



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Floyd S. Fierman Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 649



Collection Summary

Title	Floyd S. Fierman Papers
Dates	1940-1988
Collection Number	MS-649
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Fierman, Floyd S.
Extent	8.4 linear feet (21 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Floyd Fierman was born in 1916 in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Following his graduation from John Carroll University, he attended Hebrew Union College and was ordained in 1945. From 1944-1949, he worked with Rabbi Solomon Freehof at Rodef Shalom Temple in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During his Pennsylvania tenure he took a strong interest in historical Jewish religious education. While a student at Hebrew Union College, Fierman taught Rockdale Temple Sunday School and also at the Jewish Community Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. This interest in Jewish education served as a basis for his doctoral dissertation which he earned from the University of Pittsburgh in 1949.

Rabbi Fierman served as the rabbi of Temple Mount Sinai, El Paso, Texas from 1949 until retirement in 1981. It was a period of growth, both of membership and the construction of a new building. His activities included the National Conference of Christians and Jews and Jewish education. He also served as the founder of the El Paso Jewish Historical Society in 1980. Fierman was rabbi emeritus at Temple Mount Sinai until his death.

Fierman was also an avid scholar. He focused primarily on the history of Jews in the Southwest with the publication of the books *Guts and Ruts: Jewish Pioneers on the Trail in the American Southwest* in 1985 and *Roots and Boots: From Crypto-Jew in New Spain to Community Leader in the American Southwest* in 1987. Fierman also published several articles on Jewish pioneers. In the late 1980s, Fierman turned his research focus to Nelson Glueck's service with the OSS during World War II.

Fierman married the former Edythe Beren. They had two children: Leslie Zinberg and Gordon Fierman. His brother, Morton Fierman was a rabbi in California. Floyd Fierman died on 14 February 1989.

Scope and Content Describes the rabbinic and scholarly activities of Rabbi Floyd S. Fierman. Includes sermons, eulogies, presentations, prayers, correspondence, research files, manuscripts and published articles.

Arrangement The collection is divided into two (2) series: A. Rabbinic Activities; B. Research and Publications.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-649. Floyd S. Fierman Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Temple Mount Sinai, El Paso, Tex., January 1990.

Processing Information Processed by Melinda K. McMartin, August 2000; updated August 2001.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jews -- Arizona / Jews -- New Mexico / Jews -- Texas / Rabbis
Personal Names	Fierman, Floyd S. / Glueck, Nelson, 1900-1971
Corporate Names	Congregation Rodeph Shalom (Philadelphia, Pa.) / Temple Mount Sinai (El Paso, Tex.)
Media	Eulogies / Prayers / Sermons

Series A. Rabbinic Activities, 1942-1988

Extent 4.8 linear feet (12 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement The series is arranged in chronological order.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Sermons, 1942-1945
- Box 1. Folder 2. Funeral services, 1945-1946
- Box 1. Folder 3. Sermons, 1945-1946
- Box 1. Folder 4. Rodef Shalom Religious School curriculum, 1945-1949
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- Box 5. Folder 1. Sabbath, confirmation and holiday sermons, 1952-1958
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- Box 6. Folder 1. Sermons [bar mitzvahs/funerals/weddings], 1959-1960
- Box 6. Folder 2. Sermons [bar mitzvahs/funerals/weddings], 1960-1961
- Box 7. Folder 1. Sermons [bar mitzvahs/funerals/weddings], 1963-1964
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- Box 9. Folder 1. Sermons [bar mitzvahs/funerals/weddings], 1968-1969
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- Box 11. Folder 2. Sermons [bar mitzvahs/funerals/weddings], 1973-1974
- Box 12. Folder 1. Sermons [bar mitzvahs/funerals/weddings], 1974-1978
- Box 12. Folder 2. Prayers, 1951-1988

Series B. Research and Publications, 1924-1988

Extent 3.6 linear feet (9 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement The series is arranged in alphabetical order.

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- Box 13. Folder 2. Barth, Solomon.
- Box 13. Folder 3. Berney, Leo S.
- Box 13. Folder 4. Bibo family.
- Box 13. Folder 5. Blumenthal family.
- Box 13. Folder 6. Darnoff family of New Mexico.
- Box 13. Folder 7. Drachmans of Arizona, 1964
- Box 13. Folder 8. Drachman family.
- Box 13. Folder 9. Drachman, Samuel.
- Box 13. Folder 10. B'nai B'rith (El Paso, Tex.), 1951
- Box 13. Folder 11. Coloqhon, James. History of the Clifton-Morenci Mining District, 1924
- Box 13. Folder 12. El Paso, Tex.
- Box 13. Folder 13. Eternal Light and Cross: Spirit of the Southwest, 1968
- Box 13. Folder 14. Floersheim family.
- Box 14. Folder 1. From Guten Tag to Buenas Dias: The New Mexico Territory Through the Eyes and Life of Charles Clever, undated
- Box 14. Folder 2. Freudenthal family.
- Box 14. Folder 3. Gans, Emil.
- Box 14. Folder 4. Given, Morris.
- Box 14. Folder 5. Glueck, Helen, 1985
- Box 14. Folder 6. Glueck, Nelson. Published articles.
- Box 14. Folder 7. Nelson Glueck and the OSS during WW2.
- Box 14. Folder 8. Glueck, Nelson. Secondary articles, 1972-1983
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Box 15. Folder 12. Nathan Bibo's Early Reminiscences of Early New Mexico, 1961

Box 15. Folder 13. New Mexico Historical Quarterly.

Box 15. Folder 14. Osterman family.

Box 15. Folder 15. Peddlers and Merchants: Southwestern Frontier, 1850-1880, 1962

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Box 16. Folder 4. Rescuing Jewish Scholars and Redeeming Sacred Books, 1987

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Box 16. Folder 7. Sam Freudenthal: Merchant and Leader, 1965

Box 16. Folder 8. Schwartz family of El Paso, 1980

Box 16. Folder 9. Seligman, Arthur.

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Box 16. Folder 12. Some Early Jewish Settlers on the Southwestern Frontier, 1960

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Box 16. Folder 14. Spiegelbergs of New Mexico, 1964

Box 16. Folder 15. Spiegelberg family.

Box 16. Folder 16. Staab family.

Box 16. Folder 17. Strauss, Levi.

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