

**MS
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Rubelow collection of Agudas Israel Papers

Gift of Rabbi Reuven Rubelow, 1998

Dates: 1925 – 1952

Extent: 2 boxes

Biographical Note:

Herman B. Eisner (1875-1955) was founder and head of the H.B Eisner & Co., a general insurance agency in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He had six children including Major Joseph H. Eisner, who died in service. A Yeshiva in Scranton — the Milton Eisner Yeshiva High School — is named after him.

Agudas Israel (also known as Agudat[h] Israel, Agudas Yisroel, and the Aguda[h], translated as Union of Israel) is a movement, organization and political party founded in 1912 in Kattowitz, German Empire, by Orthodox Jews who opposed secularism and the Zionist movement. A branch of this movement was established in most countries in Eastern and Western Europe, as well as in British Mandate Palestine, and the United States. Although the organization opposed Zionism it did not object to Jewish settlement in Palestine. The organization began to purchase land in Palestine in the 1920's, and Israel became one of the centers for the movement after World War II. Agudat Israel continues to function as a political party in Israel, winning seats in the Knesset (Israeli parliament) with the party United Torah Judaism.

Historical Context:

In 1925 Herman B. Eisner purchased 1200 dunams (hectares) of land in the Machne Israel Colony in Emek Israel, Palestine, for thirty-seven thousand dollars from the Palastina-Centrale der Agudas Jisroel in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, but never received any Kushans (land registry certificates or deeds) to the property. Although the land was owned by Agudath Israel Jerusalem, the Frankfurt branch sold parts of the land to different people and only issued them unofficial certificates. Agudath Israel cited technical and economic difficulties as preventing them from producing Kushans for their buyers. Eisner retained a lawyer and contacted high-ranking officials and Rabbis to secure their support. After a lengthy land claim dispute the issue was settled in favor of Eisner.

Scope and Content:

Collection consists largely of correspondence between Herman B. Eisner, Agudath Israel representatives, various lawyers and Rabbis, and his family. Includes correspondence with Dr. Shlomo Ehrmann at the Frankfurt Agudas from whom Eisner purchased the land. Also includes correspondence between Eisner and attorneys M. Eliash and Dr. Mordecai A. Buxbaum, and other Agudath leaders including Rabbi Moshe Blau, head of Central Agudath Israel of Eretz Yisrael, and Mr. Jacob Rosenheim, head of Agudas Israel World Organization. Also includes correspondence with dignitaries including Democratic Whip Patrick J. Boland, the American Consul General in Palestine, the American Consul General in Frankfurt-am-main, and Rabbi Yitzchok Herzog Chief Rabbi of Israel, among others. Also includes a small amount of correspondence authored by H.B. Eisner's son, Irving Eisner, and personal correspondence between H.B. Eisner and his wife and children during his trip in 1935 to Palestine.

Contains Series:

1. Legal documents
2. Land dispute correspondence
3. Personal correspondence
4. Irving Eisner correspondence

Custodial History: Papers were donated by Rabbi Reuven Rubelow to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in 1998.

Notes:

Languages: English, German, Hebrew, Yiddish.

Access: Open

Series 1: Legal documents		
BOX/FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
1:1	Unsigned contract between Agudat Israel and Herman B. Eisner regarding the sale of 1200 dunams of land which mentions previous contracts from 13 December 1925 and 17 March 1925 (in Hebrew)	n.d.
1:2	Bankruptcy note for Israel Eisner & Company and note from P.F. Cusick & Co. Investment Brokers (2 TN)	1929-1932
1:3	Document stating that Herman B. Eisner appoints Dr. Bernard Joseph, Barrister-at-Law of Jerusalem to be his attorney (in English)	1934
1:4	Draft of agreement between Agudas Israel Jerusalem and H.B. Eisner	1935
1:5	Land tenancy court papers and other materials regarding a case between Leib Finkelshtein and Herman B. Eisner (in Hebrew)	1946-1952
Series 2: Land dispute correspondence		
BOX/FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
1:6	Letter from Noah Garfinkel, Esquire, and letters from Palestine Agudah Land Co. Inc. to the Anglo Egyptian Bank in Jerusalem and to The Public National Bank of New York (3 TLS in English)	1925
1:7	Letters from Dr. Ehrmann in Frankfurt to Herman B. Eisner regarding the property deeds (2 TLS in Yiddish and Hebrew)	1928
1:8	Letters from Levi Segel Horowitz to Rabbi Menachem Mendel Friedman and Rabbi Levy Yitzchok Kahana (2 TL copy in Yiddish)	1928, 1930
1:9	Letters from Dr. Ehrmann to Herman B. Eisner regarding property deeds and a meeting with Rabbi Friedman. Letter from Agudath Israel Jerusalem to H.B. Eisner (5 TLS in Hebrew)	1929
1:10	Letter from Dr. S. Ehrmann at Palastina-Centrale der Agudas Jisroel to H.B. Eisner (TL in German with English translation)	[193-]
1:11	Letters from Dr. S. Ehrmann to Herman B. Eisner regarding property deeds, and letter from Dr. S. Ehrmann to Wolf Goldstein (2 TLS, 1TL in Hebrew and English).	1930

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1:12	Copy of a typed note from Palastina Centrale der Agudas Jisroel to H.B. Eisner (in German)	1930
1:13	Letters from Dr. Ehrmann to Herman B. Eisner about a delay in the property deeds matter (2 TLS in Hebrew)	1930
1:14	Letters from Dr. Ehrmann to H.B. Eisner and letter to Advin Y. Lux in New York (3 TLS in Hebrew with some English translations)	1931
1:15	Letter from Dr. Shlomo Ehrmann to H.B. Eisner, and letter from Dr. Ehrmann to lawyers Richard Strauss and Robert Stern (1TLS, 1TL in Hebrew and German)	1932
1:16	Letters to H.B. Eisner from American Consul in Jerusalem Cyril L. Thiel, letter from M. Hanna at Department of Lands in Jerusalem to American Consulate General, and from Moshe Blau to American Consulate General (2 TLS, 2 TL in English)	1934
1:17	Letter From Palastina-Centrale der Agudas Jisroel to H.B. Eisner which mentions Mr. Lewin in Warsaw and American Consul Mr. Strauss and summarizes the dispute from their perspective (1TLS in German)	1934
1:18	Letters to H.B. Eisner from R.W. Heingartner American Consul in Frankfurt-am-Main (2 TLS in English)	1934
1:19	Letters from Palastina-Centrale der Agudas Jisroel to Hermann B. Eisner (2TLS in German)	1934
1:20	Letter to H.B. Eisner from American Consul in Jerusalem Ely E. Palmer with list of Palestine attorneys (1 TLS in English)	1934
1:21	Letters from Palastina-Centrale der Agudas Jisroel to Hermann B. Eisner (2TLS in German)	1934
1:22	Letter from Bernard Joseph, Esquire, to H.B. Eisner and letters from Palastina-Centrale der Agudas Jisroel to Hermann B. Eisner (3 TLS in English and German)	1934
1:23	Letters from M. Eliash, attorney, to H.B. Eisner (3 TLS in English)	1934
1:24	Letters from Ely E. Palmer, American Consul General, to H.B. Eisner with enclosed letters from Moshe Blue (Blau) at Central Agudath Israel and from the Registrar of Lands, Nazareth (1 TLS, 2 TL in English)	1934-1935
1:25	Letter and bill with expense breakdown from Hugo Rosenstiel, attorney in Zurich (1TLS in German)	1936
1:26	Letter from H.B. Eisner to the American Consulate in Jerusalem with postal receipt (1 TLS in English)	1936
1:27	Letter from H.B. Eisner to the American president (1 TL)	1936
1:28	Letters from H.B. Eisner to Dr. M. Eliash, lawyer, letter from H.B. Eisner to Mr. M. Blau, letters from H.B. Eisner to Dr. Aadalbert Buxbaum, and postage receipts (7TL in English)	1938
1:29	Letter from H.B. Eisner to Mr. George Wadsworth at the American Consulate General in Jerusalem and letters from Patrick J. Boland, Democratic Whip, to H.B. Eisner (2 TLS, 1 TL in English)	1938
1:30	Letters from H.B. Eisner to Mr. Moses Blau and Dr. M. Eliash, post office receipts and checks	1938

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1:31	Correspondence between Dr. Buxbaum and M. Eliash, letter from H.B Eisner to Dr. A. Buxbaum, lawyer, letter from Dr. Buxbaum to H.B. Eisner, letters from H.B Eisner, and postal receipt (3 TL, 2TLS, 2 ALS in Hebrew and English)	1938
1:32	Letters between M. Eliash, H.B. Eisner, and Dr. Buxbaum, letter from H.B. Eisner to Rabbi Yitzchok Herzog Chief Rabbi of Israel, and post office receipts (2 TL, 3 TLS, 1 AL, 3 ALS in Hebrew and English)	1939
1:33	Letters from H.B. Eisner to M. Eliash and Dr. Buxbaum (1 ALS, 1TL in Hebrew and English)	1939
1:34	Letters from H.B. Eisner to Rabbi Yeshaaya Asher Zelig Margalio, Dr. Buxbaum, M. Eliash, Mr. Blau, and a postal receipt (1 ALS, 1 AL, 4 TL in Hebrew and English)	1939
1:35	Correspondence between Patrick J. Boland, Democratic Whip and H.B. Eisner with enclosed report from George Wadsworth, American Consul General (2 TLS, 2 TL in English)	1939
1:36	Letter from Dr. Buxbaum to H.B. Eisner, from Eisner to M. Eliash, from Irving Eisner (son of H.B. Eisner) to M. Eliash (1 ALS, 2 TL, 1 TLS in Hebrew and English)	1939
1:37	Correspondence between Irving Eisner and M. Eliash and between H.B. Eisner and the American Consulate General in Jerusalem (3 TL, 1 TLS in English and Hebrew)	1939
1:38	Letters from H.B. Eisner to M. Eliash, Moshe Blau, Rabbi Yeshaaya Asher Zelig Margalio, Rabbi Yitzchok Herzog, and M. Usiskin, and postal receipts (1 TL, 5 ALS in English and Hebrew)	1939
1:39	Letter to H.B. Eisner from unidentified sender	1939
2:1	Letters from H.B. Eisner to M. Eliash, Rabbi M. Blau, and Rabbi Yeshaaya Asher Zelig Margalio, postal receipts (2 TL, 1 ALS in English and Hebrew)	1939
2:2	Correspondence between H.B Eisner and Christian T. Steger and Geroge Wadsworth at the American Consulate in Jerusalem with postal receipt (1 TL, 1 TLS in English)	1939
2:3	Letters from H.B. Eisner to M. Eliash, Rabbi Moshe Blau, Rabbi Yeshaaya Asher-Zelig Margalio, and the heads of Agudath Israel, with postal receipts (2 TL, 1 AL, 8 ALS in English and Hebrew)	1940
2:4	Letters from H.B. Eisner to M. Eliash, Rabbi Moshe Blau, Rabbi Yosef Eisner and postal receipt (5 ALS in Yiddish and Hebrew)	1940
2:5	Letters from H.B. Eisner to Rabbi Moshe Blau, Rabbi Yeshaaya Asher-Zelig Margalio, M. Eliash, a telegram from Eliash, and postal receipts (5 ALS, 1 AN, 1 TL in Hebrew, Yiddish and English)	1940-1941
2:6	Correspondence between H.B. Eisner and Jacob Rosenheim (2 TN, 2 ALS in English and Yiddish)	1941-1942
2:7	Correspondence between H.B. Eisner and Jacob Rosenheim (1 ALS, 1 TLS in Yiddish and English)	1941-1942
2:8	Letters from H.B. Eisner to the American Consulate General in Jerusalem (2 TL in English)	1941, 1943

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2:9	Letter from Rabbi Max Handler to H.B Eisner and from Eisner to Rabbi M. Hoffman (2 ALS, in Hebrew)	1942
2:10	Letters from Eisner to M. Eliash, Moshe Blau, the Land Registry Court in Nazareth, Palestine, and letter from Cvi Posnansky (5 TL, 1 TLS in English)	1942-1943
2:11	Correspondence between H.B. Eisner and L.C. Pinkerton, American Consul General in Jerusalem and note for Eisner from District Officer in Nazareth (2 TLS, 1 TL, 1 ANS in English)	1945
2:12	Letters from H.B. Eisner to Dr. Radmaron and from Moshe Blau to Agudath Israel and Dr. Buxbaum, and unidentified recipient	1949
2:13	Correspondence between H.B. Eisner and Moses Kehaty, attorney in Jerusalem (1 TLS, 1 TL in English)	1952
2:14	Excerpt from a letter from the Agudas Yisroel (TL in German) and excerpt from a letter from H.B. Eisner to a government official (TL in English)	n.d.
Series 3: Personal correspondence		
BOX/FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
2:15	Excerpt of letter from H.B. Eisner to his family (1 AL in English)	10 March 1031
2:16	Letter to H.B. Eisner from his daughter Ruth (1 TLS in English)	17 February 1935
2:17	Letter from H.B. Eisner to Mrs. Katie Eisner and family (1 ALS in English)	19 February 1935
2:18	Letter from H.B. Eisner to Katie and children (1 ALS in English)	24 February 1935
2:19	Letter from H.B. Eisner to his family (1 ALS in English and Yiddish)	26 February 1935
2:20	Letter from H.B. Eisner to his family (1 ALS in English)	1 March 1935
2:21	Letter from H.B. Eisner to his family (1 ALS in English)	5 March 1935
2:22	Letter from H.B. Eisner to his family (1 ALS in English)	7 March 1935
2:23	Letter to H.B. Eisner from his son Irving and daughter Pearl and to Rabbi Avraham Heschel	7 March 1935
2:24	Letter from H.B. Eisner to his family (1 ALS in English)	12 March 1935
2:25	Letter from H.B. Eisner to his family (1 ALS in English)	28 March 1935
2:26	Excerpt from letter from H.B. Eisner to his family	n.d.
2:27	Stationery with H.B. Eisner letterhead and ephemera	n.d.
Series 4: Irving Eisner correspondence		
BOX/FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
2:28	Letter from Irving Eisner to the Securities Exchange Commission, replies from John J. Burns and David Saperstein (1 TL, 1 TLS in English)	1935-1936

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2:29	Letter from Irving Eisner to the American President (1 TL)	27 January 1936
2:30	Letter from Irving Eisner to Honorable Arthur H. James, Judge of Superior Court in Pennsylvania (1 TL in English)	29 April 1938