



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Ludwig Lewisohn Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 166



Collection Summary

Title	Ludwig Lewisohn Papers
Dates	1895-1980 (bulk 1935-1955)
Collection Number	MS-166
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Lewisohn, Ludwig, 1882/83-1955
Extent	2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Ludwig Lewisohn was born in Berlin, Germany to Jacques and Minna (Eloesser) Lewisohn on May 30, 1883. He came to the United States with his family in 1890 at the age of 7. He attended the College of Charleston, South Carolina and graduated with A.B. and M.A. degrees in 1902. He then attended Columbia University in New York City and received an M.A. degree in 1903. In 1914 the College of Charleston awarded him the honorary degree, Doctor of Literature.

Following his graduation from Columbia, Lewisohn worked with Doubleday, Page & Co. in New York as a member of the editorial staff. The following year, 1905, he left Doubleday to become a free-lance magazine writer. In 1910 he became an instructor in German at the University of Wisconsin. He remained there for one year and then accepted the position of professor of German language and literature at the Ohio State University where he remained from 1911-1919. Upon leaving OSU Lewisohn became dramatic editor of the Nation. He was promoted to associate editor in 1920 and worked there until 1924.

In 1920 Lewisohn began lecturing widely on topics of Jewish and general interest. He also wrote extensively and from 1924 when he left the Nation until 1943 when he became editor of New Palestine, lecturing and writing became his career and only means of support. Lewisohn was editor of New Palestine until 1948 when he became one of the 13 original faculty members at Brandeis University, holding the position of Comparative Literature until his death in 1955.

Lewisohn was the author of numerous articles and of 31 books of criticism, history, fiction, biography and Jewish affairs. Some of his better known works include *Upstream* (1922), *Island Within* (1928), *Mid Channel* (1929), *Expression in America* (1932) and *Renegade* (1942). He also translated from German works of Gerhart Hauptmann, Jacob Wasserman and Franz Werfel.

Lewisohn was a member of the Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences and was an honorary secretary of the Zionist Organization of America. Lewisohn strongly supported the Zionist cause and he lectured and wrote widely on its behalf.

Lewisohn was married three times. He was married to Mary Arnold in 1906, to Edna Manley in 1940 and to Louise Wolk in 1944. His first two marriages ended in divorce and he was survived in death by his third wife. Lewisohn also had a son, James Elias, by Thelma B. Spear, a concert singer with whom he lived

for many years.

Ludwig Lewisohn died in Miami Beach, Florida on December 31, 1955 at the age of 72.

Scope and Content

The collection describes the professional career and personal life of Ludwig Lewisohn, author, poet, teacher and Zionist leader. The collection includes correspondence, manuscripts, notes, poems, clippings, diaries, legal papers and other personal and miscellaneous items.

Arrangement

Organized into three (3) series: A. Correspondence, 1901-1955; B. Writings, 1909-1953; C. Personal, 1895-1980.

Access Restrictions

Access restricted; questions concerning access should be addressed to the Director of the American Jewish Archives.

Terms of Reproduction and Use This collection has been placed in the permanent care, custody, and control of the American Jewish Archives (AJA) by the donors of the collection. Questions concerning rights to use or publish materials from the collection should be addressed to the Executive Director of the AJA. For more information, see the American Jewish Archives copyright information webpage.

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-166. Ludwig Lewisohn Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from various donors, 1956-1975.

Processing Information Processed by Kevin Proffitt, July 1982.

Index Terms

Subjects Jewish authors / Jews -- Societies, etc. / Poetry / Zionism
Personal Names Lewisohn, Ludwig, 1882-1955
Corporate Names Zionist Organization of America
Media Diaries

Series A. Correspondence, 1901-1955

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The vast majority of the letters in this series are in English but a few letters are written in German.

Arrangement The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or organization. Letters are arranged chronologically within each folder.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A-V, General.

Box 1. Folder 2. Bergman, Hugo [Restricted to Brandeis University Library], 1951

Box 1. Folder 3. Bernstein, Philip S. [Ludwig Lewisohn's marriage to Edna Manley], 1938-1940

Box 1. Folder 4. Blumenfeld, Kurt [Restricted to Brandeis University Library], 1952

Box 1. Folder 5. Buber, Martin [Restricted to Brandeis University Library], 1944, 1952

Box 1. Folder 6. Einstein, Albert [Restricted to Brandeis University Library], 1936, 1944

Box 1. Folder 7. Feuchtwagner, Lion [Restricted to Brandeis University Library], 1952

Box 1. Folder 8-12. Lewisohn, Edna M., 1939-1943

Box 2. Folder 1. Lewisohn, Edna M., 1944-1948, undated

Box 2. Folder 2-4. Lewisohn, Edna M. [correspondence with parents, relatives and others], 1940-1945, undated

Box 2. Folder 5. Lewisohn, Louise A., 1944-1952, undated

Box 2. Folder 6. Lewisohn, Mary A., 1934

Box 2. Folder 7. Mann, Thomas [Restricted to Brandeis University Library], 1939-1953, undated

Box 2. Folder 8. Ribalow, Harold U., 1948-1955
Box 2. Folder 9. Ruppin, Arthur [Restricted to Brandeis University library], 1936
Box 2. Folder 10. Silver, Abba Hillel, 1942-1943
Box 2. Folder 11. Spear, Thelma B., 1938
Box 2. Folder 12. Viereck, George S. [Restricted to Brandeis University Library], 1953
Box 2. Folder 13. Villard, Oswald, 1933-1936
Box 2. Folder 14. Watkins, Ann, 1942, undated
Box 2. Folder 15. Weizmann, Chaim [Restricted to Brandeis University Library], 1947
Box 2. Folder 16. Wise, Stephen S., 1926-1942
Box 2. Folder 17. Zweig, Arnold [Restricted to Brandeis University Library], 1933
Box 2. Folder 18. Unidentified, 1937, undated

Series B. Writings, 1909-1953

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of manuscripts, articles, notes, poems, reviews and translations of Lewisohn.

Arrangement The writings have been arranged alphabetically according to title or subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 19. Anniversary: An American Novel [original manuscript], undated
Box 2. Folder 20. Articles, B-J, 1949, undated
Box 3. Folder 1. Articles, L-W, untitled, 1936, 1952, undated
Box 3. Folder 2. Breathe Upon These, 1944
Box 3. Folder 3. Notes, undated
Box 3. Folder 4. Notes. The Theory of Literature, circa 1950
Box 3. Folder 5. Poems, 1909, undated
Box 3. Folder 6. Poems written for Edna M. Lewisohn, 1939-1941, undated
Box 3. Folder 7. Reviews, 1951-1953, undated
Box 3. Folder 8-11. The Song of Bernadette [English translation by Ludwig Lewisohn and original German manuscript], undated
Box 4. Folder 1-4. The Song of Bernadette [English translation by Ludwig Lewisohn and original German manuscript], undated
Box 4. Folder 5. Thirty-One Poems, by Rainer Maria Rilke [translation and notes by Ludwig Lewisohn], 1942, 1946

Series C. Personal, 1895-1980

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of clippings, diaries, legal papers and other personal and miscellaneous items. Of particular interest in this series are the diary and notes of Edna M. Lewisohn and the correspondence of Charles A. Madison concerning his research for a book on Lewisohn which contains recollections of many of Lewisohn's friends and contemporaries.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 4. Folder 6. Clippings

Box 4. Folder 7. Contracts, 1920, 1946

Box 4. Folder 8. Diary, 1949-1954

Box 4. Folder 9. Last will and testament, 1948

Box 4. Folder 10. Legal matters [including custody of James Elias Lewisohn], 1938-1956

Box 5. Folder 1-2. Lewisohn, Edna M. [diary and notes], 1938-1942, 1980, undated

Box 5. Folder 3. Lewisohn, Edna M. [her portion of the manuscript Haven], 1940

Box 5. Folder 4-5. Madison, Charles A. [correspondence concerning research for book on Ludwig Lewisohn], 1970-1973

Box 5. Folder 6. Memorial tribute by Milton Hindus, 1956

Box 5. Folder 7. Notebook, 1935

Box 5. Folder 8. Passports, 1924, 1929, 1934

Box 5. Folder 9. Miscellaneous, 1895-1962, undated



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MS-166: Ludwig Lewisohn Collection

Subject Tracings

Note: The following list of subjects is a selective index to many of the topics and individuals in the LUDWIG LEWISOHN COLLECTION. It is selective in that it only attempts to draw attention to the more significant items in the collection. It does not attempt to list every subject or individual nor does it try to indicate all places that a listed subject or individual appears in the collection. When used in conjunction with the Box and Folder List, the Subject Tracings should help the researcher locate topics. References are to boxes and folders: e.g., 3/10 means Box 3 folder 10.

Billikopf, Jacob	1/1
Hebrew Free Loan Society	1/1
Lewis, Sinclair	4/10
Lewisohn, Edna Manley	1/3; 2/16; 3/6; 4/6, 10; 5/4, 5
Lewisohn, James Elias	1/1; 4/10
Lewisohn, Louise Wolk	2/5; 5/4, 5
Marshall, Louis	1/1
Soviet Jewry	5/9
Spear, Thelma B.	2/4, 16; 4/6, 10; 5/9
Spiro, Saul S.	5/4, 9
Werfel, Franz	3/8
Zionism	1/1, 4; 2/15; 4/6



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Appendix

Donors of Ludwig Lewisohn materials to the American Jewish Archives

Burton Berinsky	New York, N.Y.	1963
Philip S. Bernstein	Rochester, N.Y.	1965
Robert K. Black	Upper Montclair, N.J.	1965
Brandeis University Library	Waltham, Mass.	1956 and 1967
Stanley F. Chyet	Cincinnati, Ohio	1962
College of Charleston Library	Charleston, S.C.	1964
Stuart Geller	Cleveland, Ohio	1970
Houghton Library Harvard University	Cambridge, Mass.	1970
Edna M. Lewisohn	Rochester, N.Y.	1970-1977
Louise M. Lewisohn	Washington, D.C.	1964-1972
Charles A. Madison	New York, N.Y.	1974
Jacob R. Marcus	Cincinnati, Ohio	1969
Mugar Memorial Library	Boston, Mass.	1974
Harold U. Ribalow	New York, N.Y.	1975
Paul J. Richards	Brookline, Mass.	1965
Max Roth	Cleveland, Ohio	1970
Thelma B. Spear	New York, N.Y.	1965
Saul S. Spiro	Dayton, Ohio	1970
University of South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	1972
Zionist Archives and Library	New York, N.Y.	1963