



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Morton C. Fierman Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 170



Collection Summary

Title	Morton C. Fierman Papers
Dates	1903-1989
Collection Number	MS-170
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Fierman, Morton C.
Extent	6.2 linear feet (13 Hollinger boxes, 1 oversize box.)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Morton Charles Fierman was born January 26, 1914 in Ohio. He received his B.A. from Western Reserve University (now Case-Western Reserve University). He received his B.H.L. and M.H.L. from Hebrew Union College, his M.A. from Tulsa University and his Ed. D. from Arizona State University. He also received a D.D. (honoris causa) from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where he was ordained a Rabbi in 1941.

Fierman served as a chaplain during World War II. He entered the service as a captain and was assigned to the 8th Fighter Command Headquarters, 8th Air Force in England from 1943-1945. It was during this time that he met James Parkes, Christian minister and leading authority on Christian-Jewish relations in Britain. This friendship led Fierman to study Parkes's writings and teach classes about his theology.

Fierman was honorably discharged on February 10, 1946 in San Antonio, Texas. After the war he served as a rabbi for congregations in Washington, D.C., Kansas City, Mo., Tulsa, Okla., Phoenix, Ariz., and Westminster, Calif. From 1957-1963 he was rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom of Orange County, Santa Ana, Calif.

In 1963, he became Professor of Religious Studies at California State University-Fullerton. He taught seminars on the theology of James Parkes, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Leo Baeck, and Martin Buber, as well as classes on the Hebrew Prophets and Psalms. His study of Heschel led him to create a Seminar Paper Series concerning Heschel's theology. This series was turned into a book, *Leap of Action: Ideas on the Theology of Abraham Joshua Heschel*, in 1990.

In 1985 he received the "Lifetime Contributions to Jewish Education" Award. He retired from teaching in 1981.

He married Isabel Dorothy Block on July 12, 1942. They had one son, Nathan who was born in 1947. Fierman's brother, Floyd Fierman, was also a rabbi. Fierman died on November 7, 1995.

Scope and Content

The Morton C. Fierman papers relate to the professional career of Rabbi Fierman, who was a professor at California State University-Fullerton and a rabbi at several Reform congregations. Included are course syllabi and resource materials from classes he taught, scrapbooks and correspondence relating to his chaplaincy in World War II, as well as his sermons and other writings.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into five (5) series: A. Educational Material; B. Military Chaplaincy; C. Rabbinical Material; D. Published Writings; E. Correspondence.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

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 Morton C. Fierman Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-170. Morton C. Fierman Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Morton C. Fierman, Fullerton, Calif., 1953-1991 and Isabel Fierman, Fullerton, Calif., 2001-2002.

Processing Information Processed by Garret B. Kremer-Wright, June 2006.

Index Terms

Subjects Jewish college teachers / Jewish learning and scholarship / Military chaplains / Rabbis / World War, 1939-1945

Personal Names Fierman, Morton C. (Morton Charles), 1914-1995

Corporate Names California State University, Fullerton. Department of Religious Studies

Media Scrapbooks / Sermons

Series A. Educational Material, 1965-1979

Extent 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This series consists of course syllabi, lectures and notes, resources used, and some student papers. The syllabi include courses pertaining to Abraham Joshua Heschel, Martin Buber, James Parkes and Leo Baeck.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. RelSt 485. Heschel Seminar transcriptions, part 1, 1973 Fall

Box 1. Folder 2. RelSt 485. Heschel Seminar transcriptions, part 2, 1973 Fall

Box 1. Folder 3. Syllabi. RelSt 485. Heschel Seminar, part 1, 1979 Fall

Box 1. Folder 4. Syllabi. RelSt 485. Heschel Seminar, part 2, 1979 Fall

Box 1. Folder 5. Syllabi. Several Worlds of Abraham Joshua Heschel, undated

Box 1. Folder 6. Transcription. RelSt 485. Heschel Seminar, 1973 January

Box 1. Folder 7. Syllabi. RelSt 333. Hebrew Prophets. Aims and Goals, 1973 July

Box 1. Folder 8. Syllabi. Prophets of Israel, 1968 October

Box 1. Folder 9. Syllabi. Worlds of Martin Buber, 1975 February

Box 1. Folder 10. Syllabi. Philosophy and Theology of Martin Buber, undated

Box 1. Folder 11. Syllabi. RelSt 434B. The Psalms, part 1, 1977 January

Box 1. Folder 12. Syllabi. RelSt 434B. The Psalms, part 2, 1977 January

Box 1. Folder 13. Syllabi. RelSt 434B. The Psalms, part 3, 1977 January

Box 2. Folder 1. Syllabi. James Parkes Seminar, 1976 July

Box 2. Folder 2. Syllabi. RelSt 495. Internship Program, 1979 April

Box 2. Folder 3. Syllabi. RelSt 380. Interreligious Relationships, 1979 June

Box 2. Folder 4. Syllabi. Ed 401. Social Foundations of Education, 1969 November

Box 2. Folder 5. Syllabi. Theology of Leo Baeck, 1974 Fall

Box 2. Folder 6. Syllabi. Ed 561. Organization and Administration of School Systems, 1967 Fall

Box 2. Folder 7. Syllabi. Ed 301, 1965 Spring

Box 2. Folder 8. Syllabi. Heschel, Buber, Baeck: Great Twentieth Century Thinkers of Judaism, 1974 February

Box 2. Folder 9. Syllabi. Ed 401. Social Foundations of Education, 1971 September

Box 2. Folder 10. Syllabi. Philosophical Foundations of Religious Education, undated

Box 2. Folder 11. Syllabi. Basic Judaism (proposed course), 1969

Box 2. Folder 12. Syllabi. Hist 301. American Jewish History, 1963 Fall

Box 2. Folder 13. Syllabi. Various Education classes taught by Fierman, 1963 Fall

Box 2. Folder 14. Syllabi. Department of Religious Studies courses (not including Fierman classes), 1979 Fall

Box 2. Folder 15. Annual Report. Department of Religious Studies. California State University-Fullerton, 1973-1980

Box 3. Folder 1. Lectures. Youth and Adolescence, 1967 April

Box 3. Folder 2. Lectures. Creativity-A Consideration, 1967 October

Box 3. Folder 3. Lecture notes, 1969 July

Box 3. Folder 4. Lecture notes. RelSt 485, 1974 November

Box 3. Folder 5. Lecture notes. Jeremiah, 1972-1973

Box 3. Folder 6. Lecture notes. Teaching the Prophets, undated

Box 3. Folder 7. Resource material. Theology of Leo Baeck, 1974 July

Box 3. Folder 8. Resource material. Hebrew Prophets, part 1, 1968

Box 3. Folder 9. Resource material. Hebrew Prophets, part 2, 1968

Box 3. Folder 10. Resource material. RelSt 333. Hebrew Prophets, part 1, undated

Box 3. Folder 11. Resource material. RelSt 333. Hebrew Prophets, part 2, undated

Box 3. Folder 12. Resource material. RelSt 485. James Parkes Seminar, 1975 Fall

Box 4. Folder 1. Student papers. RelSt 485. James Parkes Seminar, oral reports Vol. I, part 1, 1975 Fall

Box 4. Folder 2. Student papers. RelSt 485. James Parkes Seminar, oral reports Vol. I, part 2, 1975 Fall

Box 4. Folder 3. Student papers. RelSt 485. James Parkes Seminar book reviews/papers, Vol. II, part 1, 1975 Fall

Box 4. Folder 4. Student papers. RelSt 485. James Parkes Seminar book reviews/papers, Vol. II, part 2, 1975 Fall

Box 4. Folder 5. Student papers. James Parkes Seminar. Meaning of Torah oral report., 1976 Fall

Box 4. Folder 6. Student papers. James Parkes Seminar oral reports, 1977 Fall

Box 4. Folder 7. Student papers. Hebrew Prophets Term Projects, 1973 December

Box 4. Folder 8. Student papers. RelSt 333. Hebrew Prophets mid-term study questions, 1969-1979

Box 4. Folder 9. Student papers. Hebrew Prophets Term Projects, 1972 Spring

Box 4. Folder 10. Student papers. RelSt 333. Hebrew Prophets final exam study questions, 1972-1977

Box 4. Folder 11. Student papers. Hebrew Prophets Glossaries, 1973 December

Box 4. Folder 12. Student papers. Hebrew Prophets Term Projects, 1973 May

Box 4. Folder 13. Student papers. RelSt 485. Study questions, 1976 Fall

Box 4. Folder 14. Student papers. RelSt 486, undated

Box 4. Folder 15. Student papers. RelSt 486. Final Exam questions, 1979 Spring

Series B. Military Chaplaincy, 1943-1945

Extent 1.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box, 1 oversize box)

Scope and Content Note Consists primarily of correspondence from parents of military sons and general military correspondence. Of note in the Miscellaneous folder is a listing of all the funerals that Fierman officiated and his separation papers from the army. The correspondence from parents of soldiers is also quite interesting, showing how he took the time to get to know his fellow Jewish soldiers. Also included are two scrapbooks that contain photographs of Fierman's time in the army as well as programs, newspapers, and postcards from the same time period.

Arrangement The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by last name.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 1. Correspondence, A-H, 1942-1945

Box 5. Folder 2. Correspondence, I-Z, 1943-1945

Box 5. Folder 3. Correspondence from parents, A-L, 1943-1945

Box 5. Folder 4. Correspondence from parents, M-Z, 1943-1945

Box 5. Folder 5. Speeches, 1943-1944

Box 5. Folder 6. Miscellaneous papers, 1943-1946

Box 5. Folder 7. Photographs, 1943-1944

Box X-487. Folder 1. Scrapbook, 1944

Box X-487. Folder 2. Scrapbook, 1943-1945

Series C. Rabbinical Material, 1938-1960

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of sermons from High Holydays as well as Friday and Sabbath services. Of particular interest are radio broadcasts of sermons from 1946-1960. Also included in this series are marriage records from when he was a rabbi at Temple Beth Israel in Phoenix, Ariz.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 7. Folder 1. Radio broadcasts, 1946-1947

Box 7. Folder 2. Radio broadcasts. part 1, 1950-1951

Box 7. Folder 3. Radio broadcasts. part 2, 1948-1950

Box 7. Folder 4. Radio broadcasts. part 1, 1959

Box 7. Folder 5. Radio broadcasts. part 2, 1960

Box 7. Folder 6. Radio broadcasts. Vol. II, 1960 January-February

Box 7. Folder 7. Marriage records. Temple Beth Israel, Phoenix, Ariz., 1945-1955

Box 7. Folder 8. Sermons. High Holydays, 1938-1950

Box 8. Folder 1. Sermons. Friday Evening services, part 1, 1956-1957

Box 8. Folder 2. Sermons. Friday Evening services, part 2, 1957
Box 8. Folder 3. Sermons. Friday Evening services, part 1, 1957
Box 8. Folder 4. Sermons. Friday Evening services, part 2, 1957
Box 8. Folder 5. Sermons. Friday Evening services, part 1, 1958
Box 8. Folder 6. Sermons. Friday Evening services, part 2, 1958
Box 8. Folder 7. Sermons. Friday Evening services, part 3, 1958
Box 9. Folder 1. Sermons. Sabbath services, part 1, 1954-1955
Box 9. Folder 2. Sermons. Sabbath services, part 2, 1952-1954
Box 9. Folder 3. Invocations/benedictions, 1975-1978
Box 9. Folder 4. Special services, 1965, 1975
Box 9. Folder 5. Addresses, undated

Series D. Published Writings, 1970-1989

Extent 1.4 linear feet (3.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists primarily of his published writings. His published book, *Leap of Action: Ideas in the Theology of Abraham Joshua Heschel* (1990) and various Resource Guides for 7th-9th grades that he authored are included in this series. Also contained in this series are some of his published articles.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 9. Folder 6. Copyright requests, 1970
Box 9. Folder 7. Resource material. *Leap of Action*, undated
Box 9. Folder 8. Draft. *Leap of Action* chapters 1, 7, 9, 13, 1987
Box 9. Folder 9. Draft No. 1. *Leap of Action* chapters 1-3, undated
Box 9. Folder 10. Draft No. 1. *Leap of Action* chapters 4-9, undated
Box 9. Folder 11. Draft No. 1. *Leap of Action* chapters 10-16, undated
Box 10. Folder 1. Draft No. 2. *Leap of Action* chapters 1-6, undated
Box 10. Folder 2. Draft No. 2. *Leap of Action* chapters 7-12, undated
Box 10. Folder 3. Draft No. 2. *Leap of Action* chapters 13-16, index, undated
Box 10. Folder 4. Manuscript Copy. *Leap of Action* part 1, 1989
Box 10. Folder 5. Manuscript Copy. *Leap of Action* part 2, 1989
Box 10. Folder 6. Manuscript Copy. *Leap of Action* part 3, 1989
Box 10. Folder 7. Draft. Resource Units for Holydays and Festivals, part 1, undated
Box 10. Folder 8. Draft. Resource Units for Holydays and Festivals, part 2, undated
Box 10. Folder 9. Resource Units for Holydays and Festivals, 1970
Box 11. Folder 1. Resource Unit on Chanuko, undated
Box 11. Folder 2. Resource Unit on the Sabbath part 1, undated
Box 11. Folder 3. Resource Unit on the Sabbath part 2, undated
Box 11. Folder 4. Resource Unit on the Sabbath part 3, undated

- Box 11. Folder 5. Resource Unit on the Sabbath errata, undated
- Box 11. Folder 6. Far Western Philosophy of Education Society Meeting, 1963-1965
- Box 11. Folder 7. Far Western Philosophy of Education Society Meeting, 1967-1970
- Box 11. Folder 8. Article. California State University-Fullerton, 1965-1975
- Box 11. Folder 9. Article. "Theology of Abraham Joshua Heschel.", undated
- Box 11. Folder 10. Article. In Record, 1968-1969
- Box 11. Folder 11. Article. On Abraham Joshua Heschel Theology, 1974-1985
- Box 11. Folder 12. "The Existentialist Counselor at Work", undated
- Box 12. Folder 1. List of addresses, undated
- Box 12. Folder 2. Miscellaneous binder. Articles, part 1, undated
- Box 12. Folder 3. Miscellaneous binder. Course outlines, part 2, undated
- Box 12. Folder 4. Various speeches, 1953-1967
- Box 12. Folder 5. Draft. Seminar Paper Series No. 17 with critique by Samson Levy, 1978 March
- Box 12. Folder 6. Draft. Seminar Paper Series No. 13, 17, 37, 1976-1981
- Box 12. Folder 7. Draft. Various papers, part 1, undated
- Box 12. Folder 8. Draft. Various papers, part 2, undated
- Box 12. Folder 9. Festschrift in honor of Morton Fierman, 1982
- Box 12. Folder 10. Retirement reception and award, 1981-1985
- Box 12. Folder 11. Fierman poems, undated

Series E. Correspondence, 1903-1989

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This series consists of correspondence from James Parkes and Abraham Joshua Heschel discussing scholarly activities. Also included are various business related letters revolving around Fierman's knowledge of Parkes's theology and some personal letters (mainly greeting cards) exchanged with his wife, Isabel. Correspondence from Isabel's father, Ben Bock, are also included in this series. There is also a folder containing family photographs.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 13. Folder 1. James and Dorothy Parkes, 1944, 1959, 1974-1976
- Box 13. Folder 2. James and Dorothy Parkes, 1976-1982
- Box 13. Folder 3. James Parkes 80th birthday commemoration, 1975-1976
- Box 13. Folder 4. James Parkes resolutions on his behalf, 1976
- Box 13. Folder 5. Photographs. James Parkes, undated
- Box 13. Folder 6. International Council of Christians and Jews, 1976-1977
- Box 13. Folder 7. Southampton University, Southampton, England, 1975-1976
- Box 13. Folder 8. Southampton University, Southampton, England, 1976-1977
- Box 13. Folder 9. Sidney Sugarman, 1975
- Box 13. Folder 10. Abraham Joshua Heschel, 1968-1973

Box 13. Folder 11. General correspondence, 1966-1976

Box 13. Folder 12. Book order requests, 1988-1989

Box 13. Folder 13. Hebrew Union College, 1975

Box 13. Folder 14. Various librarians, 1976

Box 13. Folder 15. Samuel Gross, 1976

Box 13. Folder 16. To James Parkes from Deborah Gendron, 1976-1977

Box 13. Folder 17. Bernard Martin, editor of CCAR Journal with article, 1976

Box 13. Folder 18. Correspondence, 1978 Summer

Box 13. Folder 19. Correspondence, 1978 Fall

Box 13. Folder 20. California State University-Fullerton, 1970-1972

Box 13. Folder 21. Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 1973-1974

Box 14. Folder 1. Isabel Fierman, 1957, undated

Box 14. Folder 2. To Isabel Fierman from Nathan and Susan Fierman, 1957,1970, undated

Box 14. Folder 3. To Isabel Fierman from Aunts Blanche Jacobs and Rose Block, 1963-1966

Box 14. Folder 4. Report of Service to the Blind by Isabel Fierman, 1960-1963

Box 14. Folder 5. To Isabel, Morton, and Nathan Fierman from family, 1966, undated

Box 14. Folder 6. To Isabel Fierman from John Muir School, 1970

Box 14. Folder 7. To Isabel and Morton Fierman from Dad (Ben Block) fragments, undated

Box 14. Folder 8. To Isabel and Morton Fierman from Dad (Ben Block), 1962-1966

Box 14. Folder 9. Various friends, 1961-1974, undated

Box 14. Folder 10. Block family material, 1952,1962, undated

Box 14. Folder 11. Fierman family photographs, 1903-1957