



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Division of Cultural History Judaica Collection

NMAH.AC.1160

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Division of Cultural History Judaica Collection
Date:	1639-1980
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1160
Creator:	Cohen, Henry, Reverend (Donor) Ahlborn, Richard E., 1933-2015 (Donor) Harris, Michael (Donor) Deinard, Ephraim (Donor) Adler, Cyrus, 1863-1940 (Donor) Luchs, Leopold (Donor) Lipkowitz, Sylvia E. (Donor) Marks, Michael Neil (Donor) Marks, Cara Goldberg (Donor) Howland, S. S. (Donor) Hartogensis, Henry S. (Donor) Krauss, S., Father (Donor) Kantrowitz, J.H. (Donor) Neeman, Zipora (Donor) Sulzberger, Mayer, 1843-1923 (Donor) Sulzberger, S. (Donor)
Extent:	22 Cubic feet (32 boxes)
Language:	Hebrew .
Summary:	An extensive collection of Judaica collected by the Division of Cultural History, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by the following donors:

J.H. Kantrowitz.,Purchase,1889; Mrs. S. Sulzberger, Gift; Leopold Luchs, Gift; Dr. Cyrus Adler ,Gift; Mayer Sulzberger, Purchase; Rev. Henry Cohen, Gift.,1897; William Wesley and Son, Purchase; Father S. Krauss, Gift.,1902; S.S. Howland, Bequest.,1902; Ephraim Deinard, Purchase.,1902; Mrs. Simon Kann,Gift.,1920; Henry S. Hartogensis,Gift,1920; Ms. L. Lieberman,Gift,1924; Ephraim Deinard,Gift; Cara Goldberg Marks, Michael Neil Marks.,Gift; Michael Harris, Gift, 1982; Richard E. Ahlborn,Gift, 1986; Sylvia E. Lipkowitz, Gift, 1987; and Neeman, Zipora,Gift, 1988.

Provenance

Collected from various donors by the Division of Cultural History (now Division of Cultural and Community Life). One donor, Ephraim Deinard, donated the vast majority of the collection, having acquired the documents during travels to the Near East, North Africa and Europe. Transferred to the Archives Center in 2008.

Separated Materials

This collection has related artifacts in the Division of Home and Community Life (now Division of Cultural and Community Life).

Related Materials

Cohen Grossman, Grace and Richard Ahlborn. "Judaica at the Smithsonian: Cultural Politics as Cultural Model." *Smithsonian Studies in History and Technology*, Number 52, 1997.

See: <https://repository.si.edu/handle/10088/2452>

Processing Information

Collection is unprocessed.

Preferred Citation

Division of Cultural History Judaica Collection, 1639-1980, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Historical Note

The Judaica Collection at the Smithsonian is the oldest of its type in the United States. The archival collection is comprised of various documents, prints, sukkah decorations, marriage contracts, and memorial candle labels from Europe and the Middle East. The bulk of the collection was transferred in the 1960's to the National Museum of History and Technology (later, the National Museum of American History). A portion of the collection (artifact-related) still resides in the National Museum of Natural History. For a detailed description of items found in the collection see Cohen Grossman, Grace and Richard Ahlborn. "Judaica at the Smithsonian: Cultural Politics as Cultural Model." *Smithsonian Studies in History and Technology*, Number 52, 1997.

The first Judaica collections were acquired by the Smithsonian specifically for the World's Columbian Exposition in 1890. The next large Judaica collection was acquired in 1902 with the purchase of a torah case and Sukkah ornaments from Ephraim Deinard, bibliophile, Hebrew author and independent book dealer. A native of Latvia, Deinard immigrated to the United States in 1888. By 1913, Deinard had amassed a large collection of Judaica from Europe and the Middle East. He eventually deposited, between 1920 and 1927, almost 600 objects to the Smithsonian. The collection remained on loan until 1955 when Deinard's heirs donated the collection. It was 10 years later with the opening of the National Museum of History and Technology (National Museum of American History), that there was a renewed interest in collecting Judaica objects. A small number of Judaica objects have been acquired since then. The archival collection is housed at the Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Scope and Contents

The collection is a compilation of gifts from numerous donors, of documents relating to Judaism in numerous countries and the United States. Documents include betrothal contracts, bills of divorcement, eulogies,

memorial plaques, candle labels, Jewish calendars, sukkah decorations, certificates of ritual slaughter, prayers, poems, sermons, and other types of documents.

Arrangement

Collection is unarranged.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, Jewish
- Jewish art and symbolism
- Jewish funeral rites and ceremonies
- Jewish mourning customs
- Jews -- Social life and customs
- Judaism

Types of Materials:

- Amulets
- Betrothal contracts
- Calendars
- Certificates
- Deeds
- Divorce records
- Engravings
- Envelopes
- Etchings
- Eulogies
- Greeting cards
- Ketubahs
- Letters
- Lithographs
- Manuscripts
- Petitions
- Photographs -- 19th century
- Poems
- Posters
- Prayers
- Prints
- Proclamations
- Receipts
- Sermons
- Sukkah decorations
- Wills

Places:

- Crimea
- France

Germany
Holland
India
Israel
Italy
Palestine
Russia
Slovakia
Syria

Container Listing

Series 1: Documents

Box 1	315394A.001-marriage contract Language: English.
Box 1	315394A.002-marriage contract
Box 1	315394A.003-marriage contract
Box 2	315394A.007-marriage contract
Box 2	315394A.008-marriage contract
Box 2	315394A.009-marriage contract
Box 2	315394A.010-marriage contract
Box 2	315394A.011-marriage contract
Box 3	315394A.012-marriage contract
Box 3	315394A.013-marriage contract
Box 3	315394A.014-marriage contract
Box 3	315394A.015-marriage contract
Box 3	315394A.016-marriage contract
Box 3	315394A.017-marriage contract
Box 4	315394A.025-marriage contract
Box 4	315394A.026-marriage contract
Box 4	315394A.027-marriage contract
Box 5	315394A.030 -marriage contract
Box 5	315394A.032-marriage contract
Box 5	315394A.033-marriage contract
Box 5	315394A.034-marriage contract

Box 5	315394A.035-marriage contract
Box 5	315394A.036-marriage contract
Box 5	315394A.038-marriage contract
Box 6	315394A.037-marriage contract
Box 6	315394A.041-marriage contract
Box 6	315394A.042-marriage contract
Box 6	315394A.043-marriage contract
Box 6	315394A.046-marriage contract
Box 6	334028-marriage contract
Box 7	315394A.004-marriage contract
Box 7	315394A.005-marriage contract
Box 7	315394A.006-marriage contract
Box 8	315394A.018-marriage contract
Box 8	315394A.019-marriage contract
Box 8	315394A.020-marriage contract
Box 9	315394A.021-marriage contract
Box 9	315394A.022-marriage contract
Box 9	315394A.023-marriage contract
Box 9	315394A.024-marriage contract
Box 10	315394A.028-marriage contract
Box 10	315394A.029- marriage contract
Box 10	315394A.031-marriage contract
Box 11	315394A.044-marriage contract
Box 11	315394A.045-marriage contract

Box 11	334025.01-marriage contract
Box 11	334026-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.049-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.050-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.051-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.052-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.053-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.054-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.055-betrothal contract
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.056-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.057-bill of divorce
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.058-bill of divorce
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.059-marriage contract (Missing – 01/06/17)
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.060-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.061-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 1	315394A.062-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 2	315394A.040-marriage contract
Box 12, Folder 3	315394A.063-document
Box 12, Folder 3	315394A.065-document
Box 12, Folder 4	315394A.069–document
Box 12, Folder 4	315394A.070-document
Box 12, Folder 4	315394A.071-letter
Box 12, Folder 4	315394A.074-poster
Box 12, Folder 4	315394A.078-manuscript

Box 12, Folder 4	315394A.080 prayer plaque
Box 12, Folder 5	315394A.072-letter
Box 12, Folder 5	315394A.073-poster
Box 12, Folder 5	315394A.075-poster
Box 12, Folder 5	315394A.076-poster
Box 12, Folder 6	315394A.077-petition
Box 12, Folder 7	315394A.081-document
Box 12, Folder 7	315394A.085-document
Box 12, Folder 7	315394A.086-document
Box 12, Folder 7	315394A.088-document
Box 12, Folder 8	315394A.079-poem
Box 12, Folder 8	315394A.082-document
Box 12	315394A.083-document
Box 12	315394A.089-document
Box 12	315394A.090-document
Box 12	315394A.092-manuscript
Box 12	315394A.093-document
Box 12	315394A.094-document
Box 12	315394A.095-poem
Box 12	315394A.096-dedicatory plaque
Box 12	315394A.149-decree
Box 12	315394A.084-document
Box 12	315394A.091-manuscript
Box 12	31 5394A.097-prayer

Box 12	315394A.098--document
Box 12	315394A.099-document
Box 12	315394A.100-Thanksgiving prayer
Box 12	315394A.101-document
Box 12	315394A.102-document
Box 12	315394A.103--document
Box 12	315394A.104--document
Box 12	315394A.105--document
Box 12	315394A.109--document
Box 12	315394A.110-document
Box 12	315394A.111-document
Box 12	315394A.113-document
Box 12	315394A.114--document
Box 12	315394A.117-document
Box 12	315394A.118-document
Box 12, Folder 10	315394A.106 -document
Box 12, Folder 11	315394A.107-document
Box 12	315394A.108--document
Box 12	315394A.112--document
Box 12	315394A.119--document
Box 12	315394A.120-document
Box 12	315394A.140-document
Box 12, Folder 12	315394A.121-letter
Box 12	315394A.122--responsum

Box 12	315394A.123–receipt
Box 12	315394A.124-receipt
Box 12	315394A.125–receipt
Box 12	315394A.126-receipt
Box 12	315394A.127–receipt
Box 12	315394A.128-receipt
Box 12	315394A.129–receipt
Box 12	315394A.135-document
Box 12	315394A.136-document
Box 12	315394A.137-document
Box 12	315394A.138–document
Box 12	315394A.139-document
Box 12, Folder 13	315394A.131–document
Box 12	315394A.134-document
Box 12, Folder 14	315394A.130–document
Box 12	315394A.132 –document
Box 12	315394A.133-document
Box 12	315394A.141-document
Box 12	315394A.143-document
Box 12	315394A.144-document
Box 12	315394A.145-document
Box 12	315394A.146-document
Box 12	315394A.147-document
Box 12	315394A.154–print

Box 12	315394A.155-document
Box 12, Folder 15	315394A.142--document
Box 12	315394A.148--document
Box 12	315394A.150--document
Box 12	315394A.151--responsum
Box 12	315394A.152-document
Box 12	315394A.153-envelope
Box 12, Folder 16	333976-wedding poem
Box 12	333977-wedding riddle
Box 12	333978-elegy
Box 12, Folder 17	314490 -blessing
Box 13, Folder 1	154443-print
Box 13, Folder 2	154575A-D--prints
Box 13, Folder 3	154575E-I--prints
Box 13, Folder 4	154575J-N--prints
Box 13, Folder 5	158343-Thanksgiving prayer
Box 13, Folder 6	158440--print
Box 13, Folder 6	158441-print
Box 13, Folder 6	158442 print
Box 13, Folder 6	158443A print of Synagogue
Box 13, Folder 7	158443B-F--prints of Synagogues
Box 13, Folder 8	158444--print of Synagogue
Box 13, Folder 9	158445--print of Synagogue
Box 13, Folder 9	158446--print of Synagogue

Box 13, Folder 9	158447-print of Synagogue
Box 13, Folder 10	158448-print of Synagogue
Box 13, Folder 11	158454-print of Synagogue
Box 13, Folder 11	158455-print of Synagogue
Box 13, Folder 12	158468-print of Synagogue
Box 13, Folder 12	158467-print of Synagogue
Box 13, Folder 13	214452-amulet
Box 13, Folder 13	214453-amulet
Box 13, Folder 14	216163 letter
Box 13, Folder 15	217694-bill of divorce
Box 13, Folder 15	217696-blessing for Shofar
Box 13, Folder 16	334027-marriage contract
Box 13, Folder 16	334033.01-.02-prayers for Shofar
Box 13, Folder 16	334037-poem
Box 13, Folder 16	334041-blessing
Box 13, Folder 16	334042-blessing
Box 13, Folder 16	334044 -Shohet certificate
Box 13, Folder 16	334048 amulet
Box 13, Folder 17	334034.01-.02-marriage poems
Box 13, Folder 18	1987.0806.01-memorial document
Box 13, Folder 19	1988.0465.01-Sukkot cutout
Box 14	217689-amulet
Box 14	334031-marriage contract
Box 14	334043A-E-blessings

Box 15	154453-amulet
Box 15	333971-Mezuzah
Box 15	333972-Mizrah
Box 15	334029-marriage contract
Box 15	334030-marriage contract
Box 15	334040-blessing
Box 15	334045-Shohet certificate
Box 15	1978.2106.01-amulet
Box 16	326826-marriage contract
Box 16	326827-marriage contract
Box 16	334039-amulet
Box 17	334032.01-.49-memorial candle labels
Box 18	333979.01-10-memorial candle labels
Box 19	217681a-d-Sukkah decorations
Box 19	217682a-c-Sukkah decorations
Box 19	217684 -Sukkah decoration
Box 19	333966h-k-Sukkak decorations
Box 19	333966 o-Sukkak decoration
Box 19	3339660s, t, w -Sukkah decorations
	333967 -Sukkah decoration
Box 20	217683a-c-Sukkah decorations
Box 20	3339667u-Sukkah decoration
Box 21	217685-Sukkah decoration
Box 21	333966L-N-Sukkah decorations

Box 22	333966p, q, r, v Sukkah decorations
Box 23	153544-almanac
Box 23	1982.0477.01-calendar
Box 23	1986.0965.01-New Year's Card

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Series 2: Sinkmats

154633-marriage contract

[216162-marriage contract](#)

[314398-Mizrah](#)

315394A.047-marriage contract

315394A.048-marriage contract

315394A.059-marriage contract

333966A-Sukkah decoration

333966B-Sukkah decoration

[333966C-Sukkah decoration](#)

333966D-Sukkah decoration

333966E-Sukkah decoration

333966F-Sukkah decoration

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Series 3: Oversize Folders/Sinkmats

154454- print of scholars

154630- marriage contract

154631-marriage contract

154634-poem

217679-Sukkah decoration

217680-Sukkah decoration (2 boxes)

285049.01-tribute

315394A.039-marriage contract

315394A.064–document

315394A.066-calendar

315394A.067-document

315394A.068-document

315394A.087–document

315394A.115-document

315394A.116-document

333966G-Sukkah decoration

334023-marriage contract

334024-marriage contract

334035-print

334036.01-print

334036.02–print

334036.03–print

1980.0903.01-wedding contract

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Series 4: Judaica Images

1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disk 1

Disc 1: 83-14180 (1980.0903.01) 89-4466 (1545751) 92-13048 (1987.0806.01) 92-13058 (154575F) 92-13066 (154630) 92-13069 (154631)

Disk 2

Disc 2: 92-13070 (154631) 92-13071 (216162) 92-13072 (216162) 92-13073B&W (154663) 92-13074 (154663)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disk 3

Disc 3: 92-13075 (154663) 92-13076 (154632, object at NMNH) 92-13078 (314398) 92-13079 (314398)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disk 4

Disc 4: 92-13080 (314398) 92-13081 (314490) 92-13096 (217679) 92-13097 (217679)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disk 5

Disc 5: 92-13098 (217681A) 92-13099 (217682A) 92-13100 (217684) 92-13108 (1988.0465.01)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disk 6

Disc 6: 92-13110 (1978.2106.01) 92-13111 (154634) 92-13113BW (285049.01) 92-13114 (285049.01)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disk 7

Disc 7: 84-6876 (315394A.064) 84-6877 (315394A.063) 84-6878 (315394A.064) 89-19031 (315394A.052) 89-21186 (315394A.027) 92-13043 (334036.01) 92-13044 (334035) 92-13045 (315394A.078)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disk 8

Disc 8: 92-13046 (315394A.117) 92-13047 (315394A.107) 92-13062 (315394A.066) 92-13064 (315394A.002)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disk 9

Disc 9: 92-13065 (334023) 92-13067 (315394A.039) 92-13068B&W (334024) 92-13077 (315394A.019) 92-13082 (333979.01-.06)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disk 10

Disc 10: 92-13083 (333979.01) 92-13084 (333979.07-.10) 92-13085 (333979.10) 92-13086 (334032.01-.06)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disk 11

Disc 11: 92-13087 (334032.07-.10, .12) 92-13088 (334032.008) 92-13089 (334032.14-.19) 92-13090 (334032.20)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disc 12: 92-13091 (334032.22-.27) 92-13092 (334032.28-.33) 92-13093
(334032.34-.39) 92-13094 (334032.40-.45)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disc 13: 92-13095 (334032.46-.49) 92-13103 (333966C) 92-13104 (333966H)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

Disc 14: 92-13106 (333966R) 92-13107 (333967) 92-13109 (334040)
1 Electronic discs (CD)

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