MS 2524 Papers of Zoe Josephs, 1826-1997

Administrative History

Zoe Josephs MBE (1915 - 1998, nee Ruth Edna Zoe Danziger) was born in Manchester, an only child, and moved to Birmingham with her widowed mother at a very young age. She attended Minervah College in Leicester, a boarding school for Jewish girls, in her adolescence and married Dr. Harry Josephs in 1939, having graduated from University of Birmingham in English, French and German. While supporting her husband in running their family medical practice, and raising their 2 children, Josephs pursued her many other socio-cultural interests, such as home schooling emotionally disturbed pupils; archaeological studies; general Jewish activities; and recording of local Jewish History.

Coming to history relatively late in life, Josephs was the founder and leading personality, up until her death, of the Birmingham Jewish Historical Research Group. Between 1980 and 1998, with the group, she conducted research on locally-related Jewish history, inspired by the pioneering techniques developed by Bill Williams of Manchester Polytechnic, one of the founders of Manchester's Jewish Museum in his research on Manchester's Jewish community. This research culminated in publications including: 'Birmingham Jewry 1749 - 1914 Volume 1' (1980); 'Birmingham Jewry Volume 2: More Aspects 1740 - 1930' (1984); 'Survivors: Jewish Refugees in Birmingham 1933 - 1945' (1988); 'Singers Hill Synagogue Birmingham: Voices from the Past' (1997). Her essay, titled 'Two German Clerks in Victorian Birmingham' is available at Birmingham Central Library.

Josephs received her MBE in 1995.

In speeches at her Thanksgiving Service held on 26th July 1998 at the Joseph Cohen Hall, Singers Hill Synagogue, Birmingham (of which Josephs was a great supporter and congregation member), friends, family and associates commended Josephs on the effect of her research in extending the account of the Jewish population in England beyond London and into the provinces, contributing to the emphasis on this experience to be 'taken more seriously', as well as providing larger public access to these stories.

The collection has been arranged as follows:

The original order has been maintained to reflect the filing system that the creator imposed on the papers, as well as reflecting their research / publication activities and focuses. It has been organised into two main series, the first for research, and the second containing material documenting activities that relate to the publications culminating from the findings. The third series contains a file of some photography found within the collection that does not obviously relate to the contents of the main series. The first series will be of main interest to users of the collection and is divided, again maintaining original order, to reflect the areas of emphasis of research that contributed to the content of the publications, in particular the 'Birmingham'.

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'. The bulk of the creation of the material in the collection dates to the early 1980s. the period in which Josephs engaged in the research, however the material she has created, e.g. notes and photography, is based on source material regarding the late nineteenth to mid twentieth century periods. In the few cases where she has gathered original material, these relate to the stories of Jewish refugees of Nazi Germany and date circa that period. This is one of several collections deposited by the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation. Most of the material deposited relates to Singers Hill Synagogue (JA), but there is also a small collection of records from the New Synagogue, Park Road (JB), which merged with Singers Hill in 1997. The archive also contains records of the Birmingham Jewish Arts Society (MS 2520), Birmingham Youth Council (MS 2522), Young Israel Council (MS 2523), Birmingham Shechita Board (MS 2529), Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid Society (MS 2539), and the personal papers of the historian Zoe Josephs (MS 2524). The personal papers of Dorothy Gillman (MS 2525) and Constance Davis (MS 2526) were also deposited by the Congregation.

Other collections held by Birmingham City Archives which may be of interest include Birmingham and District War Refugees Fund (MS 652), which includes minute books, registration forms, and correspondence, and may include information about Jewish refugees; records of Henry Yeoville Thomason (MS 1460), which include architectural drawings of Singers Hill Synagogue; personal papers of CB Lander (1904-1989), including family papers about naturalization, Jewish friends, and Jewish affairs and history (MS 1515); microfilms of minutes of the Birmingham Hebrew Philanthropic Society, the Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid and Clothing Society, the Ladies Benevolent Board, and the Board of Guardians (MS 1678); and papers of Dr Carl Chinn (MS 1902), which contain some material about the Jewish community in Birmingham, including several autobiographies.

Birmingham Central Library Local Studies and History holds material about the Jewish community including a set of Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Yearbooks, 1913-1971; an Order of Service held to celebrate the opening of the Birmingham Hebrew School at St Luke's Rd, Edgbaston, May 1, 1932. They also hold the series of 'The Birmingham Jewish Recorder' from founding issues in 1935 up to the present day. Josephs' obituary, and article covering the thanksgiving service in her memory, are contained respectively in issues June 1998, and September 1998, commemorating her life and work.

Access: Partially closed. All records are open, apart from MS 2524/1/B/1/2, which is closed until 01/01/2010.

Copyright: See individual entries.

Condition of material: Is good unless otherwise specified.

MS 2524/1 Research, 1826-1997

Creator of the material: Zoe Josephs

This series contains the notes, correspondence, photography, and original documentation gathered in research relating to the subject areas of Josephs' various publications. Although the period covered by the series indicates a span of approximately 60 years, the bulk of the material is notes and photography actually produced within the 1980s specifically in relation to Josephs' research; however there is primary source documentation dating 1924 - 1962, relating to some of the case histories undertaken in 'Survivors'. Additionally, though the majority of material is notes, correspondence, and photography produced (or reproduced) in the 1980s, it is usually relating to subjects and material dating late nineteenth century and the

early twentieth century leading up to and after the Second World War.

MS 2524/1/A Birmingham Jewish Family History, 1826-1997

This section of the catalogue includes files containing mid-nineteenth century Birmingham census transcripts of potentially Jewish family entries, various written notes, photocopied extracts of publications, correspondence with fellow Jewish family researchers and genealogists (internationally), press clippings, essays, papers and various items, relating to the research of Jewish history of Birmingham. The research in this sub series contributed to the publication of the two 'Birmingham Jewry' volumes, the production of the essay, 'Two German Clerks in Victorian Birmingham', as well as some items contributing to other Josephs' publications. For the publication of the 'Birmingham Jewry' volumes, Josephs and the Birmingham Jewish History Research Group invited members of the Birmingham Jewish community to contribute their own family correspondence and knowledge of their own family histories to the project. There are items contained in this sub series from individuals and families who sent copies of letters, certificates and other relevant items of interest. For the research on the Moore family, and associated families, Josephs was in contact with other researchers who had investigated the history of these families internationally, extending to far East Asia, and South Africa. Many of the families and individuals referenced in the research originate in Central and Eastern Europe, and some of the documents and extracts give information about the political and professional history of Jewish people in Birmingham from the nineteenth up until the late twentieth century.

MS 2524/1/A/1 Census Transcripts,1826-1997

At the research stages for the 'Birmingham Jewry' volumes, the Birmingham Jewish History Research Group borrowed the idea from Bill Williams of Manchester Polytechnic and the Local Studies group in Manchester, to base research on Jews settled in Birmingham in the nineteenth century on census returns checked against all existing lists of Jewish surnames, they would also check these against Synagogue records, the register of the Hebrew School and any other available lists of undoubted Jews. This sub series contains transcripts of census returns 1851, 1861, and 1871. The returns have been transcribed onto standard forms, and it appears that only the census entries of possibly Jewish families have been transcribed onto the forms. The file 'Census 1871' along with the transcription forms, also contains more extensive notes on particular families.

MS 2524/1/A/1/1	<u>Census 1851: Reels 2, 5 - 9</u> Transcriptions on forms of possible entries of Jewish families from the 1851 census. Condition: Fair. Copyright: Birmingham Jewish History Research project. Extent: 118 Items	1826-1997
MS 2524/1/A/1/2	Census 1851: Reels 10 - 18, 21, 23 Transcriptions on forms of possible entries of Jewish families from the 1851 census. Condition: Fair. Copyright: Birmingham Jewish History Research project. Extent: 95 Items	1826-1997
MS 2524/1/A/1/3	<u>Census 1861</u> Transcriptions on forms of possible entries of Jewish	1826-1997

	families from the 1861 census. Condition: Fair. Copyright: Birmingham Jewish History Research project. Extent: 5 Items	
MS 2524/1/A/1/4	<u>Census 1871: Reels 13, 15 - 29</u> Transcriptions of 1871 census, of entries of families or individuals bearing possible Jewish surnames. The forms give the microfilm and area reference numbers of the entries. The transcriptions note the names of the dwellers, ages, family position, occupation and place of birth. There are extra notes on the transcript forms of the Phillips family, pp. 424 - 7, as well as the Jennings family's boarder, Mangoschis, relating to the possibility of the descendents of the individual being involved with the founding of the Aston Villa Football Club. Before page 308 there are extensive notes made on the transcription of the families of brothers, Samuel and James Neufliers, regarding their origins, their descendents and relations. Condition: Fair. Copyright: Birmingham Jewish History Research project. Extent: 174 Items	1826-1997
MS 2524/1/A/1/5	Census 1871: Reel 9 Transcriptions on forms of possible entries of Jewish families from the 1871 census. Condition: Fair. Copyright: Birmingham Jewish History Research project. Extent: 67 Items	1826-1997
MS 2524/1/A/1/6	<u>Census 1871: Reels 1, 4 - 7</u> Transcriptions on forms of possible entries of Jewish families from the 1871 census. Condition: Fair. Copyright: Birmingham Jewish History Research project. Extent: 125 Items	1826-1997
MS 2524/1/A/1/7	<u>Census 1871: Reels 10 - 14</u> Transcriptions on forms of possible entries of Jewish families from the 1871 census. Condition: Fair. Copyright: Birmingham Jewish History Research project. Extent: 150 Items	1826-1997
MS 2524/1/A/2	Notes relating to research of 'Two German Clerks in Victorian Birmingham' Contains notes relating to the research for the paper entitled 'Two German Clerks in Victorian Birmingham'. The two clerks are Moritz Stern and Isador Moore. Further information on these individuals and their families is	1826-1997

available under MS 2524/1/C Birmingham Jewish Families, respectively in MS 2524/1/C/3/1 Extracts of Moritz Stern's Memoirs, and MS 2524/1/C/1 Moore. Oppenheimer, Phillips & Cohen. The file contains notes made by Josephs, photocopies of published extracts, correspondence regarding research and sources, also a paper containing transcripts of extracts, and notes on the story of Samuel Nathan during the 19th century. There are other files containing research on these two individuals within this series. files MS 2524/1/A/3 'Moore. Oppenheimer, Phillips and Cohen', and MS 2524/1/A/5/1 'Moritz Stern's Memoirs'. The material in this file contributes to the body of research cumulating in the essay, 'Two German Clerks in Victorian Birmingham' by Josephs. This is held in Birmingham Central Library Local Studies Department and is available for reference. The reference for the item is LP 21.89 Copyright: With depositor. Extent: 1 File

MS 2524/1/A/3 Moore, Oppenheimer, Phillips & Cohen,1826-1997

This sub series contains notes, photocopies of literature, essays and correspondence relating to Josephs' research on the business links, activities and travel of the named families. Much of the correspondence, copies of literature, essays and other notes come from John R. Sprague, resident in New York, who had already conducted genealogical research on the Moore family.

MS 2524/1/A/3/1	Moore Family essays & timeline Contains essays by John R. Sprague III; 'Moore Family Genealogical Notes', and 'The Moore Trading Consortiums. Also contains a graph exercise book illustrating a timeline of Moore Family tree and subsequent events. Copyright: John R Sprague. Extent: 3 Items	1826-1997
MS 2524/1/A/3/2	Moore, Phillips & Co. Research Notes, photocopies and correspondence papers relating to Josephs research on Moore & Co.'s business and migration activity in South Africa, the Far East and the U.K., namely Birmingham. Among correspondence between Josephs and Sprague regarding research already conducted by Sprague in this area, are copies of correspondence between Sprague and Eric Gilmore of Cape Town, South Africa regarding the research on Jewish families in South Africa, photocopies of extracts from various relevant texts recommended and sent by Sprague, such as an extract from 'The Parsee Letters' by Joseph Solomon Moore in 1868, and 'Wanderers and Settlers in the Far East: A century of Jewish Life in China and Japan', by Herman Dicker in 1914. The file also	1826-1997

contains copies of death and birth certificates of Birmingham Jews, copies of some estate papers and copies of index cards made by Sprague noting a variety of names and addresses of businesses relating to Moore & Phillips etc, noting the relevant date and source reference particularly in the 19th century. The file also contains some copies of various newspaper articles, many relating to some business activity of the Overend, Gurney & Co. Ltd. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 70 Items

MS <u>Dight</u> 1826-1997 2524/1/A/4 Contains notes, correspondence and the same, photocopied, relating to the Dight family. There are also some Dight related items in 'Miscellaneous letters and documents' file, reference MS 2524/1/A/6. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 4 Items

MS 2524/1/A/5 Stern & Pollack,1826-1997

Correspondence and photocopied extracts from a variety of literature relating to Moritz Stern and Oscar Pollack, both German born Jews who emigrated to Birmingham in the midnineteenth century.

MS Moritz Stern's Memoirs 1826-1997 2524/1/A/5/1 6 photocopied extracts of the publication, 'Wisdom and Folly: unpublished reminiscences of an Octogenarian' (1921) by kind permission of Mrs. H. Gompertz. The Memoirs detail the family history of migration, travel and work of the family of M. Stern, born in Munich in 1836, emigrating to Birmingham in 1855. The extracts contain notes made by Josephs in the margins. Stern is one of the 'Two German Clerks in Victorian Birmingham' about whom Josephs writes in her essay. See file MS 2524/1/A/2 'Notes relating to research of 'Two German Clerks in Victorian Birmingham'. Condition: Fair. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 6 Items MS **Pollack Letter** 1826-1997 2524/1/A/5/2 Letter regarding Josephs' book, 'Birmingham Jewry' and the lack of reference within the book to the Pollack family. The letter has attached photocopied extracts from 'Birmingham Faces and Places', volume 1 (May 1889) and 6 (April 1894) regarding Oscar Pollack, born in Silesia, Germany in 1839 emigrating to Birmingham in 1851, becoming a Councillor (1881) and then Mayor of Birmingham in 1887. The extracts include images of Pollack. Copyright: Unknown.

Extent: 3 Items

MS 2524/1/A/6	Miscellaneous letters and documents This file contains notes on naturalisation of individuals, generally of Prussian (German) origin, during the 19th century; a written account of the Goodman family of Birmingham's history; correspondence regarding the gathering of Jewish family histories; letter to 'Sally' regarding the opening of Singers Hill Synagogue, 1856, from her father Mr. J. M. Cohen; correspondence regarding Dight family history; notes on National Schools Admissions of potentially Jewish students in the late 19th century; and 'The Birmingham Jewish Arts Society Programme' (1928 - 29); including some other miscellaneous items relating to Birmingham Jewish Families. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 10 Items	1826-1997
MS 2524/1/A/7	<u>Press Clippings</u> Extent: 1 File	1826-1997
MS 2524/1/A/7/1	<u>They Made it in Britain</u> An article about how a selection of Jewish refugees of the Nazi regime in Germany of the 1930s and early 1940s successfully transplanted their businesses to Britain. Clipping from Jewish Chronicle. Pictured: Djanogly, H., Lord Schon, Schreiber, C., and Goldsmith, M. Copyright: Jewish Chronicle. Extent: 1 Item	1826-1997

MS 2524/1/B Refugees of World War 2,1826-1997

'Photographs and Documents regarding refugees 1933-1945. Some used in Survivors.' The files in this sub series contain photographs, copy photographs, press clippings, notices, certificates, various correspondence, academic lecture papers, essays, research notes, relating to the experience of Jewish refugees to Britain and Birmingham during and after World War 2.

Access: Partially closed.

MS 2524/1/B/1 Letters relating to Adolf Speiers' exit from Germany, March 1939, and Restitution Case,1826-1997

The material contained in these files are original documents; certificates and notices, relating to the exit of Adolf Speiers from Germany in 1939, fleeing the Nazi regime of the time and persecution of Jews. The second file contains original correspondence relating to his case for restitution, compensation for loss as a result of the persecution of Jewish people in Europe by the Nazi regime. This information, as a case study, was not included in the 'Survivors' publication.

Access: Partially closed.

MS	Official Certificates and Notices relating to Speiers' exit	1826-1997
2524/1/B/1/1	from Germany	

Access: Open. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 9 Items

MS 2524/1/B/1/2 Papers relating to Restitution Case

1826-1997

Correspondence in letters, copy letters and telegrams to and from various parties in Britain, the U.S.A. and Germany, including the United Restitution Office (London) Ltd, lawyers and barristers of Deutsche Bank and others among Speiers: regarding the case of his, and his relatives' restitution for loss of goods and assets due to oppression inflicted by the Nazi regime at the time, and consequent refuge in Britain. The papers contain details of the case over the period between his initial refuge in Britain in March 1939 till some 10 years after the initial award of restitution. The file contains correspondence between Speiers and H. M. Inspector of Taxes regarding earnings and property. There is also some correspondence between Speiers and his sister, residing in Minneapolis, U. S. A. An affidavit at Victoria Law Courts, Birmingham is also contained, all in relation to the compilation of the restitution case. In addition, there are inventory lists of belongings, clothing and other items, as well a consignment notice and related documents in relation to the shipment of goods from Germany to England in April 1939, a month after Speiers arrival in Britain during the March of the same year. There is also a typed account, a 'Lebenslauf' or 'Curriculum Vitae' of events relating to Speiers' leaving Germany and setting up in Britain. Access: Closed until 01/01/2010. Due to Data Protection (1998) legislation; this file has restricted access because it contains sensitive information about individuals. Condition: Fair. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 169 Items

MS 2524/1/B/2 Photographs and Documents re: Refugees 1933 - 1945,1826-1997

The material contained in this section relates to the content of the publication, 'Survivors' on the topic of the lives of the victims and refugees, to Britain and elsewhere, from 1930s and 40s Nazi Germany. The sub-series contains research notes, essays and lecture papers, photographs, and copy photographs of victims of the regime, survivors of the regime, scenes of life before and during the regime in Germany, scenes of survivors' lives in Britain, family members, weddings, events and occasions; there are original documents, certificates, correspondence, accounts, as well as images taken of original items such as Jewish ID cards, passports, postcards from Dachau, Red Cross enquiry cards, children's ID cards and exit cards, among many other items and documents relating to the experience of fleeing, seeking refuge and settling in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

Some of the original documents date between the 1920s and 1960s, however many of the photographs and documents would be photocopies, copy photographs, or images taken of

original material, during the period of research in the early to mid 1980s. Access: Open.

MS 2524/1/B/2/1	<u>Research, Essays & Lectures</u> Press clippings, lecture and seminar notes, and general notes on Jewish genealogy. Access: Open. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 1 File	1826-1997
MS 2524/1/B/2/2	Photographs and documents used in 'Survivors' The photographs and documents in this file were used in the publication of 'Survivors'. They are copy photographs and photographs press clippings, passports, identity cards, postcards, sketches, and other related items of interest. Included are images of individuals, and of items related to their experiences, referenced or case studied in the book, such as Hanna & Bernard Simmons, Ruth Simmons, Lola Mate, Kurt Rose, Emil Rich, Hilde Eisner, Gunter Faerber, and many others. There are images of press clippings, leaflets and items relating to the experience of the Jewish refugees at their arrival in Britain. Among these items, there are original documents relating to Hilde Eisner, her Oath of Allegiance and Certificate of Naturalisation, as well her as her Certificate of Temporary Registration in the Medical Register (UK). There is also an original small flyer publicising the 'Seder Service' at The Jewish Centre, Station Street, Birmingham, by the Birmingham Jewish Refugee Club, dated April 1947.	1826-1997
	Apart from three original documents, dating between 1941 and 1947, the rest of the material in the file is likely to be photographs of items taken during the period of research for the publication [c. 1988], though relating to information dating to the period surrounding the Second World War and the Holocaust. Any copy photographs were likely to be produced in the same research period. Access: Open. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 75 Items	
MS 2524/1/B/2/3	Photographs and documents not used in 'Survivors' The items contained in this file were not used in the publication of 'Survivors'. However, the themes of the information are the same, and relevant to the content of 'Survivors'. Similarly to those used in the publication, the	1826-1997

photographs within the file are mainly copy photographs, or photographs of items, flyers, press clippings, identity cards, passports, etc, relating to the experience of Jewish people during the period of the Second World War and Holocaust.

There are surplus items relating directly to case studies, or individuals referenced within the text, which were not included. For example, there are extra documents relating to Dr. Hilde Eisner's professional life, as there is to Emil Rich, Glovere.

The items relating to Eisner are original and date from 1924. Other than these originals and some small flyers publicising Seder Services by the Birmingham Jewish Refugee Club, dated 1947 - 1948, the production of the actual material contained dates to around the period of research for the publication, so can be dated to approximately 1988. However the research relates to information concentrated between the 1930s and 1960s, and beyond. Access: Open. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 58 Items

MS 2524/2 Publishing, Launching and Reviews, 1826-1997

Material relating to the actual publications, rather than the contributing research. The 2 files comprise press clippings, notes, correspondence, review publications, notices and newsletters containing information regarding the publications by Josephs and the Birmingham Jewish History Research Group.

Access: Open.

MS 2524/2/A	<u>Clippings & Reviews</u> Press clippings, newsletters, publications, correspondence regarding the publications 'Survivors', and the 'Birmingham Jewry' volumes by Josephs and the Birmingham Jewish History Research Group. Within the press clippings are images of Josephs, one posing with Mrs. Ruth Wolf, a prominent Birmingham Jewish figure in 'Survivors'. Access: Open. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 1 File	1826-1997
MS 2524/2/B	Notes on publication, launch and review of 'Survivors' This files contains material mainly relating to the launch event, and activities surrounding the publication of 'Survivors'. There are mailing lists for review bodies, lists of publications in which reviews had been featured, notes of press contacts for media coverage of the publication and launch of the book, there are also notes on the launch event programme, and notes for Josephs' speech at the event. There are also research notes, bibliographies and photocopies of extracts from other Jewish refugee related	1826-1997

Birmingham City Archives

publications. There is also an extract from a publication on

the history of the Central British Fund for Jewish relief and rehabilitation / restitution (see MS 2524/1/B/1). Access: Open. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 1 File

MS 2524/3 Miscellaneous, 1826-1997

Material in this section was found among the files that make up series 1 and 2, however the content of the material contained does not seem to directly relate to the subject matter of the main body of material.

Access: Open.

MS 2524/3/A Photographs Colour photographs of photo walls of British public transport memorabilia. Access: Open. Copyright: With photographer. Extent: 4 Photographs 1826-1997