



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Oscar Cohen Papers**

**Manuscript Collection No. 294**



## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Oscar Cohen Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1955-1985 (bulk 1975-1985)
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-294
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Cohen, Oscar, 1908-1985
<b>Extent</b>	13.6 linear feet (34 Hollinger boxes)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

<b>Biographical Sketch</b>	<p>Oscar Cohen was born in Dundas, Canada on June 1, 1908 to Harry and Ida (Ziskind) Cohen. He received a B.A. degree from the University of Toronto in 1929 and attended Columbia University from 1929 to 1930.</p> <p>In 1932 Cohen was named editor of the Jewish Standard in Toronto, where he remained until 1934. From 1935 to 1941 he served as director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, also located in Toronto. In 1941 he entered the Canadian Army, serving as a lieutenant colonel until 1946.</p> <p>In 1946 Cohen moved to the United States where he remained for the rest of his life. His first job in this country was as director of the Jewish Community Center in Detroit, Michigan, working there until 1949. At that time Cohen began his long career with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL). From 1949-1954 Cohen worked in the Community Services Division of the ADL; in 1954 he was named National Program Director of the organization, a position he held until 1975. From 1976 until his death Cohen continued to serve the ADL as a consultant.</p> <p>Cohen was a member of the American Sociological Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, the Inter-American Society of Psychology, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, B'nai B'rith, the American Veterans Committee, the National Association of Intergroup Relations Officers, the Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Religious Research Association.</p> <p>Cohen was also a prolific author, contributing many articles to social science and general journals. He researched and wrote in the fields of anti-Semitism, Jewish-Christian relations, Black-Jewish relations and contemporary social issues.</p> <p>On February 8, 1947 Cohen married Marjorie Merlin. They had three children: Myra, Deborah and Judith.</p> <p>Oscar Cohen died on June 8, 1985 at the age of 77.</p>
<b>Scope and Content</b>	<p>The collection contains materials pertaining to Cohen's activities as National Program Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and his research into the area of Jewish-Christian relations. The collection consists of correspondence, speeches, reports, polls, bibliographies, proposals, newsclippings, and miscellaneous items.</p>
<b>Arrangement</b>	<p>Organized into five (5) series: A. Correspondence, 1955-1985; B. Anti-Semitism, 1960-1985; C. Jewish-Christian Relations; D. Contemporary Social Issues; E. Bibliographies, Polls, Proposals and Miscellaneous.</p>
<b>Terms of Access</b>	<p>The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.</p>
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	<p>Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Oscar Cohen Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:</p> <p>[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-294. Oscar Cohen Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.</p>
<b>Provenance</b>	<p>Received from Marjorie M. Cohen, New York, N.Y., 1986.</p>
<b>Processing Information</b>	<p>Processed by Richard M. Hedrick, December 1986.</p>

## Index Terms

<b>Subjects</b>	African Americans -- Relations with Jews / Antisemitism / Christianity and other religions / Jews -- Societies, etc. / Judaism -- Relations -- Christianity
<b>Personal Names</b>	Cohen, Oscar, 1908-1985
<b>Corporate Names</b>	B'nai B'rith. Anti-defamation League
<b>Media</b>	Bibliographies / Speeches

### Series A. Correspondence, 1955-1985

**Extent** 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of correspondence, newsclippings and miscellaneous items.

**Arrangement** The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or organization.

#### Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. A, General.
- Box 1. Folder 2. B, General.
- Box 1. Folder 3. C, General.
- Box 1. Folder 4. D, General.
- Box 1. Folder 5. E, General.
- Box 1. Folder 6. F, General.
- Box 1. Folder 7. G, General.
- Box 1. Folder 8. H, General.
- Box 2. Folder 1. I-J, General.
- Box 2. Folder 2. K, General.
- Box 2. Folder 3. L, General.
- Box 2. Folder 4. M, General.
- Box 2. Folder 5. N, General.
- Box 2. Folder 6. O-Q, General.
- Box 2. Folder 7. R, General.
- Box 2. Folder 8. S, General.
- Box 3. Folder 1. S, General.
- Box 3. Folder 2. T-V, General.
- Box 3. Folder 3. W-Z, General.
- Box 3. Folder 4. Unidentified correspondence.

### Series B. Anti-Semitism, 1960-1985

**Extent** 7.2 linear feet (18 Hollinger boxes)

#### Arrangement

The series is divided into three (3) subseries: 1. General; 2. Regional, State and Local Anti-Semitism; 3. Interviews on

Anti-Semitism.

## **Subseries 1. General**

**Extent** 6 linear feet (15 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of research notes, articles, reports, newspaper clippings and some correspondence collected by Cohen during his study of anti-Semitism in the United States. Contains materials on anti-Semitic movements, organizations, persons and incidents.

**Arrangement** The materials are arranged alphabetically by title or subject.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 3. Folder 5. Adolescent prejudice.

Box 3. Folder 6. Affirmative action.

Box 3. Folder 7. Anti-Semitic humor.

Box 3. Folder 8. Anti-Semitism causes.

Box 3. Folder 9. Anti-Semitism definitions.

Box 3. Folder 10. Anti-Semitism and Israel reports, 1978-1979

Box 4. Folder 1. "Anti-Semitism and Israel: A Report on American Public Opinion" [report], 1978

Box 4. Folder 2. "Anti-Semitism in America, 1654-1930" [report], 1969

Box 4. Folder 3. "Anti-Semitism in the U.S." [report], 1981

Box 4. Folder 4-6. Anti-Semitism in the U.S. [miscellaneous articles].

Box 4. Folder 7. Anti-Semitism in the U.S. polls.

Box 4. Folder 8. Anti-Zionism.

Box 4. Folder 9. Apathetic Majority [reviews], 1966-1967

Box 5. Folder 1. Arab boycott.

Box 5. Folder 2. Arab Influence in the U.S.

Box 5. Folder 3. Arab-Israeli War 1967.

Box 5. Folder 4. Armed Forces, Race relations in.

Box 5. Folder 5. Catholic anti-Semitism.

Box 5. Folder 6. Civil War Era anti-Semitism.

Box 5. Folder 7-8. College anti-Semitism.

Box 5. Folder 9. Colonial Period anti-Semitism.

Box 5. Folder 10. Combating anti-Semitism.

Box 6. Folder 1. "Community Clinics: Combating anti-Semitism" handbook, undated

Box 6. Folder 2. Corporate anti-Semitism.

Box 6. Folder 3. Coughlin, Charles E.

Box 6. Folder 4. Covington, Harold.

Box 6. Folder 5. Crime and anti-Semitism.

Box 6. Folder 6. Drama, Jews in.

Box 6. Folder 7. Dreyfus case.

Box 6. Folder 8. Education, Public.

Box 6. Folder 9. Employment discrimination.

Box 6. Folder 10-12. Extremism.

Box 7. Folder 1-2. Extremism.

Box 7. Folder 3-4. Ford, Henry.

Box 7. Folder 5-8. Frank, Leo M. Case.

Box 7. Folder 9. German-American Bund.

Box 7. Folder 10. Gilded Age anti-Semitism, 1870-1890.

Box 8. Folder 1. Grant, Ulysses S. [General Order #11].

Box 8. Folder 2-3. History of American anti-Semitism [miscellaneous articles].

Box 8. Folder 4-7. Holocaust [miscellaneous articles].

Box 9. Folder 1. Holocaust [miscellaneous articles].

Box 9. Folder 2. Housing.

Box 9. Folder 3-5. Images of Jews.

Box 9. Folder 6-8. Immigration Restriction [miscellaneous articles].

Box 10. Folder 1. Immigration Restriction [miscellaneous articles].

Box 10. Folder 2-7. Incidents of anti-Semitism (miscellaneous).

Box 10. Folder 8-9. Intergroup relations, 1975

Box 10. Folder 10. "Jesus Christ Superstar".

Box 10. Folder 11. Jewish humor.

Box 11. Folder 1. Jewish self-image.

Box 11. Folder 2. Jews and the Left.

Box 11. Folder 3. Jews as viewed in popular culture.

Box 11. Folder 4-5. Jews in American history [miscellaneous articles].

Box 11. Folder 6-8. Ku Klux Klan.

Box 12. Folder 1. Ku Klux Klan.

Box 12. Folder 2. Larchmont, New York Creche.

Box 12. Folder 3. Lindbergh, Charles A.

Box 12. Folder 4-7. Literature and Jews.

Box 13. Folder 1. "Merchant of Venice".

Box 13. Folder 2. Metzger, Tom.

Box 13. Folder 3-5. Motion picture industry [miscellaneous articles].

Box 13. Folder 6. Nazi Party, U.S.A.

Box 13. Folder 7. New anti-Semitism (American Context).

Box 13. Folder 8. New anti-Semitism (World Context).

Box 13. Folder 9. Nineteenth Century Newspaper Articles.

Box 14. Folder 1. Notes on Anti-Jewish Acts, 1654-1930.

Box 14. Folder 2. Parochial schools.

Box 14. Folder 3. Philadelphia, Pa. Nazi rally, 1979

Box 14. Folder 4. Pluralism in America.

Box 14. Folder 5. Politics of Unreason [excerpts and reviews].

Box 14. Folder 6. Post-Progressive Era anti-Semitism.

Box 14. Folder 7. Post-World II anti-Semitism.

Box 14. Folder 8. Presidential campaign bigotry, 1960

Box 14. Folder 9. Progressive Era anti-Semitism, 1880-1914.

Box 14. Folder 10. Protestant anti-Semitism.

Box 15. Folder 1. Red Scare Era.

Box 15. Folder 2-3. Refugees, 1930-1940.

Box 15. Folder 4. Religious Images of Jews.

Box 15. Folder 5. Revolutionary and Federalist Periods, 1776-1800.

Box 15. Folder 6. Roosevelt, Theodore.

Box 15. Folder 7. Rosenberg, Julius and Ethel.

Box 15. Folder 8. Rotary International.

Box 15. Folder 9. Seligman, Joseph.

Box 15. Folder 10. Social discrimination.

Box 16. Folder 1-2. Social discrimination.

Box 16. Folder 3. Soviet Jewry.

Box 16. Folder 4-8. Status of Jews in America.

Box 17. Folder 1. Suburban anti-Semitism.

Box 17. Folder 2. Swastika epidemic.

Box 17. Folder 3. Television anti-Semitism.

Box 17. Folder 4-5. Television anti-Semitism ("All in the Family").

Box 17. Folder 6. Theater anti-Semitism.

Box 17. Folder 7. United Nations resolution regarding Zionism, 1975-1976

Box 18. Folder 1. World War II anti-Semitism.

Box 18. Folder 2. Yale University.

Box 18. Folder 3. Youth anti-Semitism.

## **Subseries 2. Regional, State and Local Anti-Semitism**

**Extent** 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of materials concerning anti-Semitism in various regions, states and cities throughout the United States.

**Arrangement** The materials are arranged alphabetically first by region, then by city and state.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 18. Folder 4. Midwest.  
Box 18. Folder 5. New England.  
Box 18. Folder 6-8. South.  
Box 18. Folder 9. Southwest.  
Box 18. Folder 10. West.  
Box 19. Folder 1. Alabama.  
Box 19. Folder 2. Berkeley, California.  
Box 19. Folder 3. Los Angeles, California.  
Box 19. Folder 4. Oakland, California.  
Box 19. Folder 5. San Francisco, California.  
Box 19. Folder 6. California.  
Box 19. Folder 7. Colorado.  
Box 19. Folder 8. Georgia.  
Box 19. Folder 9-10. Chicago, Illinois.  
Box 19. Folder 11. Skokie, Illinois.  
Box 19. Folder 12. Indiana.  
Box 19. Folder 13. Detroit, Michigan.  
Box 19. Folder 14. Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
Box 19. Folder 15. Mississippi.  
Box 19. Folder 16. St. Louis, Missouri.  
Box 20. Folder 1. St. Louis, Missouri.  
Box 20. Folder 2. Wayne, New Jersey.  
Box 20. Folder 3. New York.  
Box 20. Folder 4. New York.  
Box 20. Folder 5. North Dakota.  
Box 20. Folder 6. Oregon.  
Box 20. Folder 7. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
Box 20. Folder 8. Pennsylvania.  
Box 20. Folder 9. Charleston, South Carolina.  
Box 20. Folder 10. Memphis, Tennessee.  
Box 20. Folder 11. Richmond, Virginia.  
Box 20. Folder 12. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

### **Subseries 3. Interviews on Anti-Semitism**

**Extent** 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of transcripts of interviews conducted by Cohen with a number of persons concerning their involvement either in experiencing or combating anti-Semitism.

**Arrangement**

The interviews are arranged alphabetically by the name of the interviewee

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 20. Folder 13. Interviews, B-H.

Box 21. Folder 1. Interviews, J-R.

Box 21. Folder 2. Interviews, S-W.

**Series C. Jewish-Christian Relations**

**Extent** 2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)

**Arrangement**

This series is divided into two (2) subseries: 1. General; 2. Black-Jewish Relations.

**Subseries 1. General**

**Extent** 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of articles, reviews, correspondence and other materials.

**Arrangement**

The subseries is arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or subject.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 21. Folder 3-5. Christian beliefs and anti-Semitism [articles and reviews].

Box 22. Folder 1. Christian beliefs and anti-Semitism [articles and reviews].

Box 22. Folder 2-6. Christian-Jewish relations [miscellaneous articles].

Box 23. Folder 1-3. Christian-Jewish relations [miscellaneous articles].

Box 23. Folder 4. Church/State separation.

Box 23. Folder 5-6. Evangelism.

Box 24. Folder 1. "Key 73" Messianic Jews/Jews for Jesus (Evangelistic Crusade).

Box 24. Folder 2-3. National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Box 24. Folder 4. National Council of Churches.

Box 24. Folder 5. Vatican II.

**Subseries 2. Black-Jewish Relations**

**Extent** 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of articles, reviews, correspondence and other materials.

**Arrangement**

The subseries is arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or subject.

**Box and Folder Listing**



Box 24. Folder 6. Baraka, Imamu Amiri [LeRoi Jones].  
Box 24. Folder 7-9. Black anti-Semitism.  
Box 25. Folder 1. Black attitudes regarding Israel.  
Box 25. Folder 2-11. Black-Jewish relations [miscellaneous articles].  
Box 26. Folder 1-2. Black-Jewish relations [miscellaneous articles].  
Box 26. Folder 3. Civil Rights.  
Box 26. Folder 4. Crisis of the Negro Intellectual [reviews].  
Box 26. Folder 5. Giovanni, Nikki.  
Box 26. Folder 6. Jackson, Jesse.  
Box 26. Folder 7. Lester, Julius.  
Box 26. Folder 8. Protest and Prejudice [reviews].  
Box 26. Folder 9. South Africa.  
Box 27. Folder 1-3. Young, Andrew.

## **Series D. Contemporary Social Issues**

**Extent** 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of materials pertaining to persons and events who have, in the recent past, had an impact on the Jewish community in the United States.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or subject.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 27. Folder 4. Agnew, Spiro T.  
Box 27. Folder 5. Brown, General George S.  
Box 27. Folder 6. Butz, Arthur R.  
Box 27. Folder 7. Carter, Jimmy.  
Box 27. Folder 8. Demography.  
Box 27. Folder 9. Education and social change.  
Box 27. Folder 10. Election 1984.  
Box 27. Folder 11. Ethnicity.  
Box 27. Folder 12. Inter-marriage.  
Box 28. Folder 1-6. Israel [miscellaneous articles].  
Box 28. Folder 7. Jewish accomplishments.  
Box 28. Folder 8. Jewish community.  
Box 29. Folder 1. Jewish education.  
Box 29. Folder 2. Jewish hospitals.  
Box 29. Folder 3. Jews, Commentaries on.  
Box 29. Folder 4. John Birch Society.  
Box 29. Folder 5. Lebanon.

Box 29. Folder 6. Moynihan, Daniel P.  
Box 29. Folder 7. National Jewish Relations Advisory Council.  
Box 29. Folder 8. Nixon, Richard M.  
Box 29. Folder 9. Philo-Semitism.  
Box 29. Folder 10. Populism.  
Box 29. Folder 11. "Profile of a Year of Jewish-Non-Jewish Relations.", 1975  
Box 29. Folder 12. Quotas.  
Box 29. Folder 13. Saudi Arabia (AWACS Sale).  
Box 29. Folder 14. Social science.  
Box 29. Folder 15. Stoner, J. B.

## **Series E. Bibliographies, Polls, Proposals and Miscellaneous**

**Extent** 2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)

### **Arrangement**

The series is divided into four (4) subseries: 1. Bibliographies; 2. Polls and Surveys; 3. Proposals; 4. Miscellaneous.

### **Subseries 1. Bibliographies**

**Extent** 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of bibliographies on anti-Semitism, book reviews, history, Jewish culture, oral history and miscellaneous topics.

#### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 30. Folder 1. Anti-Semitism.  
Box 30. Folder 2. Book reviews.  
Box 30. Folder 3. History.  
Box 30. Folder 4. Jewish culture and film culture.  
Box 30. Folder 5. Oral history.  
Box 30. Folder 6-7. Miscellaneous.

### **Subseries 2. Polls and Surveys**

**Extent** 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of public opinion polls collected by Cohen concerning various persons and topics.

**Arrangement** The polls are arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or subject.

#### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 30. Folder 8. American Jewish Committee, 1955-1957

Box 30. Folder 9. Arab-Israeli conflict.  
Box 31. Folder 1. Attitudes toward Jews.  
Box 31. Folder 2. Audits and Survey, Inc. polls.  
Box 31. Folder 3. Black attitudes toward Jews.  
Box 31. Folder 4. Catholic Digest polls, 1966  
Box 31. Folder 5. College students.  
Box 31. Folder 6. Congress of Industrial Organizations polls, 1956  
Box 31. Folder 7. Corporate discrimination.  
Box 31. Folder 8. Denver, Colorado Jewish population study.  
Box 31. Folder 9. Harris poll, 1974  
Box 32. Folder 1. High school student survey.  
Box 32. Folder 2. Inter-marriage.  
Box 32. Folder 3. Platkin study on anti-Semitism.  
Box 32. Folder 4. Protestant rating.  
Box 32. Folder 5. Reagan, Ronald - poll.  
Box 32. Folder 6. Religion in America, 1976  
Box 32. Folder 7. University of California polls.  
Box 32. Folder 8. Vatican II and the Jews.  
Box 32. Folder 9. Voting polls.  
Box 32. Folder 10-12. Yankelovich, Skelly and White polls.  
Box 33. Folder 1. Youth survey.  
Box 33. Folder 2-7. Miscellaneous polls.

### **Subseries 3. Proposals**

**Extent** 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of proposals submitted to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith for programs or procedures.

**Arrangement** The subseries is arranged alphabetically by subject.

#### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 33. Folder 8. Audio-Visual Training Center.  
Box 33. Folder 9. Detroit Nazi Group.  
Box 33. Folder 10. Evangelicals and Democracy.  
Box 33. Folder 11. Graduate Summer Institute on Judaism.  
Box 33. Folder 12. Minorities and women in textbooks.  
Box 33. Folder 13. National Interreligious Center.  
Box 33. Folder 14-15. Simulation training.  
Box 34. Folder 1. Teaching About Israel.

Box 34. Folder 2-5. Miscellaneous proposals.

#### **Subseries 4. Miscellaneous**

**Extent** 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of writings and speeches of Cohen, along with notes and outlines from his research projects.

#### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 34. Folder 6. American Jewish Historiography [manuscript].

Box 34. Folder 7. "Christian-American Jew Baiting" notes.

Box 34. Folder 8. "The Presence of Jews: An Historic Overview of Anti-Semitism in America" [outline].

Box 34. Folder 9. "Progress, Yes!" [article by Cohen].

Box 34. Folder 10-11. Speech file [addresses by Cohen].