



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

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Walter G. Peiser Manuscripts  
Manuscript Collection No. 805**

## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Walter G. Peiser Manuscripts
<b>Dates</b>	1972-1989
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-805
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Peiser, Walter G., 1899-1994
<b>Extent</b>	2 linear feet (2 record cartons)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

**Biographical Sketch** Walter Gilbert Peiser was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1899, and graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1921. He was ordained at Hebrew Union College in 1924, and received his doctorate from Louisiana State University. He served as rabbi to Congregation B'nai Israel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana from 1927 until his retirement in 1966. A classical Reform Jew, Peiser stressed that Jews were simply a religious group, not a separate people who needed their own homeland. He joined the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism in the 1930s. Passionately committed to social justice, Peiser once refused to say an invocation to the Louisiana State legislature in 1929 to protest Governor Huey Long's political corruption. In 1933, he verbally attacked the proponents of violent acts against black railroad workers, and worked with the Commission on Social Justice to gain a peaceful resolution to the situation. In 1930 he was named president of the Southwest Jewish Chautauqua Society. Peiser also translated and commented on various books of the Bible, notes of which are included in this collection. He served on the faculty of Louisiana State University.

**Scope and Content** This collection consists of handwritten manuscripts for Walter Peiser's English translations of various books of the Bible. Translations are accompanied by a brief commentary in most cases. Also included is a manuscript, "The Bible: A Study," which explains Peiser's motivations for writing the new translations and some of his personal religious convictions.

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

**Terms of Access** The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

**Preferred Citation** Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Walter G. Peiser Manuscripts and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-805. Walter G. Peiser Manuscripts. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance** Received from Gretchen Pressburg, Baton Rouge, La., May 2011.

**Processing Information** Processed by Michelle Wirth, September 2011.

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>	Bible / Rabbis
<b>Personal Names</b>	Peiser, Walter G., 1899-1994

### Series A. General, 1972-1989

**Arrangement** Material arranged by book in the Biblical order.

## Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Manuscript.

Box 1. Folder 2. "The Bible a Study", first draft.

Box 1. Folder 3. "The Bible a Study", chapter XI-XII.

Box 1. Folder 4. "My Favorite Bible Words", 1989

Box 1. Folder 5. "To Begin With", a new English translation of Genesis with some simple comments, chapter I-XXII.

Box 1. Folder 6. "To Begin With", a new English translation of Genesis with some simple comments, chapter XVII-XXXIV.

Box 1. Folder 7. "To Begin With", a new English translation of Genesis with some simple comments, chapter XXXV-I.

Box 1. Folder 8. "A New Look at Exodus", 1985 August 6

Box 1. Folder 9. "A New Look at Deuteronomy, Moses' "Teaching" ("Torah")", 1985 July 29

Box 1. Folder 10. "The Bible's Ezra and Nehemiah", a new English translation plus a few simple comments, part one. Ezra and Nehemiah I-IV.

Box 1. Folder 11. "The Bible's Ezra and Nehemiah", a new English translation plus a few simple comments, part two. Nehemiah V-XIII.

Box 1. Folder 12. "The Bible's "Book of Job"" pages 1-147.

Box 1. Folder 13. "The Bible's "Book of Job"" pages 148-305.

Box 1. Folder 14. "Three Great Speeches from the Bible's "Book" of Job".

Box 1. Folder 15. "The Bible's "Book" of Psalms", a new translation with comments, part one. Introduction to Psalm XXXIII.

Box 1. Folder 16. "The Bible's "Book" of Psalms", a new translation with comments, part two. Psalm XXXIV-LXXIII.

Box 1. Folder 17. "The Bible's "Book" of Psalms", a new translation with comments, part three. Psalm LXXIV-CV.

Box 2. Folder 1. "The Bible's "Book" of Psalms", a new translation with comments, part four. Psalms CVI-CXXXIV).

Box 2. Folder 2. "The Bible's "Book" of Psalms", a new translation with comments, part five. Psalms CXXXV-CL.

Box 2. Folder 3. "Fifty Bible Psalms", selected, translated, and discussed, 1975 March 13

Box 2. Folder 4. "The Bible's "Proverbs"" , 1986-1987

Box 2. Folder 5. "The First Isaiah", a new English translation with a few simple comments, part one. To chapter XIX.

Box 2. Folder 6. "The First Isaiah", a new English translation with a few simple comments, part two. From chapter XX.

Box 2. Folder 7. "Early Sermons of the Prophet Jeremiah", a new translation into English and some comments.

Box 2. Folder 8. "Middle Sermons of the Prophet Jeremiah", a new translation into English and some comments.

Box 2. Folder 9. "Final "Chapters" of the Prophet Jeremiah", a new translation into English and some comments.

Box 2. Folder 10. "Hosea", translation and notes, 1972 December 22-1973 January 19, 1973 March 1-1973 March 12

Box 2. Folder 11. The greatest sermon ever preached. "The Bible's Amos", 1986 November 6