



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Fanny Goldstein Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 205



Collection Summary

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| Title | Fanny Goldstein Papers |
| Dates | 1926-1961 |
| Collection Number | MS-205 |
| Repository | The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives |
| Creator | Goldstein, Fanny, 1895-1961 |
| Extent | 2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes) |
| Language of the Material | English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, and Yiddish |

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Fanny Goldstein was born 15 May 1895 in Kaments-Pdolsk, Russia. In 1900, she emigrated with her family to the North End in Boston, Massachusetts, where she was to remain for the rest of her life.

After taking classes at Simmons College, Boston University and Harvard University, Goldstein became a librarian at the Boston Public Library North End branch in 1913. As an immigrant, Goldstein worked in branch libraries with large immigrant audiences by choice. She felt that understanding ethnicity of oneself and one's neighbors was critical to acculturating to America. At her branch library, Goldstein held an annual Hanukah-Christmas party. She also organized the Saturday Evening Girls Club in 1914. This club allowed members to learn about other's ethnic backgrounds as well as job skills. In 1922, Goldstein became the branch librarian at the West End, where she was to remain until her retirement in 1957.

Goldstein was best known as the founder of Jewish Book Week which evolved into National Jewish Book Month. In 1925, she created an exhibit of Jewish books which gave her the idea to further encourage Jewish literature. This expanded not only to Jewish Book Week, but also was the start of Goldstein's collection of Judaica within her branch. Goldstein also had close ties with and encouraged several young authors including, Reba Paeff Mirsky and Charles Angoff, in literary careers.

Fanny Goldstein died December 26, 1961 after a long illness. Her Judaica collection became a separate section of the main branch of the Boston Public Library.

Scope and Content The Fanny Goldstein Papers are the record of the professional activities of Fanny Goldstein, the first female Judaica librarian and the founder of National Jewish Book Week. Goldstein was also the first Jewish woman to direct a branch library in Massachusetts. The collection does not directly contain materials about the start of Jewish Book Week, but activities, speakers, and publicity relating to this topic can be found in the correspondence files. The correspondence also contains numerous references to outreach and collecting activities relating to her position as a branch librarian at the Boston Public Library. The collection spans the dates 1921-1961 but the bulk of the materials cover 1937-1957.

Fanny Goldstein was an author as well as a librarian of Judaica and the collection contains correspondence about articles she wrote for various publications. It also contains one manuscript of a bibliography entitled *The Jew in Literature and Contemporary Life* and material relating to Nazi book burnings in Germany.

Arrangement The papers are arranged into two (2) series: A. Correspondence; B. Writings and Activities.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Fanny Goldstein Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-205. Fanny Goldstein Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Fanny Goldstein, Boston, Mass., August 1961. The correspondence between Goldstein and Joshua Bloch was donated by Rose Brenner, Brookline, Mass., October 1962.

Processing Information Processed by Melinda McMartin, December 2001.

Index Terms

Subjects Jewish librarians / Jews -- Massachusetts -- Boston / National socialism
Personal Names Angoff, Charles, 1902- / Bloch, Joshua, 1890-1957 / Goldstein, Fanny, 1895-1961
Corporate Names Congregation Adath Israel (Boston, Mass.)

Series A. Correspondence, 1925-1961

Extent 1.8 linear feet (4.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence in relationship to Fanny Goldstein's work as a librarian at the Boston Public Library. Some of the correspondence relates to raising funds and finding speakers for her Judaica section. Correspondents of note in this series include: Joshua Bloch, Louis D. Brandeis and Felix Frankfurter.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A, General.

Box 1. Folder 2. Aleph Zedik Aleph of B'nai B'rith, 1932-1934, 1949

Box 1. Folder 3. American Friends of Hebrew University, 1926-1960

Box 1. Folder 4. American Jewish Committee, 1940-1957

Box 1. Folder 5. American Jewish Historical Society, 1932, 1940-1945, 1953-1959

Box 1. Folder 6. Angoff, Charles, 1949-1951

Box 1. Folder 7. Angoff, Charles, 1952-1954

Box 1. Folder 8. Angoff, Charles, 1955-1956

Box 1. Folder 9. Angoff, Charles, 1957-1961, undated

Box 1. Folder 10. Antin, Mary, 1931, 1936-1939

Box 1. Folder 11. Australian Jewish Historical Society, 1941-1953, undated

Box 1. Folder 12. Avery, Alfred H., 1943-1949, 1957

Box 1. Folder 13. B, General.

Box 1. Folder 14. Baker, Rachel, 1944-1946

Box 1. Folder 15. Baker, Rachel, 1947-1952

Box 1. Folder 16. Baker, Rachel, 1957, undated

Box 2. Folder 1. Behr, Harold H., 1935-1937, 1948

Box 2. Folder 2. Blackwell, Alice Stone, 1934-1950, undated

Box 2. Folder 3. Bloch, Joshua [English, Yiddish], 1928-1936

Box 2. Folder 4. Bloch, Joshua, 1937-1942

Box 2. Folder 5. Bloch, Joshua, 1943-1961

Box 2. Folder 6. B'nai B'rith, 1934, 1936, 1938, 1940

Box 2. Folder 7. Boston, Massachusetts. Temple Israel, 1918-1957, undated

Box 2. Folder 8. Brandeis, Louis, 1934-1941

Box 2. Folder 9. Brandeis University, 1947-1961

Box 2. Folder 10. C, General.

Box 2. Folder 11. Capert, Jean, 1940-1941, 1946-1951

Box 2. Folder 12. Cohen, Henry, 1934-1949

Box 2. Folder 13. Coleman, Edward D., 1930-1939

Box 2. Folder 14. D, General.

Box 2. Folder 15. E, General.

Box 2. Folder 16. Edelman, R., 1946-1960

Box 3. Folder 1. F, General.

Box 3. Folder 2. Fein, Harry H., 1937-1955, undated

Box 3. Folder 3. Friedman, Lee M., 1932-1959

Box 3. Folder 4. G, General.

Box 3. Folder 5. Glatzer, Nahum M., 1949-1960

Box 3. Folder 6. Green, Sally S., 1940-1942, 1959

Box 3. Folder 7. Guppy, Henry, 1939-1945

Box 3. Folder 8. H-I, General.

Box 3. Folder 9. Hadassah, 1932-1960

Box 3. Folder 10. J, General.

Box 3. Folder 11. Jacobs, Maurice, 1936-1948

Box 3. Folder 12. K, General.

Box 3. Folder 13. Kaufmann, Myron S., 1957-1959

Box 3. Folder 14. L, General.

Box 3. Folder 15. Lebeson, Anita L., 1939-1940, 1954-1960

Box 3. Folder 16. Leftwich, Joseph, 1952-1961, undated

Box 3. Folder 17. Levin, Meyer, 1956-1958, undated

Box 3. Folder 18. Lowitz, Martin, 1936-1938, undated

Box 4. Folder 1. M, General.

Box 4. Folder 2. Marx, Alexander, 1929-1948

Box 4. Folder 3. Massachusetts State Prisons, 1944-1961

Box 4. Folder 4. Massachusetts State Prisons. Carson, David, 1940-1956

Box 4. Folder 5. N-O, General.

Box 4. Folder 6. National Federation of Jewish Mens Clubs, 1944-1945

Box 4. Folder 7. Ovid, Moshes [Good, Edward], 1927-1959, undated

Box 4. Folder 8. P-Q, General.

Box 4. Folder 9. Pfeiffer, Robert H., 1936-1955

Box 4. Folder 10. R, General.

Box 4. Folder 11. S, General.

Box 4. Folder 12. Schneiderman, Harry, 1936, 1940-1941, 1953-1957

Box 4. Folder 13. Soref, Harold, 1953-1961

Box 4. Folder 14. South African Jewry, 1936-1960, undated

Box 5. Folder 1. Spiegelberg, Flora, 1935-1940

Box 5. Folder 2. T-V, General.

Box 5. Folder 3. Vatican Library, 1939, 1947-1952

Box 5. Folder 4. W-Z, General.

Box 5. Folder 5. Wayman, Dorothy G., 1948-1960, undated

Box 5. Folder 6. Wolk, Samuel, 1927-1939, 1944-1947, 1954-1957

Box 5. Folder 7. Young Israel, 1925-1938

Box 5. Folder 8. Zweig, Frederike, 1947-1958, undated

Series B. Writings and Activities, 1933-1956, undated

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of Goldstein's writing and research. This series contains newsclippings about Goldstein's activities, and a bibliography titled *The Jew in Literature and Contemporary Life*. Goldstein was extremely interested in the Nazi book burnings and this series contains her correspondence and reports concerning the subject. Much of the correspondence is in other languages including German, Hebrew, Italian and Yiddish.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 9. Clippings.

Box 5. Folder 10. *The Jew in Literature and Contemporary Life*. Bibliography.

Box 5. Folder 11. Nazi book burnings. Correspondence and reports, 1933-1939

Box 5. Folder 12. Nazi book burnings. Correspondence and reports, 1941-1946

Box 5. Folder 13. Nazi book burnings. Clippings, 1930-1956, undated