A Finding Aid to the
Samuel Felix Mendelsohn Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 199
Collection Summary

Title: Samuel Felix Mendelsohn Papers
Dates: 1921-1954
Collection Number: MS-199
Repository: The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator: Mendelsohn, Samuel Felix, 1889-1953
Extent: 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material: English, Hebrew, and Yiddish

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
Samuel Felix Mendelsohn was born in Starobin, Russia, on November 27, 1889. He immigrated to the United States in 1906. He received his undergraduate education in Russia and Newark, New Jersey. After graduating from the University of Cincinnati in 1916, he was ordained at Hebrew Union College in 1917. He served as rabbi for 34 years at Temple Beth Israel on the North Side of Chicago, Illinois, beginning in 1919. In 1927 he founded Jewish Book Week. He wrote editorials for The Chicago Sentinel, a Jewish weekly. He was author of four books concerning Jewish humor and folklore: The Jew Laughs (Chicago, 1935), Let Laughter Ring (Philadelphia, 1941) Here's a Good One (New York, 1947) and The Merry Heart (New York, 1951). Mendelsohn died on February 28, 1953 in Van Nuys, California, while on sabbatical from his congregation.

Scope and Content
Correspondence, sermons and addresses, manuscripts of books on Jewish wit and humor, correspondence regarding the books on Jewish wit and humor, letters of condolence and memorials, obituaries, prayers and miscellaneous.

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 Samuel Felix Mendelsohn Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-199. Samuel Felix Mendelsohn Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance
Received from Felix S. Mendelsohn, Chicago, Ill., 1950-1955.

Processing Information
Processed by American Jewish Archives staff.

Index Terms
Subjects: Jewish wit and humor / Jews -- Illinois -- Chicago / Rabbis
Personal Names: Mendelsohn, Samuel Felix, 1889-1953
Corporate Names: Temple Beth Israel (Chicago, Ill.)
Media: Rare Documents / Sermons

Series A. General, 1921-1954

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. General correspondence, A.
Box 1. Folder 2. General correspondence, B.
Box 1. Folder 3. Bloch, Joshua, 1928-1948
Box 1. Folder 4. Bogen, Boris D., 1926-1928
Box 1. Folder 5. Brill, A. A., 1921-1948
Box 1. Folder 6. General correspondence, C-F.
Box 1. Folder 7. Cohen, Gabriel M., 1944-1948
Box 1. Folder 8. Cohon, Samuel S., 1931-1948
Box 1. Folder 9. Fox, G. George, 1930-1945
Box 1. Folder 10. Freehof, Solomon B., 1929-1944
Box 1. Folder 11. General correspondence, G-K.
Box 1. Folder 13. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion D.D. degree, 1951
Box 1. Folder 15. General correspondence, L-Me.
Box 2. Folder 1. General correspondence, Mi-P.
Box 2. Folder 2. General correspondence, R-S.
Box 2. Folder 3. Roback, A. A., 1938-1948
Box 2. Folder 4. Rosenwald, Julius, 1921-1930
Box 2. Folder 5. Roth, Cecil, 1936-1942, 1952
Box 2. Folder 6. General correspondence, T-Z.
Box 2. Folder 8. Yiddish letters.
Box 2. Folder 9. Sermons and addresses, A-E.
Box 2. Folder 10. Sermons and addresses, F-K.
Box 2. Folder 11. Sermons and addresses, L-R.
Box 2. Folder 12. Sermons and addresses, S-Y and untitled.
Box 2. Folder 13. "Topics of the Week", 1936-1937
Box 3. Folder 1-5. Jewish wit and humor, manuscript.
Box 3. Folder 6. Books on Jewish wit and humor, correspondence, A-B.
Box 3. Folder 7. Books on Jewish wit and humor, correspondence, C-F.
Box 3. Folder 8. Books on Jewish wit and humor, correspondence, G-J.
Box 4. Folder 1. Books on Jewish wit and humor, correspondence, K-N.
Box 4. Folder 2. Books on Jewish wit and humor, correspondence, O-R.
Box 4. Folder 3. Books on Jewish wit and humor, correspondence, S-Z.
Box 4. Folder 5. Obituaries, 1953
Box 4. Folder 7. Miscellaneous, 1931, 1939, 1949, undated