



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0627

David Morantz (1893-1959) Papers

[Jewish Community Archives]

ca. 1909-1952

8 cubic feet, oversize

Papers of Kansas City area businessman who compiled stories from the Talmud which were syndicated in newspapers as "Talmudic Tales". Also includes his business and religious organizational activities as well as research files and writings on the Talmud, Jewish history and law, dietary laws, and anti-Semitism.

BIOGRAPHY:

David Morantz, manager of the Morantz Mercantile agency in Kansas City, Kansas, was a lifelong resident of Kansas City. He served as: the first president of the Kansas Association of Commercial Adjusters in 1933; secretary and historian of the Kansas City, Kansas, Rotary Club; and president of the Kansas City, Kansas Retail Credit Men's Association.

Mr. Morantz was the author of a newspaper column, *Talmudic Tales*, which appeared in the Kansas City *Kansan* beginning in 1931. It was soon syndicated in over 40 newspapers. In 1934 he compiled a book by the same name. The book proved to be so popular that it was reprinted three times. A fourth, revised printing was done by David Morantz's son, Stanley in 1989.

David Morantz was a member of Congregation B'nai Jehudah and Congregation Ohev Sholom. He was an instructor in the religious school at Temple B'nai Jehudah and served on the board of the brotherhood there. He served as president of the Maccabee club and of the Beth Horon lodge of B'nai B'rith.

David Morantz was married to Rose Slabotsky Morantz. Their children were Stanley A. Morantz and Golda Mayer.

Kansas City Times, April 24, 1959

PROVENANCE:

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Specific item; folder number; *David Morantz (1893-1959) Papers (K0627)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

This collection reflects the personal and professional activities of David Morantz. It includes his business and religious organizational activities as well as research files and writings. His research centered on the Talmud, Jewish history and law, dietary laws, and anti-Semitism. Much of the collection concerns the writing and publication of the *Talmudic Tales*. Included are typed copies, clippings, and correspondence regarding the syndicated column and book.

INVENTORY:

BOX 001*Biographical, General Business, High School*

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Folder 1. | David Morantz Bio |
| Folder 2. | The Morantz Mercantile Agency – Correspondence 1933-1940 |
| Folder 3. | Morantz Mercantile Agency 1935-1940 |
| Folder 4. | Misc. Business Papers |
| Folder 5. | Direct Mail Information |
| Folder 6. | Misc. Lists |

- Folder 7. Advertising Club News (KC) 1940
- Folder 8. Art Work
- Folder 9. American Pamphlets (1939-1940)
- Folder 10. Berkowitz Envelope Co. [Tension Envelope] 1929-1932
- Folder 11. Brochure: I.C.I. Gold Rush of 1940
- Folder 12. Kansas City Kansas Downtowner 1940-1941
- Folder 13. Kansas Judicial Council, 1936
- Folder 14. German Library of Information (1940)
- Folder 15. Mercantile Adjuster, 1936
- Folder 16. Merchants Association Credit Bureau, 1942
- Folder 17. The Printsmith – Pamphlet 1950-1951
- Folder 18. Credit Association Lectures – Morantz 1941
- Folder 19. Retail Credit Association Membership Roster, 1929
- Folder 20. National Retail Credit Association: Credit World Newsletter
- Folder 21. Rotary Club of KC 1934-1936
- Folder 22. St. Peter’s Church Bulletin, 1941
- Folder 23. Pamphlet: Town Meeting Oct.-Dec. 1942
- Folder 24. Pamphlet: Town Hall 1940
- Folder 25. Publication: “Fun with Facts,” Traveler’s Insurance Company
- Folder 26. Central High Luminary 1909
- Folder 27. Central High Luminary 1910
- Folder 28. Central High Luminary 1911
- Folder 29. Central High Luminary 1912
- Folder 30. Central High Centralian 1910
- Folder 31. Central High Centralian 1911
- Folder 32. Central High Centralian 1912
- Folder 33. Central High School 1936

BOX 002

Jewish organizations, Synagogues, Newsletters, etc. (1912-1945)

- Folder 1. Fraternity and Sorority Directory of GRC (1936-1939)
- Folder 2. Akibians, 1934, 36, 39, 41, 45
- Folder 3. AZA (1937-1940)
- Folder 4. AZA/B’nai B’rith “The Shoter” (1936)

- Folder 5. AZA (1937-1939)
- Folder 6. B'nai B'rith Vocational Pamphlets
- Folder 7. KS B'nai B'rith Convention (1938)
- Folder 8. B'nai B'rith Correspondence (1939)
- Folder 9. Brotherhood Day 1935 and 1936
- Folder 10. B'nai B'rith – Newspaper Articles (1922)
- Folder 11. Maccabaeans – Forms and Stationary, Constitution (1912)
- Folder 12. Maccabaeans – Correspondence (1922-1924)
- Folder 13. Maccabaeans – Membership and Applications (1914-1931)
- Folder 14. Maccabaeans – Meetings (1922-1933)
- Folder 15. Maccabaeans – Banquets and Picnics (1914-1934)
- Folder 16. Maccabaeans – Literary (1916-1918)
- Folder 17. Maccabaeans' Library (1926)
- Folder 18. Maccabaeans – 1958 Reunion
- Folder 19. Maccabaeans – Publicity (1916-1922)
- Folder 20. National Conference of Christians and Jews (1937-1939)
- Folder 21. YMHA – Jewish Relief Committee – WWI (1915)
- Folder 22. Young People's League – Synagogue of America (1922-1923)
- Folder 23. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1938)
- Folder 24. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1939)
- Folder 25. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1940)
- Folder 26. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1941)
- Folder 27. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1942)
- Folder 28. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1943)
- Folder 29. Ohev Shalom Bulletin (1941-1944)
- Folder 30. B'nai Jehudah Family Night (May 12, 1944)
- Folder 31. B'nai Jehudah Temple Bulletin, (1936-1938, 1944)
- Folder 32. B'nai Jehudah Brotherhood Commentator (1941-1942)
- Folder 33. B'nai Jehudah Annual Scroll (1933, 1938)
- Folder 34. B'nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1933-1939)
- Folder 35. B'nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1940)
- Folder 36. B'nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1941)
- Folder 37. B'nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1942)

- Folder 38. B'nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1943)
- Folder 39. B'nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1944)
- Folder 40. Sunday School Attendance Record, B'nai Jehudah (1943-1944)
- Folder 41. Confirmation Material
- Folder 42. B'nai Jehudah Confirmation Class (1937)
- Folder 43. B'nai Jehudah Confirmation (1939)
- Folder 44. B'nai Jehudah Confirmation Services (1940)
- Folder 45. B'nai Jehudah Confirmation, Correspondence (1940)
- Folder 46. B'nai Jehudah Confirmation (1941)
- Folder 47. B'nai Jehudah Confirmation (1942)
- Folder 48. B'nai Jehudah Confirmation, Correspondence (1941)
- Folder 49. B'nai Jehudah Confirmation (1943)
- Folder 50. B'nai Jehudah S.S.M. Club (1941)

BOX 003

Writings by David Morantz

- Folder 1. Bits of Wit and Wisdom from the Talmud by David Morantz
- Folder 2. Gems of Hebrew Wisdom [Notebook]
- Folder 3. Research from file titled "Gems of Hebrew Humor and Wisdom"
- Folder 4. Notebook: Draft "Pointed Parables by David Morantz"
- Folder 5. Talmudic Tales, Drafts & Marketing
- Folder 6. Notebook: Daily Installments of "Talmudic Tales" v. 1 with Index
- Folder 7. Notebook: Daily Installments of "Talmudic Tales" v. 2
- Folder 8. Calendars marked with Talmudic Tales numbers (1937-1939) (1 of 9)
- Folder 9. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copies – No numbers (2 of 9)
- Folder 10. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – various numbers 1-236 (3 of 9)
- Folder 11. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – various numbers 143-287 (4 of 9)
- Folder 12. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – numbers 300-499 (5 of 9)
- Folder 13. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – numbers 500-699 (6 of 9)
- Folder 14. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – numbers 700-899 (7 of 9)
- Folder 15. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – numbers 900-1090 (8 of 9)
- Folder 16. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – numbers 2000-2221 (hand numbered) (9 of 9)

BOX 004*Talmudic Tales Clippings (1934-1942)*

- Folder 1. Talmudic Tales – Numeric Index (1 of 6)
- Folder 2. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (1-406) (2 of 6)
- Folder 3. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (407-808) (3 of 6)
- Folder 4. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (809-1168) (4 of 6)
- Folder 5. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (1169-1599) (5 of 6)
- Folder 6. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (1600-2168) (6 of 6)
- Folder 7. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (71-94) (1/3/1936-12/12/1937)
- Folder 8. Talmudic Tales – Newspaper Clippings – Jan. 4, 1938-Jan. 10, 1939
- Folder 9. Talmudic Tales – Newspaper Clippings – Jan. 4, 1939-Jan. 11, 1940
- Folder 10. Talmudic Tales – Newspaper Clippings – Jan. 12, 1940-May 2, 1941
- Folder 11. Talmudic Tales – Clippings, “Daily Mirror” – numbers 1-64 (1941)
- Folder 12. Talmudic Tales – American Israelite (1936)
- Folder 13. Talmudic Tales – American Jewish Outlook (1936-1938)
- Folder 14. Talmudic Tales – Atlanta Constitution (1936, 1937)
- Folder 15. Talmudic Tales – Atlantic City Evening Union (1936-1938)
- Folder 16. Talmudic Tales – Daily Mirror, New York (1941-42)
- Folder 17. Talmudic Tales – Express
- Folder 18. Talmudic Tales – Indiana Jewish Chronicle
- Folder 19. Talmudic Tales – Iowa Jewish News (1936)
- Folder 20. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Examiner
- Folder 21. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Journal Wilkes-Barre, PA.
- Folder 22. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Journal of the Anthracite Region
- Folder 23. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Ledger (1936)
- Folder 24. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Post (1936)
- Folder 25. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Record (1936)
- Folder 26. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Review and Observer (1936)
- Folder 27. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Standard (1936)
- Folder 28. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Transcript (1936)

- Folder 29. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Tribune (1936, 1937)
- Folder 30. Talmudic Tales – Kansas City Journal (1935, 1939, 1942)
- Folder 31. Talmudic Tales – KC Kansan (1934-1938)
- Folder 32. Talmudic Tales – Kansas City Times
- Folder 33. Talmudic Tales – Kelsonian Tribune (1935)
- Folder 34. Talmudic Tales – Louisville Herald Post (1935-1936)
- Folder 35. Talmudic Tales – Milwaukee Journal (1935)
- Folder 36. Talmudic Tales – Rocky Mountain News (1936)
- Folder 37. Talmudic Tales – San Francisco Chronicle (1935)
- Folder 38. Talmudic Tales – Seattle Jewish Transcript (1936)
- Folder 39. Talmudic Tales Clippings – The Scribe (1937)
- Folder 40. Talmudic Tales – Texas Jewish Voice (1936-1937)
- Folder 41. Talmudic Tales – Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle (1937)
- Folder 42. Talmudic Tales – Various Newspapers (1936-1937)
- Folder 43. David Morantz Newspaper Clippings

BOX 005

Correspondence (1935-1958)

- Folder 1. Talmudic Tales Book – Publication Correspondence (1934)
- Folder 2. Correspondence from Readers & Newspapers (1934)
- Folder 3. Correspondence with Syndicator (1935)
- Folder 4. Notebook [clips and letters] 1935-1936
- Folder 5. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1935)
- Folder 6. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1936)
- Folder 7. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1937)
- Folder 8. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1937)
- Folder 9. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales Radio Show (1937-1938)
- Folder 10. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1938)
- Folder 11. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1939)
- Folder 12. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1941)
- Folder 13. Correspondence to Newspapers of Daily Copy of “Talmudic Tales”
- Folder 14. Correspondence to misc. Newspapers (1947)
- Folder 15. KC Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1936-1952)

- Folder 16. Correspondence – Baker & Taylor Company (1936-1938)
- Folder 17. Correspondence – Arthur Brisbane [NY Mirror] (1935-1936)
- Folder 18. Correspondence – J.V. Connolly [King Features Syndicate] (1935-1936)
- Folder 19. Correspondence – H. Cook [syndication agent] (1958)
- Folder 20. Correspondence – Alfred Bruchtmann [Checker Rug Company] (1936)
- Folder 21. Correspondence – M.L. Schuster [Simon & Schuster] (1936-1938)
- Folder 22. Correspondence – Atlanta Constitution (1935-1940) (1 of 2)
- Folder 23. Correspondence – Atlanta Constitution (1935-1940) (2 of 2)
- Folder 24. Correspondence – Atlantic City Press (1935-1939)
- Folder 25. Correspondence – Bronx Home News (1935-1937)
- Folder 26. Correspondence – KC Journal (1935-1942)
- Folder 27. Correspondence – MacMillan Company (1936-1937)
- Folder 28. Correspondence – NY Daily Mirror (1941-1942)
- Folder 29. Correspondence – Register & Tribune Syndicate (1936)
- Folder 30. Correspondence – San Francisco Chronicle (1935-1936)
- Folder 31. Correspondence – Wichita Beacon (1935)
- Folder 32. Correspondence – Wichita (1936-1939)
- Folder 33. Correspondence – Jewish Papers (1936-1937) (1 of 2)
- Folder 34. Correspondence – Jewish Papers (1936-1937) (2 of 2)
- Folder 35. Correspondence – Jewish Papers (1938)
- Folder 36. Correspondence – Jewish Papers (1939)
- Folder 37. Correspondence – Jewish Newspapers (1940)

BOX 006*Research, Anti-Semitism*

- Folder 1. Articles on Jewish Issues (see oversize box for 3 more articles) (1936-1940)
- Folder 2. KCKS Public Library List of Books of Interest to Jewish Readers
- Folder 3. Research – misc. Newspaper Clipping (1936-1938)
- Folder 4. Research – “The Treasure Chest” – The Jewish Examiner (1940)
- Folder 5. Bible History
- Folder 6. Pamphlet: Docket [Talmudic Law] Autumn 1941

- Folder 7. Jewish Tribune [Bible History] (June –Sept. 1932)
- Folder 8. Jewish Spectator [Jewish History] (April 1939)
- Folder 9. Publication: Israel’s Messenger – Shanghai, China (Sept. 20, 1938)
- Folder 10. Talmud History
- Folder 11. Research – Notes
- Folder 12. Notecards [speeches?]
- Folder 13. Anti-Defamation League (1938)
- Folder 14. Anti-Defamation League
- Folder 15. Pamphlets on Anti-Semitism – See oversize box: *Henry Ford Must Choose*
- Folder 16. Newspaper Articles on Anti-Semitism (see oversize-box)
- Folder 17. Writings by David Morantz on Anti-Semitism
- Folder 18. Christian pamphlets on Anti-Semitism
- Item 1. Toward Integration in Suburban Housing
- Item 2. Report on the KKK
- Item 3. Privacy and Prejudice
- Item 4. Jewish Employment Problems
- Item 5. One Nation under God
- Item 6. Anti-Semitic Activity in the U.S.
- Item 7. Guide to Changing Neighborhoods
- Item 8. Let’s Join the Human Race
- Item 9. Religion and the Public Schools
- Item 10. Civic and Political Status
- Item 11. Community Relations Values of Interreligious Activities
- Item 12. Prejudice Won’t Hide
- Item 13. To Secure these Rights
- Item 14. The Gentle People of Prejudice
- Item 15. Encounter
- Item 16. Crisis without Violence
- Item 17. Religion’s Role in Racial Crises
- Item 18. Race and Psychology
- Item 19. The Devil and the Dream
- Item 20. Assault upon Freedom of Association

- Item 21. Epitaph for Jim Crow
- Item 22. We Shall Overcome
- Item 23. Social Change and the Negro Problem
- Item 24. The Family Called Man
- Item 25. The Un-American Immigration System
- Item 26. Equal Job Opportunity is Good Business
- Item 27. Jews under Soviet Rule
- Item 28. The Censors
- Item 29. Judaism and Cities in Crisis
- Item 30. Judaism in Action
- Item 31. Judaism and International Relations
- Item 32. As Driven Sands: The Arab Refugees
- Item 33. Prejudice in Children: A Conversation with Dr. Spock
- Item 34. The Neglected Frontier
- Item 35. Don't be Afraid, Honey
- Item 36. A Question of Judgment
- Item 37. Neo-Fascist and Hate Groups
- Item 38. Treatment of the Jews under Communism
- Item 39. When your Child Meets with Prejudice
- Item 40. A Nation of Immigrants
- Item 41. A Primer for Parents
- Item 42. Let's Look at Ourselves
- Item 43. Christian Friends – Haggadah
- Item 44. An Enemy of the People – Anti-Semitism (10 Copies)

BOX 007*Book Reviews, Book Orders*

- Folder 1. Marketing: Talmudic Tales
- Folder 2. Reviews: Talmudic Tales
- Folder 3. Book Reviews, 1935-1936
- Folder 4. Book Orders 1935
- Folder 5. Book Orders 1936 (1 of 2)
- Folder 6. Book Orders 1936 (2 of 2)
- Folder 7. Book Orders 1937 (1 of 4)

- Folder 8. Book Orders 1937 (2 of 4)
- Folder 9. Book Orders 1937 (3 of 4)
- Folder 10. Book Orders 1937 (4 of 4)
- Folder 11. Book Orders 1938 (1 of 3)
- Folder 12. Book Orders 1938 (2 of 3)
- Folder 13. Book Orders 1938 (3 of 3)
- Folder 14. Book Orders 1939
- Folder 15. Book Orders 1940
- Folder 16. Talmudic Tales Rejects 1935-1947

BOX 008*Dietary Laws, Health*

- Folder 1. Notes, Speeches, and Articles on Dietary Laws by David Morantz
- Folder 2. "Is it Kosher" Articles from *The Jewish Examiner* (1938-1940)
- Folder 3. Articles on Jewish Dietary Laws (See oversize box – 3 articles)
- Folder 4. Dental Health Pamphlets
- Folder 5. Weight and Diet Pamphlets
- Folder 6. Exercise Pamphlets
- Folder 7. Home Safety Pamphlets
- Folder 8. Disease Pamphlets
- Folder 9. Children's Health Pamphlets
- Folder 10. Healthy Food Pamphlets
- Folder 11. General Health Pamphlets
- Folder 12. Articles on Trichinosis (See oversize box, "Cook your Pork Well")
- Folder 13. Articles on Tularemia (Rabbit Fever)
- Folder 14. Safe Driving Pamphlets
- Folder 15. Publications: Kosher Foods
- Item 1. The Royal Table: An Outline of the Dietary Laws of Israel by Rabbi Jacob Cohn

FLAT BOX 001

- Items 1-5. Calendar pages, Frank Connet Lumber Company, Kansas City, Kansas- February-May, August 1938, with notations of *Talmudic Tales* #s on dates
- Item 6. "Henry Ford Must Choose", Newsprint publication by Friends of Democracy, Inc., L.M. Birkhead, National Director c. 1942.

(swastika and American flag on cover)- regarding Ford's book The International Jew, used by Nazi propagandists.

- Item 7. Research folder: 'Sabbath Angels' column, *The Jewish Ledger*, 1936-1939
- Item 8. Newspaper: "The Voice for Human Rights", New York, January 1940. Article "La Guardia Raps Race Slanders"
- Items 9. Newspaper articles: Anti-semitism, Homeless Jews (1939), dietary laws