

Guide to the Isaac Simha Hurewitz Family Correspondence

MS 2032



compiled by Julie Cohen

September 2015

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2032

CREATOR: Hurewitz, Isaac S.

TITLE: Isaac Simha Hurewitz family correspondence

DATES: 1928-1935

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .42 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: The material is primarily in Yiddish and English, with some Hebrew.

SUMMARY: The papers contain approximately 150 letters on the official blue stationery of Rabbi Isaac S. Hurewitz of Hartford, Connecticut. Some of the letters are written by Rabbi Hurewitz, but many are also from other family members. Most of the letters were sent to their daughter and son-in-law, Rose and David Zelcer in Tel Aviv.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2032>

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.2032>.

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. Purchased from Kedem Auctions on the Rosalyn and Joseph Newman Collection Fund, 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

Isaac Simha Hurewitz Family Correspondence (MS 2032). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Isaac Simha Hurewitz was born in Navahrudak, Russia (now Belarus) on October 9, 1868, the son of Joseph Dov and Beila Hurewitz. He studied at the great Lithuanian Jewish academies of Valozhyn and Slabotka, and received his rabbinical ordination in 1892 from Isaac Elhanan Spektor (1817-1896) of Kovno. Hurewitz and his wife Chaya Rivka (Ida Aaronson) immigrated to the United States in 1893 and settled in Hartford, Connecticut. During his 43 years in the rabbinate in Hartford he served the congregations Adas Israel, Agudas Achim, and Beth Hamedrash Hagodol (Garden Street Synagogue). In 1905 he also became the editor of the periodical, Yiddishe Shtimme (the Jewish Voice). Rabbi Hurewitz was the author of *Yad Ha-Levi*, a commentary on Maimonides' *Sefer ha-Mitsvot*, which was published in Jerusalem in 1926. Among other topics the book included Rabbi Hurewitz's denunciation of American rabbis who adapted to Prohibition by permitting the substitution of grape juice for wine. Rabbi Hurewitz was the first Eastern European Orthodox rabbi in Hartford and was instrumental in establishing its Jewish charitable and educational institutions. The children of Rabbi Isaac Simha and Ida Hurewitz included: Dr. Herman Max Hurewitz (1890-1946), Bessie H. Shetekoff (1893-1967), Rebecca H. Feldman (1895-1985), Anna H. Goldstein (1897-1975), Rachel (Rae) H. Gans (1898-1983), Lena B. Hurewitz (1900-1961), attorney Joseph Bernard Hurwitz (1901-1963), Rose H. Zelcer (or Zeltzer) (1904-1989), Aaron Hurewitz (1907-1974), Freida (Freda or Fritzi) Jacobson (1909-2007), and J.C. (Jacob Coleman) Hurewitz (1914-2008; a political science professor at Columbia University). Ida Aaronson Hurewitz died on March 19, 1932. In 1933 Rabbi Hurewitz took a second wife, Chana (Anna Gershowitz Hurewitz Greenberg), and they had a son, Samuel M. Hurewitz (1935-2015). Isaac Simha Hurewitz died on December 30, 1935.

Scope and Contents

The papers contain approximately 150 letters on the official blue stationery of Rabbi Isaac S. Hurewitz of Hartford, Connecticut. Some of the letters are written by Rabbi Hurewitz, but many are also from other family members. Most of the letters were sent to their daughter and son-in-law, Rose and David Zelcer in Tel Aviv.

Arrangement

The material is arranged chronologically.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1-14	Correspondence	1928-1935, undated
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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

Rabbis -- United States

Names

Hurewitz, Isaac S.