A Finding Aid to the
Sefton D. Temkin Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 738
Sefton D. Temkin Papers

1932-1994

MS-738

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Temkin, Sefton D., 1917-1996

4.4 linear feet (11 Hollinger boxes)

English

Sefton D. Temkin was born in Manchester, England on June 7, 1917. He graduated from the University of Liverpool with a LLB in Law and an M.A. in Modern History. In 1965, he received a Ph.D. in Jewish history from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Temkin began his career as a legal editor in 1939 and became a practicing barrister-at-law in 1952. He also lectured for two years in law and government at Flintshire Technical College. While still living in England, he held the position of Secretary of the Anglo-Jewish Association of London. In this position from 1943-1951 he worked to secure Jewish rights after the Second World War and attended several United Nations events.

Temkin came to the United States on a four-year fellowship from Hebrew Union College in 1959. During this time, he lectured on English legal history and international affairs at the University of Cincinnati. He lectured at Boston University during the 1967-1968 academic year. Temkin became a professor of Jewish History at the State University of New York in Albany in 1970 and later reached emeritus status.

While studying at Hebrew Union College, Temkin became interested in the life of Isaac M. Wise. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on Wise and also authored several scholarly articles, including the article in Encyclopaedia Judaica on Wise. He later completed extensive work on a biography of Wise. Most of his research was done at the American Jewish Archives. The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization published his monograph titled Isaac M. Wise: Shaping American Judaism in 1992.


Temkin was also a member of several professional organizations including the American Historical Association, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Jewish Historical Society of England and the Yiddish Scientific Institute. He also served on the board of Jewish Education in Albany and was a member of the Commission on Jewish Studies that worked with higher learning institutions through the American Association for Jewish Education. He also traveled and lectured around the world.

Sefton D. Temkin died in 1996 at age 79.

The collection contains papers relating to the professional career of Sefton D. Temkin, a professor and writer of Jewish History. Temkin received degrees in his native England and came to the United States on a fellowship from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Temkin served as a professor at the State University of New York at Albany and researched the life of Jews in the Albany area. The majority of the collection focuses on material related to Temkin’s book Isaac M. Wise: Shaping American Judaism. This material spans several decades and includes notes, research material and some related correspondence. Temkin also completed a volume memorializing Felix A. Levy. Correspondence, research material and writings about this volume and Levy are contained in the Felix A. Levy series. Finally, the subject files series contains material related to other aspects of Temkin’s career. Included are drafts and notes on Temkin's other research projects, teaching materials and syllabi, as well as other writings, including additional material on Isaac M. Wise.

The papers are divided into three (3) series: A. Isaac M. Wise; B. Felix A. Levy; C. Subject Files.

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Sefton D. Temkin Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-738. Sefton D. Temkin Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Mark Raider, Cincinnati, Ohio, November 2006.

Processing Information

Processed by Susan Kline, December 2006.

Personal Names

Levy, Felix A. (Felix Alexander), 1884-1963 / Wise, Isaac Mayer, 1819-1900


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

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of material that contain information about Temkin’s book Isaac M. Wise: Shaping American Judaism. In this series are notes and a large amount of primary source research material consulted by Temkin such as letters and copies of Jewish newspapers, particularly the American Israelite. Temkin photocopied this from various sources, including the American Jewish Archives. The majority of this research material is not annotated by Temkin. Relevant correspondence is also contained in some files.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged roughly by the order the material appears in the published version of Isaac M. Wise: Shaping American Judaism based on files with titles similar to subject headings in the book. Research material appears last.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 1. Folder 1. Bohemia. Toronto, 1984
Box 1. Folder 3. Czechoslovakia, 1961-1962
Box 1. Folder 6. Miscellaneous, 1846-1854, undated
Box 1. Folder 7. Miscellaneous, 1846-1854, undated
Box 1. Folder 8. Albany, 1975
Box 1. Folder 9. Albany and New York. Research material and notes, undated
Box 1. Folder 10. Albany Jewish community, 1976
Box 1. Folder 11. Allegemeine Zeitung des Judenthums, undated
Box 1. Folder 12. Beth Elohim (Charleston, S.C.), undated
Box 2. Folder 1. Miscellaneous, 1854-1875, undated
Box 2. Folder 2. Miscellaneous, 1854-1875, undated
Box 2. Folder 3. Post 1854, undated
Box 2. Folder 4. Footnotes, 1854-1873, undated
Box 2. Folder 5. Footnotes, additional, 1854-1875, undated
Box 2. Folder 6. Pre-1873, undated
Box 2. Folder 7. Post-1875, 1980s, undated
Box 2. Folder 8. Post-1875, 1970s, 1980s
Box 2. Folder 9. Post-1875, undated
Box 2. Folder 10. Wise, Isaac M. and the Civil War, undated
Box 2. Folder 11. Miscellaneous. Including Philadelphia Conference and American Israelite copies, undated
Box 3. Folder 1. 19th century, undated
Box 3. Folder 2. Die Deborah revised, 1978
Box 3. Folder 3. Writings and research material, 1977, undated
Box 3. Folder 4. Writings and research material, undated
Box 3. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1961-1962
Box 3. Folder 10. Footnotes, undated
Box 3. Folder 11. Footnotes, 1819-1854, undated
Box 3. Folder 12. Footnotes. Correspondence, 1986
Box 3. Folder 13. Index, 1992
Box 3. Folder 14. Miscellaneous, undated
Box 3. Folder 15. Miscellaneous, undated
Box 3. Folder 16. Miscellaneous, undated
Box 3. Folder 17. Miscellaneous. Notes and footnotes, 1977
Box 3. Folder 18. Miscellaneous. Notes and footnotes, undated
Box 3. Folder 20. Preface, undated
Box 4. Folder 6. Research material. Letters, undated
Box 4. Folder 9. Research material. Miscellaneous copies, undated
Box 4. Folder 11. Research material. Miscellaneous copies, undated

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of material regarding the Felix A. Levy memorial volume His Own Torah: Selected Papers and Sermons of Felix A. Levy that Temkin wrote.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 7. Folder 1. Biographical sketch draft, 1967
Box 7. Folder 2. Biographical sketch second copy, 1967
Box 7. Folder 5. Memorial volume draft, undated
Box 7. Folder 7. Revelation, 1956, undated
Box 7. Folder 8. The Story of Jewish Philosophy, 1963
Series C. Subject Files, 1932-1994

Extent 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains material related to other aspects of Temkin’s career, such as his teaching and other research projects, especially regarding Jews in the Albany, New York and Boston areas. Of particular interest may be his research into Herbert Hoover’s relationship with Jews as well as additional writings on Isaac M. Wise and finally the file that contains Temkin’s other writings from 1962-1981.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 8. Folder 1. Addresses.


Box 8. Folder 8. Ancient period, undated


Box 8. Folder 10. Blessings of the Sabbath, undated


Box 8. Folder 14. Correspondence. Jacob R. Marcus to others, 1934


Box 8. Folder 18. Hoover, Herbert and Jews, undated

Box 9. Folder 1. Jewish community in New York, undated


Box 9. Folder 3. Modern religious and political movements, undated


Box 9. Folder 5. New World, undated


Box 9. Folder 7. Raider, Mark, undated

Box 9. Folder 8. Teaching. Correspondence, 1982


Box 10. Folder 1. Union of American Hebrew Congregations, undated
Box 10. Folder 2. West London Synagogue of British Jews meeting minutes, 1991
Box 10. Folder 4. Wise, Isaac M. Bohemian Seed and American Fruit, 1984
Box 10. Folder 6. Writings. Table of Contents. Pages 3-58, undated
Box 10. Folder 7. Writings. Pages 59-300, undated
Box 10. Folder 8. Writings. Pages 30-450, undated
Box 11. Folder 1. Writings. Pages 45-563, undated
Box 11. Folder 2. Writings. Pages 564-704, undated
Box 11. Folder 3. Writings. Pages 705-855, undated
Box 11. Folder 4. Writings. Pages 856-905, undated
Box 11. Folder 5. Writings. Article and speech, 1972-1973
Box 11. Folder 6. Writings. Footnotes, undated