



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
A. Irma Cohon Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 617

A. Irma Cohon

Collection Summary

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| Title | A. Irma Cohon Papers |
| Dates | 1918-1979 |
| Collection Number | MS-617 |
| Repository | The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives |
| Creator | Cohon, A. Irma |
| Extent | 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box) |
| Language of the Material | English |

Administrative Information

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| Biographical Sketch | <p>A. Irma Cohon, musician and poet, was born in Portland, Oregon, September, 1890 to J.F. and Amelia (Marks) Reinhart. She attended Hebrew Union College between 1909-1910 and received her A.B. in 1912 from the University of Cincinnati.</p> <p>On June 12, 1912, A. Irma Cohon married Rabbi Samuel S. Cohon (see Manuscript Collection No.276). The Cohons had one son, Baruch Joseph. Cohon's brother, Harold Reinhart, was a prominent liberal rabbi in London, England.</p> <p>A. Irma Cohon was the author of Introduction to Jewish Music, the first book on this subject in English (published by National Council on Jewish Women, 1923); Harvest Festivals, A Children's Succoth Celebration, with music by Abraham Idelsohn (NCJW, 1925) and religious poems. She also compiled A Brief Jewish Ritual (Women of Mizpah, 1921).</p> <p>A. Irma Cohon died in 1991.</p> |
| Scope and Content | Papers include correspondence with colleagues, primarily about her editing of the musical manuscripts and scores of Abraham Idelsohn. Also included are sympathy letters and tributes at the death of her brother, Rabbi Harold Reinhart, and miscellaneous items. |
| Arrangement | The papers are organized into four series: A. Correspondence; B. Harold Reinhart; C. Ernest Bloch; D. Miscellaneous. |
| Terms of Access | The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply. |
| Preferred Citation | <p>Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the A. Irma Cohon Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:</p> <p>[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-617. A. Irma Cohon Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.</p> |
| Provenance | Received from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, Calif., June 1993. |
| Processing Information | Processed by Dorothy Smith and Eleanor Lawhorn, August 1997. |

Index Terms

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| Subjects | Jewish women / Music |
| Personal Names | Cohon, A. Irma / Idelsohn, A. Z. (Abraham Zebi), 1882-1938 / Reinhart, Harold, 1891-1969 |

Series A. Correspondence, 1922-1979

Scope and Content Note The correspondence series includes letters pertaining to Cohon's editing of a songbook of Abraham Idelsohn's works and her interest in his life and work. There are also letters reflecting her interest in the architecture of Jewish synagogues and other historical matters. Correspondents include: Nathan, Dorothy M. (1945), Grovesnor, Gilbert (1947), Pieriek, Marie (1956), Shulvass, M.A. (1964), Horowitz, Harvey (1974), Adler, Israel (1977), Herzog, Avidgor (1977), Weiss-Rosmarin (1978), Eichorn, David M. (1979) and Zerline (undated).

Series B. Harold Reinhart, 1969

Scope and Content Note The Harold Reinhart series contains letters and condolences sent to Mrs. Cohon upon the death of her brother, Rabbi Harold Reinhart, a prominent London liberal rabbi. Also included are some published sermons and tributes.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 2. Condolence letters to A. Irma Cohon, 1969

Box 1. Folder 3. Tributes and sermons, 1969

Series C. Ernest Bloch, 1948-1950

Scope and Content Note The Ernest Bloch series is a file of clippings and programs collected in observance of the 70th birthday of Ernest Bloch, an acquaintance.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 4. 70th birthday celebration, 1948-1950

Series D. Miscellaneous, 1918-1952

Scope and Content Note The Miscellaneous series includes a 1922 letter from Hugo Brandt, organist of Temple Mizpah, Chicago (Ill.) to a soprano of the choir concerning European conditions following World War I; a Jewish census of Thailand, 1952; handwritten notes on 1918 edition of Union Prayerbook; clippings on the Reform Church of the American Israelite of Los Angeles, 1932; and miscellaneous music manuscripts from Cohon's Jewish Songbook and handwritten music.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 5. Miscellaneous materials relating to Cohon's music editing career, 1918-1952