A Finding Aid to the
Ben Zion Wacholder Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 829
Collection Summary

Title
Ben Zion Wacholder Papers

Dates

Collection Number
MS-829

Repository
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Creator
Wacholder, Ben Zion, 1924-2011

Extent
3 linear feet (3 record cartons)

Language of the Material
English, German, and Hebrew

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
Ben Zion Wacholder was born in Zarow, Poland in 1924. He was a Holocaust survivor who immigrated to the United States in 1947. Wacholder completed a bachelor's degree at Yeshiva University in 1951 and received his doctorate at UCLA in 1960. He became the first librarian at the Los Angeles campus of the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in 1956. After serving as librarian for six years, Wacholder moved to Cincinnati in 1963 where he served as professor of Talmud and Rabbinics and the Solomon B. Freehof Professor of Jewish Law and Practice. After publishing works on Nicolaus of Damascus, Eupolemus, and Jewish chronology, among other subjects, Wacholder turned his attention to the Dead Sea Scrolls. His work in this area is notable not only for his pioneering publications, but also for his critical role in the opening up of the Scrolls to the general community of scholars. Wacholder's scholarly contributions are especially notable given his deteriorating vision. Upon his seventieth birthday, he was presented with a festschrift that includes a full bibliography of his writings. See, Pursuing the Text: Studies in Honor of Ben Zion Wacholder on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday (1996). His last book, The New Damascus Document: The Midrash on the Eschatological Torah of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Reconstruction, Translation, and Commentary, appeared in 2007. For more on the life and work of Ben Zion Wacholder, see Jason Kalman, "Optimistic, Even With the Negatives: HUC-JIR and the Dead Sea Scrolls, 1948—1993," The American Jewish Archives Journal LXI, no. 1 (2009): 1—114.

Adapted from the H-Judaic posting (March 30, 2011) of Wacholder's death.

Scope and Content
Correspondence, drafts of manuscripts, newscippings, and research notes of Ben Zion Wacholder, scholar of Talmud and Rabbinics. Correspondence relates to manuscript proposals and publications, recommendation letters, and personal matters. Manuscript drafts include Nicolaus of Damascus and Eupolemus as well as over 30 short writings.

Arrangement

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

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-829. Ben Zion Wacholder Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance
Received from Ben Zion Wacholder, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 2003, and the Wacholder family, 2011.

Processing Information
Processed by Elisa Ho, October 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

Subjects
Historiography

Personal Names
Wacholder, Ben Zion

Corporate Names
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
Series A. Correspondence, 1950-2003

Extent 1 linear foot (1 record carton)

Scope and Content Note Correspondence mostly relating to publishing articles and manuscripts.

Arrangement Chronological by decade.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, undated
Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1950s
Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1960s
Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1960s
Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1960s
Box 1. Folder 6. Correspondence, 1970s
Box 1. Folder 7. Correspondence, 1970s
Box 1. Folder 8. Correspondence, 1970s
Box 1. Folder 9. Correspondence, 1970s
Box 1. Folder 10. Correspondence, 1980s
Box 1. Folder 11. Correspondence, 1990s
Box 1. Folder 12. Correspondence, 2000s
Box 1. Folder 14. Thank you letters, 2001 July 24
Box 1. Folder 15. Correspondence [Hebrew], 1973-1976

Series B. Writings, undated

Extent 1.5 linear feet (1.5 record cartons)

Scope and Content Note Over 30 essays and drafts of publications arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 1. Aristobulus, undated
Box 2. Folder 2. The Art of Karo's Code, 1966, undated
Box 2. Folder 3. The Bible in Hellenistic Society, undated
Box 2. Folder 4. The Book of Jubilees, undated
Box 2. Folder 5. Calendar Wars, undated
Box 2. Folder 6. The Campaigns of Shapur I and the Jewish Communities of the East, undated
Box 2. Folder 7. Cases of the Proselytizing in the Franco-German Rabbinic Literature, undated
Box 2. Folder 8. The Celebration of the Seconds Day of the Festivals, undated
Box 2. Folder 9. Chronology of Diadochoi Revised Dates of Alexander IV's Death, undated
Box 2. Folder 10. The Code of Gortyn, undated
Box 2. Folder 11. The Conversion of Slaves to Judaism during the First Half of the Middle Ages, undated
Box 2. Folder 12. Daniel's Chronomessianic Chronology and the Sabbatical Calendar, undated
Box 2. Folder 13. The Date of the Eschaton in Jubilees, undated
Box 2. Folder 14. The Date of the Mekilta de-Rabbi Ishmael, undated
Box 2. Folder 15. Essays, undated
Box 2. Folder 16. The Future of Talmudic Studies, undated
Box 2. Folder 17. Greek Authors in Herod's Library, undated
Box 2. Folder 18. The Halakah and the Proselytizing of Slaves During the Gaonic Era, undated
Box 2. Folder 19. Hellenism and the Talmudic Literature, undated
Box 2. Folder 20. Hermeneutic Rules, undated
Box 2. Folder 21. The History of the Jewish Calendar, undated
Box 2. Folder 22. History of Rabbinic Literature, undated
Box 2. Folder 23. A History of the Sabbatical Readings of Scripture for the "Triennial Cycle", undated
Box 2. Folder 24. How Long Did Abraham Stay in Egypt?, undated
Box 2. Folder 25. Jacob Frank and the Frankists Hebrew Zoharic Letters, undated
Box 2. Folder 26. Jewish Eras, undated
Box 2. Folder 27. The Letter from Judah Maccabee to Aristobulus, undated
Box 2. Folder 28. Marriage and Divorce, undated
Box 2. Folder 29. Messianism and Mishnah, undated
Box 2. Folder 30. Nicolaus of Damascus, undated
Box 2. Folder 31. The Political Views of Judah P. Benjamin, undated
Box 2. Folder 32. The Problem, undated
Box 2. Folder 33. The Proselyte in Rabbinic Literature, undated
Box 2. Folder 34. Writings in Hebrew, undated
Box 3. Folder 35. Pseudo-Eupolemus' Two Greek Fragments on the Life of Abraham, undated
Box 3. Folder 37. A Qumran Attack on the Oral Exegesis?, undated
Box 3. Folder 38. Biography, 1976, undated
Box 3. Folder 39. Rabbi Abraham ben David of Posquieres, undated
Box 3. Folder 40. Relative Dating of the Halakic Midrashim, undated
Box 3. Folder 41. Revelations of a Falasha Priest, 1985
Box 3. Folder 42. Sabbatical Year, undated
Box 3. Folder 43. The Scroll of Fasts, undated
Box 3. Folder 44. 688 Ctesias of Cnidus, undated
Box 3. Folder 45. The State of the Rabbinic Scholarship, undated
Box 3. Folder 46. The Story of the Talmud at the HUC, undated
Box 3. Folder 47. Time: The Atheist's God, undated
Box 3. Folder 48. The Timing of Messianic Movements and the Calendar of the Sabbatical Cycles, undated
Box 3. Folder 49. The Triennial Cycle of Reading the Torah, undated
Box 3. Folder 50. Writings, 1974, undated

Series C. General, 1957-2001

Extent 0.5 linear foot (0.5 record carton)

Scope and Content Note Hebrew Union College teaching material, Dead Sea Scrolls litigation against Elisha Qimron, and other academic notes arranged alphabetically by subject.

Arrangement <br>

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 51. Abot, undated
Box 3. Folder 54. Articles, 1963, 1966
Box 3. Folder 55. Bar/bat mitzvah address, 1971, 1977, undated
Box 3. Folder 58. CCAR Decision on the Status of a Person, 1981
Box 3. Folder 61. Computer-Outspoken, 1999
Box 3. Folder 62. Lecture/Conference [Dead Sea Scrolls After 50 Years], 1997
Box 3. Folder 63. Lecture/Conference [Dead Sea Scrolls: Jewish Thought in it's Hellenistic World], 1996
Box 3. Folder 64. Abegg et al vs. Qimron, 1993-1994
Box 3. Folder 66. Writings in Hebrew, undated
Box 3. Folder 67. HUC [various materials], 1970-1990s
Box 3. Folder 69. Papers, undated
Box 3. Folder 70. Coursework, 1957-1958
Box 3. Folder 71. HUC-JIR L.A. [History 201], 1962-1963
Box 3. Folder 72. History lectures, 1957-1963
Box 3. Folder 73. Loose papers, undated
Box 3. Folder 74. Newsclippings, 1960s-1990s
Box 3. Folder 75. Note books, undated
Box 3. Folder 76. Notes, undated
Box 3. Folder 77. Official documents, 1947-1950
Box 3. Folder 78. Photographs, undated
Box 3. Folder 79. Reviewer notes, undated
Box 3. Folder 80. Syllabi, 1960-1963, 1986,