



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Mel Wacks papers relating to Gerta Ries  
Wiener and the Jewish-American Hall of Fame

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Mel Wacks papers relating to Gerta Ries Wiener and the Jewish-American Hall of Fame
<b>Date:</b>	1970-1996
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.wackmel
<b>Creator:</b>	Wacks, Mel
<b>Extent:</b>	0.4 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 2007 and 2009 by Mel Wacks, director of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Mel Wacks (b. 1938) is Director of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, Woodland Hills, Calif. The Jewish-American Hall of Fame was a project of the Judah L. Magnes Museum from 1969 through 2001 and is currently a division of the American Jewish Historical Society.

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## Scope and Contents

Letters; sketches (mostly photocopies) of medals; photographs; an interview on DVD, and medals concerning Wacks' involvement in the work of medalist Gerta Ries Wiener for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, a project and institution created by the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley, Calif.

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## Scope and Contents

Letters, circa 100, from Wiener to Wacks concerning commemorative medals created by Wiener and commissioned by Wacks for the Judah L. Magnes Museum, from Emma Lazarus, Adolph Ochs, Benjamin N. Cardozo, Béla Schick, Ernestine L. Rose, Gertrude Stein, Louis D. Brandeis, Gershom Mendes Seixas, Henrietta Szold, Golda Meir, Gershom Mendes Seixas, and Jascha Heifetz (medal not made). Photographs are of medals and subjects used for medals. Interview on DVD is of Wiener conducted by Wacks, December 30, 1994. Five commemorative medals are by Wiener of Schick, Ochs, Brandeis, Rose, and Rebecca Gratz.

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Medals
- Women artists
- Women arts administrators

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Video recordings

### Names:

- Wiener, Gerta Ries, 1898-2000

### Occupations:

- Arts administrators -- California