



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

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Merle Judith Marcus Papers**

**Manuscript Collection No. 483**



## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Merle Judith Marcus Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1948-1965
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-483
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Marcus, Merle Judith, 1929-1965
<b>Extent</b>	1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

**Biographical Sketch** Merle Judith Marcus was the only child of Jacob Rader Marcus and Antoinette Brody Marcus. She was born in Cincinnati in 1929 and attended public schools and the Isaac M. Wise Temple Religious School. She also attended the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music and Columbia University. In 1952, She received a B.A. from Barnard College in New York City.

Ms. Marcus acted and sang in light opera and stage musicals. She also performed in night clubs and on television, and attempted a career as an actress. When she realized that acting was not her forte, she began selling shows and eventually was in sales for various hotel corporations in the Washington, DC Area and in Los Angeles. At the time of her death she was the district sales manager for the Sheraton Hotels in Los Angeles.

In the early morning of February 11, 1965 she died in a fire in her apartment in Los Angeles. She was preceded in death by her mother in 1953.

**Scope and Content** Consists of correspondence, performance programs, school papers, personal items, probate records, and photographs. Of special interest in the collection is the correspondence between Merle Marcus and her father, Dr. Jacob Rader Marcus.

**Arrangement** The collection is divided into four (4) series: A. Correspondence; B. Personal; C. Photographs; D. Organizations.

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

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-483. Merle Judith Marcus Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance** Received from Jacob R. Marcus, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1965.

**Processing Information** Processed by Dorothy Smith and Eleanor Lawhorn, October 1997.

## Index Terms

**Personal Names** Marcus, Jacob Rader, 1896-1995 / Marcus, Merle Judith, 1929-1965

**Media** Photographs

### Series A. Correspondence, 1940-1965

**Extent** 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of personal letters with friends and family. Of significance is the correspondence between Merle Marcus and her father, Dr. Jacob Rader Marcus, well-known rabbi and historian and the founder of the American Jewish Archives. In the early 1960's, Dr. Marcus often wrote his daughter describing the work he was doing and his daily activities, but from 1963 until her death in 1965, he wrote more regularly, usually once a week. The letters contain details about his activities and interests.

## **Series B. Personal, 1929-1965**

**Extent** 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of Ms. Marcus' school papers, poetry she wrote, sketches for her comedy nightclub and stage acts, programs from various productions in which she appeared, her senior yearbook from Walnut Hills High School, and probate and funeral records connected with her untimely death. There is also a copy of a commemorative booklet about her life published by her father in 1965.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 2. Folder 1. Miscellaneous personal papers, 1929-1965

Box 2. Folder 2. School papers, 1943-1947

Box 2. Folder 3. Walnut Hills High School yearbook, 1947

Box 2. Folder 4. Stage and comedy materials, 1950s-1960s

Box 2. Folder 5. Contracts and business papers, 1957-1963

Box 3. Folder 1. Accident, 1964

Box 3. Folder 2. Probate records, 1965-1966

Box 3. Folder 3. Funeral service registration book, 1965

Box 3. Folder 4. Commemorative booklet, 1965

## **Series C. Photographs, 1930-1949**

**Scope and Content Note** Consists mainly of snapshots of the Marcus family at home and on vacation. There are also several portraits of both Merle Marcus and Dr. Marcus.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 3. Folder 5. Family photographs and snapshots, 1930s-1940s

## **Series D. Organizations, 1945-1947**

**Extent** 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of a file of minutes, bulletins and nearprint from two Jewish organizations that Merle Marcus belonged to in the late 1940s, Young Judea and the Zionist Youth Organization.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 3. Folder 6. Young Judea, 1945-1947

Box 3. Folder 7. Zionist Youth Organization, 1947