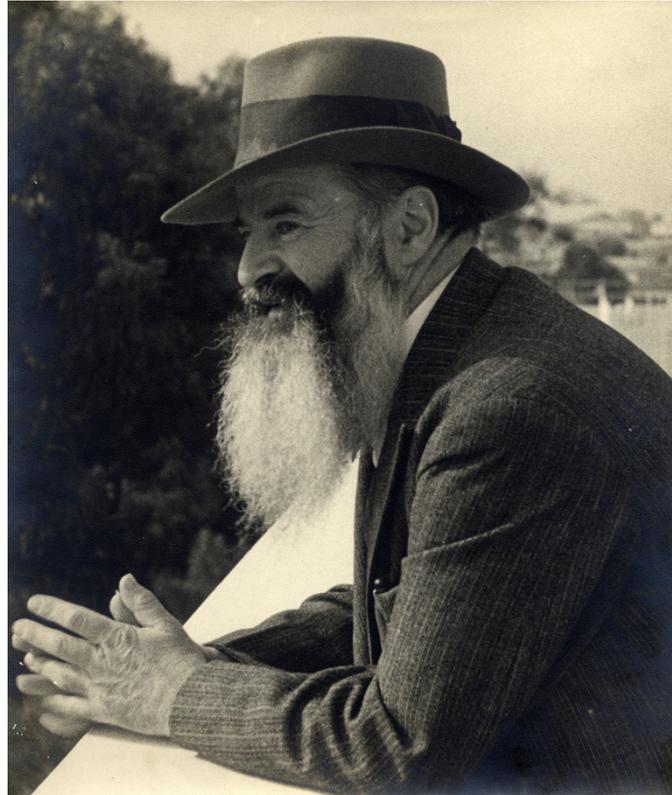


**THE PAPERS
OF
HEINRICH LOEWE
(1869–1951)**



*Heinrich Loewe on the roof of the Tel Aviv Municipal Library “Sha’ar Zion”, 1935
Photograph by Otto M. Lilien*

Sha’ar Zion Beit Ariela Public Library
Ahad Ha’am Special Library
25 Shaul Hamelech Blvd
Tel.: +972-3-6910141-5
Email: ahadhaamba@mail.tel-aviv.gov.il

(Arrangement & Description by Lina Barouch and Judith Siepmann, with the help of Maja Krueger, June 2014.)

FINDING AID

1. DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Creator: Heinrich Loewe (1869–1951)

Title: The Papers of Heinrich Loewe

Dates: ca. 1838–1951

Abstract: The materials reflect Heinrich Loewe’s Zionist activities in Berlin, Palestine and Israel, his involvement in Jewish and Zionist organizations, editorial work in several journals, including *Israelitische Rundschau* (1901–1902) and *Juedische Rundschau* (1902–1908), as well as his travels to Palestine in the 1890s. A large number of documents relates to L.’s profession as a librarian in Berlin, his commitment to the development of the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem, and to a greater extent to his work as head of the Tel Aviv municipal library “Sha’ar Zion” (1934–1948). In addition, the collection displays L.’s extensive research on Jewish folklore.

Subjects: Associations, Institutions, etc. ; Culture, Jewish ; Jewish Libraries ; Jewish Publishing ; Jews--Folklore ; Jews--Germany--History--20th Century ; National Socialism ; Palestine--Emigration and Immigration ; Private Libraries ; Zionism ; Zionism -- Germany

Languages: German (bulk of material); Hebrew; English; Yiddish; Arabic; Aramaic; Danish; Dutch; French; Hungarian; Italian; Latin; Polish; Russian; Spanish; Swedish

Quantity: 49 Boxes (638 Files)

Repository: Sha’ar Zion Beit Ariela Public Library, Achad Ha’am Reading Room

2. BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Loewe was born in 1869, raised in an acculturated Jewish family in Wanzleben near Magdeburg, and received a classical education. In 1889 he began to study oriental languages, history, and philosophy at the Friedrich-Wilhelm-University, Berlin. He also studied at the Academy of the Science of Judaism (“Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums”). Influenced by Jewish national activities in Eastern Europe, he became a founder of the “Russisch-juedischer wissenschaftlicher Verein”, an early organization in Germany to promote Jewish national ideas. He was involved in founding “Hovevei Sfat ’Ever” (1891) and “Jung Israel” (1892). From “Jung Israel” the “Berliner Zionistische Vereinigung” (1897) originated, which was headed by L. until 1898. L. held a leading position in the “Vereinigung juedischer Studierender” (est. 1895) and took part in establishing the gymnastics club “Bar Kochba”.

Between 1893 and 1908 L. edited several Zionist journals including *Juedische Volkszeitung* (1893/94), *Der Juedische Student*, *Israelitische Rundschau* (1901/02) and *Juedische Rundschau* (1902–08). L. wrote numerous articles for these journals, partly under pseudonyms such as Heinrich Sachse, H. Rubendoerfer, Maarabi and Eljaquim.

During the 1890s L. undertook three extended trips to Palestine, but returned to Germany to continue his Zionist activity. In 1899 L. started working for the University Library Berlin. He became a member of staff a few years later and worked for the institution until his dismissal in 1933. At the seventh

Zionist Congress (1905) he presented a plan for a Jewish National Library and a library system in Palestine. L. became head of the Berlin central book collecting point for the Jewish National and University Library in 1914. In the following years, he was involved in the establishment of the Wolffsohn library building on Mount Scopus (opened in 1930). Other activities in Germany include his involvement in the “Soncino-Gesellschaft – Freunde des Juedischen Buches” (founded 1924), which L. headed for several years.

As a consequence of the National Socialist “Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service” of 1933, L. was given leave from his work at the University Library of Berlin. Appointed by Tel Aviv mayor Meir Dizengoff as director of the Tel Aviv Municipal Library “Sha’ar Zion”, L. fled Nazi-Germany that same year. He continued his Zionist activities within the circle of German-Jewish immigrants in Palestine (active e. g. in the “Ichud – aguda leumit datit”, “Hit’ahdut Olei Germania”, “Kartell Juedischer Verbindungen”). In the 1930s he was actively involved in helping German-Jewish emigrants and refugees to immigrate to British Mandate Palestine. L.’s main focus was his work for Tel Aviv’s municipal library “Sha’ar Zion”, which he headed until 1948. He modernized its system, enriched its holdings, encouraged collectors abroad to donate books, and helped find a new home for the library. Under L.’s directorate the library started training librarians. Furthermore, L. was interested in Jewish anthropology and folklore and edited and contributed numerous papers and articles on various topics. L. died in Haifa in 1951.

For further biographical information, see: Andreas Kilcher. Heinrich Loewe. In: Andreas B. Kilcher, Otfried Fraisse, Yossef Schwartz (ed.): Metzler-Lexikon der juedischen Philosophen. Darmstadt 2003. pp. 312-315; Dov Schidorsky: Loewe, Heinrich. In: Neue Deutsche Biographie 15 (1987). pp. 75; Frank Schloeffel: Heinrich Eljaqim Loewe [1869–1951]. Netzwerke und Raeume. [Diss., submitted at the faculty of philosophy, Potsdam University, not yet publ.].

3. SCOPE AND CONTENTS

Wherever possible, the original order of L.’s papers was preserved. The papers of L. have probably been stored at the Sha’ar Zion Beit Ariela Library since L.’s death in 1951. Prior to current preservation and cataloguing several volunteers attempted to create a partial order, which was not coherent. As a result it was not always possible to ascertain whether a specific order was intended by L. or created by others. The decision to create separate series of materials concerning the Tel Aviv Municipal Library “Sha’ar Zion” or L.’s studies on Jewish folklore result both from the amount of materials on these topics and from their inner coherence.

Series I: Correspondence of Heinrich Loewe (Boxes 1–7): The correspondence of L. (with approximately 1700 individuals and institutions) dates mainly from 1878 to 1948. It includes letters from and to Elias Auerbach, Willy Bambus, Nathan Birnbaum, Kurt Blumenfeld, Max Brod, Martin Buber, Meir Dizengoff, Maria Eichhorn [Dolorosa], Sammy Gronemann, Gustav Karpeles, Alfred Klee, Max Kollenscher, Kaethe Kollwitz, Shmarya Levin, Yehuda Magnes, Leo Motzkin, Shoshana Persitz, Boris Schatz, Hermann Struck, Saul Tchernichovsky, Otto Warburg, Gotthold Weil, Alfred Wiener, Leo Winz, David Wolffsohn, Curt Wormann, Arnold Zweig, and others – as well as correspondence with various Jewish and Zionist organizations such as the Jewish Agency, the Kartell Juedischer Verbindungen (K.J.V.), Keren Hayesod, several B’nai B’rith lodges, various Jewish communities (e.g. Juedische Gemeinde Berlin, Ihud – Agudat le’umit datit (Tel Aviv), and libraries worldwide (e.g. Bibliothek der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde Wien, Koeniglich Preußische Staatsbibliothek Berlin, Li-

brary of Congress, Universitaetsbibliothek Goettingen). Filed separately are the letters sent to and from L. as editor of various newspapers, journals and scholarly series (e.g. *Israelitische Rundschau*, *Juedische Rundschau*, *Scripta Universitatis atque Bibliothecae Hierosolymitanarum*, *Monumenta Hebraica et Judaica* (including drafts and copies of letters). Among the correspondents are Ahad Ha'am, Max Bodenheimer, Umberto Cassuto, Ignaz Goldziher, Ephraim Moses Lilien, Max Nordau, and Boris Schatz.

In addition, there are correspondence files on subjects such as *Emigration of Emanuel and Theodor Weiner*, '*Direktorenstreit*' (regarding the directorate of the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem, 1914–1925), *Wolffsohn Foundation: Library Building* (on the first building for the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem, 1921–1924), *Kartell Juedischer Verbindungen (K.J.V.)*, *Retirement from University Library Berlin*, and *Silver Wedding of Heinrich and Johanna Loewe* (1926). Two carbon copy books contain copies of letters L. wrote between 1897 and 1900, documenting his travels in Palestine in 1897/98. The letters are addressed to Theodor Herzl, Max Nordau, Martin Buber, David Wolffsohn, Theodor Zlocisti and others. For specific information regarding L.'s correspondence, please consult the Sha'ar Zion Beit Ariela Library (Ahad Ha'am Reading Room), which keeps a detailed list of names of all of L.'s correspondents (the list does not appear in the library's online catalogue).

Series II: Manuscripts of Heinrich Loewe (Boxes 8–13): The bulk of manuscripts is in German, while a small part are in Hebrew. The series includes a small number of poems, several short stories, fairy tales and a purimshpil (*Max und Moritz in Persien*). Drafts of articles, such as '*Zionah*' – *Eine Fahrt in's Land Israel. Reisebilder* (publ. in *Die Welt*, 4.11.1898), short travel descriptions, and other materials relate to L.'s travels to Palestine in the 1890s. Articles and essays by L. on the Jewish National and University Library, on library and book history in Palestine etc. constitute the biggest part of the series. They are arranged in subject files. Articles on the Jewish National Library in this part of the collection complement materials on the Tel Aviv municipal library "Sha'ar Zion" (series V), while L.'s articles on city names relate to his works on Jewish names, filed in the series *Studies on Jewish Folklore* (series IV).

Series III: Documents / Manuscripts and Letters of Others (boxes 14–18): The series contains personal documents of L. (box 14) and of his wife Johanna, documents concerning his employment at the University Library of Berlin, identification papers, and letters of reference for L., among others by Gustav Karpeles. Manuscripts by people other than L. (boxes 15–18) include galleys of Jehuda Louis Weinberg's (1876–1960) biography of L., the typescript of its Hebrew translation by Menahem Mendel Braunstein, other works by Weinberg, texts by family members of L. There are also memoranda, minutes, and notes from meetings (e.g. "Delegiertentage"). Single manuscripts are sorted alphabetically according to author. There are also letters, which are neither addressed to L. nor written by him, e.g. letters from Ahad Ha'am to Yehoshua Hana Rawnitzki, correspondence concerning the Committee for the Jubilee-Volume in Honour of L., including letters to Cecil Roth, Elias and Israel Auerbach and others. There are letters by Manfred Sturmann and others to Herbert Loewenstein (hebr. Hanoch Av-enary). In addition there are single letters by Ahad Ha'am, Nathan Birnbaum, Gershom Scholem, Menachem Ussishkin, Gotthold Weil, and institutions such as the Jewish Agency.

Series IV: Studies on Jewish Folklore (Boxes 19–22): The series consists of manuscripts (article drafts), lecture notes, and other drafts and notes on various topics in the field of Jewish folklore and anthropology, including Jewish names (e.g. *Tiernamen bei den Juden*, *Der Name Mosche*, *Namensaenderungen*), "Jewish humor" and Jewish holidays, prayers, and customs. Letters to and from L.

(the latter partly drafts or copies), which relate specifically to his work on Jewish names, are filed within this series. Many printed materials in this series contain extensive handwritten notes, such as *Aegyptische Namen bei den Hebraeern*.

Some letters, which mention Jewish folklore in passing, are filed as general correspondence (Series I).

Series V: Sha'ar Zion Library (Boxes 23–27): The series contains materials regarding the administration of the Tel Aviv municipal library “Sha'ar Zion”. Manuscripts include drafts of articles by L., and materials promoting the library as a Zionist institution. Correspondence to and from L. (the latter include mainly drafts and copies) reflects L.'s intensive work in public relations, fundraising, appeals for book donations from individuals as well as institutions in Europe, mainly Germany. The letters also refer to the new library building in Montefiore Street in Tel Aviv (1936), the development of library departments (e. g. the music library, 1938/39), etc. Correspondents include Georg Herlitz (Central Zionist Archives), Meir Dizengoff, Leo Baeck (Gesellschaft zur Foerderung der Wissenschaft des Judentums), Hugo Bergmann, Gotthold Weil (Jewish National and University Library), Siegfried Moses, Arnold Zweig, and institutions and bodies such as the Hit'ahdut 'Olei Germania, the Jewish Agency, Keren Kayemet, and the Tel Aviv Municipality. There are documents concerning Curt Wormann (1900–1991), including a CV, letters of reference etc. – The Tel Aviv Municipal Library “Sha'ar Zion” may be sporadically discussed in letters within the general correspondence files.

Series VI: Collections and Subject Files (Boxes 28–29): This series includes L.'s *Autograph-Collection*. Correspondents in this collection include Joseph Chazanowicz, Georg Landauer, Leo Motzkin, Max Nordau, Martin Philippon, Israel Rokach, and Theodor Zlocisti. Subject files on topics such as Jewish Seafaring, the philanthropist and Hebrew teacher Israel Judah Adler (1870–1948), Albert Katz (1858–1923), and Nahum Sokolow (1859–1936) consist of mixed materials, but mainly correspondence and manuscripts.

Series VII: Printed Matter (Boxes 30–43): Some printed materials have a direct connection to L. (i.e., published writings by and on L.). The series includes newspapers, clippings, and rare publications of Zionist and Jewish organizations and bodies (filed alphabetically according to organization name), rare historical flyers from Germany and Palestine, Zionist posters, programs and invitations.

Series VIII: Crypto Collections (Boxes 44–46): Within the Papers of L., the papers of Heinrich Meyer Cohn (1855–1905) and Richard Loewe (1863–1931) constitute separate entities. Meyer Cohn's papers include letters written between 1892 and 1903 by and with regard to journalist and music essayist Josef Schrattenholz (1847–1909).

Series IX: Images and Objects (Boxes 47–49): The Loewe Papers contain several files with photographs (none of which were taken by L. himself), including portraits of L. and others (partly identified), as well as landscape photographs of Palestine (original prints).

Series X: Materials after 1951 (Box 49): These materials were found among L.'s papers, but they do not seem to pertain to Heinrich Loewe.

PREFERRED CITATION

Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known); The Papers of Heinrich Loewe; [Call Number]; box number; file number; Sha'ar Zion Beit Ariela Public Library.