

THE JOSEPH JABLONOWER COLLECTION

Papers, 1912-1966
(Predominantly, 1938-1960)

3.75 linear feet

Accession Number 403
L.C. Number

The papers of Joseph Jablonower were placed in the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs on June 29, 1971 by Mr. Jablonower and were opened for research in 1974. A copy of his 1965 oral history was added to the collection in April of 1985.

Joseph Jablonower, who was born in Wizniz, Austria September 15, 1888, came to the United States in 1896. He graduated from the City College of New York in 1910 and began teaching in the New York Public school system the same year.

Mr. Jablonower was a charter member of the Teachers Union which formed in New York in 1916. He was involved in the 1917 DeWitt Clinton High School labor dispute that resulted in the trial of three New York teachers (1917-18). Mr. Jablonower left the New York public school system in 1919 to teach mathematics in the Ethical Culture schools in New York. In 1935 he was one of approximately 800 union members who formed the Teachers Guild in response to left-wing activity in the Teachers Union.

Mr. Jablonower worked on the Conference Board of the Teachers Guild Associates, and auxiliary to the Guild, until the Guild became part of the United Federation of Teachers and the TGA disbanded in 1961. He died September 2, 1971.

Joseph Jablonower also served as Director of the Evening School of the Young Men's Hebrew Association (1914-1916), member of the Board of Governors of the Ethical Culture Schools (1944-1950), Vice President of the Society for Ethical Culture of New York, member of the Mathematics Committee of the Thayer Commission on Secondary School Curriculum (1933-1938) and a member of the Committee at large of the Liberal Party.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Board of Examiners, New York school system, 1938-1959
Communism in schools
DeWitt Clinton case, 1917-1918
Dies Committee, 1942
Ethical Culture Society

Jablonower Case, 1938-1940
New York Teachers Strike, 1960
Progressive education
Teachers Guild Associates, 1950-1961
Teachers Union, 1917-1924
Trial of three New York teachers, 1917-1918
United Federation of Teachers, 1960-1961

Among the correspondents are: (an index to the location of these
letters will be found on the last page of
the guide)

Si Beagle
Charles Cogen
Walter H. Gilpatrick
Henry Linville
Lenora O'Reilly

Fay Bennett
Liz Fusco
William A. Hannig
Alice Marsh
Louis Silverstein

Contents

7 ½ manuscript boxes

Part 1

Series I, Boxes 1-3

Correspondence, speeches, reports and other materials related to Mr. Jablonower's personal and professional activities from 1912 to 1966. Most of the material relates to the period after 1938.

Series II, Boxes 4-5

Files related to Mr. Jablonower's civil service test for Board of Examiners of the New York school system, his appointment in 1938 and subsequent. Court challenges.

Series III, Boxes 6-7

Diaries kept by Mr. Jablonower for the period 1941 to 1966 covering personal and professional matters.

Part 2

Series IV, Box 8

Transcript of an oral history interview of Mr. Jablonower done by Columbia University in 1965.

Non-manuscript Material:

The transcript of a Columbia University oral history interview with Joseph Jablonower is available. Approximately 15 photographs related to Joseph Jablonower, the Board of Examiners and Henry Linville are available in the Archives' Audio-Visual Collections.

Part 1Series I
Boxes 1-3

Correspondence, reports, clippings, speeches and other items concerning Mr. Jablonower's union, professional and personal activities. The union materials, which cover a period from 1912 to 1961, relate to the formation of the Teachers Union, the trial of three DeWitt Clinton teachers 1917-1918, the Teachers Guild Associates 1950-1961 and the United Federation of Teachers New York strike in 1960. Some of the Ethical Culture Society speeches deal with that organization and its founder Felix Adler. The 1942 Dies Committee report and correspondence concern the case of a New York teacher who was a former Communist. Other materials concern the Board of Examiners 1941-1959, World War II refugees 1938-1941, the Henry Linville Award 1954-1959 and progressive education. The files are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Box 1

1. Administrator Selection - 1955, Speech
2. Alice Kent Memorial Speech - 1961
3. The American Teacher - March, 1954
4. Board of Examiners - N.D., Article
5. Board of Examiners - 1941, Article
6. Board of Examiners - 1941, Clippings
7. Board of Examiners - 1943, Speech
8. Board of Examiners - 1947, Letter
- 9-10. Board of Examiners - 1951, Article
11. Board of Examiners - 1952-1953
12. Communism in Schools - 1935-1942, Articles
13. Communism in Schools - 1947-1953, Articles
14. Correspondence - 1958-1966
15. John Dewey - 1913, Speech
16. John Dewey - 1951, Clippings
17. John Dewey Memorial Seech - 1952
18. John Dewey - 1952-1959, Articles
19. DeWitt Clinton case - 1917, Pamphlet
20. DeWitt Clinton case - 1917, Trial
21. DeWitt Clinton case - 1918, Report
22. DeWitt Clinton case - 1918, Teachers Union
23. DeWitt Clinton case - 1939, Letter
24. DeWitt Clinton Case Report - N.D.
25. Dies Committee - July-August, 1942
26. Dies Committee - September-October, 1942

Box 2

1. Education - Professional - N.D., Speech
2. Education - Professional - 1938, Letters
3. Education - Professional - 1939, Letters
4. Education - Professional - 1941, Letters
5. Education - Professional - 1961, Letters
6. Education Problems - 1922, Speech
7. Ethical Culture School - 1944, Speech
8. Ethical Culture School - 1946
9. Ethical Culture School Alumni - 1958
10. Ethical Culture Society - N.D., Speech
11. Ethical Culture Society - 1939, Speech

12. Ethical Culture Society - 1941, Speech
13. Ethical Culture Society - 1945, Article
- 14-15. Ethical Culture Society - 1960, Speech
16. Ethical Culture Society - 1961, Speech
17. Ethical Culture Society - 1962, Speech
18. Ethical Culture Society - 1963, Notes
19. Ethical Culture Society - 1963, Clippings
20. Freedom Schools - 1964, Correspondence
21. Joseph Jablonower - Biographical
22. Henry R. Linville - 1941, 1943, Clippings
23. Henry R. Linville - 1936-1959, Testimonials
24. Henry R. Linville Award Speeches - 1954-1959
- 25-26. Henry R. Linville Award - 1959, Letters
27. Loyalty Oath 1935, 1952
28. National Sharecroppers Fund - 1963, Letters
29. New York City's Juvenile Aid Bureau - 1951
30. Physics Article - 1934
31. Physics Manuscript, Dr. Alfred Basch - 1935
32. Physics Articles - 1936-1937
33. Progressive Education - 1941, Speech
34. Progressivism vs. Essentialism - 1939, Speech
35. The Revolution in Education - 1950, Notes
36. Rumely Trial - 1952, Court opinion
37. Science Convention - 1935, Clippings

Box 3

1. Teacher Education Report - 1945
2. Teacher Placement - 1952
3. Teacher Selection - Report, 1941
4. Teacher Selection 1951 - Book
5. Teachers Guild Associates N.D.
6. Teachers Guild Associates 1950-1955 Memos
7. Teachers Guild Associates 1953-1954 Minutes
8. Teachers Guild Associates 1955-1960 Minutes
9. Teachers Guild Associates 1954-1961
10. Teachers Guild Associates 1959-1961
11. Teachers and Labor 1920 Speeches
12. Teachers Union 1912-1919 Letters
13. Teachers Union 1923-1924
14. Textbook Controversy 1941, Speech
15. United Federation of Teachers 1960, Letters
16. United Federation of Teachers 1961-1962 Letters
17. United Federation of Teachers 1960-1962
18. United Federation of Teachers 1964-1965
19. Values in Education 1956 - Clippings
20. World War I 1917 - Speech
21. World War I 1918 - Booklet
22. World War II Refugees 1938
23. World War II Refugees 1939-1941 Letters
24. Young Men's Hebrew Association - 1915
25. Young Men's Hebrew Association - 1916

Correspondence, court papers, documents, clippings and other materials related to Joseph Jablonower's civil service examination for a vacant position on the Board of Examiners of the New York City school system, his appointment, to the post in 1938, court challenges to his appointment, and a second civil service examination that confirmed his appointment in 1940. Most of the congratulatory materials are numbered and the senders are identified in a key found in file 4-5. The bulk of the materials used as court evidence consist of professional articles and reviews written by Mr. Jablonower for Ethical Culture Society publications such as *The Standard*, *School and Home*, as well as a textbook, *Introducing Geometry*, and articles in *Mathmatics Teacher*. Letters of recommendation and transcripts are also included. A complete list of the evidence will be found in folder 5-1. Items are arranged chronologically by topic.

Box 4

1. Jablonower Case - N.D. Application
2. Jablonower Case - 1938
3. Jablonower Case - 1938, Letters
4. Jablonower Case - 1938, Clippings
5. Jablonower Case - 1938, Key to Congratulatory
- 6-20. Congratulatory Letters - 1938
21. Jablonower Case - 1938, Affidavit
22. Jablonower Case - 1938, Speech
23. Jablonower Case - 1939, Court Opinion
24. Jablonower Case - 1939, Court Decision
25. Jablonower Case - 1939, Court Papers
26. Jablonower Case - 1939-1940, Letters
27. Jablonower Case - 1939-1940, Clippings

Box 5

- 1-22. Jablonower Case - 1940 Evidence
23. Jablonower Case - June 1940, Letters
24. Jablonower Case - June 1940, Clippings
25. Jablonower Case - July-August 1940, Clippings

Series III
Boxes 6-7

Diaries kept by Mr. Jablonower spanning the period from 1941 to 1966. The diaries consist of eleven bound books, one loose leaf notebook, several collections of notecards and key that explains abbreviations and identifies certain people mentioned in the diaries. The diaries cover Mr. Jablonower's personal social as well as his professional life. His daily activities as an Examiner are covered in most detail, but Ethical Culture Society and union activities are also covered. While the entries for some years are fairly complete, some years are not covered at all and for other years the entries are very limited.

Box 6

1. Joseph Jablonower Diary - Key
2. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1941
3. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1942-January 1944
4. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1946
5. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1947
6. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1948
7. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1949
8. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1952
9. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1954
10. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1957

Box 7

1. Joseph Jablonower Diary - Key
2. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1959
3. Joseph Jablonower Diary - January-February 1960
4. Joseph Jablonower Diary - March-May 1960
5. Joseph Jablonower Diary - June-December 1960
6. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1961-1964
7. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1965
8. Joseph Jablonower Diary - 1966

Part 2

Series IV

Box 8

A corrected transcript of a series of interviews given by Mr. Jablonower for Columbia University in 1965.

Box 8

1-6. Jablonower Oral History

Index to Correspondence

Beagle, Si, 3-15, 3-16
Bennett, Fay, 2-28
Cogen, Charles, 3-15, 3-16
Fusco, Liz, 2-20
Gilpatrick, Walter H., 1-23
Hannig, William A., 1-25, 1-26
Linville, Henry, 5-1
Marsh, Alice, 3-15
O'Reilly, Lenora, 3-12
Silverstein, Louis, 3-13