   "Michelangelo"
1881 "Homer and Guide" (2)
1881-1883 "Rembrandt"
   "Murillo"
   "Titian"
   "Reubens" (3)
   "Da Vinci" (2)
1884 "Neptune"
   "William Corcoran"
1889 "Mrs. Andrew D. White [Recumbent Statue]" (3)
   "Thomas Jefferson [Bust]" (2)
   "Thomas Jefferson [Statue] [ca. 1889]" (2)
   "Justice", "Equality", "Brotherhood of Humanity", and "Liberty" (2) (from Jefferson Statue)
1890 "Bellamy Storer"
1894 "Jesse Seligman Memorial"
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Appendix

Box X-327, Folder 2

Not dated "Lord Sherbrooke" (2)
  "Faith"
  "Thomas Jefferson" [First Sketch]
  "Robert E. Lee"
  "Jessica" (2)
  "Miss Becker"
  "Mr. Corcoran"
  "A Sprite"
  "Bismarck"
  "Victor Emanuel"
  "Spinoza"
  "Martyr" (4)
  "Miss Anne Thomson"
  "Virgin" and "Martyr"
  "Confession"

Box X-327, Folder 3

Not dated "Fedor Encke"
  "Cassandra" ("Miss Richardson of New Orleans")
  "Mrs. Edith Lack" (3)
  "Consolation"
  "Miss Bullock of Mobile"
  "Christ in the Tomb" (2)
  "H.P. Federson"
  "Alen McDonald"
  "Miss Beiker"
  "Mrs. McKibbon" (3)
  "Dulan V. Hessenbrick" (?)
  "Mrs. Algidi" (?)