



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

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Michael A. Meyer Papers**

**Manuscript Collection No. 804**



## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Michael A. Meyer Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1967-1985 (bulk 1970-1980)
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-804
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Meyer, Michael A.
<b>Extent</b>	2 linear feet (2 record cartons)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English and Hebrew

## Administrative Information

**Biographical Sketch** Michael A. Meyer was born in Berlin, Germany and grew up in Los Angeles, where he received his B.A. (with highest honors) from UCLA. His doctorate is from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

From 1964 to 1967, he taught at the Los Angeles campus of HUC. Since 1967 he has been on the faculty of HUC, Cincinnati, where he is currently the Adolph S. Ochs Professor of Jewish History Emeritus. From 2000 to 2008, he also taught every fourth semester at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Jerusalem campus of HUC.

Professor Meyer's books have won three Jewish Book Awards. They include *The Origins of the Modern Jew: Jewish Identity and European Culture in Germany, 1749-1824* (1967); *Response to Modernity: A History of the Reform Movement in Judaism* (1988); *Jewish Identity in the Modern World* (1990); and a collection of essays entitled *Judaism Within Modernity* (2001). Among books he has edited are *Ideas of Jewish History* (1974); the four-volume *German-Jewish History in Modern Times* (1996-1998); Volume six of the collected writings of Leo Baeck (2003); and Joachim Prinz, *Rebellious Rabbi: An Autobiography--the German and Early American Years* (2007). He has published more than two hundred articles and longer reviews.

From 1978 to 1980 Professor Meyer was president of the Association for Jewish Studies (the American professional society of Judaica scholars) and from 2003 to 2006 chaired the Academic Advisory Council of the Center for Jewish History in New York. Since 1991 he has been international president of the Leo Baeck Institute, a scholarly organization devoted to the historical study of German Jewry that has branches in Jerusalem, New York and London. He also chairs the Publications Committee of the Hebrew Union College Press and is a fellow of the American Academy for Jewish Research.

In 1996 Professor Meyer won the National Foundation for Jewish Culture's Scholarship Award in Historical Studies for major influence on colleagues and students in his field. In 1997 he was a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, in the summer of 2000 a guest professor at the Aby Warburg House in Hamburg, and in 2001 received an honorary Doctor of Hebrew Letters degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 2008 fellow Jewish historians from the United States, Israel, and Europe honored him with a jubilee volume entitled *Mediating Modernity: Challenges and Trends in the Jewish Encounter with the Modern World*.

Though himself proudly a layperson, his wife, Margaret J. Meyer, is a Reform rabbi as is his oldest son (in Israel) and his son-in-law (in Philadelphia).

## Scope and Content

The Michael A. Meyer papers document the career of Dr. Meyer during his time as the Adolph S. Ochs Professor of Jewish History at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. The collection is particularly strong in documenting Dr. Meyer's scholarly and communal activities in organizations such as the Association for Jewish Studies, World Union for Progressive Judaism, Queens College, and Meyer's role as editor of the journal of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. The collection also contains correspondence with academic colleagues together with many files on the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, particularly pertaining to the College-Institute's Jerusalem campus. There are files on the Breira movement, the petition by Congregation Beth Adam (Cincinnati) to enter the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the beginnings of the Yavneh Day School in Cincinnati, Ohio. Three files (the Joseph Guttman case, Jacob Neusner, and Jehuda Reinharz) are restricted. Requests to see these files must be made, in writing, to the Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives.

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.

<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Files for the Alexander Guttman case, Jacob Neusner, and Jehuda Reinharz are restricted. Requests to see these files must be made, in writing, to the Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives.
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Michael A. Meyer Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:  [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-804. Michael A. Meyer Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
<b>Provenance</b>	Received from Michael A. Meyer, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 2012.
<b>Processing Information</b>	Processed by Kevin Proffitt, June 2012.  This collection was arranged and described according to minimal-processing standards. Funding, in part, for the arrangement and description of this collection was provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

## Index Terms

<b>Subjects</b>	CCAR Journal / Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Protest movements
<b>Personal Names</b>	Guttman, Alexander / Meyer, Michael A. / Neusner, Jacob, 1932-
<b>Corporate Names</b>	Association of Jewish Studies / Breira : A Project of Concern in Diaspora-Israel Relations / Congregation Beth Adam (Cincinnati, Ohio) / Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Faculty / Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Jerusalem Campus / Queens College / World Union for Progressive Judaism / Yavneh Day School (Cincinnati, Ohio)

## Series A. General, 1967-1985

### Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Association of Jewish Studies. Jewish studies catalogue.
- Box 1. Folder 2. Association of Jewish Studies. Special interest groups.
- Box 1. Folder 3. Association of Jewish Studies. Interchange.
- Box 1. Folder 4. Association of Jewish Studies. World Union of Jewish Studies and AJS Israel relations.
- Box 1. Folder 5. Association of Jewish Studies nominations.
- Box 1. Folder 6. Association of Jewish Studies annual conference, 1973-1975
- Box 1. Folder 7. Association of Jewish Studies membership and placement.
- Box 1. Folder 8. Association of Jewish Studies annual conferences and participants.
- Box 1. Folder 9. Association of Jewish Studies governance.
- Box 1. Folder 10. Association for Jewish Studies, 1969-1972
- Box 1. Folder 11. Association of Jewish Studies annual conference program, 1978
- Box 1. Folder 12. Association of Jewish Studies annual conference, 1979
- Box 1. Folder 13. Association of Jewish Studies. Silberman, 1971-1972
- Box 1. Folder 14. Association of Jewish Studies miscellaneous, 1972-1975
- Box 1. Folder 15. Association of Jewish Studies questionnaire.
- Box 1. Folder 16. Association of Jewish Studies annual conference, 1980
- Box 1. Folder 17. Association of Jewish Studies. Long range planning.

Box 1. Folder 18. Association of Jewish Studies, state of Jewish studies.

Box 1. Folder 19. Association of Jewish Studies, regional conferences.

Box 1. Folder 20. Association of Jewish Studies, Davis project and Everyman's University.

Box 1. Folder 21. Association of Jewish Studies. Graduate program conference.

Box 1. Folder 22. Association of Jewish Studies review and other parts.

Box 1. Folder 23. Association of Jewish Studies finance.

Box 1. Folder 24. Association of Jewish Studies. Fund raising.

Box 1. Folder 25. Congregation Beth Adam (Cincinnati, Ohio) — Admission to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1994

Box 2. Folder 1. Breira, 1973-1975

Box 2. Folder 2. Breira, 1976

Box 2. Folder 3. CCAR Journal Editorial Board, 1976-1981

Box 2. Folder 4. Guttman, Alexander (Case) [Restricted], 1985

Box 2. Folder 5. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Vietnam protest), 1970

Box 2. Folder 6. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Israeli rabbinic students), 1978

Box 2. Folder 7. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Task force), 1973-1974

Box 2. Folder 8. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Jerusalem school), 1977-1981

Box 2. Folder 9. Neusner, Jacob [Restricted], 1967-1979

Box 2. Folder 10. Queens College (Jewish studies), 1980

Box 2. Folder 11. Reinhartz, Jehuda, 1981

Box 2. Folder 12. World Union for Progressive Judaism, 1983

Box 2. Folder 13. World Union for Progressive Judaism. Committee members position papers, 1983

Box 2. Folder 14. World Union for Progressive Judaism committee materials, 1983

Box 2. Folder 15. World Union for Progressive Judaism commission, 1983

Box 2. Folder 16. World Union for Progressive Judaism. Plaut commission, 1983

Box 2. Folder 17. Yavneh Day School (Cincinnati, Ohio), 1976