



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Louis Witt Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 159



Collection Summary

Title	Louis Witt Papers
Dates	1900-1951
Collection Number	MS-159
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Witt, Louis, 1878-1950
Extent	1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Louis Witt was born in 1878 and was raised in Rochester, New York. Both Witt and his friend Samuel Goldenson went to Hebrew Union College to pursue their dream of becoming rabbis. Following his graduation from Hebrew Union College in 1903, Witt served a small congregation in Pueblo, Colorado. In 1907, he became the rabbi at Congregation B'nai Israel in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he remained until 1919. In 1920, Witt took a one year position at Temple Shaare Emeth in St. Louis, Missouri.

Witt served as the rabbi at Congregation Temple Israel in Dayton, Ohio from 1921 until his retirement in 1946. Under his leadership, the congregation doubled in size and a new temple auditorium project was begun. Witt was also extremely active in local politics, the relationships of Christians and Jews and symbols used in the Reform movement.

Scope and Content

The Louis Witt Papers detail the life of Witt as a rabbi, civic leader, and author in Dayton, Ohio. Papers consist of correspondence, articles, newsclippings, and miscellaneous items pertaining to the professional activities of Rabbi Witt between 1900 and 1951. Also, the papers contain sermons and lectures delivered by him.

Arrangement

The papers are divided into two (2) series: A. Correspondence; B. Writings 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 Louis Witt Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-159. Louis Witt Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Myra Witt, Dayton, Ohio, 1966.

Processing Information

Processed by Kevin Proffitt. Additional processing by Melinda K. McMartin, October 2001.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jews -- Arkansas -- Little Rock / Jews -- Missouri -- Saint Louis / Jews -- Ohio -- Dayton / Rabbis
Personal Names	Witt, Louis, 1878-1950
Corporate Names	Temple Israel (Dayton, Ohio)
Media	Prayers / Sermons

Series A. Correspondence, 1900-1949

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Of particular interest is correspondence relating to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Arrangement This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, A-E.

Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence, F-K.

Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence, L-R.

Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence. Razosky, Cecilia, 1935-1938

Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence, S-Z.

Box 1. Folder 6. Correspondence. Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1931-1948

Box 1. Folder 7. Correspondence. Witt, Myra, undated

Box 1. Folder 8. Correspondence, Unidentified, 1929, 1937-1949, undated

Series B. Writings and Nearprint, 1933-1951

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Witt was noted for his active participation in the Jewish Dayton community and his research into Jewish response to Christmas. This series represents his published materials.

Arrangement The series is arranged with the sermons first, subdivided alphabetically by title, followed by memorials and prayers.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 1. Sermons and writings, A-E.

Box 2. Folder 2. Sermons and writings, F-K.

Box 2. Folder 3. Jew Celebrates Christmas.Articles; correspondence, 1939-1950

Box 2. Folder 4. Sermons and writings, L-O.

Box 3. Folder 1. Sermons and writings, P-R.

Box 3. Folder 2. Sermons and writings, S-T.

Box 3. Folder 3. Sermons and writings, U-Y.

Box 3. Folder 4. Sermons and writings, Untitled and fragments.

Box 3. Folder 5. Memorials, 1950-1951

Box 3. Folder 6. Prayers, undated

Box 3. Folder 7. Miscellaneous.