



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Ben Zion Wacholder Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 829



Collection Summary

Title	Ben Zion Wacholder Papers
Dates	1939-2011 (bulk: 1960-1980)
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, newsclippings, 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 This collection is arranged in three (3) series: Series A. Correspondence. 1950-2003.; Series B. Writings. Undated.; Series C. General. 1957-2001.

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 13. Recommendations, 1992-1998
- Box 1. Folder 14. Thank you letters, 2001 July 24
- Box 1. Folder 15. Correspondence [Hebrew], 1973-1976
- Box 1. Folder 16. Brown, Truesdell S., 1962-1990
- Box 1. Folder 17. Family correspondence, 1952, 1966, 1974, undated
- Box 1. Folder 18. Greeting cards, 1965, 1999, undated

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 36. Publications, 1970-2001

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

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 51. Abot, undated

Box 3. Folder 52. Addresses, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1980

Box 3. Folder 53. Applications, 1965, 1966, undated

Box 3. Folder 54. Articles, 1963, 1966

Box 3. Folder 55. Bar/bat mitzvah address, 1971, 1977, undated

Box 3. Folder 56. Biblical Archaeology Society, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1992, undated

Box 3. Folder 57. Book reviews, 1965, 1966, 1984, 1987, 1976, undated

Box 3. Folder 58. CCAR Decision on the Status of a Person, 1981

Box 3. Folder 59. Dead Sea Scrolls, 1984, 1992, 1993, undated

Box 3. Folder 60. Computer Projects, 1965, 1970, undated

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 its Hellenistic World, 1996

Box 3. Folder 64. Abegg et al vs. Qimron, 1993-1994

Box 3. Folder 65. Dead Sea Scrolls [Qimron Lawsuit], 1989, 1993-1995

Box 3. Folder 66. Writings in Hebrew, undated

Box 3. Folder 67. HUC [various materials], 1970-1990s

Box 3. Folder 68. HUC memos, 1960s-1970s, 1981, 1993

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,
- Box 3. Folder 81. World Congress of Jewish Studies, 1992-1993, 2001 August 12-17