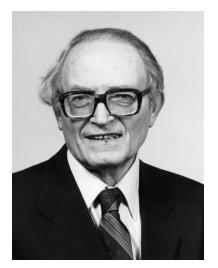


A Finding Aid to the Alexander Guttmann Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 663



Collection Summary

Title	Alexander Guttmann Papers
Dates	1908-1988
Collection Number	MS-663
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Guttmann, Alexander, 1904-1994
Extent	11.6 linear feet (29 Hollinger boxes
Language of the Material	English, Hebrew, German, and Hungarian

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Alexander Guttmann was born in 1904 in Budapest, Hungary to Michael and Camilla Guttmann. His father was a renowned rabbi and scholar who was also the president of the Budapest Theological Seminary. Guttmann received undergraduate degrees in Semitic languages from both the University of Budapest and the University of Breslau. In 1924, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Breslau.

Guttmann began his academic career in Berlin at the Liberal Teachers College and as a lecturer in a local adult education program. He became a professor at the Hochschule fur die Wissenschaft des Judentums in 1935. At the Hochschule, Guttmann had the exclusive privilege to ordain rabbis. Several of these students, including Emil Fackenheim, Abraham Brody and Abraham Joshua Heschel, later became prominent scholars at universities in America, Europe and Israel. In 1940, Guttmann and his family accepted an invitation from Julian Morgenstern to become a visiting Talmud professor at Hebrew Union College. He became a permanent member of the faculty in 1943.

As a professor at HUC-JIR, Guttmann frequently acted as the campus responsa on halakkah issues for President Nelson Glueck and other faculty. He was active in campus politics and a mentor to several master's and Ph.D. candidates. Guttmann revised, created and ran the Talmud and Codes courses for the forty years he was on faculty. Younger faculty members adapted and created their own courses with the full cooperation and guidance of Guttmann.

Guttmann retired from the HUC-JIR faculty in 1978, although he continued to teach. In 1981, Guttmann returned to Germany as a visiting professor of Talmud for one year at the newly formed Hochschule fur Judische Studien in Heidelberg. Because of his teaching commitments to HUC-JIR he was unable to teach sessions in succeeding years.

In June 1984, Sotheby's auctioned off an anonymous lot of Judaica books which had been moved by Guttmann from the Hochschule to the United States during his escape from Nazi Germany. Guttmann said that H. Veit Simon, director of the Hochschule, had given him the property and the rights to dispose of it prior to his Berlin departure. However, the sale was blocked by various survivor groups and ownership of the materials became a court case. In 1985 a settlement was reached between the New York State Attorney General and the Guttmann family resolving the dispute.

Guttmann authored a number of books starting with Das readktionelle und sachliche Verhaeltnis zwischen Misna und Tosephet in 1928, which won the Israel Lewy Prize at the University of Breslau. Other titles included Rabbinic Judaism in the Making, Studies in Rabbinic Judaism and Struggle over Reform in Rabbinic Literature During the Last Century and A Half. He was an active contributor to several journals including the Hebrew Union College Annual where he also served as a committee member.

Guttmann participated in several Jewish scholarly organizations, including the Colloquium on Judaism and Christianity at Harvard in 1966, committees in both the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the World Congress of Jewish Studies (for which he won a 1969 Guggenheim fellowship in support of his lecture).

Guttmann was also an avid amateur photographer and made frequent trips to Israel and Europe. He died in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1994.

Alexander Guttmann married Manya Kampf in Berlin, Germany in 1937. They had four children: Ari Guttmann, Judy Guttmann Mizrachi, Naomi Guttmann Klatzkin, and Esther Guttmann Whitman.

Scope and ContentThe collection details the scholarly career and personal life of Alexander Guttmann. Guttmann served
as a professor at the Hochschule in Berlin prior to his emigration to America in 1940 when he became
a Professor of Talmud at Hebrew Union College. He remained there until his retirement in 1978. An
ordained rabbi, Guttmann wrote and lectured extensively.

	The papers consist of correspondence, research notes and writings and materials relating to his 1985 court case. A noted expert on halakkah, much of his correspondence and research files relate to this topic. Another common subject in correspondence is the advising of doctoral students working on their coursework and dissertations. There is information about the Guttmann family's escape to America and the subsequent efforts to obtain restitution for their property.
Arrangement	The Alexander Guttmann Papers are divided into six (6) series: A. Correspondence; B. Lectures, Sermons and Writings; C. Responsa and Research Files; D. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; E. Court Case Records; F. Personal and Family Records.
Access Restrictions	All papers pertaining to or about living family members are restricted until one (1) year after their death.
Preferred Citation	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Alexander Guttmann Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-663. Alexander Guttmann Papers. American Jewish
Provenance	Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio. Received from the Guttmann family, Cincinnati, Ohio, September 1992 and Herbert Zafren, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1996.

Processing Information Processed by Melinda K. McMartin, September 2001.

Index Terms

Subjects	Biblical scholars / Holocaust survivors / Rabbis / Talmud	
Personal Names	Guttmann, Alexander / Guttmann, Manya / Guttmann, Michael, 1872-1942	
Corporate Names	Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion / Hochschule fur die Wissenschaft des Judentums (Berlin, Germany)	
Media	Responsa (Jewish law)	

Series A. Correspondence, 1920-1988

Extent 4 linear feet (10 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of material relating to halakkah queries, HUC student candidacies, and publications. The correspondence is both personal and professional. Guttmann corresponded with current HUC students such as Stephen Passemaneck or his former Hochschüle students such as Harris Hirschberg, a rabbi in Los Angeles, California, about both their research interests and family lives. Of special interest are the Hungarian claims, liftvan (luggage), and Morgenstern correspondence which concerns the family emigration to the United States in 1940.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically by name. Where a correspondent has more than five items, that correspondence has been given its own folder. If correspondence is in multiple languages, or a language other than English, it is noted in parentheses in the box and folder list. Family relationships are identified in brackets when known.

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Series B. Lectures, Sermons and Writings, 1928-1983

Extent 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Writings are in either draft or note form, and are sometimes accompanied by relevant correspondence. Many of the lectures were given either at the Hocshchule or HUC-JIR. Manuscript writings do not normally identify their eventual place of publication.

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Box 14. Folder 5. Role of Laymen in Talmudic and Rabbinic Laws, undated

Box 14. Folder 6. Second Commonwealth, undated

Box 14. Folder 7. Sermons. Holydays, 1952-1954, undated

Box 14. Folder 8. Sermons. Kol Nidre, undated

Box 14. Folder 9. Sermons. Untitled, 1979, undated

Box 14. Folder 10. Some aspects of theoretical halakkah, undated

Box 14. Folder 11. Some rabbinical authorities and codifiers, undated

Box 14. Folder 12. Some responsa dealing with Holocaust causes, 1971

Box 14. Folder 13. Spatpharisaertum [German], 1969

Box 14. Folder 14. Stellund des Minhag im Talmud [German], 1939

Box 14. Folder 15. Struggle over Reform in Rabbinic Literature, 1973-1975

Box 14. Folder 16. Talmud lecture, undated

Box 14. Folder 17. Talmud: a few glimpses, undated

Box 14. Folder 18. Talmud and Antisemitism, undated

Box 14. Folder 19. Talmud and Rabbinics: selected bibliography, 1970

Box 14. Folder 20. Talmud- Vergangenheit und Gegenwort [German], undated

Box 14. Folder 21. Tragedies at Hebrew Union College, undated
Box 14. Folder 22. Undated speeches, undated
Box 14. Folder 23. Unsere leser schreiben [German], 1970
Box 14. Folder 24. Weintraub, Joseph. Tribute, undated
Box 14. Folder 25. Woman Rabbi, 1982

Series C. Responsa and Research Files, 1936-1975

Extent 2.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Materials in the files range from personal notes to printed sources and Talmudic authorities. Some of the material is accompanied by the original correspondence requesting information about the subject. Guttmann frequently provided responsa for his fellow HUC-JIR faculty.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 15. Folder 1. Abortion.
Box 15. Folder 2. Adoption.
Box 15. Folder 3. Articles [Hebrew].
Box 15. Folder 4. Artificial insemination.
Box 15. Folder 5. Ark.
Box 15. Folder 6. Bar mitzvah.
Box 15. Folder 7. Bibliographies.
Box 15. Folder 8. Burial.
Box 15. Folder 9. Calendar.
Box 15. Folder 10. Card playing.
Box 15. Folder 11. Central Committee of American Rabbis. Committee on Responsa.
Box 15. Folder 12. Children and registration.
Box 15. Folder 13. Codes- Responsa.
Box 15. Folder 14. Conversion.
Box 15. Folder 15. Conversions- adoptions.
Box 15. Folder 16. Conversions- annulment.
Box 15. Folder 17. Cyrogenics.
Box 15. Folder 18. Dead Sea Scrolls.
Box 15. Folder 19. Divorce.
Box 15. Folder 20. Exegenesis notes.
Box 15. Folder 21. Euthanasia.
Box 15. Folder 22. Halakkah [German].
Box 15. Folder 23. Halakkah- guide to Reform Jewish practice.
Box 15. Folder 24. Hebrew abbreviations.
Box 15. Folder 25. Hillel notes.

Box 15. Folder 26. Hillel-Shammai controversy. Box 15. Folder 27. Holocaust. Box 15. Folder 28. Homosexuality. Box 15. Folder 29. Human rights. Box 16. Folder 1. Israel Double Standard. Box 16. Folder 2. Jerusalem in Jewish law and custom. Box 16. Folder 3. Jewish practices notes. Box 16. Folder 4. Kaddish. Box 16. Folder 5. Kashrut. Box 16. Folder 6. Kosher toothpick boxes. Box 16. Folder 7. Lohe, Edward. Box 16. Folder 8. Matrilineal principles. Box 16. Folder 9. Marriage- Cohen and Busik. Box 16. Folder 10. Marriage- intermarriage, women. Box 16. Folder 11. Medicine. Box 16. Folder 12. Mezuzah. Box 16. Folder 13. Miscarriage. Box 16. Folder 14. Naming ceremonies. Box 16. Folder 15. New Testament. Box 17. Folder 1. Notes. Box 17. Folder 2. Numbers. Box 17. Folder 3. Pesach. Box 17. Folder 4. Pesach. Talmudic authorities. Box 17. Folder 5. Pharisees notes. Box 17. Folder 6. Potatoes. Box 17. Folder 7. Prayerbooks. Box 17. Folder 8. Priesand, Sally. Women rabbis. Box 17. Folder 9. Quotations. Box 17. Folder 10. Rabbi as counselor. Box 17. Folder 11. Rabbis in literature. Box 17. Folder 12. Rabbi's Manual, 1975 Box 17. Folder 13. Responsa literature [Hebrew]. Box 17. Folder 14. Ritual. Box 17. Folder 15. Sabbath. Box 17. Folder 16. Sacrifice. Box 17. Folder 17. Sanhedrin notes. Box 17. Folder 18. Sex. Box 17. Folder 19. Stillborn children.

Box 17. Folder 20. Sukkot. Talmudic authorities.

Box 17. Folder 21. Synagogues, sale of. Box 17. Folder 22. Synagogue dues. Box 18. Folder 1. Tabulation notes. Box 18. Folder 2. Talmud- rabbi relations. Box 18. Folder 3. Talmudic rabbis. Box 18. Folder 4. Talmudic rabbis- part 2. Box 18. Folder 5. Terminology notes. Box 18. Folder 6. Todstraffen notes. Box 18. Folder 7. Torah reading. Box 18. Folder 8. Transplants. Box 18. Folder 9. Weddings. Box 18. Folder 10. Weinberg, Werner. Box 18. Folder 11. Widows. Box 18. Folder 12. Women, education. Box 18. Folder 13. Women Tallis. Box 18. Folder 14. Women and Talmud. Box 18. Folder 15. Zadokte documents. Box 19. Folder Unidentified Talmud notes [Hebrew]. Box 20. Folder Unidentified Talmud notes [Hebrew].

Series D. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1940-1983

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note	Includes correspondence and minutes from committees in which Guttmann was active, including the Committee on Religious Affairs and the Hebrew Union College Annual. Guttmann taught Talmud and other Biblical courses for over 40 years. This series has course bibliographies, exams and worksheets filed by course title. There are thesis reports for the students whom Guttmann advised. Finally, the series also has the degree requirements for majors, minors and Ph.Ds. These degree requirements are sorted alphabetically within the major/minor/Ph.D.
Arrangement	Arranged alphabetically by subject, and chronologically within the subject.
	Box and Folder Listing
	Box 21. Folder 1. Bachelor of Hebrew Letters exams, 1957
	Box 21. Folder 2. Cincinnati campus statistics, 1956-1957
	Box 21. Folder 3. Codes courses, 1956-1975, undated
	Box 21. Folder 4. Committee lists, 1969-1979
	Box 21. Folder 5. Committee minutes, 1953-1973
	Box 21. Folder 6. Committee on Curriculum, 1941-1979
	Box 21. Folder 7. Committee on Faculty, 1974-1975
	Box 21. Folder 8. Committee on Religious Affairs, 1970-1983

- Box 21. Folder 9. Course descriptions, 1958/59-1975/76
- Box 21. Folder 10. Course descriptions, 1976/77-1980/81
- Box 21. Folder 11. Degree requirements, 1958, undated
- Box 21. Folder 12. Faculty memos, 1947-1982
- Box 21. Folder 13. Gaonica Responsa course, undated
- Box 21. Folder 14. Hebrew Union College Annual correspondence, reports, 1940-1982
- Box 21. Folder 15. Hebrew Union College Annual minutes, 1962-1982
- Box 21. Folder 16. Jerusalmi, Israel. Report on degree, 1971
- Box 21. Folder 17. Library donations, 1974
- Box 21. Folder 18. Life Cycle Responsa- 20th century course, undated
- Box 22. Folder 1. Major/minor requirements. Christian Fellows, 1959-1960
- Box 22. Folder 2. Major/minor requirements. Codes, 1959, undated
- Box 22. Folder 3. Major/minor requirements. Ph.D. Codes, undated
- Box 22. Folder 4. Minors requirements. Responsa, undated
- Box 22. Folder 5. Major/minor requirements. Talmud/Rabbinics, undated
- Box 22. Folder 6. Major/minor requirements. PhD. Talmud/Rabbinics, undated
- Box 22. Folder 7. Major/minor requirements. Talmud/Tannaitic Literature, undated
- Box 22. Folder 8. Major/minor requirements. Tannaitic Literature, 1964, undated
- Box 22. Folder 9. Mishnah course, undated
- Box 22. Folder 10. Miscellaneous bibliography, undated
- Box 22. Folder 11. Ordination, 1966-1969
- Box 22. Folder 12. Pensions, 1946-1967
- Box 22. Folder 13. Salaries, 1966
- Box 22. Folder 14. Sanhedrin course, undated
- Box 22. Folder 15. Seder course, undated
- Box 22. Folder 16. Summer Institute course descriptions, 1945-1946, undated
- Box 22. Folder 17. Summer Institute coursework, 1951-1952, undated
- Box 22. Folder 18. Talmud courses, 1954-1976, undated
- Box 22. Folder 19. Tannaitic Literature course, undated
- Box 22. Folder 20. Thesis reports. A-K, 1954-1981
- Box 22. Folder 21. Thesis reports. L-Z, 1954-1981
- Box 22. Folder 22. Year in Israel program, 1965-1966

Series E. Court Case Records, 1984-1987

Extent 2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note In June 1984, Sotheby's auctioned off an anonymous lot of Judaica books which had been moved by Guttmann from the Hochschule to the United States. The sale was blocked by various survivor groups and the ownership of the materials became a court case. This series contains depositions and documents used in the case followed by articles about the case written by Guttmann and others. It is primarily the official court documents, with some media response at the end.

Series F. Personal and Family Records, 1908-1984

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note	Includes classroom notes of both Alexander and Manya Guttmann, papers from the	
	Hochschule in Berlin, photographs and police registration papers for the Guttmann family	
	between 1937 and 1940.	

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically by subject/name.

Box and Folder Listing

Box and Fold	
Box 28. Folder	1. Autograph book [German], undated
Box 28. Folder	2. Lehrenstadt (Berlin, Germany) [German], 1935-1940
Box 28. Folder	3. Lehrenstadt (Berlin, Germany) teaching worksheets [German], undated
Box 28. Folder	4. Biographical sketches, undated
Box 28. Folder	5. Birth certificates, 1939-1943
Box 28. Folder	6. Jewish Theological Seminary (Breslau, Germany) [German], 1921
Box 28. Folder	7. Calendars [German], 1938-1943
Box 28. Folder	8. Cartoon, undated
Box 28. Folder	9. Classroom notes [German], 1924
Box 28. Folder	10. Classroom notes [German], 1929, undated
Box 28. Folder	11. Educational records [German, Hungarian], 1920-1932, undated
Box 28. Folder	12. Educational records. Jüdische Gemeinde [German], 1926-1930
Box 28. Folder	13. Family history, undated
Box 28. Folder	14. Guttmann, Manya Kampf. Classroom notes [German], 1930s
Box 28. Folder 1901-1973, ur	15. Guttmann, Manya Kampf. Certificates, documents [English, German], Idated
Box 29. Folder	1. Guttmann, Manya Kampf. Report cards, 1914-1927
Box 29. Folder	2. Guttmann, Michael [German, Hungarian], undated
Box 29. Folder	3. Ministerial license/marriage certificates, 1961, undated
Box 29. Folder	4. Nearprint. Speaking engagements, 1928-1984
Box 29. Folder	5. Newspaper clippings [English, German], 1936-1981
Box 29. Folder	6. Official documents [Hungarian, German], 1920-1936
Box 29. Folder	7. Official documents [Hungarian, German], 1937-1941
Box 29. Folder	8. Passports, undated
Box 29. Folder	9. Photographs. Guttmann, Alexander, undated
Box 29. Folder	10. Photographs. Guttmann family, undated
Box 29. Folder	11. Photographs. Unidentified, undated
Box 29. Folder	12. Report cards [German, Hungarian], 1916-1936
Box 29. Folder	13. Schoolbooks [Hungarian], 1908-1920
Box 29. Folder	14. Talmudic postcards, undated

Box 29. Folder 15. War related organizations, 1941-1944