

**The New York Public Library  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Hyman A. Schulson, 1912-1997  
Papers, 1942-1957**

**John D. Stinson  
May 2001**

## Summary

Main Entry: Schulson, Hyman A., 1912-1997

Title: Hyman A. Schulson Papers, 1942-1957. Bulk dates: 1947-1950

Size: 2 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source Gift of Mrs. Ruth Schulson, November 1997

Abstract: The collection consists of general correspondence of Hyman A. Schulson, an attorney, Zionist, and activist in Jewish community affairs; and papers relating to his employment as director of the Washington, D.C. office of the American Zionist Emergency Council, an organization which lobbied at the end of the Second World War for the creation of an independent Jewish state in Palestine.

## Biographical Note

Hyman A. Schulson (1912-1997), attorney, Zionist, and activist in Jewish community affairs, was born in Jerusalem, the son of Solomon and Minnie (Schnitzer) Schulson. A resident of the U.S. since 1917, he was graduated from Brown University (1933) and from Yale Law School (1936). Subsequently, he served as staff attorney for the National Labor Relations Board (1937-38), and as trial attorney in Chicago (1938-39). In September of 1940 he was appointed administrative assistant to the executive director of the Zionist Organization of America. For a brief period in the summer of 1942 he was on loan to the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs. From December 1942 until 1946 he was on active duty in the United States Army Air Forces.

Upon his discharge from military service Schulson resumed his Zionist work as representative (and later, in 1949, as director) in Washington, D.C. of the American Zionist Emergency Council. Established in 1940, the Council was an umbrella group composed of several Zionist organizations including Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America, Mizrahi Organization of America, and the Zionist Organization of America. It lobbied for the creation of an independent Jewish state in Palestine which would serve as a permanent homeland for Jews of the Diaspora and also as a sanctuary for the immediate resettlement of the tens of thousands of Jews left homeless in Europe at the end of the Second World War.

As Washington, D.C. representative Schulson was responsible for conveying to members of congress, governmental officials and others the Council's analysis of the Palestine problem and of the urgent need to create an independent Jewish state. In the fall of 1948 he attended the Paris session of the United Nations as the Council's special representative where he reported on the diplomatic and political maneuverings over the proposal to adopt the Bernadotte Plan devised by Count Folke Bernadotte, the United Nations representative who was sent to Palestine in the summer of 1948 for the purpose of achieving a negotiated settlement between Arabs and Jews.

In the fall of 1949 the Council underwent reorganization. The term "Emergency" was dropped from its title. Its work henceforth was to be more educational in nature and less political and agitational. With its new focus on appealing to churches, labor unions and liberal organizations to support the new State of Israel it had less need for staff with "political" connections. As a result Schulson's employment with the Council was terminated in October of that year.

For most of his life Schulson was actively involved in Jewish community affairs. In early 1951 he was appointed counsel and national executive director of the American ORT Federation, a position he held until December when he resigned to take up the private practice of law in New York City. He felt he could be more effective in promoting Zionist causes as a private citizen. He was a member of the bar associations of New York, Washington, D.C. and Wisconsin. In 1950 he was married to Ruth Hendricks with whom he had three children, David, Henry and Anne.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The bulk of the collection consists of papers relating to Hyman A. Schulson's work as director of the Washington, D. C. office of the American Zionist Emergency Council which lobbied at the end of the Second World War for the creation of an independent Jewish state in Palestine. Included is Schulson's general and congressional correspondence, copies of correspondence and memoranda of other Council members including its executive director, Harry L. Shapiro, and its chairman, Abba Hillel Silver; and miscellaneous papers including minutes, memoranda, press releases and printed matter. Included is a file of general correspondence of Hyman A. Schulson relating to personal matters and to his professional activities as attorney and activist in Jewish community affairs; and a file of printed matter relating to Zionism and to Palestine.

## **Arrangement Note**

The collection is arranged into three series: I. General Correspondence of Hyman A. Schulson; II. Papers relating to the American Zionist Emergency Council; and III. Printed Ephemera relating to Zionism and to Palestine.

## **Series Descriptions**

### **SERIES 1. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF HYMAN A SCHULSON, 1946-57** BOX 1

The general correspondence, which is arranged chronologically, is with friends, professional colleagues and associates and others. It relates to Jewish community affairs, Zionism, legal matters involving visa problems, and personal and social matters. Included are two letters (1950 ) from Schulson's wife-to-be, Ruth Hendricks; and a letter (Sept. 17, 1951) to him from Abba Eban on letterhead of the Embassy of Israel. There is also a separate file of Schulson's correspondence with attorneys in England, Israel, and Italy relating to his attempt to recover the proceeds of a loan made to an acquaintance living abroad.

### **SERIES II. PAPERS RELATING TO THE AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL, 1942-50** BOXES 1-4

The papers are arranged into three subseries: A. Correspondence of Hyman A. Shulson; B. Papers of Other Council Members; and C. Miscellaneous Papers.

The correspondence of Hyman A. Schulson is arranged chronologically into separate files of general correspondence and congressional correspondence. The correspondence taken as a whole documents Schulson's lobbying efforts as the Council's representative in Washington, D.C. for the creation of an independent Jewish state in Palestine. The correspondence, which is with Council members, public officials, members of Congress

and others, reflects the evolution of the Council's analysis of the Palestinian problem and its conviction that an independent Jewish state was necessary for the solution of the problem of the resettlement of Jewish refugees left homeless in Europe at the end of World War II. Included are cablegrams (1948) sent by Schulson to his superiors when he represented the Council at the Paris session of the United Nations in 1948. The cablegrams contain his detailed reports on the political and diplomatic maneuverings over the proposal to adopt the Bernadotte Plan for Palestine. Schulson's internal correspondents include Dr. Benjamin Akzin, political secretary; Eliahu Ben-Horin; Leo R. Sack, consultant on Middle Eastern affairs; Abba Hillel Silver, chairman; and Harry L. Shapiro, Abraham Tuvim, and Jerome Unger who were the Council's executive directors. Other correspondents include Owen Brewster, Charles Fahy, Fanny E. Holtzmann, Irving M. Ives, Jacob K. Javits, Maurice Kesner of the New England Zionist Emergency Council, Arthur Lourie of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, George C. McGhee, Sidney Marks of the Zionist Organization of America, and David Petegorsky of the American Jewish Congress. Much of the correspondence is in the form of carbon copies. Included is a copy of a letter (1942) and a cablegram (1944) from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Robert F. Wagner regarding American policy on Palestine. There is also a file of correspondence (1949-50) relating to the termination of Schulson's employment with the Council.

The papers of other Council members consist mainly of carbon copies of memoranda and correspondence, both internal and out-going, of Eliahu Ben-Horin, Harry L. Shapiro, and Abba Hillel Silver. The files document *in extenso* the Council's analysis of the Palestinian problem and the political tactics and strategies it developed for achieving its principal Zionist goal of an independent Jewish state. The files of Harry L. Shapiro and Abba Hillel Silver consist mainly of correspondence with Leo R. Sack. The Abba Hillel Silver file includes notes, addresses, and speeches by Silver; and a photographic portrait of him.

The miscellaneous papers include expense accounts (1948) kept by Schulson at Paris while he was attending the United Nations session on Palestine; minutes (1949) of the Council's executive committee; memoranda, press releases, and a few of the Council's publications.

### **SERIES III. PRINTED EPHEMERA RELATING TO ZIONISM AND TO PALESTINE BOX 5**

The printed ephemera include miscellaneous addresses, speeches and statements; Publications issued by the Israel Office of Information and the Jewish Agency for Palestine; and miscellaneous press clippings and press releases.

## Container List

### I. General Correspondence of Hyman A. Schulson

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1	1946
	2	1947
	3	1948
	4	1949
	5	1950
	6	1951
	7	1952; 1957
	8	n.d.
	9	Karlin, Noah, {1948-1949} (recovery of debt)

### II. Papers relating to the American Zionist Emergency Council

#### *A. Correspondence of Hyman A. Schulson*

##### 1. General Correspondence

	10	1945 - 1947, Apr
	11	1947, May - Dec
	12	1948, Jan - Feb
	13	1948, Mar
2	1	1948, Apr - Jul
	2	1948, Aug - Dec
	3	1948, cablegrams from/to Schulson at Paris, France
	4	1949, Jan - Feb
	5	1949, Mar - May
	6	1949, Jun - Jul 14
	7	1949, Jul 15 - Dec; 1950

##### 2. Congressional Correspondence

	8	1942, 1944; 1947
	9	1948, Jan - Mar
	10	1948, Apr - May 19
	11	1948, May 20 - Aug
3	1	1949, Jan - Jun
	2	1949, Jul - Dec
	3	miscellany

### **3. Correspondence re Schulson's termination from the Council, 1949-50**

4                   1949-50

#### ***B. Papers of Other Council Members***

5                   Ben-Horin, Eliahu {1947-49}  
 6                   Shapiro, Harry L. {1946-48}  
                   Silver, Abba Hillel  
 7                   1945 – 1946  
 8                   1947, Jan - Jun  
 9                   1947, Jul - Dec  
 10                  1948  
 11                  miscellaneous papers (notes speeches, memoranda)

#### ***C. Miscellaneous Papers***

4    1                   Expense accounts of Hyman A. Schulson at Paris, France, 1948  
      2                   Memoranda  
      3                   Minutes of meetings of the executive committee, 1949  
      4                   Miscellaneous papers  
      5                   Press releases  
      6                   Publications of the Council

### **III. Printed Ephemera relating to Zionism and to Palestine**

5    1                   Addresses, speeches, statements  
      2                   Israel Office of Information  
      3-4                  Jewish Agency for Palestine  
      5                   Periodical clippings  
      6                   Press clippings  
      7                   Press releases