



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Ernst Mordecai Lorge Papers
Manuscript Collection No. 672**



Collection Summary

Title	Ernst Mordecai Lorge Papers
Dates	1939-2000
Collection Number	MS-672
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Lorge, Ernst Mordecai, 1916-1990 Lorge, Michael M.
Extent	1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Ernst Mordecai Lorge was born in Mainz, Germany on May 26, 1915, the son of Maurice and Hedwig (Steinweg) Lorge. Lorge began his general and rabbinical studies in Frankfort, Germany, where he became the leader of the United Jewish Youth Movement. In 1936 Lorge was awarded a scholarship for studies in the United States by the World Student Service. He came to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Arts with honors. In 1942 he received a Master's degree from Hebrew Union College. In the same year he was also ordained as a rabbi at HUC and was awarded the Simon Lazarus Prize for highest academic standing.

During World War II, Lorge enlisted as a chaplain in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of captain. Serving in England, France, Belgium and Germany, Lorge was active in the rehabilitation of displaced persons and was a member of the first unit to liberate Jews at the Buchenwald concentration camp. For this service Lorge was one of the first Jewish chaplains decorated for conspicuous service. He received the Bronze Star and several other commendations. During the Korean war Lorge was recalled into the chaplaincy and served two years as head chaplain at the Reception Center at Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

In the years before and after his service in World War II, Lorge was the rabbi at Temple Israel and director of the Hillel Foundation at Florida State College in Tallahassee. In 1947 Lorge became the rabbi at Temple Beth Israel in Chicago, where he remained until his retirement in 1985 and was then named Rabbi Emeritus.

Lorge was active in religious and communal affairs throughout his career, including being a co-founder of the Chicago Commission on Race and Religion; serving as president of the Chicago chapter of the Labor Zionist Alliance, the Chicago Association of Reform Rabbis, and the Chicago Board of Rabbis; director of the Chicago Board of Education; Jewish delegate to the Department of Public Welfare, State of Illinois; a board member of the American Reform Zionist Association; a governor of the Jewish War Veterans; and a board member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Lorge was appointed by President Kennedy to serve on the Race Relations Advisory Committee and was active in civil rights causes. He received an award for his participation with the Chicago Host Committee to the National Conference on Religion and Race "for successfully convening leaders of three major religious faiths to plan for elimination of racially restrictive practices in the country."

Lorge authored several stories in the book, *Rabbis in Uniform: The Story of the Jewish Chaplain* and contributed numerous articles to journals and magazines. He was also an instructor at the College of Jewish Studies in Chicago.

Ernst M. Lorge married Eudice Goldman on June 7, 1942. They had three children: Greta Lee, Susan Helen, and Michael Maurice.

Ernst M. Lorge died on February 24, 1990.

Scope and Content

The papers are a compilation of selected correspondence, sermons, writings, notes, newspaper clippings, and other items of Rabbi Ernst M. Lorge, which were compiled and organized by his son, Michael M. Lorge. The papers reflect the range of Rabbi Lorge's activities: religious, professional, communal, and organizational. This collection documents the life and work of a significant figure in 20th century American Reform Judaism and of someone who was actively involved in the issues and concerns of his time and community, ranging from World War II to Zionism, to civil rights, up to events of the late 1980s.

The collection contains a significant amount of photocopies along with digital reproductions of certain documents and images. Original documents and photographs appear predominately in Union Camp Institute series.

Arrangement	This collection is arranged in five (5) series: A. Chaplaincy; B. Rabbinic Education and Career; C. Articles, Sermons, and Sermon Notes; D. Condolence; E. Union Institute Camp.
Terms of Access	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
Preferred Citation	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Ernst Mordecai Lorge Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-672. Ernst Mordecai Lorge Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Provenance	Received from Michael Lorge, Chicago, Ill., April 2001.
Processing Information	Processed by Kevin Proffitt; updated by Susan Kline, December 2006.

Index Terms

Subjects	Camping / Jewish camps / Military chaplains / Rabbis / Synagogues -- Illinois -- Chicago
Personal Names	Lorge, Ernst Mordecai, 1916-1990
Corporate Names	Temple Beth Israel (Chicago, Ill.) / Union Institute Camp
Media	Sermons

Series A. Chaplaincy, 1945-1962

Scope and Content Note This series is one folder pertaining to Rabbi Lorge's service as an Army chaplain during World War II. Together with correspondence and military documents, the highlight of this folder is a 1945 diary kept by Rabbi Lorge while in the service. The diary gives a daily report of Lorge's activities, including his observations on the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp in which he participated at the end of the war.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Chaplaincy materials, 1945-1962

Series B. Rabbinic Education and Career, 1941-1982

Scope and Content Note This series covers Rabbi Lorge's student years at Hebrew Union College, together with various materials pertaining to his congregational and professional activities. Included are newsclippings and letters that give a representative sample of the range and diversity of Rabbi Lorge's involvement in communal and organizational work. Topics covered in this series include civil rights, Temple Beth Israel (Chicago, Ill.), interfaith relations, Zionism, and Chicago-area issues and movements. Also included are images of Rabbi Lorge in both personal and public settings.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence, newsclippings, 1941-1982

Box 1. Folder 3. Photographs, newsclippings, undated

Box 1. Folder 4. Hebrew Union College. League for Labor Palestine correspondence, 1941

Box 1. Folder 5. Ecumenical Zionism Conference correspondence, 1947

Series C. Articles, Sermons, and Sermon Notes, 1939-1981

Scope and Content Note Consists of both typewritten and handwritten materials.

Arrangement The writings are arranged in a broad chronological order.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 6. Articles, sermons, 1939-1948

Box 1. Folder 7. Sermon notes, 1968-1981, undated

Box 1. Folder 8. Sermons, sermon notes, 1942-1969, undated

Series D. Condolence, 1990

Scope and Content Note Consists of letters written to the Lorge family at the time of Ernst M. Lorge's death in 1990. This volume concludes with a tribute to Rabbi Lorge by his son-in-law, Rabbi Donald M. Splansky.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 9. Memorials, condolence letters, 1990

Series E. Union Institute Camp, 1941-2000

Scope and Content Note Contains correspondence, meeting minutes, and general information about the Union Institute Camp in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 1. Photograph.

Box 2. Folder 2. Photographs, 1975, undated

Box 2. Folder 3. Brochures and schedules, 1952-1980

Box 2. Folder 4. Correspondence and meeting minutes, 1948-1963

Box 2. Folder 5. Summer program, 1957

Box 2. Folder 6. Correspondence and meeting minutes, 1951-1958

Box 2. Folder 7. Land purchases, 1951-1963

Box 2. Folder 8. Zionsville and Swig correspondence, 1958

Box 2. Folder 9. Brin years correspondence and meeting minutes, 1955-1960

Box 2. Folder 10. Camp experience correspondence, 1941-1955

Box 2. Folder 11. Director's summary, 1953-1956

Box 2. Folder 12. Fundraising correspondence and meeting minutes, 1951-1957

Box 2. Folder 13. Foundation and mission correspondence and meeting minutes, 1946-1956

Box 2. Folder 14. National relationship correspondence, 1951-1954

Box 2. Folder 15. General information, undated

Box 2. Folder 16. Chalutzim correspondence, 1962-1964

Box 2. Folder 17. Board lists and meeting minutes, 1952-1961

Box 2. Folder 18. Raskin/Kerman/Schor years meeting minutes and reports, 1953-1955

Box 2. Folder 19. Buckner years correspondence and meeting minutes, 1960-1963

Box 2. Folder 20. Kaplan years correspondence and meeting minutes, 1962-1964

Box 2. Folder 21. Camper study, 1963

Box 2. Folder 22. Music, 1954-1957

Box 3. Folder 1. Hebrew, Rabbinical Issues. Correspondence and meeting minutes, 1955-1963

Box 3. Folder 2. Correspondence and meeting minutes, 1951-1962

Box 3. Folder 3. Newsclipping, 2000

Box 3. Folder 4. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Camp counselor and staff orientation manual, 1970