

Guide to the Kohut Family Papers

MS 956



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz and staff of Manuscripts and Archives

July 1983

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 956

CREATOR: Kohut family

TITLE: Kohut family papers

DATES: Circa 1880-1966

BULK DATES: 1890-1935

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English, German, and Hebrew.

SUMMARY: The family of Abraham and Rebekah Bettelheim Kohut were prominent in the New York Jewish community, and involved in religious affairs and education. The Kohut School for Girls was operated in New York City from 1899-1905 by Rebekah Kohut. The papers consist primarily of Kohut family memorabilia, photographs, correspondence, and other material. Also included are two ledgers from the Kohut School for Girls for academic year 1904-1905 listing students' names with charges for tuition, books, and other details.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0956>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0956>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the stacks of Sterling Memorial Library, 1942; transferred from the Judaica Collection Curator, 2001, 2007, and 2009.

Custodial History

Materials in this collection were received at various times from the Kohut family and descendants of Gisela Kahn Gresser, a granddaughter of Alexander Kohut, by the Yale University Library and the Judaica Collection.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Kohut Family Papers (MS 956). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Alexander Kohut was born in Hungary on April 22, 1842. He completed rabbinical studies in Breslau and received a Ph.D. from the University of Leipzig. In 1885 he came to the United States to serve as the chief rabbi of Congregation Ahavath Chesed in New York City. Kohut died on May 25, 1894, in New York City. Rebekah Bettelheim Kohut was born in Hungary on September 9, 1864, and immigrated to the United States with her family in 1864. She married Alexander Kohut in 1887, and raised his eight children from a previous marriage. Following his death, she founded and ran the Kohut School for Girls in New York City from 1899-1905. She was a prominent figure in helping to organize Jewish women's groups in New York, and in 1923 became president of the World Congress for Jewish Women. She died in New York City on August 11, 1951. George A. Kohut (1874-1933) was a son of Alexander Kohut, a scholar, and a librarian at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Scope and Contents

The family of Abraham and Rebekah Bettelheim Kohut were prominent in the New York Jewish community, and involved in religious affairs and education. The Kohut School for Girls was operated in New York City from 1899-1905 by Rebekah Kohut. The papers consist primarily of Kohut family memorabilia, photographs, correspondence, and other material. Also included are two ledgers from the Kohut School for Girls for academic year 1904-1905 listing students' names with charges for tuition, books, and other details. The Kohut family endowed the Alexander Kohut Memorial Fund for the purchase of Judaica materials by the Yale University Library.

General note

The collection was formerly known as the Kohut Girl's School Records (MS 956). With subsequent additions, Kohut family material now predominates and the title of the collection was changed to reflect this in 2009.

Collection Contents

Original accession

b. 1, f. 1-2	Ledgers from the Kohut School for Girls	Circa 1904-1905
	Family papers	
b. 1, f. 3	Epitaph of Israel Kohut and Columbia Teachers College registration booklet of Elsie Kohut Epitaph is in Hebrew and is undated.	Circa 1904-1905
b. 1, f. 4	Photographs of Kohut family members and copy of a bookplate for the Alexander Kohut Memorial Collection	Undated

Accession 2007-M-043: Additional material, Circa 1880-1966

Includes materials transferred from the Judaica Collection Curator in 2007 and 2009.

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	Circa 1886-1966
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence, certificates, vita, and other materials	1892-1928
b. 2, f. 2	Citation for Rebekah Kohut	1935
b. 1, f. 3	Memorials for Rev. Dr. Alexander Kohut	1894
b. 1, f. 4	Papers concerning the estate of George A. Kohut	1934-1935
b. 1, f. 5-8	Photographs Primarily portrait photographs of various members of the Kohut and Gresser families. A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1880-1920
b. 2, f. 1	Photograph of unidentified man and charcoal sketch of unidentified woman Likely members of the extended Kohut family.	Circa 1880-1920
b. 2, f. 3	Oversize photographs	Circa 1880-1920
b. 1, f. 9	Printed ephemera and Kohut biographical material	1894-1950
b. 1, f. 10	Printed manuscript Possibly in Turkish or Persian.	Undated
b. 3, f. 2	Scrapbook of Alexander Kohut Contains primarily clippings and printed ephemera in German, Hebrew, English, and other languages, and also includes some photographs of Alexander Kohut. Use Restriction: The materials in Accession 2007-M-043, Box 3 are extremely fragile. Supervision of the Reading Room staff is required to remove these materials from their housings.	Circa 1883-1910
b. 3, f. 1	Loose material removed from scrapbook	Circa 1883-1910
b. 1, f. 11	Writings	Circa 1900-1939

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Education
Jews -- United States
Women
Women -- Education

Geographic Names

New York (N.Y.)

Genres / Formats

Account books
Letters
Photographs

Names

Kohut, Alexander, 1842-1894
Kohut, George Alexander, 1874-1933
Kohut, Rebekah Bettelheim, 1864-1951

Corporate Body

Kohut School for Girls