

Guide to the Jacob Berman Papers

MS 2014



compiled by Julie Cohen

January 2016

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2014

CREATOR: Berman, Jacob, 1878-1974

TITLE: Jacob Berman papers

DATES: 1863-circa 1975

BULK DATES: 1920-1939

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .42 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Multiple languages

SUMMARY: The collection, which consists of over 70 letters and other documents sent to Rabbi Jacob Berman (1878-1974), includes primary source material relating to the early years of religious Zionism from the end of the nineteenth century through the 1930s. Of particular interest are letters from prominent rabbis, including Abraham Isaac Kook, Hayyim Soloveichik, Hayyim Ozer Grodzinski, Joseph Rosen, Isaac Jacob Reines, and Chaim Tchernowitz. In addition to the correspondence, the collection contains a wallet sewn from the parchment of a Torah scroll that was destroyed during a pogrom in Galicia.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2014>

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.2014>.

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 Judaica Collection Curator, 2015.

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

Jacob Berman Papers (MS 2014). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Jacob Berman, who became an important leader and educator in the Mizrahi religious Zionist movement, was born in Salant, Lithuania in 1878. He was a relative of the renowned Lithuanian rabbi, Israel Salanter. After studying at the Telz Yeshiva and St. Petersburg University, Berman served as a delegate to the Zionist Conference of 1902 in Minsk, promoted modern orthodox education, helped found the religious Zionist Mizrahi movement, headed a yeshiva in Odessa, and became the rabbi of Berditchev. In 1921 he immigrated to Palestine. There Berman served as head of Mizrahi religious education from 1924-1944, established a teacher's seminary, and remained a leading authority in religious education in Israel. He was the author of several books on Jewish law. In 1968 he received the Israel Prize for Education.

Scope and Contents

The collection, which consists of over 70 letters and other documents sent to Rabbi Jacob Berman (1878-1974), includes primary source material relating to the early years of religious Zionism from the end of the nineteenth century through the 1930s. Of particular interest are letters from prominent rabbis, including Abraham Isaac Kook, Hayyim Soloveichik, Hayyim Ozer Grodzinski, Joseph Rosen, Isaac Jacob Reines, and Chaim Tchernowitz. In addition to the correspondence, the collection contains a wallet sewn from the parchment of a Torah scroll that was destroyed during a pogrom in Galicia.

Arrangement

The materials are arranged according to document type, and alphabetically thereafter.

Collection Contents

Correspondence

Individuals

b. 1, f. 1	Abramsky, Yehezkel, 1886-1976	1932, 1933
b. 1, f. 2	Amiel, Moshe Avigdor, 1882-1945	1935
b. 1, f. 3	Aronson, Solomon, 1862-1935	1920
b. 1, f. 4	Atlas, Meir	1923-1924
b. 1, f. 5	Berman, Jacob, 1878-1974	1931
b. 1, f. 6	Berman, Shprintze, 1847-1929	[1921?]
b. 1, f. 7	Bichovski, Harcha	Circa 1920s, 1924
b. 1, f. 8	Blum, A. E.	1926
b. 1, f. 9	Brody, Heinrich, 1868-1942	1923
b. 1, f. 10	Epstein, Moses Mordecai, 1866-1933	1932
b. 1, f. 11	Fajans, David, 1860-1935	1926
b. 1, f. 12	Feinzilber, Š.	1929, 1933, 1934
b. 1, f. 13	Grodzinski, Hayyim Ozer, 1863-1940	1914, 1939
b. 1, f. 14	Herzog, Isaac, 1888-1959	1937, undated
b. 1, f. 15	Kabak, Aaron Abraham, 1880-1944	1935
b. 1, f. 16	Klein, Samuel, 1886-1940	1932
b. 1, f. 17	Kook, Abraham Isaac, 1865-1935	Circa 1920-1930
b. 1, f. 18	Levi, Hayim	1931
b. 1, f. 19	Lipschuetz, Eliezer Meir	1921?
b. 1, f. 20	Meltzer, Isser Zalman, 1870-1953	1932
b. 1, f. 21	Nissenbaum, Yitzchak, 1868-1942	1933
b. 1, f. 22	Reines, Isaac Jacob, 1839-1915	1911
b. 1, f. 23	Rosen, Joseph, 1858-1936	1927-1936
b. 1, f. 24	Rubinstein, Isaac, 1880-1945	circa 1910-1920
b. 1, f. 25	Salanter, Israel, 1810-1883	1863
b. 1, f. 26	Shapira, Avraham Duber Kahana, 1870-1943	1939

Individuals (continued)

b. 1, f. 27	Soloveichik, Hayyim, 1853-1918	1912
b. 1, f. 28	Steinberg, Dr. J.	1929
b. 1, f. 29	Tchernowitz, Chaim, 1870-1949 and Tchernowitz, Hadassah	1908, 1921-1922, 1947
b. 1, f. 30	Wertheim, Joseph	1933
b. 1, f. 31	Zirelson, Judah Leib, -1941	1911
b. 1, f. 32	Unidentified correspondent	1918, 1921
Organizations		
b. 1, f. 33	Bet ha-Midrash ha-Gadol ha-Gr"a (Great Synagogue "HaGro")	1937
b. 1, f. 34	Hitachdut Rabonim, Palestine	1932
b. 1, f. 35	Mizrachi Organization World Central	1930
b. 1, f. 36	United Berdichewer Relief	1920
b. 1, f. 37	Yeshivat Hevron	1934
Photographs		
b. 1, f. 38	Berman with girls from Mizrachi school	1934
b. 1, f. 38	Berman with David Ben Gurion	Circa 1935-1955
b. 1, f. 38	Religious Pedagogical Institute article and photo	1950?
b. 1, f. 38	Berman with Chief Rabbi Ouziel	Circa 1950-1952
b. 1, f. 38	Berman at Israel Prize ceremony	1968
b. 1, f. 38	Moreshet Yaakov	Circa 1975
b. 1, f. 38	Cemetery with Berman's tombstone	Circa 1975
b. 1, f. 39	Receipts and envelopes	Circa 1920-1955
b. 2	Wallet sewn from the parchment of a Torah scroll destroyed in a pogrom	Circa 1917

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.

Names

Abramsky, Yehezkel, 1886-1976
Amiel, Moshe Avigdor, 1882-1945
Aronson, Solomon, 1862-1935
Berman, Jacob, 1878-1974
Berman, Miriam
Bichovski, Harcha
Brody, Heinrich, 1868-1942
Epstein, Moses Mordecai, 1866-1933
Feinzilber, Š
Grodzinski, Hayyim Ozer, 1863-1940
Herzog, Isaac, 1888-1959
Kabak, Aaron Abraham, 1880-1944
Kasovsky, Chayim Yehoshua, 1873-1960
Klein, Samuel, 1886-1940
Kook, Abraham Isaac, 1865-1935
Meltzer, Isser Zalman, 1870-1953
Nissenbaum, Yitzchak, 1868-1942
Reines, Isaac Jacob, 1839-1915
Rosen, Joseph, 1858-1936
Rubinstein, Isaac, 1880-1945
Salanter, Israel, 1810-1883
Shapira, Avraham Duber Kahana, 1870-1943
Soloveichik, Hayyim, 1853-1918
Tchernowitz, Chaim, 1870-1949
Tchernowitz, Hadassah
Wertheim, Joseph
Zirelson, Judah Leib, -1941