



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Sigmund S. Hecht Sermons**

**Manuscript Collection No. 700**

## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Sigmund S. Hecht Sermons
<b>Dates</b>	1877-1919
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-700
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Hecht, Sigmund S., 1849-1925
<b>Extent</b>	0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English and German

## Administrative Information

<b>Biographical Sketch</b>	<p>Sigmund S. Hecht was born on August 1, 1849 in Hlinik, Hungary, the son of Moritz Hecht. Educated privately by his father at Zsolna, Hungary, Hecht also attended the high school, seminary and university at Vienna. Hecht's rabbinical diploma was granted by the rabbi of Bistrizt, Hungary. Hecht later received additional instruction in New York and was awarded a D.D. in 1886 from the University of Alabama.</p> <p>Hecht was rabbi at Montgomery, Alabama from 1876-1888 and at Temple Emanu-El (Milwaukee, Wis.) from 1888-1899. Hecht then moved west where he became rabbi at Congregation B'nai B'rith (Los Angeles, Calif.), the forerunner of the Wilshire Boulevard Temple. Hecht remained in Los Angeles until his retirement in 1919, when he became rabbi emeritus. Hecht's successor at Congregation B'nai B'rith was Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin, who had served as Hecht's assistant since 1916.</p> <p>Sigmund S. Hecht died on June 27, 1925 at the age of 76.</p> <p>Note: This sketch relied heavily on an entry for Sigmund Hecht in the American Jewish Year Book (5) 1903-1904, p. 62.</p>
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<b>Scope and Content</b>	<p>The Sigmund S. Hecht papers consist entirely of sermons written by Rabbi Sigmund S. Hecht (1849-1925). The span dates for the collection are 1877-1919. The sermons were written for a variety of occasions, though most are for the High Holidays and the Sabbath. The collection also includes Hecht's farewell sermon delivered in 1919 (1/4).</p> <p>The collection was donated by the Wilshire Boulevard Temple of Los Angeles, arriving together with papers of Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin. Magnin served as Hecht's assistant at Congregation B'nai B'rith for three years then succeeded him at the congregation, remaining there for over 60 years. Most of Hecht's sermons are handwritten, though a few are typed. The majority of the sermons are in English though there are eight sermons, covering the years 1877-1884, that are in German. All of the sermons were numbered, dated, and titled by Hecht.</p>
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<b>Arrangement</b>	The collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.
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<b>Terms of Access</b>	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
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<b>Preferred Citation</b>	<p>Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Sigmund S. Hecht Sermons and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:</p> <p>[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-700. Sigmund S. Hecht Sermons. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.</p>
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<b>Provenance</b>	Received from the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles, Calif., 2003.
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<b>Processing Information</b>	<p>Processed by Kevin Proffitt, September 2003.</p> <p>When the collection arrived at the AJA there was no discernible arrangement to the sermons. As a result, it was decided to file the sermons in alphabetical order by title. The Appendix at the end of this inventory contains a full alphabetical listing, by title, of all the English language sermons. The Appendix also notes the holiday or occasion for the sermon, as provided by Hecht. The German language sermons are kept together in a separate file (1/5). There is no listing of the German language sermon titles.</p>
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## Index Terms

**Subjects** Rabbis  
**Personal Names** Hecht, Sigmund S., 1849-1925  
**Corporate Names** Wilshire Boulevard Temple (Los Angeles, Calif.)  
**Media** Sermons

## Series A. General, 1877-1919

**Arrangement** The sermons are arranged alphabetically by title. One folder of German language sermons, arranged chronologically, is filed at the end of the collection.

### Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Sermons, A-E.  
Box 1. Folder 2. Sermons, F-K.  
Box 1. Folder 3. Sermons, L-R.  
Box 1. Folder 4. Sermons, S-W.  
Box 1. Folder 5. Sermons [German], 1877-1884

## APPENDIX

### English Sermons of Rabbi Sigmund S. Hecht

#### A

- “The American Citizen,” Sabbath Eve, March 11, 1898  
“An Appeal for Sabbath Observance,” Yom Kippur Morning, September 27, 1884  
“Arbitrary Religion,” Sabbath Eve, May 7, 1880

#### B

- “Be Considerate,” Sabbath Eve, January 30, 1880  
“Be Sure That You Are Right, Then Go Ahead,” Sabbath Eve, April 26, 1912  
“Beware of Relapses,” Sabbath Eve, May 11, 1888

#### C

- “Care, Calmness and Confidence,” July 30, 1915  
“Change of Name,” Sabbath Eve, April 16, 1880  
“Character,” Sabbath Eve, April 6, 1888  
“Consistency in Matters of Religion,” Sabbath Eve, April 9, 1880

#### D

- “The Day of God,” Yom Kippur Eve, September 15, 1918  
“Definition of Life,” Rosh Hashanah Morning, September 19, 1887  
“The Difficulty in Balancing the Book of Life,” Sabbath Eve, September 19, 1884  
“The Divine Ladder,” Sabbath Eve, March 5, 1880  
“Do Your Duty,” Sabbath Eve, March 19, 1880

#### E

- “Effect of the Day of Atonement on the Soul,” Yom Kippur Eve, October 2, 1881  
“The Element of Success, or, God and One are a Majority,” Seventh Day of Pesach, April 3, 1896  
“Eternal Rest Cemetery Dedicatory Address,” September 25, 1887

#### F

- “Farewell to the Old, Welcome to the New Year,” Rosh Hashanah Eve, September 23, 1881  
“Fine Feathers,” Sabbath Eve, March 16, 1897  
“The Force of Habits,” Sabbath Eve, February 27, 1880  
“The Foundation of Civilization,” Sabbath Morning, March 8, 1919

## G

“Garfield (James A.) Memorial,” September 26, 1881  
“God’s Witnesses,” Shabuoth Morning, May 27, 1898  
“Grain v. Chaff,” Sabbath Eve, January 23, 1885

## H

“Happiness - Where Is It to be Found?,” Eve of Atzereth 5679, September 27, 1918  
“Hasty Judgment,” Eve 7<sup>th</sup> Day of Pesach, April 1, 1880  
“Here Am I,” Sabbath Eve, January 23, 1880  
“Hopeful Prospects,” Sabbath Eve, September 3, 1897  
“Human Power and Wisdom Contrasted With the Omnipotence and Wisdom of God,” Rosh Hashanah Morning, September 24, 1888

## I

“In the Trenches,” Sabbath Eve, February 9, 1917  
“Israel’s Birthday,” First Day of Pesach, March 27, 1880

## J

“Jewish Funerals,” Sabbath Eve, April 30, 1881

## K

“Knowledge is Power,” Sabbath Eve, June 6, 1884

## L

“The Land of Promise,” October 1, 1885  
“A Lesson from Chanuka,” Chanuka Eve, December 20, 1878  
“Lessons of a Long and Useful Life as Taught by the Late Isaac Adolphe Cremieux,” Sabbath Eve, February 20, 1880  
“Life’s Work,” Sabbath Eve, September 10, 1897  
“Light and Darkness,” Yom Kippur Eve, September 27, 1887

## M

“The Modern High Priest and His Functions in the Sanctuary of the Heart,”  
Yom Kippur Morning, September 28, 1887

## N

“Nearer to God,” Yom Kippur Eve, October 4, 1908

“The New Volume: What Are its Contents to Be?,” Rosh Hashanah Morning, September 20, 1884

## O

“The Organic Unity of the Family,” Sabbath Eve, May 16, 1884

“Out of the Shadow,” Sabbath Eve, December 13, 1918

## P

“Pesach,” March 29, 1877

“Pesach,” March 30, 1877

“Poetry of Religion and the Religion of Poetry,” Sabbath Eve, February 3, 1899

## R

“The Religion of Patriotism,” Sabbath Morning, October 27, 1917

“Religious Education,” Sabbath Eve, February 6, 1880

“Religious Education,” Sabbath Eve, February 13, 1880

“The Right Questions But the Wrong Emphasis,” Yom Kippur Morning, September 29, 1884

## S

“Sabbath Eve,” May 25, 1877

“Sabbath or Sunday Sabbath?,” January 17, 1896

“The Safe Bases,” Sabbath Eve, March 4, 1881

“Severing the Ties - An Anniversary Sermon,” Sabbath Eve, October 28, 1904

“Shaking Hands,” Sabbath Eve, December 26, 1884

“Shavuot Eve,” May 17, 1877

“The Simplicity and Sublimity of Judaism,” Sabbath of Repentance Eve, September 23, 1887

“Spiritual Resurrection,” Sabbath Eve, January 9, 1880

“A Strange Business Transaction,” Sabbath Eve, November 13, 1885

“Strange Methods in Religion,” Sabbath Eve, January 7, 1898

“Succoth,” October 8, 1881

## T

“Temper,” Sabbath Eve, April 10, 1896

“The True Motive,” Yom Kippur Eve, September 28, 1884

Y

“The Vacant Chair: Oration delivered at the memorial service in honor of Isaac Adolphe Cremieux,” March 7, 1880

“The Voice of God,” Sabbath Eve, February 18, 1887

W

“What is Joy Before God,” First Day of Succoth, October 3, 1884

“Wisconsin’s Semi-Centennial,” Sabbath Eve, June 10, 1898

“Words Spoken at the Service, Concluding the Official Year of the Congregation, and Marking My Retirement from Active Service,” June 27, 1919