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## JUD MS 26 Israel Bernstein Writings

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**ISREAL BERNSTEIN WRITINGS  
JUD MS 026**

**Total Boxes: 2  
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**By  
EMILY M. NEWELL**

**Portland, Maine  
NOVEMBER, 2021**

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## **Administrative Information**

Provenance: These papers were donated by Beth B. Schneider, on April 15, 2021.

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Cite as: The Israel Bernstein Writings Collection, The Judaica Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, Special Collections, University of Southern Maine Library.

Restrictions on access: This collection is open for research.

## Biographical Note

ISRAEL BERNSTEIN (1890-1967): Israel Bernstein was born on November 22, 1890 in Portland, Maine to parents Abraham and Sarah Bernstein. He lived his entire childhood in Portland, attending Portland High School before attending Harvard College (1912) and Harvard Law School (1915). Bernstein was the first Jewish man to attend and graduate from Harvard Law. He returned to Portland to pursue his career in Law.

In 1918 Bernstein was drafted to serve in the US Army in WW1. He attained the rank of Regimental Sergeant-Major, and was honorably discharged on Jan 31, 1919.

In 1922, he married Rebecca Thurman Bernstein (Boston University law school graduate). Their only child was Sumner Thurman Bernstein (1924-2002)

Throughout his life, Bernstein would be the founder of many leading organizations and companies throughout Southern Maine. His biggest professional accomplishment included being a senior member of Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer, and Nelson Law out of Portland, and founder and Director of Casco Bank & Trust Company.

Bernstein was and still remains a pillar in Maine's Jewish Community. He was the founder of the Portland Jewish Federation (now the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine), the Portland Jewish Council and the Maine Jewish Historical Society. He was also Vice Chairman of the New England Region Council of Jewish Federations & Welfare Funds, and a board member of the New England Region of American Jewish Committee.

He supported Maine businesses and people through the Rotary Club, the Portland Chamber of Commerce, Portland Better Business Bureau, and as President of Pine Tree Council Boy Scouts of America.

After a lifetime of dedication to the Jewish Community and the Greater Portland Area, Israel Bernstein passed away on June 26, 1967.

(Sources, "Biographic information and Obituary of Israel Bernstein, found in this collection, Box \_\_ Folder \_\_., "Maine, World War I, Draft Registration Index, 1917-1919," *FamilySearch*; FHL microfilm 004403381)

## **Description of the Papers**

Donated by Beth B. Schneider, the granddaughter of Israel Bernstein, this collection of research material spans from 1911-1967.

This collection is organized into six different series:

### **Series 1: Personal Information and Other Writings**

This series contains biographical information on Israel Bernstein (birth, death, education, careers, community service and public offices held.) a diary of his 1957 trip to Europe, and two of his earliest writings.

### **Series 2: Research Writing and Materials**

This series includes nine different papers with topics ranging from President Lincoln to Palestine. Some of these papers are accompanied by research materials and correspondences regarding when Bernstein would be reading his works at gatherings, like the gathering of the Worcester Torch Club.

### **Series 3: Writing on Judaism and the Jewish Community**

This series includes four different pieces of writing pertaining to American Jews, and the History of Judaism.

### **Series 4: Legal Research and Writing**

The smallest series in this collection, this series contains two writings on crime and legal aid.

### **Series 5: United States Research and Writing**

The largest series in this collection, this series of fourteen writings about the United States of America includes topics like the US Constitution, American political parties, the federal government, the US Court, and the US Depression.

### **Series 6: Other Topics**

This series includes three writings, Building the British Empire, Challenge to Scouting, and The World Court. The fourth in this series contains a few stray pages that cannot be linked to a certain writing in this collection.

The University of Southern Maine also houses JUD MS 05, The Sumner T. Bernstein Papers

## Box and Folder List

### Series 1 Personal Information and Other Writings

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
1	1	Biographic Information	1967, n.d
1	2	Diary of [1957] Trip to Europe	1957
1	3	Esther	n.d
1	4	Goethe	1911

### Series 2 Research Writing and Materials

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
1	5	Brandies	n.d
1	6	Israel	1950 Jan 9, 1957
1	7	Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes	1957, n.d
1	8	Lincoln Master of Men	1952-56
1	9	Maimonides	n.d
1	10	Palestine, Palestine Today	n.d
1	11	Research Materials	1941, n.d
1	12	The Blight of Civilization	n.d
1	13	The Importance of the Family Unit	n.d

### Series 3 Writing on Judaism and the Jewish Community

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
1	14	American Jewish Tercentenary	n.d
1	15	Early American Jews	n.d
1	16	History of Judaism	n.d
1	17	Judaism	n.d

### Series 4 Legal Research and Writing

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
2	18	Crime	n.d
2	19	Legal Aid	n.d

### Series 5 United States Research and Writing

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
2	20	A Second Look at the US Constitution	1962 March 2
2	21	American Political Parties	n.d
2	22	Continental Congress	n.d

## Box and Folder List Continued

### Series 5 United States Research Writing

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
2	23	Federal Government + Labor Relations	n.d
2	24	General Patton's Speech	n.d
2	25	Liberty – America's Watchword	n.d
2	26	National Labor Relations	n.d
2	27	Realignment of Political Parties	1965 June 6
2	28	Some Aspects of the Doctrine of States	1923 May 14
2	29	The Minority View	n.d
2	30	The Ultimate New Deal	n.d
2	31	The US + The Court Book Review	n.d
2	32	US Depression	n.d
2	33	USO	n.d

### Series 6 Other Topics

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
2	34	Building the British Empire	n.d
2	35	Challenge to Scouting	1949
2	36	Stray Pages	n.d
2	37	The World Court	n.d

## Keywords

Israel Bernstein, Rebecca Thurman Bernstein, Sumner Thurman Bernstein, Rosalyne Spindel Bernstein, Non-fiction writing, Personal Writing, Palestine, Israel, American Jewish Communities, Maine, Portland Maine, Judaism, Early American Politics, Local Policies, Federal Government.