



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Joachim Prinz Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 673



Collection Summary

Title	Joachim Prinz Papers
Dates	1935-1980 (bulk 1965-1977)
Collection Number	MS-673
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Prinz, Joachim, 1902-1988
Extent	3.6 linear feet (9 Hollinger boxes)
Abstract	<p>Rabbi Joachim Prinz (1902-1988) was a congregational rabbi, scholar, and activist in Jewish communal affairs. This collection contains correspondence and manuscripts relating to his professional career as a pulpit rabbi and his involvement in Jewish communal and organizational life. The span dates for the collection are 1935-1980, with the bulk of the material covering the years 1965-1977.</p> <p>The Joachim Prinz papers reflect most heavily Prinz's activities in three organizations: the American Jewish Congress, the World Jewish Congress, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Documented in these files are events and causes that reverberated throughout American — and international — society during this time: Zionism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, civil rights, capital punishment, poverty, anti-Semitism, etc. Prinz's role and activities as a key figure in many American Jewish organizations brought him into contact with prominent political and lay leaders. As a result, this collection is rich with letters that carry the voices of a wide array of individuals, both powerful and common, that reflect a diverse spectrum of thought and opinion on the persons and events of that era. The collection contains correspondence with presidents (Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon), senators, congressmen, rabbis, Christian leaders, and others. The general files contain mostly correspondence with individuals, while organizational files reflect Prinz's official involvement in specific causes and organizations.</p> <p>Two files, one for Rabbi Barry Friedman and the other for Temple B'nai Abraham (which contains mostly correspondence with Bernard Feinberg, executive director of the temple), reveal much of Rabbi Prinz's duties and involvements as a congregational rabbi from the late 1960s to his retirement in 1977. One folder of material pertaining to Temple B'nai Abraham is restricted until the year 2026 and is located in the Rare Documents file.</p> <p>The manuscripts and writings series contains -- often with marginalia and other handwritten corrections and notations -- sermons and essays written by Prinz, together with his research notes on various topics, authors, and persons (i.e., The Diary of Anne Frank, Moses Mendelssohn, Walter Rathenau). The series also contains Prinz's correspondence with various publishers concerning the publication of his manuscripts and books. This series concludes with two files of writings by others which Prinz collected, used as reference material and, occasionally, commented upon.</p> <p>Some of the non-textual materials donated with the collection have been removed and cataloged separately. These include audio recordings of sermons and addresses given by Prinz that have been cataloged and placed into the sound recordings collection of the American Jewish Archives. Thirty-five audio cassettes have been cataloged as AJA cassette numbers C-4135 to C-4168 and C-4175. Nineteen audio reels have been cataloged as AJA reel numbers TR-3588 to TR-3606. One box of audio discs is included in box 9 within Series B.</p> <p>One packet of photographs has been placed into the Joachim Prinz photograph file. One compact disc containing photographs of Prinz has been cataloged as CD-20.</p>

Language of the Material English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Joachim Prinz was born in Burckhardtsdorf in Upper Silesia on May 10, 1902, one of four children of Joseph Prinz, a department store owner, and Nani (Berg) Prinz. After learning English as a child, the teenager Prinz became a follower of the Zionist leader Theodor Herzl. Following graduation from secondary school in Oppeln, Upper Silesia in 1921, Prinz studied philosophy and art history at the Universities of Breslau and Berlin, and received a doctor of philosophy degree at the University of Giessen in 1924. The following year he was ordained a rabbi by the Jewish theological seminary of Berlin.

Invited to Berlin in January 1926, Prinz became the youngest ordained rabbi to serve the Jewish community of that city. During Hitler's rise to power in the 1920s and until his departure from Germany in 1937, Prinz was a vocal and public critic of Nazism. Through his writings and speeches Prinz made numerous attacks on the Nazis, resulting in his being repeatedly arrested by the Gestapo.

In 1937 Prinz came to the United States at the invitation of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and, once

there, decided to immigrate to America with his family. After returning to Germany to gather his family and his belongings, a farewell meeting was held in his honor in Berlin where he addressed 2,000 persons - one of whom was Adolf Eichmann, who was monitoring the meeting in his role as a Gestapo official. Though having decided to emigrate, Prinz was formally ordered to leave Germany in 1937, a directive which came from the government in the form of a signed expulsion order.

For the next two years Prinz toured the U.S. raising funds for the United Palestine Appeal while lecturing on European affairs. On September 9, 1939 Prinz was installed as rabbi of Temple B'nai Abraham in Newark (and later, Livingston), New Jersey upon the recommendation of Rabbi Wise, who called Prinz "one of the most gifted and brilliant young men...in the rabbinate."

In addition to his congregational work, Prinz became active in national and world affairs. In 1946 he became a member of the executive board of the World Jewish Congress (WJC). He also served as vice-president and chairman of the governing board of the WJC, as well as being president of the American Jewish Congress from 1958-1966. From 1965 to 1967 Prinz was chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He served as director of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany as well as chairman of the World Conference of Jewish Organizations and the Commission on International Affairs of the American Jewish Congress.

Prinz was active in social issues, including the civil rights movement throughout the 1960s, being one of ten founding chairman of the 1963 march on Washington for civil rights. Prinz spoke at the August rally, appearing on the podium just moments before the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech. Earlier, in April 1960, Prinz led a picket line in front of a Woolworth store in New York City, protesting discrimination against African Americans at lunch counters in Southern states.

Prinz also led many battles against anti-Semitism, both in his native Germany and in the U.S. In 1954 Prinz challenged a libelous attack made upon him by an anti-Semitic publication, Common Sense, and won a landmark court victory - one that indicated racial and religious libels could effectively be challenged in the courts. In 1964 he led a group of American Jewish Congress leaders who were arrested, then later acquitted, for protesting an anti-Israel mural in the Jordanian pavilion at the World's Fair.

Prinz authored several works in German and English. His major writings in German were: *Das Leben Im Ghetto* (Life in the Ghetto) and *Wir Juden* (We Jews), which was considered perhaps his most important work of that period. Some of his major writings in English were: *The Dilemma of the Modern Jew*; *Popes from the Ghetto*; and *The Secret Jews*. He served on the editorial boards for *Judaism* and the *Reconstructionist* and was a contributor to other volumes. He received honorary degrees from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Hofstra University, and Upsala College.

On December 25, 1925 Prinz married Lucie Horowitz, who died on January 14, 1931. He had one daughter (Lucie) from this marriage. On May 24, 1932 he married Hilde Goldschmidt, with whom he had three children: Michael, Jonathan, and Deborah. The Prinzes also adopted another daughter, Jo, who lost her family at Auschwitz.

Joachim Prinz died on September 30, 1988 at the age of 86.

(Note: Portions of this biographical sketch relied heavily upon and others were taken verbatim from material in the Joachim Prinz nearprint biography file located at the American Jewish Archives.)

Scope and Content

Collection containing correspondence and manuscripts relating to Rabbi Joachim Prinz and his career as a pulpit rabbi and activist in the American Jewish community. The papers also reflect Prinz's leadership and involvement in organizations such as the American Jewish Congress, World Jewish Congress, and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two (2) series: A. Correspondence; B. Manuscripts and Writings.

Access Restrictions

Box 4, Folder 3, pertaining to Temple B'nai Abraham is restricted until the year 2026.

Terms of Reproduction and Use

With regard to the autobiography of Dr. Joachim Prinz and his collected sermons and speeches, the AJA shall refer all requests to use portions of such selected works to donors for donors' approval.

Index Terms

Subjects	Civil rights / Rabbis / Zionism
Corporate Names	American Jewish Congress / Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations / Temple B'nai Abraham (Livingston, N.J.) / World Jewish Congress
Media	Sound recordings

Series A. Correspondence, 1950-1980

Extent 2.6 linear feet (6.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement The correspondence is arranged alphabetically. Material within the organizational folders is ordered in an approximate chronological arrangement. The correspondence in the general files is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. A, General.
- Box 1. Folder 2. American Jewish Congress, 1965 January-June
- Box 1. Folder 3. American Jewish Congress, 1965 July-December
- Box 1. Folder 4. American Jewish Congress, 1966 January-March
- Box 1. Folder 5. American Jewish Congress, 1966 April-December
- Box 1. Folder 6. American Jewish Congress, 1967
- Box 1. Folder 7. American Jewish Congress, 1968
- Box 2. Folder 1. American Jewish Congress, 1969
- Box 2. Folder 2. American Jewish Congress, 1970-1977
- Box 2. Folder 3. B, General.
- Box 2. Folder 4. C, General.
- Box 2. Folder 5. Capital Punishment Study Commission, 1967-1973
- Box 2. Folder 6. Citizens' Crusade Against Poverty, 1966
- Box 2. Folder 7. Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, 1965-1966
- Box 2. Folder 8. Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, 1967
- Box 2. Folder 9. Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, 1968-1977
- Box 3. Folder 1. D-E, General.
- Box 3. Folder 2. F, General.
- Box 3. Folder 3. Friedman, Barry, 1968-1977
- Box 3. Folder 4. G, General.
- Box 3. Folder 5. H, General.
- Box 3. Folder 6. J, General.
- Box 3. Folder 7. K, General.
- Box 3. Folder 8. Kalishman, Martin.
- Box 3. Folder 9. L, General.
- Box 3. Folder 10. M, General.
- Box 3. Folder 11. N-P, General.

Box 3. Folder 12. R, General.

Box 4. Folder 1. S, General.

Box 4. Folder 2. T-V, General.

Box 4. Folder 3. Temple B'nai Abraham of Essex County (Livingston, N.J.) [Feinberg, Bernard] [Restricted], 1969-1977

Box 4. Folder 4. W, General.

Box 4. Folder 5. World Jewish Congress, 1956-1959

Box 4. Folder 6. World Jewish Congress, 1960-1965

Box 4. Folder 7. World Jewish Congress, 1966-1968

Box 4. Folder 8. World Jewish Congress [Governing Council], 1966-1969

Box 5. Folder 1. World Jewish Congress, 1969 January-March

Box 5. Folder 2. World Jewish Congress, 1969 April-June

Box 5. Folder 3. World Jewish Congress, 1969 July-December

Box 5. Folder 4. World Jewish Congress, 1970 January-March

Box 5. Folder 5. World Jewish Congress, 1970 April-June

Box 5. Folder 6. World Jewish Congress, 1970 July-September

Box 5. Folder 7. World Jewish Congress, 1970 October-December

Box 6. Folder 1. World Jewish Congress, 1971 January-February

Box 6. Folder 2. World Jewish Congress, 1971 March-June

Box 6. Folder 3. World Jewish Congress, 1971 July-December

Box 6. Folder 4. World Jewish Congress, 1972 January-August

Box 6. Folder 5. World Jewish Congress, 1972 September-December

Box 6. Folder 6. World Jewish Congress, 1973

Box 6. Folder 7. World Jewish Congress, 1974

Box 6. Folder 8. World Jewish Congress, 1975

Box 7. Folder 1. World Jewish Congress, 1976

Box 7. Folder 2. World Jewish Congress, 1977

Box 7. Folder 3. Y-Z, General.

Box 7. Folder 4. Anniversary and congratulatory letters, 1976-1977

Series B. Writings and Manuscripts, 1935-1977

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of sermons, speeches, and essays authored by Joachim Prinz. Also included are files of research materials gathered by Prinz -- some on specific topics and subjects, others that are scattered or miscellaneous. Next is correspondence between Prinz and his publishers concerning the publication of some of his writings. There is also a file of translations and two folders of writings by others which Prinz collected, used as reference or research material, and occasionally commented upon. The final box in the collection, box nine, consists of eleven audio discs, most of which are unlabeled and undated.

Arrangement The writings are arranged alphabetically by title.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 7. Folder 5. A-J, General.

Box 7. Folder 6. L-Z, General.

Box 7. Folder 7. Untitled, 1935-1976, undated

Box 7. Folder 8. Holt, Rinehart and Winston [correspondence regarding publications], 1967-1975

Box 7. Folder 9. Levin, Meyer [correspondence regarding The Diary of Anne Frank], 1967

Box 7. Folder 10. Mendelssohn, Moses and family [research material], undated

Box 7. Folder 11. Miscellaneous reference and research notes, undated

Box 8. Folder 1. Rathenau, Walter [research materials], undated

Box 8. Folder 2. The Secret Jews [correspondence with publisher, Random House], 1970-1977

Box 8. Folder 3. Translations, undated

Box 8. Folder 4-5. Writings by others, undated

Box 9. Folder Audio discs of sermons, etc., delivered by Joachim Prinz, 1945, undated