A Finding Aid to the Louis Feinberg Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 747

Collection Summary

Title Louis Feinberg Papers

Dates 1909-1948 **Collection Number** MS-747

Repository The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Feinberg, Louis, 1887-1949 Creator 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes) **Extent** Language of the Material English, Hebrew, and Yiddish

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Louis Feinberg was born in Rossieny, Lithuania on March 25, 1887, the son of Mordecai and Chaye Feinberg. He was one of five children. The family immigrated to America, where Louis attended public school in Philadelphia. He then attended the University of Pennsylvania and Yeshiva Mishkan Yisroel. Valedictorian of his 1916 class at Jewish Theological Seminary, he was ordained magna cum laude.

Feinberg then served the congregation of Ohel Jacob in Philadelphia until 1918, at which time he assumed the pulpit of K.K. Adath Israel temple (Avondale Synagogue) in Cincinnati. During his tenure, the congregation built a new synagogue. In addition, Feinberg was active in numerous organizations, among them the Law Committee of Jewish Theological Seminary, the Menorah Society, the Board of Jewish Ministers, the Board of Governors of the United Jewish Social Agencies, the executive committee of the Jewish Community Council, the Zionist Organization of America, Misrachi, and the Bureau of Jewish Education. He was also a prolific writer.

Louis and Rosa Rauneker Feinberg were married for 28 years, and had four children: Bertha, Mimi, and Mordecai, and Herbert Eaton, who was adopted.

Louis Feinberg died on February 20, 1949, at the age of 61.

Scope and Content

The collection consists mostly of Louis Feinberg's writings: articles, lectures, sermons, prayers, stories, and even some children's games. Of special interest are a diary, correspondence, photographs, postcards, and nearprint that all came out of a trip to eastern Europe and the Middle East that he took in 1937. A book manuscript and correspondence make up the balance of papers. One of the boxes holds a chronological record of the weddings at which he officiated. Another holds notations on the books of the Torah.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in six (6) series: A. Trip to Europe and the Middle East; B. Correspondence; C. Writings; D. Spiritual Foundations Manuscript; E. Weddings; F. Torah Study.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-747. Louis Feinberg Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Louis Peerless, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2007.

Processing Information Processed by American Jewish Archives staff, August 2007.

Index Terms

Subjects Eastern Europe -- Description and travel / Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Palestine -- Description and

travel / Rabbis

Personal Names

Feinberg, Louis, 1887-1949

Corporate Names Adath Israel Congregation (Cincinnati, Ohio) / Louis Feinberg Synagogue (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Media

Sermons

Series A. Trip to Europe and the Middle East, 1937

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Feinberg's trip to eastern Europe and Palestine was given to him as a gift, very possibly in response to an oft-stated wish. Its thorough documentation, in the form of letters, a diary, postcards, photographs, and nearprint, at such a critical time in world history -1937- makes it noteworthy. A road map of Palestine can be found, and the sumptuous artwork which decorates the nearprint is a marvelous bonus.

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence.

Box 1. Folder 2. Diary.

Box 1. Folder 3. Nearprint.

Box 1. Folder 4. Photographs.

Box 1. Folder 5. Postcards.

Series B. Correspondence, 1920s, undated

Extent 0.08 linear feet (0.2 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Feinberg's correspondence is written in both English and Yiddish. His correspondence with Solomon Schechter was such that Feinberg described it as "infamous."

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 6. Correspondence [English].

Box 1. Folder 7. Correspondence [Yiddish].

Series C. Writings, 1909-1948

Extent 0.52 linear feet (1.3 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note This series includes scripts for radio broadcasts made by Feinberg for "Church of the Air," from 1939-1946, as well as articles, lectures, prayers, and sermons.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 8. Articles, lectures, etc. [some Hebrew].

Box 1. Folder 9. Articles, lectures, etc.

Box 1. Folder 10. Articles, lectures, etc.

Box 2. Folder 1. Our Jewish Youth, 1909

Box 2. Folder 1. Jewish Spectator, 1947-1948

Box 2. Folder 2. Prayers, 1920-1948, undated

Box 2. Folder 3. Radio broadcasts with correspondence, 1939-1946

Box 2. Folder 4. Sermons, 1944-47

Box 2. Folder 5. Miscellaneous writings, 1946-48, undated

Box 2. Folder 6. Miscellaneous writings, undated

Series D. Spiritual Foundations Manuscript, undated

Scope and Content Note The manuscript is incomplete and includes pages 2-114 of the 280-page book.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 7. Partial manuscript.

Series E. Weddings, 1920-1947

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note A chronological record of more than 1,300 weddings.

Arrangement The series is arranged chronologically.

Container List

Box 3. Notecards that detail weddings at which Feinberg officiated.

Series F. Torah Study, undated

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Note cards with Feinberg's handwritten thoughts regarding verses of the Torah, Prophets, and Writings.

Container List

Box 4. Notecards with thoughts about verses in the Torah.