

Project: Traces of German-Jewish History in Israel: Preservation and Research

Project partners: German Literature Archive Marbach (Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach),
The Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center

Sponsor: German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt)

Start: 2012

Traces of German-Jewish History in Israel: Preservation and Research

Ongoing Cataloguing Projects

The Papers of Shlomo Dov (Fritz) Goitein

Location: National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Hanan Harif, Jerusalem; Tom Fogel, Jerusalem

Further information: [NLI online catalogue](#) (available after the completion of the project)

In ca. 30 boxes, the NLI preserves the papers of S. D. Goitein (Burgkunstadt 1900 – Princeton 1985), one of the leading Orientalists and Medievalists of the 20th century. The papers include correspondence, manuscripts, notes, diaries, travel reports as well as ethnographic reports.

Goitein received his academic training in Frankfurt/Main. He taught at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1971, he became a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton. Goitein's scope of scholarship ranged from early Islamic History and Theology, Arab-Jewish Literature, Medieval Jewish History to the History of the Yemenite Jewry. His pioneering research on the "Cairo Geniza" is reflected in the six volumes of the *Mediterranean Society* (1967 and 1983).

The School of Oriental Studies Collection

Location: National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Amit Levy, Jerusalem

Further information: [NLI online catalogue](#) (available after the completion of the project)

The collection consists of material handed to the NLI by the School of Oriental Studies: 35 files with documents in German, Hebrew, English, and Arabic. Included are documents by German-Jewish Orientalists such as Levi (Lewis) Billig, David Hartwig Baneth, Eugen Mittwoch, and Carl Heinrich Becker. The collection reveals a unique case of knowledge transfer: the transfer (and transformation) of Orientalist ideas, methods, and concepts from Germany into the Orient.

The Josef Horovitz Collection

Location: National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Amit Levy, Jerusalem

Further information: [NLI online catalogue](#) (available after the completion of the project)

The papers of Josef Horovitz (1874 Lauenburg – 1931 Frankfurt/M) contain the famous *Zettel*, Horovitz' research notes, mostly in German and Arabic. During the initial mapping process, a full index of the *Zettel* was found, finally allowing the cataloguing of the *Zettel*.

Joseph Horovitz was the founder and first head of the School of Oriental Studies, filling his position in absentia. After Horovitz' death, his brother, Rabbi Jacob Horovitz, sent dozens of research notes to the

Hebrew University, where they were used for further research. While some of the notes went missing over the years, many of them were kept in their original envelopes – as sorted by Josef Horovitz himself or his family. Additional Zettel were added to the School of Oriental Studies, probably in the 1980s.

The Papers of Gabriel Baer

Location: National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Amit Levy, Jerusalem

Further information: [NLI online catalogue](#) (available after the completion of the project)

Gabriel Baer (Berlin 1919 – Jerusalem 1982) was the head of the Institute of Asian and African Studies (formerly The School of Oriental Studies) in the beginning of the 1970s. Baer belonged to the second generation of scholars at the School of Oriental Studies, representing a new approach to Orientalism, focusing on contemporary history.

The Papers of Curt Wormann

Location: National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Lisa Kämmer, Berlin; Silja Behre, Tel Aviv; Liad Levy-Mousan, Jerusalem

Further information: [NLI online catalogue](#) (available after the completion of the project)

Curt Wormann (Berlin 1900 - Jerusalem 1991) was one of the key figures of Israeli librarianship. He was the director of the Jewish National and University Library (JNUL) – since 2010 the National Library of Israel (NLI) – from 1947-1968. His papers comprise of 34 boxes, containing personal documents, documents pertaining to library sciences and library studies, correspondence, and further collections. The material gives new insight into Israel's library system and sciences as well as Wormann's life and work.

The Papers of Heinz Steinitz

Location: National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Meirav Reuveny, Jerusalem

Further information: [NLI online catalogue](#) (available after the completion of the project)

Born in 1909, Heinz Steinitz was one of the leading Israeli marine biologists and herpetologists. He was professor of zoology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and one of the founding members of the Zoological Society of Israel. His papers comprise of 24 boxes, containing documents in Hebrew, English, and German. Included are his large correspondence as well as research and academic material. The boxes contain rich material documenting Steinitz' work and give insight into the various fields of his engagement, e.g. at the Sea Research Stations in Haifa and in Eilat or the Israel South Red Sea Expedition.

Completed Cataloguing Projects

The Papers of Samuel (Shmuel) Hugo Bergmann

Location: The Historical Archives of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Shaul Marmari, Jerusalem

Further information: Finding Aid (Available soon)

Completed in: 2015

The personal files (5 folders) of the philosopher Shmuel Hugo Bergmann (Prague 1883 – Jerusalem 1975) contain letters and documents related to Bergmann's professorship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. From 1920-1935, Bergmann was the director of the Jewish National and University Library. He was a professor of philosophy at the Hebrew University and its first rector. Bergmann's research was devoted to Kant, Maimonides, and 20th century philosophy. Furthermore, he was one of the Yishuv's leading public intellectuals. The archival materials provide insight into Bergmann's academic career and his involvement in the university's policy matters.

The Papers of Netti Boleslav

Location: National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Judith Poppe, Göttingen/Jerusalem

Further information: [NLI online catalogue](#)

Completed in: 2015

The papers of the poet Netti Boleslav (Jungbunzlau/Mladá Boleslav 1923 – Tel Aviv 1981) consist of letters, diaries, manuscripts, and personal documents. Among the papers are letters from Boleslav's parents (written in Prague, 1930s–1941), materials documenting her lecture tours through Germany in the 1960s and 1970s as well as fragments of an autobiographical novel, which was never finished. The materials provide insight into the work of a German-language writer in Mandate Palestine/Israel.

The Papers of Walter Grab

Location: National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Yonatan Shiloh-Dayan, Jerusalem

Further information: [NLI online catalogue](#)

Completed in: 2015

The papers of the historian Walter Grab (Vienna 1919 – Tel Aviv 2000) include correspondence, articles, book reviews, and newspaper clippings. The material (ca. 4 archival boxes) ranges from the late 1960s to the 1990s. Walter Grab was a distinguished scholar of German History, noted for his research on the French Revolution, the German Jacobins and the democratic movements in Germany in the 19th century. In 1971, Grab founded the Institute for German History at Tel Aviv University, the first academic institution in Israel dedicated to researching and teaching German history.

The Habima Administrative Archives 1925-1933

Location: Israeli Documentation Center for the Performing Arts, Tel Aviv

Arranged and described by: Jan Kühne, Jerusalem.

Further information: [IDCPA Online Catalogue](#)

Completed in: 2015

The administrative archives of Habima, since 1948 Israel's national theater, contain the historical records of the Habima Secretariat in Berlin 1928–1933. Founded in 1928, the Secretariat's task was to coordinate the Habima's philanthropic affairs. Many of the documents – letters, legal documents, contracts, and bills – are in German, others in Hebrew, Polish, Yiddish, Russian, English, and French.

The Collection of C.Z. Kloetzel and his Family

Location: Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Sonja Dickow, Hamburg.

Further information: [CAHJP Finding Aid](#)

Completed in: 2015

The collection includes letters, manuscripts, personal documents, published works, books, and photographs, covering the time period from 1881 to 2013. The collection gives new insight into the life and work of C. Z. (Hans) Kloetzel (1891–1951) in Berlin and Jerusalem. The collection also entails materials, documenting and illustrating the life of his family before and after the rise of National Socialism in Germany.

Institutional Records and Collections of the Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem

Location: The Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem (LBI)

Cataloguing: Judith Siepmann, München/Tel Aviv

Further Information: [LBI New York Online Catalogue](#)

The LBI Jerusalem (est. 1955) received abundant collections, mostly from families of German-Jewish immigrants in Israel. Furthermore, the Jerusalem office preserves historical records, which document the institute's research, collaborative efforts with German institutions, and internal affairs. The institute's collections and the historical records of the LBI Jerusalem provide substantial insights into German-Jewish social and cultural history. Together with the LBI New York, a transparent system for the arrangement and electronic description of the LBI's holdings in Jerusalem has now been implemented. With the help of junior scholar Judith Siepmann, the LBI Jerusalem has started to provide detailed information on its collections. More than 100 collections have been processed and are accessible via the online catalogue of the Center for Jewish History in New York – such as the Fritz Raphael Aronstein Collection, the CENTRA Collection, the Irvin Eppstein Collection, the Falk Family Collection, the Herbert Freedman Collection, the Collection of Salomon Adler-Rudel and the Council of Jews from Germany, the Pinchas Erich Rosenbluth Collection, the Walter Silberbach Collection, the Felix Weltsch Collection as well as Minutes of International Board Meetings of the Leo Baeck Institutes and various other LBI-records.

The Papers of Heinrich Loewe

Location: Sha'ar Zion Beit Ariela Library, Tel Aviv

Arranged & described by: Dr. Lina Barouch, Jerusalem, Judith Siepman, München/Tel Aviv

With the Assistance of: Tanya Zhovner, Frank Schloeffel, Maja Krueger

Further information: [Finding Aid](#)

Completed in: 2015

The papers of the Sha'ar Zion Library's former director and Zionist writer Heinrich Loewe (1869–1951) consist of 50 boxes of letters, manuscripts, notes, and books. They document Loewe's work as a librarian in Berlin and Tel Aviv. Many of the documents reveal his commitment to the development of libraries in Mandate Palestine. They also shed light on his journalistic work as a writer and newspaper editor as well as on his political and scholastic engagement as an early Zionist networker and as a scholar of the Jewish tradition.

The Papers of Heinrich Mendelssohn

Location: Archives for the History of Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv

Arranged & described by: Netta Cohen, Jerusalem; Ray Schrire, Jerusalem; Itamar Manoff, Tel Aviv

Further Information: [Finding Aid](#)

Completed in: 2015

The papers of Heinrich Mendelssohn (1910–2002), a renowned zoologist and a pioneer of environmental thought & action in Israel, comprise of more than 70 archival boxes of manuscripts, observations on Israel's changing nature, research materials and notes, correspondence with academic, governmental and non-governmental institutions in Israel and abroad as well as images, films, and objects.

The Papers of Martin Plessner

Location: National Library of Israel (NLI), Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Amit Levy, Jerusalem

Further information: [NLI online catalogue](#)

Completed in: 2015

The papers of the prominent Jewish-German orientalist Martin Plessner (Posen/Poznań 1900 – Jerusalem 1973) consist of manuscripts, research jottings, and personal notes as well as correspondence with colleagues in Israel and abroad. Before 1933, Plessner was the assistant of the orientalist Hellmut Ritter at the University of Hamburg. After that, he was a lecturer at the University of Frankfurt. In 1955, he joined the Department of Islamic Culture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The papers of Martin Plessner are a substantial source for the study of German-Jewish Orientalism.

The Perles Family Collection

Location: Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Dr. Enricco Lucca, Jerusalem

Further information: [Finding Aid](#); [LBI New York Online Catalogue](#)

Completed in: 2015

The collection contains correspondence, manuscripts (of his scholarly works and of sermons), notes, and newspaper clippings of the rabbi Joseph Perles (1835–1894) and of his son, the rabbi and scholar Felix Perles (1874–1933). The documents provide an insight into less known facets of the history and networks of the “Wissenschaft des Judentums”; the materials in Jerusalem complement a corresponding collection at the Leo Baeck Institute New York.

The Papers of Nadia Stein

Location: Central Zionist Archives, Jerusalem

Arranged & described by: Margarita Fortus, Jerusalem

Further information: [CZA Finding Aid](#)

Completed in: 2015

In 2012, the daughter of the Zionist social worker and journalist Nadia Stein (1891–1961) agreed to transfer manuscripts, diaries, family correspondence, and images to the CZA. They complement a collection of professional correspondence, articles, and propaganda material (especially on the Women’s International Zionist Organization), which had been donated to the CZA earlier. The papers of Nadia Stein offer rich material for gender-orientated research on Zionism and Zionist women’s activities in the field of social work.

The Chemjo Vinaver Collection

Location: National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

Detailed description by: Dr. Amalia Kedem, Jerusalem

Further information: [NLI online catalogue](#)

Completed in: 2015

The collection contains musical scores, documents, photos, letters, manuscripts, and newspaper clippings of Chemjo Vinaver (1895–1973), a choir conductor, researcher (esp. Hasidic music), and composer. Vinaver was married to Mascha Kaléko. He studied and worked in Berlin until his emigration from Nazi-Germany in 1938. The collection documents Vinaver’s work in Germany, the USA, and Israel. In particular, it provides insights into his composing and into his research pertaining to the Anthology of Jewish Music (1955).