A Finding Aid to the
Werner Weinberg Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 668
Werner Weinberg was born 30 May 1915 in Rheda (in Westphalia, Germany) to Elias and Paula Weinberg. Because universities were closed to new Jewish students when Weinberg graduated from high school in 1934, he attended the orthodox Israelitische Lehrerbildungsanstalt in Wuerzberg, and obtained certificates for public school elementary and religious school teaching. He taught first in Rheda, then at the Judische Volkschule in Hannover, acting as the unofficial cantor and rabbi for the rural community.

In 1939, the Weinbergs emigrated to Holland, where Weinberg worked part-time as a teacher and as a gardener. Following the German occupation of Holland in May 1940, the Weinbergs lead an itinerant existence, sometimes in hiding, and other times in the open. Because of their classification as “Haksharah,” a group valued for its involvement for agriculture, they were among the last to be deported. While one daughter had died, and the other left with friends, Werner and Lisl Weinberg were finally moved to the Dutch camp Westerbrok on Erev Rosh Hashonah, 1943. In January, they were moved to Bergen Belsen. Surviving a bout with typhus, following liberation, the Weinbergs survived to reclaim their daughter and emigrated to the United States in 1948. This was a defining experience for Werner Weinberg and was a recurring theme in several of his later nonfiction and fiction writings.

Werner Weinberg's teaching career often coincided with his educational aspirations. While education director at Congregation Adas Jeshurun in Louisville, Kentucky he earned an M.A. in English, Creative Writing and Linguistics. A similar job at Congregation Beth Abraham in Dayton, Ohio allowed Weinberg to begin his studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Weinberg was also a recipient of the Jacob Ziskind Fellowship. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1961, he received an appointment to the HUC-JIR faculty, which he retained until his retirement in 1984.

Weinberg's interest in the Hebrew language- both orally and in transliteration did not confine itself to his courses at HUC-JIR. While he was a major figure in developing the Hebrew curriculum and defining its role in rabbinic training, he also worked with the American National Standards Institute to develop national standards in romanization. Weinberg was also very active in the National Association of Professors of Hebrew, spearheading the annual Hebrew Conference.

A prolific writer and lecturer, Weinberg published over 80 articles and six books including Self Portrait of a Survivor. Never published, but very important to him was a manuscript entitled Quarantine, which chronicled his Holocaust experience through a fictional narrative. Another brochure, entitled Tale of a Torah Scroll details the history of the Torah Scroll from his native Rheda, which he presented as a gift to HUC-JIR during their 1976 centennial celebrations.

Werner Weinberg died on 27 January 1997, at age 81. He married Lisl Halberstadt in December 1938, a fellow student at the Wuerzberg seminary and teacher in Hannover. They had two daughters, Hannah and Susanne.
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Werner Weinberg, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1984 and 1993, and the Weinberg family, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1997.

Processing Information


Index Terms

Subjects

Hebrew language / Hebrew literature, Modern / Holocaust survivors / Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Corporate Names

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Cincinnati Campus

Series A. Lectures, Sermons and Writings, 1950-1995

Extent

4.4 linear feet (11 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note

Some files also contain correspondence relating to publication in addition to the manuscript. If an entire manuscript is written in a language other than English, it is noted in parentheses. All of the articles about the Hebrew language contain some Hebrew phrases but have not been marked. Some of the major publicaations of note are: Lexikon zum Religiösen Wortschatz der Deutschen Juden, Quarantine, Self Portrait of a Survivor, and Weinberg's rabbinic thesis, later published under the title The Life and Work of Aaron Abraham Kabak

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by title.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Acceptability of non-normative forms in spoken Hebrew, 1980
Box 1. Folder 2. Articles regarding Israeli Hebrew, 1970-1980
Box 1. Folder 2. Beth Abraham Adult Institute, 1958
Box 1. Folder 4. Bezeichnung Jüdischdeutsch. Eine Neubewertung [German], undated
Box 1. Folder 5. Biblical/Israeli Grammer. Accepted and unacceptable changes, 1973
Box 1. Folder 6. Case for a simpler romanization of Hebrew, 1971
Box 1. Folder 7. Changes from a masoretic morphophonemics in spoken Israeli Hebrew, undated
Box 1. Folder 8. Concise history of the Hebrew language, 1975
Box 1. Folder 10. Confusion in Latin transliteration on street signs, 1973
Box 1. Folder 11. Crack in the dam: reflections on the Crystal Night, 1983
Box 1. Folder 14. Dutch Couple, 1983
Box 1. Folder 15. Emerging Israeli grammar. CCAR convention, 1975
Box 1. Folder 16. Fate of one Holocaust German Jew lecture, 1983
Box 1. Folder 17. Fifty years after Crystal Night, 1988
Box 1. Folder 18. Four lectures on the Haskalah, 1974-1975
Box 1. Folder 19. Functional Jewish terms: graded vocabulary for religious schools, undated
Box 1. Folder 20. Great novel about Bergen Belsen, 1980
Box 1. Folder 21. Guardianism in Modern Hebrew, undated
Box 1. Folder 22. Guilt and the survivor, 1985
Box 1. Folder 23. Hachshara: training of teenagers for Palestine during the Nazi era, 1983
Box 1. Folder 24. Hadassah lecture, 1962
Box 1. Folder 25. Hebrew wordstress in the prayerbook, 1968
Box 1. Folder 26. Hebrew in the Sunday School, 1958
Box 2. Folder 1. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Founders Day address, 1983
Box 2. Folder 2. Holocaust and the public memory, 1986
Box 2. Folder 3. How much Hebrew does the American Reform Rabbi need?, 1970
Box 2. Folder 4. ILBA [Israelitische Lehrerbildungstalt] reunion lecture, 1980
Box 2. Folder 5. Intermediary writing system for Hebrew, undated
Box 2. Folder 6. Introduction to the Anne Frank exhibit, 1987
Box 2. Folder 7. Israeli grammar [German], undated
Box 2. Folder 10. Kenyon College lecture, 1985
Box 2. Folder 11. Kristallnacht lecture, 1979
Box 2. Folder 12. Kristallnacht- 10 November 1938 [German], undated
Box 2. Folder 13. Kristallnacht- replying to one of four questions, 1981
Box 2. Folder 14. Lecture [German], 1965
Box 2. Folder 15. Lexikon zum Religiösen Wortschatz der Deutschen Jüden [German] pp. 1-100, undated
Box 2. Folder 17. Lexikon zum Religiösen Wortschatz der Deutschen Jüden [German] pp. 201-300, undated
Box 3. Folder 5. Linguistic observations and information within the Hebrew text, 1975
Box 3. Folder 6. Live tableaux from the Holocaust/Sparks of Light in Bergen Belsen, 1985
Box 3. Folder 7. Lost transport, 1982
Box 4. Folder 1. Louisville, Kentucky. Jewish history series, 1952
Box 4. Folder 2. Mahnmal für eine zerstöte Sunagoge [German], 1988
Box 4. Folder 6. Method and results of an inquiry into the acceptibility of non-normative forms of spoken Hebrew, 1973
Box 4. Folder 7. My affair with Rheda, 1980
Box 4. Folder 12. On Survivorship, 1984
Box 4. Folder 13. Our Sephardic is no Sephardic and our Ashkenazic..., 1965
Box 4. Folder 15. Pirkei Avot, 1965
Box 4. Folder 18. Pronunciation of gutterals as reflected in rabbinic sources, 1979
Box 4. Folder 19. Qamas Qatan structures, 1968
Box 6. Folder 5. Reform of Hebrew Orthography [English, Hebrew, undated
Box 7. Folder 1. Rules of modern plene writing by the Vaad Halashon and the Academy of Hebrew Language, 1972
Box 7. Folder 2. Selected articles on the Hebrew language, 1982
Box 7. Folder 5. Self Portrait of a Survivor translation [German], undated
Box 7. Folder 6. Self Portrait of a Survivor index proofs, undated
Box 7. Folder 7. Self Portrait of a Survivor proofs, undated
Box 8. Folder 2. Sermons. Holy days, 1961, undated
Box 8. Folder 3. Shame of Bergen Belsen, 1979
Box 8. Folder 4. Short stories, undated
Box 8. Folder 5. Sh’va of formal reading, undated
Box 8. Folder 6. Some categories of terms in the 18th century Judeo-German dictionaries notes, undated
Box 8. Folder 7. Special problems of Hebrew spelling reform, undated
Box 8. Folder 8. Spoken Israeli Hebrew, undated
Box 8. Folder 9. Survivor of the first degree, 1984
Box 8. Folder 10. Tableaux of Hell and Glances of Heaven Denison University lecture, 1983
Box 8. Folder 11. Tale of a Torah Scroll, 1976
Box 8. Folder 13. Teaching of normative grammar in Israel, 1970
Box 11. Folder 3. To be a Jüdische Lehrer, 1982
Box 11. Folder 4. Torah reading, 1985
Box 11. Folder 5. Toward a world standard in transliteration of Hebrew, 1969
Box 11. Folder 6. Unveiling a synagogue monument: Germany, 1980
Box 11. Folder 7. Vanishing species of Holocaust survivors, 1986
Box 11. Folder 8. Vierzig Jahre "Kristallnacht" [German], 1988
Box 11. Folder 10. Why I didn't leave Nazi Germany while there are still time, 1979
Box 11. Folder 12. Writings of Dr. Isaac Erter: critique of Jewish society in Glicia during the first half of the 19th century, 1961
Box 11. Folder 13. Writings [Dutch], 1941-1945
Box 11. Folder 14. Word list for teaching 18th century Jews some find points of High German, 1981
Box 11. Folder 15. Yiddish of German Jew, 1962
Box 11. Folder 17. You abandoned your faith sermon, 1984

**Series B. Correspondence, 1965-1992**

**Extent** 1 linear foot (5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** The correspondence is primarily professional. It relates to students mentoring, the romanization/standardization of Hebrew and Hebrew related activities at the College-Institute. Of interest is material relating to the National Association of Professors of Hebrew's Hebrew Conferences in the early seventies.

**Arrangement** This series is arranged alphabetically by name.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 12. Folder 5. American National Standards Institute, 1974
Box 13. Folder 5. Cohn, James, 1976-1980
Box 13. Folder 8. Deans of Cincinnati campus. Correspondence regarding special needs students [Restricted], 1983-1989

Access Restrictions
Box 13, folder 8, Deans of Cincinnati campus. Correspondence regarding special needs students, is restricted. Please contact the Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives for access.

Series C. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1960-1989

Extent 2.2 linear feet (5.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Materials include curricula, faculty committee activities and syllabi/course packets on Hebrew courses taught by Weinberg at HUC-JIR.

Arrangement This series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 17. Folder 1. Bialik, Tchernichowsky, Shneur-Electives in Modern Hebrew Literature course.
Box 17. Folder 2. Canaanite and Hebrew Epigraphy: 10th-6th century B.C. course.
Box 17. Folder 3. Chapel procedures, 1975
Box 17. Folder 4. Commentaries course.
Box 17. Folder 6. Committee on Concerned Faculty, 1973-1975
Box 17. Folder 7. Committee on Faculty Welfare, 1976-1982
Box 17. Folder 8. Committee on Faculty Welfare, 1983-1989
Box 18. Folder 1. Development of Plene Writing course.
Box 18. Folder 2. Faculty Fraternal Forum, 1978-1979
Box 18. Folder 3. First Year Hebrew Vocabulary, 1968-1970
Box 18. Folder 5. Grammar 102 course.
Box 18. Folder 7. Grammar 103 course.
Box 18. Folder 8. Haskalah course.
Box 19. Folder 1. Hebrew enrichment program, 1983
Box 19. Folder 8. Introduction to Rabbinic Literature course packets.
Box 20. Folder 1. Modern Hebrew Literature course handouts, syllabi.
Box 20. Folder 4. Orthography course.
Box 20. Folder 5. Pension Reform Program. See also Schwartzman, Sylvan, 1976-1983
Box 20. Folder 6. Rabbinic Hebrew course.
Box 20. Folder 7. Rabbinic Usage, 1966
Box 21. Folder 5. Source readings in Hebrew grammatical writings in the 10th-6th century course.
Box 21. Folder 9. Translation as Literary Form course.
Box 21. Folder 10. Translation as Literary Form course notes.
Box 22. Folder 1. Twenty-eight Hebrew writers course.
Box 22. Folder 2. Ulpan plan, 1968
Box 22. Folder 3. Undergraduate Hebrew program, 1964-1971
Box 22. Folder 4. Year in Israel program, 1964-1975

Series D. Nearprint and Subject Files, 1977-1994

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Includes material on Holocaust survivor groups and bibliographies and biographical information about Weinberg.

Arrangement This is a topical file arranged alphabetically.
Box and Folder Listing

Box 22. Folder 5. Bibliographies, undated
Box 22. Folder 6. Biographies, undated
Box 22. Folder 10. Orthography, undated
Box 22. Folder 11. Society of Survivors of Riga, 1980
Box 22. Folder 12. Transliteration, undated