



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**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 12. Grayzel, Solomon, 1944-1947

Box 1. Folder 13. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion D.D. degree, 1951

Box 1. Folder 14. Hoffman, Conrad, Jr., 1932-1947

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 7. Wise, Stephen S., 1935-1949

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 4. Letters of condolence and memorials, 1953-1954

Box 4. Folder 5. Obituaries, 1953

Box 4. Folder 6. Prayers, 1938, 1950, undated

Box 4. Folder 7. Miscellaneous, 1931, 1939, 1949, undated