A Finding Aid to the
Louis Harap Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 683
Collection Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Louis Harap Papers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1904-1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>MS-683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Harap, Louis, 1904-1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>17.7 linear feet (39 Hollinger boxes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language of the Material</td>
<td>English and Hebrew</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Louis Harap was born in New York City in 1904. He graduated from the Ethical Culture High School in 1922. Following three years at Antioch College in an experimental work-study program, Harap transferred to Harvard University. Harap graduated in 1928 with a concentration in sociology and economics. Harap later received a Ph.D. in philosophy from Harvard in 1932.

Harap's first position was as a librarian at the Widener Library at Harvard University from 1934-1939. However, Harap's true interest was in his research and scholarly pursuits. Following his retirement in 1969, Harap and his wife moved to Vermont where he chose again to write and edit full-time.

In 1939, Harap resigned from his first librarian position to move to New York City and edit a new monthly magazine called Jewish Survey which studied the situation of the Jewish people, primarily in the United States. He remained as editor of this magazine until his induction into the Army in August 1942. Harap served over two years in England, Germany and other parts of Europe as both a correspondent and in the intelligence section of the Psychological Warfare branch. He was present at liberated concentration camps during the summer of 1945. In August 1945, Harap was discharged from the service.

From 1948-1957, Harap was the managing editor of Jewish Life magazine- a monthly socialist journal. In 1957, the magazine was renamed Jewish Currents and Harap resigned as managing editor, although he was to remain on the editorial board until his death. Harap wrote a diverse monthly column which ranged from book reviews to political commentary. He also edited articles and designed layouts. As editor of the magazine, Harap was called to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1955. Harap acted as librarian from 1960-1969 for the experimental New Lincoln School in New York City.


Louis Harap married Evelyn Mann in 1957 and they had no children. Harap died in May 1998 in Vermont.

Scope and Content

The collection details the scholarly career and personal life of Louis Harap. A librarian, philosopher and scholar, Louis Harap wrote The Image of the Jew in American Literature. During World War II, Harap served in the U.S. Army. Harap was an editor and writer for several magazines on Judaism, literature and Marxism. In fact, Harap testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1955 because of his Marxist beliefs. The papers include correspondence, research files, writings and personal materials.

Harap had extremely diverse scholarly interests as exemplified in his writings. The writings series contains manuscripts and associated files. Background research files are also found in the research and subject files. Early in his career, Harap's writings centered either around philosophy in articles like "The Paradox of Ethical Naturalism" or musicology in articles entitled "The Case for Hot Jazz." After attempting unsuccessfully to convert his Ph.D. thesis on philosophy and poetry to a publishable book, Harap turned his attention to social issues such as the relationship of Jews and blacks (see "Anti-Negroism among Jews." 1942) In 1939, he moved to New York City to serve as editor of a magazine entitled Jewish Survey, which exposed the conditions of Jewry around the world. The collection contains a run of this magazine, but very few associated files.

Jewish Survey was the first magazine of Harap's literary career. Jewish Life/ Jewish Currents in the post-war period was to become a lifetime passion. After several years as managing editor, Harap retired to become an editorial board member and columnist. Because he lived in Vermont much of the
Submission analysis and editing was done via correspondence with Morris Schappes. Copies of his articles are located in the writings series together with a bibliography of his article titles published in the two magazines. Harap also wrote reviews for Science and Society while publishing in numerous other magazines.

From 1943-1945, Harap served in the Psychological Warfare Branch of the United States Army. During this time he kept up a correspondence with friends and relatives in the United States such as Stanley Hyman, Shirley Jackson and Virginia Rosen. He also corresponded with fellow soldier Henry Harap and medic Milton Brown. This grouping of correspondence makes frequent references to the New York literary scene and life on the American homefront. There are also reports on Buchenwald and German propaganda collected by Harap while in Germany that are in the personal series.

Following his army discharge, Harap focused his energies on writing about Marxist theory and history. In 1955 he spoke before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Harap testified that Jews were treated more fairly in the Soviet Union then they were in the United States, drawing a firestorm of criticism from Jewish leaders as well as anti-Semites. His testimony and related clippings can be found in the personal series. A number of writings and files on Marxism, particularly in relation to the Soviet Union and to the arts, can be found throughout the collection.

Harap also had a strong research interest in the portrayal of the Jew in American literature and in the work of Edgar Allen Poe. Both are strongly represented in the collection. There is one folder of material relating to Harap's tenure at the experimental New Lincoln School in New York City.

**Arrangement**
Organized into four (4) series: A. Correspondence; B. Writings; C. Research/Subject Files; D. Personal and Miscellaneous.

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

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-683. Louis Harap Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance**
Received from Louis Harap, Rutland, Vt., September 1989.

**Processing Information**
Processed by Melinda K. McMartin, June 2002.

**Index Terms**

**Subjects**

**Personal Names**
Harap, Louis

**Media**
Photographs

**Series A. Correspondence, 1914-1989**

**Extent**
2.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note**
Includes correspondence that detail both Harap’s scholarly pursuits and his personal life. Topics include editorial projects and wartime correspondence. When a correspondent has five or more items, it has been given a separate folder. Family relationships are noted in brackets, where known.

**Arrangement**
Arranged alphabetically by correspondent and chronologically within folders.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 1. Folder 1. A, General.
- Box 1. Folder 2. Abramowitz, Devorah, 1973
Box 1. Folder 3. Abrams, Irwin, 1978
Box 1. Folder 5. Adler, Irving and Adler, Joyce, 1970-1982, undated
Box 1. Folder 6. Alman, David, 1981
Box 1. Folder 7. Alpers, Ben and Alpers, Ethel, 1957-1989, undated
Box 1. Folder 11. Brosterman, Elsa, 1943, undated
Box 1. Folder 12. Brown, Blanche [see also: Evans, Blanche], 1941-1982, undated
Box 1. Folder 13. Brown, Milton [see also: Brown, Blanche], 1939-1984, undated
Box 1. Folder 14. Buelins, Gertrude, 1988
Box 1. Folder 15. Buhle, Paul, 1976
Box 1. Folder 17. C, General.
Box 1. Folder 19. Carey, Hugh, 1977
Box 1. Folder 20. Cazden, Norman, 1941-1977
Box 1. Folder 22. Chipman, Fanny, 1975-1983
Box 2. Folder 1. Clarke, Henry and Clarke, Julia, 1970-1985
Box 2. Folder 4. Connelly, Naomi (regarding Abramsky, Chimen), 1945, 1977
Box 2. Folder 7. Davis, Dorothy, undated
Box 2. Folder 8. Deveraux, Allen and Deveraux, Hazel, undated
Box 2. Folder 12. Feinberg, Charles, 1942-1943, undated
Box 2. Folder 13. Frank, Rea, circa 1942
Box 2. Folder 15. Friedman, David and Friedman, Jeannette, 1943, 1975-1987, undated
Box 2. Folder 20. Grant proposals.
Box 2. Folder 21. Green, Elliot [English, Hebrew], 1975-1976
Box 2. Folder 24. Harap, Evelyn Mann [wife], 1961-1969
Box 3. Folder 1. Harap, Evelyn Mann [wife], undated
Box 3. Folder 2. Harap, Evelyn Mann [wife], undated
Box 3. Folder 3. Harap, Henry [brother], 1914-1973, undated
Box 3. Folder 4. Harap, Sadie [sister], 1943-1945, undated
Box 3. Folder 5. Higham, John, 1983, undated
Box 3. Folder 7. Hocking, W. E., 1936
Box 3. Folder 8. Hyman, Stanley E. [see also: Jackson, Shirley], 1940-1945, undated
Box 3. Folder 11. Interlibrary loan requests, 1972-1978
Box 3. Folder 13. Jackson, Shirley [see also: Hyman, Stanley E.], 1942-1945, undated
Box 3. Folder 14. Jeffries, James and Jeffries, Margot, 1940-1941, undated
Box 3. Folder 15. Jewish Community Centers (Yonkers, N.Y.), 1977
Box 3. Folder 16. Jewish Social Studies, 1974, undated
Box 3. Folder 18. Jewish Survey, undated
Box 4. Folder 2. Kassman, Elly, 1939-1941, undated
Box 4. Folder Maltin, Leonard and Maltin, Alice [nephew], 1977, 1988, undated
Box 4. Folder 11. Mayman, Marcia (regarding speaking engagement), 1971
Box 4. Folder 15. Montgomery, Frederica and Montgomery, Esmond, 1940-1943, undated
Box 4. Folder 17. Morgan, Ernest [see also: Wise, Christine], 1982, undated
Box 4. Folder 20. Needham, M., 1943-1944
Box 4. Folder 23. Pisha, Bart and Pisha Meryl [nephew], 1985-1989, undated
Box 4. Folder 24. Portney, Bill, undated
Box 4. Folder 32. Rosenfield, Max, 1957-1951, undated
Box 4. Folder 34. Rudich, Norman, 1968-1980
Box 5. Folder 1. S, General.
Box 5. Folder 2. Schapiro, Cecile and Schapiro, David, 19843-1984
Box 6. Folder 2. Schumauch, Christoph, 1975
Box 6. Folder 3. Schneider, Isador, circa 1944
Box 6. Folder 7. Shakow, Alice, 1942-1943, 1980, undated
Box 6. Folder 8. Shakow, Naomi [niece], 1942-1944, undated
Box 6. Folder 9. Shakow, Sophie and Shakow, David [sister], 1942-184, undated
Box 6. Folder 10. Solomon, Mary, 1943, undated
Box 6. Folder 12. Suggs, Jon C., 1982
Series B. Writings, 1934-1988

Extent  4.8 linear feet (12 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note  Includes outlines, drafts, editorial correspondence and review. Notes have been included when they relate directly to a manuscript draft. Manuscripts include all of Harap's published books and a draft entitled "Edgar Allen Poe: Prophet of Alienation", which was later published in parts in article form.

Arrangement  Arranged alphabetically by title.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 7. Folder 1. A Note on the Moralities of Santanya, 1935
Box 7. Folder 2. A People's Art in England, 1945
Box 7. Folder 3. A Retrospective Look at Bund History, undated
Box 7. Folder 5. Alienation: the climactic phase, 1961
Box 7. Folder 6. Anti-Negroism among Jews, 1942
Box 7. Folder 7. Art and Aesthetic Experience, undated
Box 7. Folder 8. Art of Baudelaire, undated
Box 7. Folder 9. Articles.
Box 7. Folder 10. Case for Hot Jazz, 1941
Box 7. Folder 11. Christopher Caldwell, Critic, 1945
Box 7. Folder 12. Class, Ethnicity and the American Jewish Committee, 1978
Box 7. Folder 13. Criteria in Art as a Relative Absolute, undated
Box 7. Folder 14. Detachment of the American Aesthetic, undated
Box 7. Folder 15. Edgar Allen Poe, the detective story, 1969
Box 8. Folder 2. Edgar Allen Poe: Prophet of Alienation draft, original, undated
Box 14. Folder 6. Karl Marx and the Jewish Question, 1959
Box 15. Folder 1. Marxism and Art preliminary studies, undated
Box 15. Folder 2. Marxism and Aesthetics, 1940
Box 15. Folder 3. Marxism and the Jewish Question, 1976
Box 15. Folder 4. Memorandum to Soviet Officials on the Soviet Jewish situation, undated
Box 15. Folder 5. New Encyclopedia, 1945
Box 15. Folder 7. On American Jewish Culture, undated
Box 15. Folder 8. On Arendt's Eichmann and Jewish Identity, 1965
Box 15. Folder 9. On the Enjoyment of Art, undated
Box 15. Folder 10. On the Nature of Musicology, 1937
Box 15. Folder 11. Paradox of Ethical Naturalism, 1935
Box 15. Folder 12. Philosophy of Poetry, 1934
Box 16. Folder 1. Poe, undated
Box 16. Folder 2. Poetry and Philosophical Truth [Ph.D. dissertation], 1932
Box 16. Folder 3. Profit and Illith: From Carlyle to Ruskin to Morris, 1978
Box 16. Folder 7. Should Negroes and Jews Unite?, 1943
Box 16. Folder 8. Social Roots of the Arts, 1949
Box 17. Folder 1. Social Roots of the Arts discarded material.
Box 17. Folder 2. Social Roots of the Arts discarded material and charts.
Box 17. Folder 3. Social Roots of the Arts manuscript notes and drafts.
Box 17. Folder 4. Social Roots of the Arts drafts.
Box 17. Folder 5. Socialism, Anti-Semitism and Jewish ethnicity, undated
Box 17. Folder 7. Sociology of Art, undated
Box 18. Folder 1. Sociological Approach to Art, undated
Box 18. Folder 2. Solzhenitsyn, Aleksander (articles), 1974-1975
Box 18. Folder 3. Some Hellenic Ideas on Music and Character, 1938
Box 18. Folder 5. Stalin and the Jewish Question, undated
Box 18. Folder 5. Symbolism and Literature, undated
Box 18. Folder 6. Toward a Peoples Culture in Great Britain, undated
Box 18. Folder 7. Toward a Meaning of Decadence, undated
Box 18. Folder 8. Truth about the Prague Trial and Zionism, 1953
Box 18. Folder 9. The Wandering Jew, undated
Box 18. Folder 10. What is this between us? Walt Whitman, 1958
Box 18. Folder 11. Untitled manuscripts, undated
Box 18. Folder 12. Yiddish in America (sponsored by Tarbluth Foundation), undated

**Series C. Research/Subject Files, 1935-1989**

**Extent** 7.2 linear feet (18 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Materials include notes, periodicals, newsclippings and articles on topics such as the Soviet Union. Topics overlap with titles found in Series B, but they are the research files and are not Harap's thinking on the subject. Some newscloppings are in Hebrew.

**Arrangement** Arranged alphabetically by subject, with a grouping of research notes in shoeboxes at the end.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 19. Folder 1. Adorno, Theodore W.
Box 20. Folder 1. Bellow, Saul.
Box 20. Folder 5. Buber, Martin.
Box 20. Folder 12. Ionesco, Eugene.
Box 20. Folder 13. Israel.
Box 21. Folder 1. Jewish Affairs, 1973
Box 22. Folder 1. Marxism.
Box 22. Folder 4. Middle East.
Box 22. Folder 5. Morning Freiheit [English, Hebrew].
Box 22. Folder 6. Moscow Trials Campaign Committee, 1982
Box 22. Folder 7. New Masses, 1935-1936
Box 22. Folder 8. New Masses, 1945, 1949
Box 23. Folder 1. Radical Education Project.
Box 23. Folder 3. Ruskin, John.
Box 23. Folder 4. Sartre, Jean Paul.
Box 23. Folder 5. Socialism, Anti-Semitism and the Jewish Question.
Box 23. Folder 7. Solzhenitsyn, Aleksander.
Box 24. Folder 1. Soviet Union, pre-1950
Box 25. Folder 1. Soviet Union, 1950-1959
Box 25. Folder 3. Soviet Union, undated
Box 25. Folder 5. Surfacing of Holy Mother Russia report.
Box 25. Folder 6. Truth about the Prague Trial notes.
Box 25. Folder 7. United States Congress House Committee on Un-American Activities.
Box 25. Folder 8. Yiddish culture.
Box 26. Folder Research notes. American Literature-Jewish image, pre-20th century
Box 27. Folder Research notes. American Literature-Jewish image, pre-20th century
Box 28. Folder Research notes. American Literature-Jewish image, pre-20th century
Box 29. Folder Research notes. American Literature-Jewish image, 20th century
Box 30. Folder Research notes. American Literature-Jewish image, 20th century
**Series D. Personal and Miscellaneous, 1904-1988**

**Extent**  
1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes items such as class notes, birth certificates, army papers and material relating to other family members.

**Arrangement**  
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 37. Folder 1. 80th birthday celebration, 1984  
Box 37. Folder 2. Anti-Nazi protest (Boston, Mass.), 1934  
Box 37. Folder 3. Biographical material.  
Box 37. Folder 4. Birth certificate, 1904  
Box 37. Folder 5. Class notes, undated  
Box 37. Folder 6. Class notes, undated  
Box 38. Folder 1. Class notes, undated  
Box 38. Folder 2. Community Historical Museum (Mt. Holly, Vt.), 1969-1971  
Box 38. Folder 3. Harvard University, 1931-1934, undated  
Box 38. Folder 5. Iota Sigma Seminar. List, undated  
Box 38. Folder 7. Membership cards.  
Box 39. Folder 1. Photographs, 1934-1989, undated  
Box 39. Folder 2. Shakow, David [brother-in-law].  
Box 39. Folder 5. Will, undated  
Box 39. Folder 6. World War II identification cards, summary of activities, 1943-1945  
Box 39. Folder 7. World War II concentration camps, 1945  
Box 39. Folder 8. World War II publications, propaganda, 1941-1946