A Finding Aid to the
Mordecai S. Yardeini Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 692
Collection Summary

Title Mordecai S. Yardeini Papers
Dates 1908-1982
Collection Number MS-692
Repository The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator Yardeini, Mordecai S.
Extent 6.4 linear feet (16 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material English, Hebrew, and Yiddish

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
Mordecai S. Yardeini was born near Zitomir, Ukraine to Chaim Yardeini and Malke Meir-Dovid Baran Yardeini. His father was a shochet and a Bal-Tefilah. Yardeini was, in his own words, "a cantor, folk singer, composer, music critic, Victor recording artist, author of six books on music, theater, literature and lector." Yardeini was educated in yeshivas and later earned a degree from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's School of Sacred Music in New York City in 1953. He was a president of the Jewish Cantors of America, vice-president of the Jewish Radio Guild, board member of the Hebrew Actors Union in America, member of the Yiddish Writers in America, and a past editor of the literary journal New Yorker Vochenblat.

Little is known about Yardeini's life. It is known that he received his education first in Russia and later in Palestine where he lived before immigrating to America in 1936. He held positions as a cantor in both Conservative and Orthodox synagogues.

Yardeini was married to Nina Rosenberg.

Scope and Content
The collection contains musical compositions, writings, and newspaper clippings of and about Mordecai S. Yardeini, a cantor and composer of liturgical and secular music.

Arrangement
This collection is divided into four (4) series: A. Music; B. Writings; C. Newspaper Clippings; D. Correspondence and Personal.

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

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-692. Mordecai S. Yardeini Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance
Received from Robert Singerman, Gainesville, Fla., 1990.

Processing Information
Processed by Christine A. Crandall, November 2002.

Index Terms

Subjects Cantors (Judaism) / Music
Personal Names Yardeini, Mordecai S.
Media Sheet music

Series A. Music

Extent 3.6 linear feet (9 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Contains music written by Yardeini as well as a few folders of music by others that he arranged or added his own lyrics to. There is also one folder of compositional fragments (8/2) and several with the generic name of "Yiddish music." This organizational method was used because of a lack of available Yiddish translation.
The series is arranged alphabetically.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 1. Folder 1. Ab-Al.
Box 1. Folder 2. Ale-Az.
Box 1. Folder 3. Ab-Al.
Box 2. Folder 1. Ch-Cn.
Box 2. Folder 2. D.
Box 2. Folder 3. E.
Box 3. Folder 1. F.
Box 3. Folder 2. G.
Box 3. Folder 3. H.
Box 3. Folder 4. I.
Box 3. Folder 5. J.
Box 4. Folder 1. K.
Box 4. Folder 2. L.
Box 4. Folder 3. Ma-Me.
Box 5. Folder 1. Mi-Mo.
Box 5. Folder 2. N.
Box 5. Folder 3. O.
Box 5. Folder 4. P.
Box 5. Folder 5. R.
Box 6. Folder 1. Sa-Shl.
Box 6. Folder 2. Shm-Su.
Box 6. Folder 3. T.
Box 7. Folder 1. U.
Box 7. Folder 2. V.
Box 7. Folder 3. W.
Box 7. Folder 4. Y.
Box 8. Folder 1. Z.
Box 8. Folder 2. Fragments of music.
Box 8. Folder 4. Other people's music.
Box 8. Folder 5. Other people's music.
Box 8. Folder 6. Other people's music.
Series B. Writings

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains interesting writings regarding various topics. There are nine files in English. The rest of this series is in Yiddish with four folders holding an untitled manuscript for one of Yardeini's books.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 10. Folder 3. English speeches and writings.
Box 10. Folder 4. Eulogy.
Box 10. Folder 5. Fifty Years of Jewish Song in Americirca.
Box 10. Folder 8. My Mother.
Box 10. Folder 11. Manuscript [Yiddish].
Box 10. Folder 12. Manuscript [Yiddish].
Box 10. Folder 15. Notebooks [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 1. Notebooks [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 2. Notebooks [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 3. Notebooks [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 5. Notebooks [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 6. Writings [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 7. Writings [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 8. Writings [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 9. Writings [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 10. Writings [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 11. Writings [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 12. Writings [Yiddish].
Box 11. Folder 13. Writings [Yiddish].
Box 12. Folder 1. Writings [Yiddish].
Series C. Newspaper Clippings, 1929-1974

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains newspaper clippings about Yardeini and about Jewish and Yiddish music. These are almost all in Yiddish.

Arrangement Scrapbooks are arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 12. Folder 3. Clippings [Yiddish].
Box 12. Folder 4. Clippings [Yiddish].
Box 12. Folder 5. Clippings [Yiddish].
Box 12. Folder 6. Clippings [Yiddish].
Box 12. Folder 7. Clippings [Yiddish].
Box 12. Folder 8. Clippings [Yiddish].
Box 13. Folder 1. Clippings [Yiddish].
Box 13. Folder 7. Scrapbook, 1943-1958
Box 13. Folder 8. Scrapbook, 1943-1963
Box 14. Folder 1. Scrapbook, 1945-1963

Series D. Correspondence and Personal, 1908-1982

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains some personal correspondence, Yardeini’s cantorial diploma, unidentified photographs, and plaques.
Box and Folder Listing

Box 15. Folder 1. Beck, M., 1908
Box 15. Folder 2. Freiheit Jewish Daily, 1945-1963
Box 15. Folder 3. Resnick, Sid, undated
Box 15. Folder 7. Copyright agreements, 1960-1972
Box 15. Folder 8. Diploma. HUC-JIR School of Sacred Music, 1953
Box 15. Folder 11. Prayerbooks.
Box 15. Folder 13. Publicity.
Box 15. Folder 14. South American trip, 1948
Box 16. Folder Plaques.