



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Joseph and Barton Cohen Papers
Manuscript Collection No. 778**

Collection Summary

Title	Joseph and Barton Cohen Papers
Dates	1902-2006
Collection Number	MS-778
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Cohen, Joseph, 1902-1974 Cohen, Barton, 1930-2006
Extent	2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English and Yiddish

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Joseph Cohen was born on March 23, 1902 in Kansas City, Missouri. After attending the University of Kansas and the University of Colorado, Cohen obtained his LLB at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, in 1924.

Prior to entering law practice, Cohen worked as a newspaper reporter for the Kansas City Star for seven years. In 1924 Cohen organized the Kansas Association of B'nai B'rith Lodges. Remaining active in B'nai B'rith, Cohen was later elected president of District Grand Lodge No. 2 and was a member of the national commission of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith for 35 years.

In the early years of his law practice, Cohen earned a reputation for winning civil case judgments on behalf of African American clients. He often spoke in favor of fair employment laws and maintained an interest in civil rights legislation throughout his career. Cohen was also a banker, being chairman of the board of Rosedale State Bank and Trust Company of Kansas City and the Metcalf State Bank of Overland Park, Kansas.

Very active in communal affairs, Cohen was a member and officer in many groups, including the American Bar Association, the American Trial Lawyers Association, and numerous other local groups. Cohen was a member of Congregation B'nai Jehudah, Kansas City, and an honorary member of the board of Congregation Ohev Sholom, Prairie Village, Kansas.

Married to Margaret Pollock, Cohen had three children: Barton, Hildred, and Miles. Following Margaret's death, Cohen married Marjorie Blond.

Joseph Cohen died on September 2, 1974.

Barton P. Cohen

Joseph's son, Barton P. Cohen (1930-2006) assumed control of the Metcalf State Bank upon his father's death. Together with his wife Mary, Barton was also very involved in the Kansas City area community. Through his professional and charitable activities Barton made a lasting impact in the Jewish and non-Jewish communities of Kansas City, as his papers attest.

Scope and Content The Joseph and Barton Cohen Papers contain personal and business papers of Joseph Cohen, a Kansas City banker and lawyer, together with papers of his son, Barton. Included in the collection are family photographs, medallions, and mini cassette recordings of Israeli leaders.

Arrangement This collection is arranged in three (3) series: A. Joseph Cohen; B. Barton P. Cohen; C. Cohen Family.

Access Restrictions Files 1/5, 2/5, 2/6, 3/1, 3/2, and 4/3 are restricted.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Joseph and Barton Cohen Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Joseph and Barton Cohen Papers, MS-778, Box [#], Folder [#]. MS-778. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Mary Davidson Cohen, Overland Park, Kan., 2009.

Index Terms

Subjects Iraq War, 2003-2011 / Jewish bankers / Jews -- Missouri -- Kansas City

Corporate Names B'nai B'rith / B'nai B'rith. Anti-defamation League / Congregation B'nai Jehudah (Kansas City, Mo.)

Series A. Joseph Cohen, 1902-2005

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consisting of correspondence, business papers, personal and family items, speeches, and newspaper clippings, this series documents Joseph Cohen's life from his childhood to his death. Also included are a number of files concerning the disposition of Cohen's estate following his death and memorial tributes in his honor, including the Joseph Cohen Memorial Lecture, which was established at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, by his son, Barton. These files contain information on the creation of the lecture series together with information on the speakers from its inception in 1979 up to 2005.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 1966, 1975

Box 1. Folder 2. B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, 1965

Box 1. Folder 3. Business papers, 1966

Box 1. Folder 4. Campers Bugle, 1976

Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence [Restricted to the Director of the American Jewish Archives], 1964

Box 1. Folder 6. Correspondence, 1964

Box 1. Folder 7. Personal, 1916-1965

Box 1. Folder 8. Personal, 1902-1976

Box 1. Folder 9. Speeches and writings, 1926-1965, undated

Box 2. Folder 1. Speeches and writings, undated

Box 2. Folder 2. 70th birthday, 1972

Box 2. Folder 3. Condolences, 1976-1977

Box 2. Folder 4. Memorial, 1977

Box 2. Folder 5-6. Trusteeship [Restricted to the Director of the American Jewish Archives], 1976-1982

Box 3. Folder 1. Estate and will [Restricted to the Director of the American Jewish Archives], 1976

Box 3. Folder 2. Joseph Cohen Memorial Lecture [Restricted to the Director of the American Jewish Archives], 1979-1991

Box 3. Folder 3. Joseph Cohen Memorial Lecture, 1992-2005, undated

Box 3. Folder 4. Newspaper clippings.

Box 3. Folder 5. Scrapbook, 1929-1951

Series B. Barton P. Cohen, 1930-2005

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains files by and about Barton P. Cohen, including newspaper clippings, correspondence and a

large file of family history compiled and collected by Barton Cohen.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 6. Personal, 1930-2006

Box 4. Folder 1. Family and genealogy materials.

Box 4. Folder 2. Union for Reform Judaism. Iraq war resolution, 2005

Box 4. Folder 3. 70th and 75th birthday [Restricted to the Director of the American Jewish Archives], 2000, 2005

Box 4. Folder 4-5. Newsclippings.

Series C. Cohen Family, 1972, 1980, undated

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains photographs, medals, and audiocassettes.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 1. Joseph Cohen 70th birthday photographs, 1972

Box 5. Folder 2. Joseph Cohen photographs.

Box 5. Folder 3-5. Cohen family photographs [3 folders].

Box 5. Folder -. Medallions [5 medallions].

Box 5. Folder -. Anti-Defamation League cufflinks.

Box 5. Folder -. Mini-audiocassettes of Israeli leaders [5 audiocassettes], 1980

File 1. Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 1966, 1975

In container 1

Extent 31 p.

Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 2. B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, 1965

In container 1

Extent 34 p.

Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 3. Business papers, 1966

In container 1

Extent 15 p.

Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 4. Campers Bugle, 1976

In container 1

Extent 27 p.

Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 6. Correspondence, 1964

In container 1

Extent 172 p.

Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 7. Personal, 1916-1965

In container 1

Extent 79 p.

Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 8. Personal, 1902-1976

In container 1

Extent 127 p.

Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 9. Speeches and writings, 1926-1965, undated

In container 1

Extent 357 p.

Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 1. Speeches and writings, undated

In container 2
Extent 330 p.
Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 2. 70th birthday, 1972

In container 2
Extent 64 p.
Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 3. Condolences, 1976-1977

In container 2
Extent 43 p.
Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 4. Memorial, 1977

In container 2
Extent 82 p.
Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 3. Joseph Cohen Memorial Lecture, 1992-2005, undated

In container 3
Extent 231 p.
Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 4. Newsclippings

In container 3
Extent 91 p.
Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 5. Scrapbook, 1929-1951

In container 3
Extent 151 p.
Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 6. Personal, 1930-2006

In container 3
Extent 164 p.
Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 1. Family and genealogy materials

In container 4
Extent 333 p.
Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 2. Union for Reform Judaism. Iraq war resolution, 2005

In container 4
Extent 39 p.
Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized

File 4-5. Newsclippings

In container 4
Extent 138 p.
Language of the Material English

Media

Digitized