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Introduction
This Jewish source list is not exhaustive but attempts to brings together a list of collections we hold in our archives, along with a selection of local studies sources. The latter have been grouped together by theme or format to highlight the varied aspects of our collections.

Archive Collections
Catalogues for many of our archive collections can be viewed on our online catalogue. Where there are no links below, please contact Archives & Collections for more details about the records we hold.

JA - Birmingham Hebrew Congregation 1807 - 2006
Mainly relating to Singers Hill Synagogue and the Hebrew School/King David School, the archive includes minutes of the committees which governed the synagogue including Council, whose minutes date from the 1820s and are the oldest in the collection, the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Cemeteries Committee, the Chevra Kadisha or burial society, and other short-term committees. School records include minutes of the School Committee and its successors, the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee and the Foundation Managers' Committee, log books, admission registers, and visitors' books, some dating from the 1860s. There is a large collection of correspondence belonging to the Secretary of the synagogue which includes material relating to synagogue administration.

JB Records of the New Synagogue 1938-1997
The collection includes two marriage registers, a file of papers relating to marriages belonging to the synagogue Secretary, a file of correspondence about building an extension to the synagogue hall.
**MS 1515 - Cyril Bertram Lander 1849 – 1994**
The archive includes a few items relating to Cyril Landers Continental Jewish forbears and relations (he was born Cyril Landauer but changed his name during the First World War because of anti-German feeling), and a small quantity of personal correspondence. The majority of the collection, however, consists of photographs taken on his travels, and snapshots of his extensive family and friends.

**MS 1678 - Microfilm copies of records relating to Jewish charities 1829 – 1923**
Four reels of microfilmed records relating to the following charities: Birmingham Hebrew Philanthropic Society, Birmingham Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society, Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid and Clothing Society and Birmingham Hebrew Board of Guardians.

**MS 2404 - Birmingham Jewish Friendship Club**

**MS 2520 - Birmingham Jewish Literary and Arts Society 1921 – 1960**
Minutes of meetings of the Birmingham Jewish Arts Society and its successor, the Birmingham Jewish Literary and Arts Society, including a scrapbook of programmes, reviews, and other material relating to plays performed by the Jewish Arts Society's Dramatic Section and minutes of meetings of the whole membership of the Society and of the General Committee that managed the Society.

**MS 2522 - Birmingham Jewish Youth Council 1826 - 1997**
The only surviving records of the Youth Council are two volumes of minutes. There are also brief reports about its activities in the Congregation Yearbooks from 1945 onwards.

**MS 2523 - Birmingham Young Israel Society c.1870 - c.1931**
Volume of minutes of the Birmingham Young Israel Society.

**MS 2524 - Papers of Zoe Josephs c. early 1980s**
This collection consists of the research material gathered by Josephs in relation to her published works mainly the 'Birmingham Jewry' volumes, 'Survivors', and other works based on her studies of Birmingham Jewish heritage, as well as some material in relation to the actual publication of her work and responses to the work, such as reviews, press clippings and other publicity. In the majority, the material contained in the collection consists of Josephs’ notes, correspondence regarding her research activities - often with others who had previously conducted research in similar areas of interest - photocopies of relevant literary extracts with notes made in the margins, photographs - often copy photographs or photographs of items of interest and relevance to the subject area - and in some cases original documentation belonging to some candidates on whom she developed case studies within her publication, 'Survivors'.

**MS 2525 - Papers of Dorothy Gillman, member of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation**
**20th century**
The collection contains photographs of family and friends (1894 - 1991), correspondence and copy correspondence with her family, friends and societies of which she was a member, or was interested in (1980s - 1990s). Minutes, reports and other papers of societies of which she was a member. The
groups in which she was most active and are contained in this collection are the League of Jewish Women and the Birmingham Friendly Circle (1965 – 1993). Other personal papers of Miss Gillman including knitting, Jewish culture and Hebrew (1940s to 1990s). Official documentation such as pension papers and correspondence with Miss Gillman's solicitors regarding her will (1937 - 1992). Miss Gillman's archive is a fascinating and self-contained collection of a woman with a keen interest in her Jewish community.

**MS 2526 - Papers of Constance Davis 20th century**
Family photographs, some nineteenth-century, holiday photographs, letters, diaries, greetings cards and other personal papers belonging to Constance Davis and her family and friends. The collection includes birth and death certificates and correspondence between her executor and her solicitor following her death in 2000.

**MS 2529 - Birmingham Shechita Board 1826 - 1997**
Minutes of meetings of the Birmingham Shechitah Board and its predecessor, the Committee for the Superintendence of Shechita, ledgers, cash books, and invoices.

**MS 2539 - Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid and Clothing Society 1826 - 1997**
Only one minute book survives, dating from 1871-1901. Subjects discussed in the meetings include making arrangements to apprentice children to businesses in the city; organizing the Annual Benefit Concert, held at one of the theatres in the city; buying books for the Birmingham Hebrew School; subsidising teachers’ pay; and giving grants to children to pay college and university fees. The minutes also list the names of children who have applied for boots and clothing.

**MS 2584 - 'Jewish Birmingham Remembered' film September 2003**
Film: 'Jewish Birmingham Remembered' by Chris Jennings and Anna Gerrard. This is a copy made in February 2006 from a VHS cassette, 2 DVDs.

**MS 2635 - Transcripts and indexes of death certificates and other documents in the archive of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation 2005 – 2006**
Transcripts and indexes made by the Honorary Archivist to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation between 2005 and 2006: Transcript of Singers Hill Synagogue Marriage Register, 13 December 1964 - 26 June 2005 (JA/2/C/1/18); Transcript of 'Scale of Fees for Marriages', 1958 (JA/2/G/7); Alphabetical name index and transcripts of death certificates for burials in the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation's cemetery at Brandwood End. The index covers years 1918-2002; transcripts of death certificates cover years 1945-2003 (JA/2/D/1/2); Transcripts of death certificates for burials in the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation's cemetery at Witton, 1866-1987 (JA/2/D/1/1); Transcript of a register of donations to the Central Synagogue Building Fund, 1956-1957 (JA/2/N/6) (NB closed until 1 January 2038).

**MS 4074 - Personal accounts of the Guest family of Birmingham 20th century**
Copy of the recollection 'The Odour of Onions', 'My Cousin Sonia, Her Uncle Simon and Her Grandpa Guerz' based on the recollections of Sonia Guest Scan of a photograph of Sybil Guest as a child, and Arthur Guest, 1911. Photograph of a ceremonial plate presented to Sybil Guest by the Birmingham
Jewish Literary and Arts Society where she served as secretary, 01 July 1936, copy of a page from the British Medical Journal containing the obituary of Dr. I.A. Guest.

**MS 5059 - Records of Frederick Jacoombs & Eva Bloom** Sports & Social Lodge 64, part of the Grand Order of Israel and Shield of David Friendly Society.

**BCC Additional (Acc2009/008)**

Volume commemorating the planting of the City of Birmingham Forest in Lachish, Israel.

**MS 2724 - Warwickshire Photographic Survey**

Hebrew Congregational Synagogue, Blucher Street, Birmingham Photographed c1990s - 2000s.

Finding number WK/B11/7812 - 7814

Catalogues for the following collections can be downloaded from the Connecting Histories website:

- Birmingham Hebrew Congregation - JA
- Birmingham Jewish Literary and Arts Society – MS 2520
- Birmingham Jewish Youth Council (1826-1997) – MS 2522
- Birmingham Young Israel Society (c.1870-c.1931) – MS 2523
- Papers of Zoe Josephs (1826-1997) – MS 2524
- Papers of Dorothy Gillman (20th century) – MS 2525
- Papers of Constance Davis (20th century) – MS 2526
- Birmingham Shechita Board (1826-1997) – MS 2529
- Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid and Clothing Society (1826-1997) – MS 2539

**Local Studies Sources:**

Societies, Organisations, Clubs (including charitable benefits)

**Jewish Arts Society (Birmingham)** (From 1936 incorporated in Birmingham Jewish Literary and Arts Society):

- Constitution and rules adopted 19 April 1925.  
  *Birmingham Institutions B/13/331700*
- Dramatic Section. Programmes. 1924-33  
  *Birmingham Institutions D/46/331701*
- Membership cards and programmes. 1923-4 to 1934-5.  
  L54.6
- Birmingham Hebrew Congregation yearbook. Annual reports. 1st (1932-3) – L19.8

The following can be found in the relevant years of the *Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Yearbook* L19.8:

- Hebrew Board of Guardians Annual reports. 43rd – 51st (1912-22) (From 1921 incorporated in Jewish United Benevolent Board.)
- Hebrew Congregation (Birmingham) Birmingham Beth Hamedrash (Central Synagogue) Annual reports. 1912-
- Hebrew Ladies’ Boot Fund (Birmingham) Annual Reports, 1912-13; 1915-18
- Hebrew Educational Aid and Clothing Society Annual reports, 62nd – 71st (1912-13 to 1921) (From 1921 incorporated in Birmingham Jewish United Benevolent Board.)
- Hebrew Ladies’ Benevolent Visiting Society Annual Reports, 55th – 63rd (1911-12 to 1921) (From 1921 incorporated in Birmingham Jewish United Benevolent Board.)
- Hebrew Philanthropic Society (Birmingham) Annual Reports, 84th – 93rd (1911-21) (From 1921 incorporated in Jewish United Benevolent Board.)
- Jewish Boys and Girls Clubs
- Jewish Charities Aid Society (Birmingham)
- Jewish Communal Scheme (Birmingham)
- Jewish Lads Brigade
- Jewish United Benevolent Board (Birmingham)
- Jewish War Memorial Fund (Birmingham) Balance sheets, 1921-23
- Jewish War Victims Fund Annual reports, 1915-16 to 1918-19
- Jewish Young Men’s Association (Birmingham) Annual Reports, (25th-27th) 1913-14 to 1915-16.
- Representative Council of Birmingham Jewry, Reports 1st (1937)

The following can be found in Press cuttings etc. of the Birmingham Jewish Community collected by H. Levine. 1926-48 LF19.8/519405
- Jewish Social and Dramatic Club (Birmingham) Programmes, reports, supper menus, 21st session, 1936-7.
- Souvenir programme of annual benefit concert in aid of the Birmingham Jewish United Benevolent Board, 1936; 1939.


Birmingham Institutions E/6/431749

Birmingham Zionist Council. Leaflets etc. 1937—
LF19.8/489616

Jewish Young Men’s Association (Birmingham) Annual Reports. (18th) 1906-7 - (34th) 1922-3. 1907 – 1923.
L19.8/206843
Jewish Young Men’s Association (Birmingham) Programmes. Session 1902-3 - 1923-4.
L19.8/206844

Jews (Birmingham and Midland Home for Aged): - Annual report and balance sheet. 1st - 5th (1926-27 to 1930-31) (From 1932 amalgamated with Birmingham Jewish United Benevolent Board.)
Birmingham Institutions D/45/464127
Jews (British Society for promoting Christianity among the), Birmingham Auxiliary; Annual Report of the Birmingham Association of united denominations in aid of the British Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews. 2nd (1846-7).

Birmingham Institutions C/8/36023

Annual Report of the Birmingham Auxiliary to the British Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews. 4th, 8th-11th. 5 volumes. 1850-7.

Birmingham Institutions C/8/36024


Birmingham Institutions C/8/36029


AX309 / Vol 14 / 65426

Birmingham Hebrew Congregation:

- Order of service at the opening of the Synagogue of the New Hebrew Congregation, Birmingham, 29th September, 5613. Hebrew and English. 1853
  L48.112/63666

- Order of service (Hebrew and English text) at the rededication of the synagogue (Singers Hill) after completion of repairs. August 29, 5697 – 1937.
  Birmingham Institutions C/27/471143

  LF19.8/474673

- Presentation souvenir to celebrate the golden jubilee of the council, 1853-5613 to 1903-5663. Historical summary by the secretary., M. Berlyn. 1903
  Lp19.8/175291

  Birmingham Institutions D/7/240049

- Report and balance sheet (afterwards Yearbook) of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation 5626-7 (14th); 5631-2 - 5644-5, 5646-7 – 5732 (1866-7; 1871-2- 1884-5; 1886-7 etc.) 1867 – 1972
  L19.8/142243

- Singers Hill Synagogue, 1855 – 1937. A message from the president of proposed reconstruction. In Press cuttings, etc. of the Birmingham Jewish Community, collected by H. Levine. 1937
  LF19.8/474673

- Story of the Chanukah special service. December 16th, 1906.
  Birmingham Institutions D/7/303387
LF55.4/67166 Concerts F/6

Addresses, Discourse, Lectures and Sermons

Birmingham Institutions D/37/442340

Mindelsohn (J) Presidential address to Birmingham Jewish United Benevolent Board at the annual general meeting, March 29th 1936. 4pp.
Birmingham Institutions D/38/449917

Birmingham Institutions B/12/352213

Cohen (A) Brotherhood. A sermon preached on the occasion of the visit of the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, and Aldermen to the Birmingham Synagogue, April 1st, 1933, and Macaulay’s Plea for the Jews. A sermon preached in the Birmingham Synagogue on the seventh day of Passover, April 17th, 1933. (Protesting against the persecution of Jews in Germany) 1933.
Birmingham Institutions D/42/405220

Birmingham Institutions B/12/425531

Emanuel (G.J.) Address at the consecration of the monument erected by the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation to the memory of the Late Rev. M.H. Hollander. Port. Illus. 1900.
Birmingham Institutions D/7/247531

Emanuel (G.J.) Birmingham Hebrew Congregation. Sermon at the service in memory of Queen Victoria. 8pp. 1901.
Birmingham Institutions D/7/157182

Emanuel (G.J.) Birmingham Hebrew Congregation. Sermon on the occasion of the special Chanukah service, December 16th, 1906.
Birmingham Institutions D/7/247532

Worship in ancient Israel: its forms and meaning by H. H. Rowley; Edward Cadbury Lectures delivered in the University of Birmingham [in 1965].
L48.909 / 762080

The Aim of Living. Two Sermons Presented by the Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Sermon about life’s true meaning, need for higher level of existence than just eating and drinking. 19 September 1934.
Birmingham Institutions B/12/425531
An Examination of Liberal Judaism. A lecture delivered before the Birmingham Jewish Literary Association, October 27th, 1935. 23pp.. *COHEN (Rev. ABRAHAM).

Birmingham Institutions D/37/442340

Journals, Serials and Magazines

Jewish Recorder (Birmingham) Volume 1, 1935 onwards.
L19.8/461571

L08.2/331704 Periodicals D/8

L08.2 Birmingham Periodicals F/1

History and Historical writings

Levy (E.L.) Birmingham Jewry, 1870, then; and 1929, now. With foreword by A. Cohen. (Birmingham Jewish Literary Association) Illus. 1929.
L19.8/360810

Masson (P.R.) and Jensen (B) Hitler’s policy is a Jewish policy. Correspondence with a Jewish publicist (A. Cohen) 23pp. 1941
Birmingham History D/28/527259

LF19.8/519405

Birmingham Authors/422666

Masson (P.R.) and Jensen (B) Hitler’s policy is a Jewish policy. Correspondence with a Jewish publicist (A. Cohen) 23pp. 1941.
Birmingham History D/28/527259

Biographical

L 52.41/763313

The four lives of Elsbeth Rosenfeld / as told by her to the BBC. London: Gollancz, 1964.
L78.1 ROS / 724356

I stepped into freedom: [a German Jewish woman's experiences as a result of Nazi rule], Lisa Goertz. London: Lutterworth Press, 1960.
L78.1/691621
Lord George Gordon's conversion to Judaism, and his life in Birmingham. A paper before the Jewish Historical Society. 52pp. 1913. SOLOMONS (ISRAEL).
LF19.8/259928

See also the local studies book and card catalogues for the following:

- Alliance Literary and Debating Society
- Anti-Jewish Conversionist Society
- Country Holidays for Jewish Children (Birmingham Branch)
- European War
- Ezrah Torah (Birmingham)
- Hebrew Board of Guardians
- Hebrew Congregation
- Hebrew Educational Aid and Clothing Society
- Hebrew Ladies’ Benevolent Visiting Society
- Hebrew Ladies’ Boot Fund (Birmingham)
- Hebrew Philanthropic Society (Birmingham)
- Jewish Arts Society
- Jewish Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs (Birmingham)
- Jewish Charities Aid Society (Birmingham)
- Jewish Lads’ Brigade
- Jewish National Fund Commission (Birmingham)
- Jewish Social and Dramatic Club (Birmingham)
- Jewish Social Club (New)
- Jewish Societies (Joint Council of Birmingham)
- Jewish United Benevolent Board
- Jewish War Victims’ Fund
- Jewish Young Men’s Association
- Jewish Young Men’s Association (Birmingham)
- Talmud Torah (Birmingham)
- Young Israel Society (Birmingham)

Online resources

**Library catalogue** - [https://birmingham.spydus.co.uk](https://birmingham.spydus.co.uk)
For additional local studies items, general reference and lending copies of books.

**Archives & Collections online catalogue** - [http://calmview.birmingham.gov.uk](http://calmview.birmingham.gov.uk)
For further details of the archive collections listed above and for document references to order material.

**Connecting Histories** - [www.connectinghistories.org.uk](http://www.connectinghistories.org.uk)

**Birmingham Images** - [www.birminghamimages.org.uk](http://www.birminghamimages.org.uk)