



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Sefton D. Temkin Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 738



Collection Summary

Title	Sefton D. Temkin Papers
Dates	1932-1994
Collection Number	MS-738
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Temkin, Sefton D., 1917-1996
Extent	4.4 linear feet (11 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch 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 published throughout his long legal and historical career. He contributed to London's *The Jewish Chronicle* and "*Halsbury's Laws of England*." Temkin's work also appeared in the *American Jewish Yearbook*. He edited the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* from 1969-1970 and served as managing editor of *Jewish Social Studies* through the Conference on Jewish Social Studies. In 1970, Temkin published, *His Own Torah: Selected Papers and Sermons of Felix A. Levy* as a memorial to Felix A. Levy. His German translation, "*The New World of Reform*" appeared in 1973, also with an introduction.

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.

Scope and Content 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.

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

Terms of Access 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.

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Personal Names

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

Series A. Isaac M. Wise, 1960-1992

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 2. Bohemia. Wise as a Bohemian. Pages 1-19.

Box 1. Folder 3. Czechoslovakia, 1961-1962

Box 1. Folder 4. Bohemia. Dietante. Erhman, undated

Box 1. Folder 5. Miscellaneous and correspondence, 1846-1854, 1960-1980

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 6. Correspondence, 1985, 1991-1992

Box 3. Folder 7. Correspondence. American Jewish Archives, 1975-1980

Box 3. Folder 8. Correspondence. Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 1990-1992

Box 3. Folder 9. Correspondence. Oxford Press, 1977

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 19. Outline. Notes from conversation with J.R.M., 1960 June

Box 3. Folder 20. Preface, undated

Box 4. Folder 1. Secondary sources. A Bicentennial Festschrift for Jacob Rader Marcus, 1976

Box 4. Folder 2. Secondary sources. Intimate Sketches of Isaac M. Wise, undated

Box 4. Folder 3. Secondary sources. Jacob R. Marcus, 1976, undated

Box 4. Folder 4. Secondary sources. Temple Berith Sholom, 1966

Box 4. Folder 5. Secondary sources. The Theology of Isaac Mayer Wise by Andrew F. Key. Monographs of the American Jewish Archives, 1962

Box 4. Folder 6. Research material. Letters, undated

Box 4. Folder 7. Research material. Letters, Wise and family, undated

Box 4. Folder 8. Research material. Letters, Wise and Lesser, undated

Box 4. Folder 9. Research material. Miscellaneous copies, undated

Box 4. Folder 10. Research material. Miscellaneous copies and correspondence, 1962, undated

Box 4. Folder 11. Research material. Miscellaneous copies, undated

Box 4. Folder 12. Research material. American Israelite, Union of American Hebrew

Congregations. AJA copies, undated

Box 4. Folder 13. Research material. Miscellaneous copies, undated

Box 5. Folder 1. Research material. Miscellaneous, undated

Box 5. Folder 2. Research material. Miscellaneous, undated

Box 5. Folder 3. Research material. Miscellaneous, undated

Box 5. Folder 4. Research material. Footnotes, undated

Box 5. Folder 5. Research material. Footnotes, undated

Box 5. Folder 6. Research material. Phillipson diary copy, undated

Box 5. Folder 7. Research material. Sonneschein letters, undated

Box 5. Folder 8. Research material. Post-1875, undated

Box 5. Folder 9. Research material. Post-1875, undated

Box 5. Folder 10. Research material. Allegemeine Zeitung copies, undated

Box 5. Folder 11. Research material. American Hebrew copies, undated

Box 6. Folder 1. Research material. American Israelite, undated

Box 6. Folder 2. Research material. American Israelite cover, undated

Box 6. Folder 3. Research material. Asmonean copies, undated

Box 6. Folder 4. Research material. Die Deborah copies, undated

Box 6. Folder 5. Research material. Die Deborah translations and copies, undated

Box 6. Folder 6. Research material. Die Deborah translations and copies, undated

Box 6. Folder 7. Research material. Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly copies, undated

Box 6. Folder 8. Research material. Jewish newspapers copies, undated

Box 6. Folder 9. Research material. Rabbiner-Conferenz (Philadelphia, Pa.) copy, undated

Series B. Felix A. Levy, 1935-1968

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 3. Memorial volume correspondence, 1965-1968

Box 7. Folder 4. Memorial volume correspondence, 1965-1968

Box 7. Folder 5. Memorial volume draft, undated

Box 7. Folder 6. Memorial volume miscellaneous, 1935-1938

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 2. Albany. The Adjustment of Soviet Jewish Immigrants in the Albany, N.Y. Area research report, 1983

Box 8. Folder 3. Albany. Anti-Semitism. Zimmerman, Ira. Paper, 1977

Box 8. Folder 4. Albany, Jewish Communal Survey of, 1947

Box 8. Folder 5. Albany. Jewish Federation, 1975, 1985

Box 8. Folder 6. Albany. Jews, 1975,1981, undated

Box 8. Folder 7. Albany. The Jews in Albany 1655-1914. Louis Silver, undated

Box 8. Folder 8. Ancient period, undated

Box 8. Folder 9. Biographical material and curriculum vitae, 1970-1975,1982-1983

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

Box 8. Folder 11. Boston. Article, 1968

Box 8. Folder 12. Correspondence. American Historical Society, 1966

Box 8. Folder 13. Correspondence. Benny Kraut, 1980

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

Box 8. Folder 15. Curriculum. Jewish Federation, 1973

Box 8. Folder 16. Grant applications, 1973, 1984

Box 8. Folder 17. Hebrew Union College Syllabus. Jewish History VI: A Survey of Jewish History, 1976-1977

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

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

Box 9. Folder 2. Jewish History, 1984

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

Box 9. Folder 4. Nationalism, 1980

Box 9. Folder 5. New World, undated

Box 9. Folder 6. Owensboro sermons, 1932-1934

Box 9. Folder 7. Raider, Mark, undated

Box 9. Folder 8. Teaching. Correspondence, 1982

Box 9. Folder 9. Teaching. Course materials, 1970, 1979

Box 9. Folder 10. Teaching. Holocaust, 1979

Box 9. Folder 11. Teaching. Holocaust. Seminar and Symposium, 1977, 1979

Box 9. Folder 12. Teaching. Post- Holocaust Jewish World, 1978, 1984

Box 9. Folder 13. Teaching. Zionism, 1973-1982

Box 9. Folder 14. Teaching. Zionism, 1976-1980

Box 9. Folder 15. Teaching. Zionism, 1976-1980

Box 9. Folder 16. Temple Emanuel, 1968

Box 9. Folder 17. Temple Emanuel. Congregation minutes. Book 4, undated

Box 9. Folder 18. Toronto. Isaac Mayer Wise. Bohemian Seed and American Fruit, 1984

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 3. Wise, Isaac M., 1994

Box 10. Folder 4. Wise, Isaac M. Bohemian Seed and American Fruit, 1984

Box 10. Folder 5. Writings, pamphlets by Sefton Temkin, 1962-1981

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

Box 11. Folder 7. Zionism. Letter to Duker, A.G., 1972