

A Portrait of Jewish Cincinnati



A Bicentennial Celebration

This label booklet has been provided
for your use in the gallery.

PLEASE RETURN THE BOOKLET HERE
AFTER VIEWING THE EXHIBITION



From the Director

“This cemetery, now fenced in by a high brick wall, is the oldest Jewish landmark in the western section of the country. It is well nigh half a century since the last body was laid to its final rest therein; the life of a great city ebbs and flows about it; the dead slumber on unheeding; may they rest in peace!”

David Philipson, “The Jewish Pioneers of the Ohio Valley.” Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society, no. 8, 1900, p. 55

It all began with a small plot of ground on the corner of Chestnut Street and Central Avenue (Western Row in 1821) purchased from landowner Nicholas Longworth for seventy-five dollars. With the deed executed November 6, 1821, and recorded December 17, 1821, an official Jewish community was born in Cincinnati.

A Portrait of Jewish Cincinnati seeks to tell the stories of the Jewish Cincinnatians whose achievements contributed to the vibrancy of the Queen City. From Fanny and Abraham Aub, the couple who gave the land to build the second location of Cincinnati’s Jewish Hospital—the first such hospital in the country—to Sally Priesand, the first woman ordained a rabbi in America, here in Cincinnati at Hebrew Union College—to so many scions of philanthropy, civic service, industry, education, and culture who made their mark on our community, the narratives of these portraits are colorful and diverse, will engage viewers of all backgrounds, and will be a source of pride for all Cincinnatians. Augmented by a select group of decorative arts objects, including a tall clock made by Joseph Jonas, Cincinnati’s first permanent Jewish settler, who was a jeweler and watch and clock manufacturer, the exhibition brings together almost forty likenesses of many of Cincinnati’s prominent Jewish citizens from the early nineteenth century to the present day, gleaned from the museum’s own rich collections as well as those of local and national museums and private collections. While we cast our net wide, we undoubtedly missed some portraits that would have been meaningful for this exhibition. We hope that others will come to our attention, and that we will be able to document the works and their stories for posterity.

I am forever grateful to our sponsors and our dedicated staff who made this exhibition possible. It is not lost on me that this exhibition is displayed in one of the oldest repositories of Jewish cultural artifacts in America, established when Hebrew Union College opened in 1875. As we embark on our third century as a Jewish community, I am ever mindful of the Skirball’s mission to preserve and interpret a rich collection of fine art and artifacts that tell the vibrant story of the Cincinnati Jewish community and global Jewish history, religion, and culture through thoughtful core and temporary exhibitions and engaging public programs for visitors of all faiths.

Abby Scher Schwartz
November 2021

1825-1903



Therese Dreyfoos and Samuel Dreyfoos

Raphael Strauss (Bavaria, Germany 1830–1901 Cincinnati)

Oil on board, ca. 1862

Cincinnati Skirball Museum, gift of the W. Gunther Plaut Family



Therese Pappenheimer (1819–1908) came to the United States a few years after Samuel Dreyfoos (1815–1895) who emigrated in 1839–40 to avoid military service. Both were born in Aldingen, Württemberg, Germany, where they were sweethearts. The couple was married in 1843 in Philadelphia. They first settled in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and moved to Cincinnati with their three children in 1848. A fourth child was born in 1849. In 1850, Samuel joined K.K. Bene Yeshurun, today's Wise Temple. Interestingly, he sent his three oldest daughters to a Catholic convent school in Reading, Ohio, where they took regular academic courses and French, sewing, and music.

Samuel was a partner in a hardware and cutlery store in Cincinnati with Therese's brother Leopold, who had left Pennsylvania in 1847. Pappenheimer and Dreyfoos & Co. was founded in July 1850. Other family members were taken into the firm over the years, and in 1860 the business expanded, adding the sale of guns and pistols. The partnership of Pappenheimer and Dreyfoos was dissolved in 1864 for unknown reasons. Samuel started a new business in wholesale shoes and boots with his son-in-law Lee Cahn known as Dreyfoos and Cahn. The business only lasted a couple of years. In 1870 Samuel and Therese and their unmarried children moved to New York, where they lived for six years. The couple returned to Cincinnati in 1876 where they remained for the rest of their lives.

Therese Dreyfoos played an important role in founding the Widows and Orphans' Asylum Association in Cincinnati in 1863. She became the association's first president, an office she held from May 1863 through 1866–67. According to a book written by Elizabeth S. Plaut, *The Guggenheim/Wormser Family: A Genealogical 300-Year Memoir*, Therese had the first sewing machine and the first Steinway piano in Cincinnati.

About this portrait, Plaut writes the following:

“It was probably in 1862 that Therese and Samuel sat for Raphael Strauss, who competently painted their portraits. The detail of the jewelry and dress indicate that the couple was in very comfortable financial circumstances. Samuel's portrait shows him as a man in the fullness of his strength, black-haired and handsome, with a thoughtful, kind face and winning manner. Therese sits straight, though relaxed, in a chair, looking at the viewer with clear eyes in an attentive

manner, a gracious smile playing around her lips. The artist captured them on canvas during the time when their lives were full and their days pleasant.”

In a footnote, Plaut writes that Strauss was thirty-two at the time and painted the portraits of many Cincinnatians that year, Christians as well as Jews. She also comments that Isaac M. Wise, writing in his German newspaper, *Die Deborah*, recommended Strauss as an artist who should be patronized.



American Tall Clock Case

Joseph Jonas (Plymouth, England 1792-?)

Cherry wood, brass, tiger maple base, painted dial, brass movement, ca. 1825
Private Collection

When Joseph Jonas arrived in Cincinnati in March of 1817, the city was home to about 6,000 residents. He was to become the first permanent Jewish settler in the Queen City. In the ensuing years he was joined by a handful of Jewish immigrants. When a member of the fledgling Jewish community wanted to be buried as a Jew, Jonas, along with Morris Moses, David I. Johnson, Moses Nathan, Abraham Jonas, and Solomon Moses, purchased a plot of land in the West End from the city's largest landowner, Nicholas Longworth, for seventy-five dollars. With the deed executed November 6, 1821, and recorded December 17, 1821, an official Jewish community was born in Cincinnati. Chestnut Street Cemetery stands today as the oldest Jewish cemetery west of the Allegheny Mountains. Jonas was also the first president of Cincinnati's first Jewish congregation, established in 1824. That congregation exists today as K.K. Bene Israel Rockdale Temple in Amberley Village and is the oldest Jewish congregation west of the Allegheny Mountains.



In his professional life, Jonas was a watch and clock maker and silversmith. He operated a shop at 13 Spruce Street, and at Third and Main Streets. The tall clock case on display here is an example of the fine workmanship of his business.

Later in life, Jonas was elected to serve in the Ohio House of Representatives. He resided in Cincinnati for over fifty years but relocated to Alabama when his health declined to be near the rest of his family. The exact date and circumstances surrounding his death are unknown.

The memoirs of Joseph Jonas are preserved in *The Occident*, a monthly publication by Isaac Leeser. A fascinating anecdote is told in which Jonas is approached by an elderly Quaker who asked him to turn around so that she could examine him. Following this

examination, the woman allegedly turned to him and sighed disappointedly, “Well, thou art no different to other people.”



Louis Charles Frohman and Fanny Freitag Frohman

Artist unknown

Oil on canvas, 1863

Cincinnati Skirball Museum, long-term loan from the Estate of Regine Weiss Ransohoff

Louis Frohman (1824-1897) and Fanny Freitag Frohman (d. 1895) immigrated to Cincinnati from Bavaria, Germany. Louis is described in *Cincinnati, the Queen City, 1788-1912, Volume 4* by Charles Frederic Goss as “for many years a prominent businessman of this city.”



Louis and Fanny Frohman are perhaps best known because of the accomplishments of their daughter, Blanche Frohman Bloch and her husband Jacob Bloch. The couple was married in 1893. In *Women of Ohio; a record of their achievements in the history of the state* edited by Ruth Neely and published in 1900, Blanche is described as “among the earliest and most deeply interested members of the Cincinnati Woman’s City Club. She gave similar service to the League of Women Voters, the Council of Jewish

Women, to Robert Krohn Livingston Camp (a summer camp for Jewish youth still in existence today), the Mothers Training Center, to the League for Good Government and to the Consumers League...During the World War she devoted her utmost efforts to the Red Cross...Her best energies are still devoted to these and other services. She believes that is what life is for.”

Louis and Fanny Frohman’s son-in-law, Jacob Bloch, was born in Cincinnati in 1854, a son of Lazarus and Babette Bloch. Jacob became a member of Abe Bloch & Company, one of Cincinnati’s most important clothing manufacturing businesses. He is best known as the Cincinnati industrialist who invented several different types of electrical cloth-cutting machines that revolutionized the clothing industry.



Nathan Ransohoff and Esther Kahn Ransohoff

Charles Soule, Jr. (1834–1897)

Oil on canvas, 1860

Cincinnati Skirball Museum, long-term loan from the Estate of Regine Weiss Ransohoff



Nathan Ransohoff (1804–1883) and Esther Kahn Ransohoff (1813–1894) immigrated to Cincinnati in about 1830 from Westphalia, Germany. Nathan was successful in the mercantile business. The family lived on Bremen Street (today Republic Street), just north of St. Francis Church. The couple had three children. Their youngest child and only son was Joseph, born in 1853. Nathan and Esther were pious Orthodox Jews, and Joseph was brought up strictly in the faith. He was expected to become a rabbi and studied Jewish texts extensively. According to his students, who published *The Ransohoff Memorial Volume* in 1921 as a tribute to their teacher, “there was laid the foundation for extended training in Hebrew lore and tradition which had an effect upon his mind and character, enduring to the last.”

Joseph graduated from Woodward High School in 1870. He had decided to be a physician rather than a rabbi and entered the Medical College of Ohio at Cincinnati. He received his medical degree in 1874. *The Ransohoff Memorial Volume* describes this event: “I see the family walking the long way down Vine Street to Fourth; I see them seated in Pike’s Opera House, where the commencement exercises of the Medical College of Ohio were held. But above all, I see the pride in the faces of mother and father as they see their son, the youngest of the class, called forth to receive the gold medal...for his essay on Puerperal Eclampsia.”

After three years of study in Europe, Joseph returned to Cincinnati where in 1879 he was made professor of descriptive anatomy in the Medical College of Ohio and in 1902 professor of surgery in the same college, which in 1896 had become part of the University of Cincinnati. He published 145 papers on surgical subjects and was one of the earliest surgeons to operate on the gall bladder and kidney. He was actively engaged in the practice of medicine and in teaching until his death in 1921. Joseph was married to Minnie Freiberg, a daughter of Julius and Duffie Workum Freiberg, whose portrait can be seen in this exhibition. Joseph and Minnie had five children, two of whom were named for Joseph’s parents, Nathan and Esther.

Nathan and Esther Ransohoff are buried at Judah Touro Cemetery on Cincinnati’s West Side. Esther’s father, Aron Solomon Kahn, is buried in Cincinnati’s Chestnut Street Cemetery, the oldest Jewish cemetery west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Charles Soule, Jr. was the son of Dayton portrait painter Charles Soule and brother to Octavia Soule and Clara Soule Medlar, both painters. He presumably studied painting with his father and worked throughout his life in Dayton. Like many artists of his day, he likely traveled along the Ohio

River to Portsmouth, Pomeroy, Ripley, and Cincinnati, as well as to towns in West Virginia to pursue commissions.



Fanny Aub and Abraham Aub

Possible attribution to Henry Mosler (Germany 1841–1920 New York)

Oil on canvas, ca. 1860

Collection of Professors A. E. Ted Aub and Phillia C. Yi

Fanny (1818–1880) and Abraham Aub (1813–1879) were born in Forchheim, Bavaria. The couple immigrated to Cincinnati in 1843, where Abraham established himself in the wholesale clothing business, Aub, Bloch & Frenkel. They soon became active in the Jewish community. Abraham taught in the Sunday School of Talmud Yelodim, a Jewish day school opened in 1849 by K.K. Bene Yeshurun, today's Wise Temple. At that time, the congregation was located on Lodge Street. Abraham was instrumental in bringing Isaac Mayer Wise to Cincinnati from Albany and was involved in the campaign to build Plum Street Temple. He served as the President of the Jewish Hospital Association for twenty years, from 1855–1875. The couple “sold” their property in downtown

Cincinnati to the hospital in 1865 for one dollar. Cincinnati's Jewish Hospital was the first of its kind in the country; it opened in 1850 after the city's cholera outbreak exposed the need for a place to treat poor Jews. It also provided a place to work for Jewish physicians and a way to protect dying Jews from forced conversion. The land that the Aubs sold to the hospital was the third location of the facility, at High (Third) and Baum Streets. Fanny was involved in many philanthropic organizations, most notably the Cleveland Jewish Orphan Asylum, Bellefaire, the oldest Jewish social-service agency in Cleveland established in 1868 by B'nai B'rith to care for Jewish Civil War orphans from fifteen states. The Aubs executed the deed for the property, and Abraham served as president from its founding until his death.

In this pair of portraits, both husband and wife wear wedding bands. In a traditional Jewish wedding ceremony, only the bride wears a ring and it is placed on the right hand index finger so that it is more easily seen during the ceremony. Today, the ring usually is moved to the left-hand ring finger after the ceremony. In Orthodox Judaism most men do not wear wedding rings. Abraham Aub's second cousin, moderate Reformer Rabbi Joseph Aub (1805–1880) of Berlin, Germany was the first rabbi to suggest the practice of a double ring ceremony. While the suggestion was not adopted until 1871 by the Reform Augsburg Synod of that year, Abraham and Fanny must have been influenced by this modern notion advanced by their relative. Abraham's left hand is positioned prominently so that his ring is highly visible to the viewer. In making a case for the double ring ceremony, Rabbi Aub explained that “these ladies stated that they did not wish to be completely passive at the marriage altar, as if they were objects and as though the marriage ceremony could be performed without their equal participation.”

Abraham Aub was president of Plum Street Temple at the time of his death. According to his obituary in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, “Rabbi Wise delivered the funeral oration...after which the body was removed to the Jewish Cemetery on Walnut Hills, of which Mr. Aub had been one of the chief founders.”



Pair of Silver Kiddush Cups

Gorham silver plate, 1866

Inscriptions:

To A. Aub Esq. President of the Jewish Hospital Since 1855 By the Board of Directors March 11th

To A. Aub Esq. As a Token of esteem from the Board of the Jewish Hospital for Meritorious Service



Therese Bloch Wise

Henry Mosler (Germany 1841-1920 New York)

Oil on canvas, 1867

Cincinnati Skirball Museum

Therese Bloch Wise (1822-1874) was born in Grafenried, Bohemia to Herman and Nannie Rieser Bloch. The Blochs were the only Jewish family in their small village. Therese met her future husband, Isaac Mayer Wise, when he was her tutor. The couple married in Grafenried in 1844 before coming to the United States in 1846. Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise would become the leading figure in the establishment of Reform Judaism in America with the founding of such institutions as Hebrew Union College, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (today's Union for Reform Judaism). The couple had ten children. Therese is buried in the Walnut Hills Jewish Cemetery in Cincinnati.

In his book *The Cosmic God*, completed shortly after his wife's death, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise offered the following dedication:

This volume is dedicated to the memory of a sainted Mother in Israel, a peerless woman of sublime virtues, a spouse of matchless affection, a parent of angelic benignity.

THERESE BLOCH WISE

She died Dec. 10, 1874, 51 years old.

To her, my beloved wife, who in life possessed my heart with its best affections; I dedicate in eternity my best thoughts.

Therese's older brother Edward followed his sister and brother-in-law to Cincinnati, where he founded Bloch Publishing Company in 1854, the oldest Jewish publishing company, and one of the oldest family businesses, in the United States. Isaac Mayer Wise's newspapers, *The Israelite* and the German language Jewish newspaper *Die Deborah* were both printed by Bloch Publishing Company. The *Israelite*, later renamed *The American Israelite*, is the longest-running Jewish newspaper in America and the second oldest Jewish weekly newspaper in the United States.

Jewish American painter Henry Mosler immigrated to New York from Germany at the age of eight with his parents, who then settled in Cincinnati where the family eventually established the Mosler Safe Company, a firm that would become one of the largest safe manufacturers in the country. Mosler studied in Cincinnati with genre and portrait painter James Henry Beard, and then in Dusseldorf, Germany and Paris, France. He returned to Cincinnati between 1866 and 1874, where he married Sarah Cahn in 1869. He studied for three years in Munich, where he won a medal at the Royal Academy. In 1877, he moved to France. He received a silver medal at the Salons in Paris 1889, and gold medals at Paris, 1888, and Vienna, 1893. In 1894 he moved his family to New York, opening a studio in Carnegie Hall. He served as an associate in the National Academy of Design and continued painting well into the twentieth century. He died of heart failure at the age of seventy-eight.



Rosa Jacobs Nathan and Jacob Nathan

John Aubery (Kassel, Germany 1810-1893 Cincinnati)

Oil on canvas, 1879

Collection of The Mercantile Library, Cincinnati, OH

Rosa Jacobs Nathan (1841-1924) and Jacob Nathan (1833-1906) were born in Bavaria, Germany, and immigrated to Cincinnati, where Jacob was a partner in Kahn, Nathan & Co., a clothing house which later became Kahn, Sturm & Co. The business was located at 375 West Fourth Street. The couple married in 1861 and had three children, Isaac, Elias, and Theresa. The couple is buried in the Walnut Hills Jewish Cemetery.



John Aubery emigrated from Germany to Cincinnati in about 1853. He was already an experienced portrait and figure painter, having worked in Paris at the court of Louis Philippe, then in Rome for five years before coming to Cincinnati. For almost twenty years, Aubery had a studio with Raphael Strauss, a Jewish artist who had also emigrated from Germany. Aubery and Strauss were both painters to Cincinnati's elite, including many Jewish patrons whose portraits appear in this exhibition.



Theresa Nathan

John Aubery (Kassel, Germany 1810–1893 Cincinnati)

Oil on canvas, 1879

Collection of The Mercantile Library, Cincinnati, OH

This portrait of Theresa Nathan (1870–1951), the daughter of Jacob and Rosa Nathan, was painted when she was nine years old. The artist has paid considerable attention to the girl's finely made dress with its intricate lace and sheer overlay. This would have been meaningful for the Nathan family, as Theresa's father was a partner in Kahn, Nathan, & Co., clothiers on West Fourth Street in Cincinnati.

The stone column on which Theresa leans her left elbow is a prop that was a standard item in painted portraits as well as photographs of the period, like the one shown here. Aubery, like many



artists of his time, had experience in tinting or hand-coloring photographs. The landscape, with its winding river, is suggestive of the Ohio River seen from one of Cincinnati's hilltops.

In 1892, Theresa was married to Louis S. Bing by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise. Louis was born in Washington Courthouse, Ohio, and educated in Cincinnati. Louis and Elias Nathan, Theresa's brother, opened a furniture store in Cleveland's retail trading center in 1891. By 1895 Louis had bought out Nathan's interest and brought his own brother, Sol, into the business.

By 1935, The Bing Company had furnished 100,000 homes in the Cleveland area and by 1960 Bing's had a total of fourteen furniture stores. In 1961 the company was sold to interests controlled by the Schottenstein Bros. of Columbus.



Gertrude Stern

Raphael Strauss (Bavaria, Germany 1830–1901 Cincinnati)

Oil on canvas, ca. 1892

Cincinnati Art Museum, bequest of Dorothy Joseph Fenburr

Harry R. Stern

Raphael Strauss (Bavaria, Germany 1830–1901 Cincinnati)

Oil on canvas, ca. 1886

Cincinnati Art Museum, gift of Leo B. Forst in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Stern

Gertrude C. Stern (1887–1926) was a child of Charles J. and Jennie A. Stern. Charles Stern was a special agent of the Union Central Life Insurance Company and was connected with the wholesale jewelry business in Cincinnati. Charles married Jennie Rothchild of Findlay, Ohio in 1882. The Stern family was one of the founding members of Plum Street Temple. Gertrude married Jesse M.

Joseph around 1910. Joseph owned an advertising agency, and in 1924–25 was among the business leaders who taught advertising and salesmanship students at St. Xavier College, today's Xavier University. The Josephs were also involved with Plum Street Temple, where Gertrude was president of the Sisterhood.



Gertrude's portrait was painted when she was around five years old. About six years earlier, Raphael Strauss had painted a portrait of Harry R. Stern, Gertrude's old brother, when he was nearly three years old. He died shortly after of diphtheria. Both portraits were probably painted from photographs of the children taken in the artist's studio. During the 1860s, Strauss had worked in William Southgate Porter's photograph gallery and may also have worked with David Hoag, another Cincinnati photographer. Strauss was known for his rendering of lace and sumptuous fabrics. In the 1880s and 1890s Strauss shared his studio in the Pike Building on Fourth Street with John Aubery. It is possible that Aubery helped Strauss paint the portrait and

background. At the time of his death, Strauss was vice-president of the Cincinnati Art Club. He was also a member of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith. Strauss was married to Caroline Baermann Strauss. Their son, Joseph Baermann Strauss was the chief engineer of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Raphael Strauss is buried in the Walnut Hills Jewish Cemetery in Cincinnati.



Cora Fechheimer and Edwin Stanton Fechheimer

John Aubery (Kassel, Germany 1810–1893 Cincinnati)

Oil on canvas, ca. 1878–80

Collection of Mary (Polly) Stein

Cora Fechheimer (1872–1953) and Edwin Stanton Fechheimer (1871–1944) were two of four children of Leopold and Mary Hollstein Fechheimer. Edwin, the couple's eldest son, would make his life in Chicago, where he was with Winslow Brothers Ornamental Iron Works which produced fences, lamps, and other iron products for buildings and elevators. During World I,

the company converted to making shells for the U.S. government. Edwin changed his surname to Fetcher in 1919.

Cora and Edwin's portrait was painted by John Aubery, who, for almost twenty years, shared a studio with Raphael Strauss, a Jewish artist who had also emigrated from Germany. Aubery and Strauss were both painters to Cincinnati's elite, including many Jewish patrons whose portraits appear in this exhibition.

Cora and Edwin Stanton Krohn's younger brother Abraham preferred to be called Lincoln. He became a renowned architect and designed several buildings of Hebrew Union College. More information about A. Lincoln Fechheimer's contributions can be found on the wall text across the gallery.

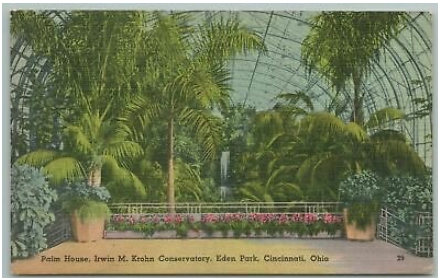


Photographs of Cora Fechheimer Krohn and Irwin Krohn

Photographer unknown, undated

Collection of Mary (Polly) Stein

Cora, the second child of Leopold and Mary Fechheimer, married Irwin Krohn (1869-1948) of Cincinnati. He founded the Red Cross Shoe Company (which became the U.S. Shoe Company) with his cousin, S. Marcus Fechheimer. Irwin was president of the Cincinnati Park Board for thirty-five years. When an outstanding new conservatory was opened in 1933 in Eden Park, it was named the Irwin M. Krohn Conservatory. Irwin also served on the City Planning Board, the board of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Cora and Irwin's son Irwin Krohn, Jr. was with the Clopay Corporation, a pioneer in the



manufacturing of paper products, such as paper window shades. Cora and Irwin's daughter Edith Krohn Magrish was an active volunteer with the Cincinnati Art Museum.



Portrait of Rabbi Isaac M. Wise

Leo Mielziner (New York 1869-1935 Truro, MA)

Black crayon, 1898

Cincinnati Art Museum, gift of Leo Wise

Leo Mielziner moved to Cincinnati in 1879 when his father Moses became a professor at Hebrew Union College. As a student at Woodward High School, Leo showed artistic aptitude and continued his training at the Art Academy of Cincinnati before studying in Europe. Mielziner had a studio in the Pike Building on Fourth Street. Artists Raphael Strauss and John Aubery shared a studio in the same building.

Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise (1819-1900) was a close friend of the Mielziner family and in 1898 he sat for this portrait, which was a preparatory drawing for a bronze sculpture that was donated to the college. The sculpture was exhibited in the Sixty-Ninth Annual Exhibition of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in the winter of 1900. There is no documentation of this sculpture in the records of the Cincinnati Skirball Museum.

This drawing depicts Rabbi Wise just two years before his death. Described as the father of Reform Judaism in the United States, Wise introduced changes in traditional Jewish rituals and practices. He replaced the male soloist with a mixed-sex choir; he advocated praying in English and German, instead of only Hebrew; he encouraged men and women to sit together rather than segregating themselves. A pioneer Reform rabbi, he tried to unite American Jewry by advocating a common prayerbook and establishing the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (today's Union for Reform Judaism), Hebrew Union College, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He served K.K. Bene Yeshurun (today's Wise Temple) as rabbi for forty-six years.



Jeptha

Moses Jacob Ezekiel (Richmond, VA 1844-1917 Rome, Italy)

Bronze relief, 1898

Inscribed: J E P T H A; He loved his neighbor as himself; ME Rome 1898
Cincinnati Skirball Museum, gift of Cecil L. Striker

In his memoirs, renowned Jewish sculptor Moses Jacob Ezekiel describes at some length the summer of 1896, when he visited the American West with his sister, Sallie (Sarah Israel Ezekiel), and nephew and niece, Jeptha and Grace Workum, children of another sister, Hannah Ezekiel Workum. Ezekiel recounts the group's adventures at Mammoth Hot Springs in Montana; "the great wonder of wonders called Old Faithful" in Yellowstone Park; and fishing expeditions including one in which "Jeptha was in a perfect glow of delight and found a hole out of which he hauled sixteen magnificent trout." Soon after the group's arrival back in Cincinnati, Jeptha became ill. Following a diagnosis of typhoid fever and subsequent surgery for a liver problem, Jeptha continued to decline, and on September 15, Ezekiel watched his favorite nephew pass away. "The doctor held his pulse, and I saw that beautiful pure life ebbing away until the last, when his Uncle Julius Freiberg and I said prayers for the dead." Jeptha was thirty-six years old.

Two years later, back in Rome, Ezekiel described Jeptha in bronze as he had in words: "My nephew was a man of mental force and physical perfection...he was of undying loyalty and in everyday existence relieved every distress that came under his notice. None of us knew until after his death how many widows and orphans he had always supported." In his bronze tribute to his nephew, Ezekiel depicts Jeptha with a fishing rod on his shoulder.

Jeptha Workum was the son of Levi Workum and Hannah Ezekiel Workum. In 1855 Levi Workum and Julius Freiberg founded the wholesale liquor business Freiberg & Workum, which eventually became the largest producers and merchandisers of whiskey in Ohio and Kentucky. After Levi Workum died in 1883, Julius Freiberg reorganized the firm and took as directors his two sons, J. Walter and Maurice J. Freiberg, as well as Levi's two sons, Jeptha L. and Ezekiel L. Workum. Just a year before Jeptha's death, in



216 and 218 East Front

1895, the company moved to East Front Street in Cincinnati, described in the company's Golden Anniversary publication as "a commodious building fifty-two feet front, two hundred feet deep, and five stories high...It has a private siding where cars can be loaded and unloaded, this saving the time necessary to cart goods to and from the railroad depots."

The sculptor Moses Jacob Ezekiel was a Richmond-born American patriot and expatriate who lived in Rome for more than forty years; a Confederate soldier who fought in the Battle of Newmarket; a host to the rich and famous in his home and studio in the ancient Baths of Diocletian, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Franz Liszt, Mark Twain, Kaiser Wilhelm II, J.P. Morgan, as well as kings, presidents, and heads of state. He achieved many firsts—the first cadet of Jewish descent to attend Virginia Military Institute; the first Jewish sculptor to create a bust of a living rabbi (see marble of Isaac Mayer Wise in this exhibition); the first Jewish sculptor to be commissioned by an American Jewish society (B'nai B'rith for *Religious Liberty* in Philadelphia); likely the first non-German to win the Michael Beer Prix de Rome in 1873 from the Berlin Royal Academy of Fine Arts, an award specifically earmarked for Jewish artists to study in Italy for one year; and the first Jewish-American artist to achieve international stature.

Ezekiel moved from Richmond to Cincinnati with his family in 1868 where he came under the influence of sculptor Thomas Dow Jones (1811–1881) before leaving for Europe, where he entered the Berlin Royal Academy of Fine Arts. Ezekiel's father, Jacob, served as Secretary of the Board of Hebrew Union College and was a charter member of B'nai B'rith, a Jewish service organization founded in 1843.



Ruth Iglauer Workum

Fedor Encke (Berlin, Germany 1851–1926 Bad Sachsa, Germany)

Oil on canvas, mounted on board, 1901

Cincinnati Art Museum, gift of Cecil L. and Theodore W. Striker

Ruth Iglauer Workum (1877–1958) was born in Cincinnati to Arnold Iglauer and Delia Fechheimer Iglauer. Both of her parents were from prominent German Jewish families who had settled in Cincinnati in the mid-nineteenth century. She married Theodore Workum (1875–1961), who was in the automobile business. Ruth was a champion golfer, an excellent pianist, and a trained contralto singer. Although not professionally trained for it, she was actively engaged in social work and was an officer of the Cincinnati Humane Society and held leadership positions with the Ohio branch of the American Humane Society. Ruth's grandson, Cecil Striker, reports that "in loyalty to the Workum family (Freiburg & Workum were major distillers) she always carried a small bottle of bourbon in her purse."

The portrait is unsigned but has two labels on the back. One of them reads "Portrait in oil of Ruth I Workum painted at Three Oaks, Cincinnati, in 1901, by Fedor Encke, of Berlin, Germany."

Three Oaks was the grand Victorian mansion of Ruth's father-in-law, Levi J. Workum, which stood on an acre of land in North Avondale. Encke was the life-long close friend of sculptor Moses Jacob Ezekiel, who was Ruth's uncle by marriage. Levi J. Workum was married to Hannah Ezekiel, a sister to the sculptor. Whenever Ezekiel and Encke were in Cincinnati they stayed at Three Oaks. A photograph on view in the Skirball's third floor installation depicts Ezekiel sitting on the porch of Three Oaks. A painting on the museum's first floor that depicts Ezekiel emerging from his studio in Rome hung for years in the living room of Ruth and Theodore's home.

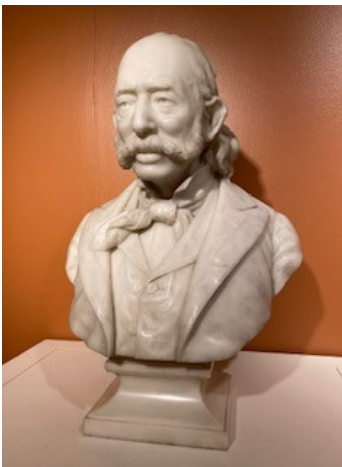
Encke was an illegitimate son of King Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia and Wilhelmine Encke, who later became Countess Lichtenau. He studied in Berlin, Paris and Rome and traveled in the United States with Ezekiel, where he received many portrait commissions, including President Theodore Roosevelt, John Pierpoint Morgan, and General John Blackburne Woodward.

Isaac Mayer Wise

Moses Jacob Ezekiel (Richmond, VA 1844-1917 Rome, Italy)

Carrara marble, 1903

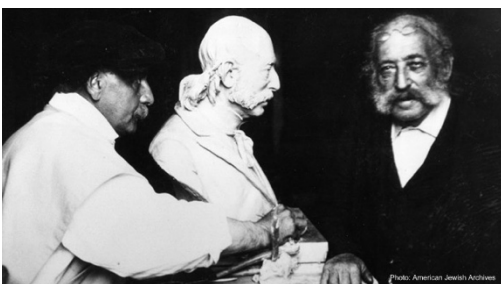
Gift of Isaac Mayer Wise heirs



One of the most prominent Jewish leaders of the nineteenth century, Isaac Mayer Wise was instrumental in establishing the major ideas and institutions of Reform Judaism in America, including the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (today's Union for Reform Judaism), Hebrew Union College, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. After immigrating to America in 1846, he first served a congregation in

Albany, New York before coming to Cincinnati in 1854 to become rabbi of B'nai Yeshurun (today's Wise Temple), which he built into the largest and most prominent congregation of its time.

Ezekiel visited Cincinnati in 1899, twenty years after establishing his home and studio in Rome. He was commissioned by Congregation B'nai Yeshurun to make a bronze bust of Rabbi Wise in honor of his 80th birthday. That bronze now resides at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. In 1903, three years after Wise's death, his son-in-law Adolph Ochs, publisher of *The New York*



Times, ordered a marble bust for his home, later given to Hebrew Union College by Wise's heirs. In his *Memoirs from the Baths of Diocletian*, Ezekiel describes the sitting for the bronze: "Dr. Wise was living in the country [College Hill], so I had to get up every morning very early and ride an hour to reach his home. The accommodations for modeling were about as bad as they could be, and how I ever managed to do the work at all,

considering that we were both sweltering in heat with the perspiration pouring off of us both, remains almost a mystery." Ezekiel was probably acquainted with Wise's writings, since his father served as secretary to the Board of Governors of Hebrew Union College. At the sitting, Wise and

Ezekiel discussed theosophy, reincarnation, and Zionism—a subject on which they greatly differed, as Wise believed that America was the Jerusalem for the Jewish people, and Ezekiel believed that “the time would come when there would be a central government in Jerusalem again and that Palestine would flourish.”

The bust is likely the first three-dimensional portrait of a living rabbi by a Jewish artist.



Isaac Mayer Wise

Artist unknown

Oil on canvas, after 1879

Cincinnati Skirball Museum

At his death in 1900, Isaac Mayer Wise was described as “the foremost rabbi in America.” His major achievements were the establishment of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (today’s Union for Reform Judaism) in 1873, the Hebrew Union College in 1875, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis in 1889.

The oldest son of Regina and Leo Weiss, Isaac was born in 1819 in Steingrub, Bohemia (currently a part of Czechoslovakia). He was a brilliant student, and at the age of nine, his father, a teacher, had taught him all he knew about the Bible and the Talmud. He then went to study with his grandfather, a physician, who died three years later. Weiss continued his studies in the Talmud and the Bible at various schools. He completed his formal education by attending the University of Prague and the University of Vienna for three years. After immigrating to America in 1846, he first served a congregation in Albany, New York before coming to Cincinnati in 1854 to become rabbi of K. K. B’nai Yeshurun (today’s Wise Temple), which he built into the largest and most prominent congregation of its time. It was under his leadership that the congregation outgrew its Lodge Street location and built Plum Street Temple, an architectural marvel of Byzantine and Moorish style that is on the National Register of Historic Places and was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1975. A painting of Plum Street Temple by Henry Mosler can be seen in the Skirball’s second floor gallery.



This portrait of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise appears to have been made from a photograph in which the sitter assumes the exact pose, is wearing the same clothing, is seated in the same chair and leans his right elbow on a side table. The background of the painting is less defined than that of the photograph, and Wise appears to be younger in the painting than in the photograph, likely a bit of artistic license. In his signature fashion, apparent in so many likenesses of the sitter, he wears his eyeglasses on his forehead. An issue of his newspaper, *The American Israelite*, is visible under the open book on the table beside him. The photograph, made in 1879, appears in a book by

Wise's grandson, Max B. May, *Isaac Mayer Wise the Founder of American Judaism: A Biography*, published in 1916.



Edgar Johnson

Thomas Satterwhite Noble (Lexington, KY 1835–1907 New York)

Oil on canvas, 1897

Private Collection

David Israel, of Portsmouth, England, who had been nicknamed Johnson by friends in Brookville or Connersville, Indiana where he had resided for two years, moved to Cincinnati in 1820 with his wife Eliza and two sons. His third son, Frederick A. Johnson, born in 1821, was said to be the first Jewish child born in the Queen City. David Israel Johnson was instrumental in the founding of the Chestnut Street Cemetery in 1821 and Kahal Kadosh Bene Israel, today's Rockdale Temple, in 1824.

Edgar Mayer Johnson (1836–1893) was the youngest child of David Israel Johnson and Eliza Johnson. Admitted to the Cincinnati bar in 1854 at the age of eighteen, he served as prosecuting attorney of the police court of Cincinnati and was a member of the school board of Cincinnati from 1867 to 1871. He was instrumental in bringing into the courts the famous controversy regarding reading the Bible in public schools, which resulted in the practice being discontinued. In 1877 Johnson and his law partner George Hoadley became associated with a New York firm under the name Hoadley, Lauterbach & Johnson.

Johnson was no stranger to controversy. He was part of a delegation of concerned citizens who went to see President Lincoln in Washington to urge him to revoke Union Major-General Ulysses S. Grant's infamous General Order 11. The controversial order was issued on December 17, 1862, during the Vicksburg Campaign of the Civil War and expelled all Jews from Grant's military district, comprising areas of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky. Grant was attempting to reduce corruption in his district and stop the illicit trade of Southern cotton, which he believed was run "mostly by Jews and other unprincipled traders." By the time Edgar Johnson, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise of K.K. B'nai Yeshurun (today's Wise Temple), Rabbi Max Lilienthal of K.K. Bene Israel (today's Rockdale Temple, and the first Jewish congregation west of the Allegheny Mountains), Martin Bijur of Louisville, and Abraham Goldsmith of Paducah arrived in Washington on January 7, 1863, President Lincoln had already countermanded the notorious order. The delegation used the opportunity to thank the President. In a letter to *The Israelite*, Wise's Cincinnati weekly Jewish newspaper, Wise reported President Lincoln's words: "to condemn a class, is, to say the least, to wrong the good with the bad. I do not like to hear a class or nationality condemned on account of a few sinners."

Thomas Satterwhite Noble first began studying painting at age eighteen in Louisville, Kentucky. He attended Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky and lived in Paris from 1856–1859, where he studied with Thomas Couture, who he considered his master instructor. He returned to

the United States in 1859 intending to launch an independent artistic career. However, with the advent of the Civil War, and as a Southerner, he served in the Confederate army from 1862 to 1865. During the war he continued his art, painting portraits of high-level officers and sketching natural scenery. After the war, Noble lived in St. Louis and then New York where he painted anti-slavery historical canvases with strong political and moral commentary. In 1869 he was invited to become the first head of the McMicken School of Design in Cincinnati (today's Art Academy of Cincinnati), which was at that time the trade and cultural nexus of the American west. He held this post until his retirement in 1904. Noble continued painting until his death in 1907. He is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati. Noble's portrait of Edgar Johnson was painted posthumously, four years after the sitter's death.

1906-1933



Duffie Workum Freiberg

Leo Mielziner (New York 1869–1935 Truro, MA)

Oil on canvas, 1906

Collection of James W. Foreman

Duffie Workum Freiberg (1833–1903) was the youngest child of Jacob Levie and Sarah Workum, who immigrated to Cincinnati from their native Holland early in the nineteenth century. Duffie and her five siblings were among the first Jewish children born in the fledgling Jewish community of Cincinnati. A graduate of Hughes High School, Duffie was appointed as a teacher in the Cincinnati public schools. In 1856 she married Julius Freiberg, a partner in Freiberg & Workum, the wholesale liquor business which eventually became the largest producers and merchandisers of whiskey in Ohio and Kentucky. The other partner in the business was Duffie's brother, Levi J. Workum. A mother of six children, Mrs. Freiberg was known for her interest in the city's charitable institutions. She established the Jewish Foster Home on West Sixth Street in 1892 and served as its first president. Originally conceived as a day nursery for children of working parents, it soon expanded to provide full time care. Mrs. Freiberg was also a director of United Jewish Charities, the predecessor of today's Jewish Federation, and a trustee of the Cleveland Orphan Asylum. In her religious life she was a member of K.K. Bene Israel Broadway Synagogue, today's Rockdale Temple, where her husband served as president for twenty-five years.



Leo Mielziner painted this portrait of Duffie Workum Freiberg posthumously, from a photograph, three years after her death. A noted portrait artist, he was the son of Rabbi Dr. Moses Mielziner and Rosette Mielziner. The family moved from New York to Cincinnati where Rabbi Mielziner taught at Hebrew Union College and was a noted Talmudic scholar, publishing among other works, *An Introduction to the Talmud*. He became interim president of Hebrew Union College following the death of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, a position he held from 1900 until his death in 1903.

Leo studied at the Art Academy of Cincinnati and later in Paris at the École des Beaux Arts. He returned from Paris and settled in New York, where the artist had many prominent clients including Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, John D. Rockefeller and General John J. Pershing.

Leo Mielziner married Ella Friend McKenna and was the father of five-time Tony Award winning stage designer, Jo Mielziner and of the noted actor and MGM Story Director, Kenneth MacKenna.



Adolph S. Oko

Eric Goldberg (Germany 1890–1969 Montreal)

Oil on canvas, undated

Cincinnati Skirball Museum

This canvas usually hangs proudly on the first floor of the Klau Library, where Adolph Oko served as librarian from 1906 until 1933. During his tenure, Oko significantly expanded the Klau's collections and began assembling a collection of art and artifacts which grew to become today's Cincinnati Skirball Museum. In a letter to the artist's son when the painting was undergoing conservation in 1985, then executive dean for academic affairs Eugene Mihaly wrote: "Your father was the prime builder of our Library, and his memory is deeply cherished by all of us."

Jewish Canadian artist Eric Goldberg was born in Berlin, the son of the portrait painter Richard Goldberg. He began his art studies in Paris in 1906, first attending the École des Beaux-Arts and later the Académie Julian. After completing his studies in Paris in 1910, Goldberg returned to Berlin, where he studied at the Berlin Academy and became professor of drawing and painting there. In 1913 Goldberg moved to Palestine, where he was appointed to the faculty of the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts, Jerusalem, to teach drawing and painting. After four years in Palestine, Goldberg returned to Paris. He moved to Montreal in 1928. He exhibited frequently in Montreal and Toronto, as well as in American cities such as New York, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Chicago.



Adolph Oko

Sir Jacob Epstein (New York 1880–1959 London)

Bronze, 1923

Cincinnati Skirball Museum, gift of the W. Gunther Plaut Family

Adolph S. Oko (1883–1944), librarian, scholar, and philanthropist, was born near Kharkov, Russia. Educated in Germany, Oko came to the United States in 1902. After working in the Astor Library in New York from 1905–1906, Oko became chief librarian of Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, a position he held until his resignation in 1933, over a marital scandal.

Under Oko, the Library flourished, outgrowing its quarters twice. Shortly after World War I, Oko went to Europe and acquired some 18,000 volumes for the Library, including the Edward Birnbaum music collection; a fine Spinoza collection; the Chinese Jewish manuscripts of Kai-Feng-Fu; and an outstanding collection of incunabula (books printed before 1501). Oko also helped to start the Hebrew Union College Museum, which today thrives as the Skirball Museum. In 1931, the College awarded to Oko the degree of D.H.L., honoris causa.

Upon his resignation from Hebrew Union College, Oko and his second wife moved to England, where he completed his Spinoza Bibliography. A devotee of the Dutch philosopher Baruch Spinoza, Oko was a founder and United States secretary of Societas Spinozana, an organization concerned with Spinoza's life and works, and was a trustee of Domus Spinozana in The Hague, Holland. The Okos remained in England until 1938, at which time they returned to the United States and Oko joined the staff of the American Jewish Committee. In 1943 Oko became associate editor of the AJC magazine *Contemporary Jewish Record*, and was serving in this capacity until his death in New York in 1944.

Oko wrote many essays and bibliographies, contributing many articles to the *Menorah Journal*, of which he was an associate editor. Among the bibliographies he published were his Spinoza Bibliography and works on Solomon Schechter and Kaufmann Kohler.

Though not a man of means, Oko was extremely active in philanthropic work, making use of his reputation as a librarian and scholar and with a talent for persuading friends to provide necessary funds. He made tremendous efforts to rescue colleagues, friends, and their families and friends from Europe before World War II and was expert at providing funds for impoverished colleagues in a manner that would not injure their pride.

Sir Jacob Epstein was an American British sculptor who helped to pioneer modern sculpture. Born in New York to Polish Jewish refugees, he joined the Art Students League in 1900. He worked in a bronze foundry by day and studied drawing and sculptural modelling at night. He moved to Paris in 1902, then to London, where he settled and became a naturalized citizen in 1910. Epstein was known for producing controversial works that challenged ideas on what was appropriate subject matter for public artworks. His likenesses were rooted in observation but he experimented with an expressive approach to form and texture to evoke the physical and psychological presence of the sitter. Among his sitters were Joseph Conrad, George Bernard Shaw, Albert Einstein, and Somerset Maugham.

Epstein's bust of Oko was exhibited in January–February 1924 at the Leicester Galleries in London, where it was greatly lauded by the London press as being one of the most interesting of the great sculptor's collection. Oko sat for Epstein during a visit to London. The two men met as boys in New York City and remained lifelong friends. Epstein also sculpted a bust of Oko's daughter Pearl in 1926. That work is in the collection of Hebrew University, Jerusalem.



Professor Louis Rothenberg (1845-1915)

Artist unknown

Oil on canvas, ca. 1913

Cincinnati Skirball Museum, gift of Jo Anne Travis

Professor Rothenberg was born at Arholzen, Hanover, Germany in 1845 and came to Cincinnati in 1869. Soon after, he was appointed German instructor at the Fifteenth District School. He taught there until 1883, when he became principal of the school. During his tenure, he was instrumental in passing the first law establishing teachers' pensions and he founded the Teachers' Pension Fund. Rothenberg retired from active service in 1913. When a new structure designed by the renowned architectural firm of Garber & Woodward was erected on the site of the building where he had served for twenty years as principal, it was named Rothenberg School in his honor. Rothenberg died in 1915 after a brief illness and is buried in Judah Touro Cemetery in Price Hill.

Years later, after a debate about the school's future, it was saved in 2009 and opened for use in 2013 as a neighborhood school and community learning center. Over-the-Rhine residents and other stakeholders discussed how to proceed, and a working group was assembled with assistance from the Community Building Institute to bring together "neighborhood and community council representatives, school staff, Rothenberg partners, parents and students to decide what types of programs should be offered in a renovated facility".



The historic brick building at Main Street and Clifton Avenue known locally as "Bird's Eye" was scheduled for demolition and replacement, but Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) reconsidered after finding that the increased cost of saving and renovating the building would be minimal. Today, the building serves the community as Rothenberg Preparatory Academy, a neighborhood school and community learning center serving students grades preschool-6.

1935-2019



David Philipson

Jacob H. Perskie (Russia 1865–1941 New Jersey)

Oil on canvas, ca. 1938

Cincinnati Skirball Museum

The son of German Jewish immigrants, David Philipson (1862–1949), American Reform rabbi, orator, and author, was born in Wabash, Indiana. During his early childhood the family moved to Columbus, Ohio. In March of 1875 Rabbi Isaac M. Wise, a personal friend of David's father, wrote to the Philipson family about his plans to open a rabbinical seminary in the autumn. David, who was thirteen at the time and the oldest of six children, was about to finish grammar school. He decided to come to Cincinnati and enter the new Hebrew Union College. In 1883 Philipson became one of the first four to graduate from the Hebrew Union College. At the same time, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Cincinnati.

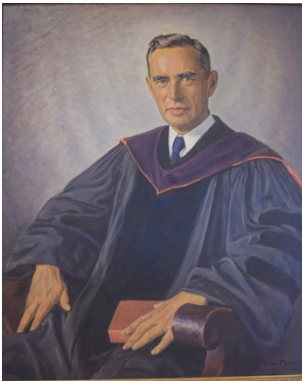
After ordination he taught for several months at the College before accepting a pulpit in Baltimore, Maryland at Har Sinai Congregation. He served there from 1884 until 1888. From 1884 to 1886 he carried on post-graduate studies in Assyriology and other Semitic languages at Johns Hopkins University. In 1888 he returned to Cincinnati to serve as rabbi of K.K. Bene Israel Congregation (today's Rockdale Temple). He served there until his voluntary retirement in 1938 when he became rabbi emeritus.

An awardee of numerous honorary degrees, Philipson served also as an instructor at the Hebrew Union College, teaching Biblical exegesis, Arabic and Assyrian from 1889 to 1891. He served as professor of homiletics from 1891 to 1906 and also lectured on the history of Reform Judaism at the College after 1906. Philipson participated in the Pittsburgh conference which formulated the principles of Reform Judaism, the so-called Pittsburgh Platform (1885). He was a founding member (1889) of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and served as its president from 1907 to 1909. He was an influential figure in the Hebrew Union College, both as teacher and as a member of the College's Board of Governors and in the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (today's Union for Reform Judaism). Philipson was a director of the Associated Charities of Cincinnati (1889–1942), a charter member and for many years a vice-president of the American Jewish Historical Society, and a member of the American Jewish Committee.

David Philipson wrote *The Reform Movement in Judaism*, *The Jew in English Fiction* and edited *The Letters of Rebecca Gratz*. He was a member of the board of translators of the Jewish Publication

Society for the translation of the Holy Scriptures (1916), and editor of *Selected Writings of Isaac M. Wise* (1900), and a translator of *Reminiscences of Isaac M. Wise* (1901, 1945). In 1942 he wrote an autobiography, *My Life as an American Jew*. Philipson was a staunch advocate of Americanism and remained throughout his life an opponent of Jewish nationalism of any sort, particularly Zionism. His views on the subject appear in the tract *The Jew in America*. Philipson died in 1949 while attending a convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

Russian American immigrant Jacob H. Perskie was a gifted etcher and painter best known for a portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt that became the official image of the 1932 presidential campaign. The portrait of Philipson may have been painted from a photograph, as is the custom for many portrait artists to this day.



Nelson Glueck

Joseph Margulies (Vienna, Austria 1896–1984 New York)

Oil on canvas, 1957

Cincinnati Skirball Museum

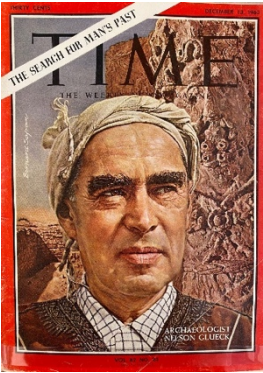
Nelson Glueck (1900–1971) was born to a struggling Lithuanian immigrant Jewish family in Cincinnati. He was ordained a rabbi at Hebrew Union College in 1923. Supported by HUC, he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Jena, Germany in 1927 and by 1928 was a member of the faculty of HUC.

By 1950, he had excavated remains of the civilization of the ancient Nabataeans in Transjordan, described a biblical copper-mining industry at the shore of the Red Sea, and shown how the Negev could support a large population if proper irrigation techniques were used. A personal friend of David Ben-Gurion, Abba Eban, Golda Meir, Henrietta Szold, and Judah Magnes, among other notables worldwide, this pioneer in the burgeoning field of biblical archaeology was known affectionately in the nascent state of Israel as “Ha-Professor” (the Professor). Glueck delivered the benediction at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy in 1961.

By 1950, Glueck was also well into his long tenure (1947–1971) as president of Hebrew Union College. As president, Glueck oversaw the merger of HUC with the Jewish Institute of Religion. He expanded the Cincinnati-based institution to include schools in New York, Los Angeles, and Jerusalem. He encouraged the creation of the Schools of Jewish Communal Service and Jewish Education in California. And he founded and nurtured the School of Biblical and Archaeological Studies in Jerusalem, which bears his name.

Glueck was married to Helen Iglauer Glueck, a professor of medicine at the University of Cincinnati. She was acclaimed for her work in the field of blood research and her valuable contributions to medical literature.

Nelson Glueck died in Cincinnati in 1971, after announcing plans to step down from the HUC presidency and four months after his final trip to Israel. His portrait was painted by Joseph Margulies, known for portraiture, seascapes and landscapes, and genre paintings.



Portrait of Nelson Glueck

Bernard Safran (New York 1924–1995 New Brunswick, Canada)

Oil on canvas, 1963

Cincinnati Skirball Museum

Time Magazine Cover

December 13, 1963

Vol. 82 No. 24

Nelson Glueck (1900–1971), president of Hebrew Union College for thirty-four years, was best known for his work in biblical archeology. Many artifacts that were found under his direction are displayed in the Cincinnati Skirball Museum’s permanent collection. Glueck and his archeological career were featured in a cover story in *Time* magazine in 1963.

The original oil portrait depicts Glueck in front of his biblical excavations at Tell el-Khuleifeh. He is wearing a *keffiyeh* (a traditional Middle Eastern headdress made from a square cotton scarf) as well as a brown Bedouin mantle over his Western button-down shirt. To the right and behind Glueck is a depiction of a statue of Hadad, an ancient Canaanite rain and storm god.

Bernard Safran was known for his realistic portraits and scenes of everyday life in New York and in rural Canada. He created many portraits for *Time* magazine covers, with subjects that included Elizabeth II, Pope John XXIII, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon.



Milton J. Schloss

Artist unknown

Oil on canvas, 1982

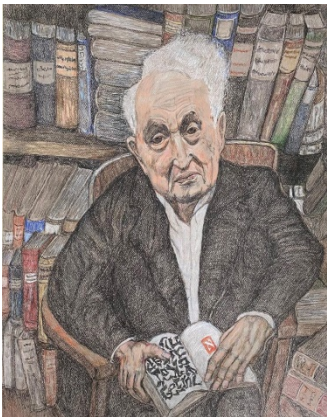
Collection of the Milton Schloss Family

Born in 1913 to a German Jewish immigrant family that had settled in Cincinnati in 1880, Schloss graduated from Hughes High School at the age of sixteen. He studied at the University of Michigan and graduated first in his class from University of Cincinnati Law School. He never practiced law, instead joined his family meat business, E. Kahn & Sons, founded by his grandfather, Elias Kahn in 1882 in Cincinnati’s west side. He began his career as an apprentice in the slaughterhouse.

In the years leading up to World War II, Schloss sponsored several German Jews to immigrate to Cincinnati and provided employment for them at Kahn's. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served from 1944 to 1945 in the 4th Armored Division. His infantry unit participated in the Normandy invasion, the Battle for Eastern France, the Battle of the Bulge, and the battles for Germany and Czechoslovakia. He witnessed Nazi atrocities when his unit liberated Ohrdruf, a subcamp of Buchenwald concentration camp. Able to understand some German, Schloss listened to some of the survivors at Ohrdruf tell their stories for the first time. He received a Bronze star, six service stars, and recognition for several other military achievements.

After the war, Schloss returned to the family business and served as CEO of Kahn's from 1948 to 1966. He built the company to the pinnacle of success, eventually running a more than billion dollar consolidated national meat company—Hillshire Farms and the entire Sarah Lee Meat Group. He is credited with introducing high-speed packaging machines at the plant in the 1950s. He retired from Kahn's in 1982 and taught at the University of Cincinnati Business College in 1987. He came out of retirement to become CEO of the John Morrell Company, retiring for good in 1991. Schloss was an ardent supporter of the State of Israel and local Jewish organizations, especially the Jewish Community Center. He died in 2007 at the age of ninety-three.

This portrait was commissioned by then Chairman and CEO of Sarah Lee, John Bryant, when Schloss retired in 1982. The portrait hung in the board room of Kahn's.



Jacob Rader Marcus

David Holleman (Arlington, MA 1927–2020 Lexington, MA)

Colored pencil drawing, ca. 2015

Cincinnati Skirball Museum, gift of Barbara Holleman in memory of David Holleman

Jacob Rader Marcus (1896–1995) was the first trained historian of the Jewish people born in America and the first to devote himself fully to the scholarly study of America's Jews. Born near Connellsville, Pennsylvania he moved with his family to Wheeling, West Virginia as a young child. At the age of fifteen, Marcus left home for Cincinnati to study for the rabbinate at Hebrew Union College. At the same time, he attended the University of Cincinnati, where he received his B.A. degree in 1917. Shortly thereafter, Marcus served in the U.S. Army as part of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World War I. In June 1920, a year after his return from the army, Marcus was ordained a rabbi and appointed to the HUC faculty. In 1923 he went to Germany to study at the University of Berlin and received a Ph.D. there in 1925, magna cum laude. Returning to HUC in 1926, he continued teaching courses on the Bible and modern history.

Initially he published in the field of German-Jewish history, most notably *The Jew in the Medieval World*, the first source book in English on medieval Jewish history, which is still in use as a text for

college courses many decades after its first publication in 1938. In the late 1930s Marcus began to shift his research focus to American Jewish history. In 1942 he taught the first course in American Jewish history ever to be given in any university. As part of his burgeoning research into American Jewry, Marcus recognized the need to preserve records and documents relating to American Jewish communal life. As a result, in 1947, Marcus established and became director of the American Jewish Archives, located on the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The American Jewish Archives, under the direction of Jacob R. Marcus, grew to be one of the largest archives in the world devoted to the history of Jews in the Western Hemisphere, and functions today as The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives.



Through the American Jewish Archives and multiple publications culminating in a three-volume history entitled *The Colonial American Jew: 1492–1776* (1970) and an even larger four-volume history of *United States Jewry: 1776–1985* (1989–93), completed in his tenth decade of life—he defined, propagated, and professionalized his chosen field, achieving renown as its founding father. Marcus was known as the “Dean of American Jewish Historians.” At the time of his death, at the age of ninety-nine, he was also the oldest and most beloved member of the Reform rabbinate and the senior faculty member at HUC, where he had taught for some three-quarters

of a century.

In 1987, the City of Cincinnati honored Marcus by naming the Clifton corner on which he lived Jacob Rader Marcus Square.

Artist David Holleman, known to friends of the Skirball Museum for the beautiful stained-glass window installed in the third floor foyer of this building, returned to an early passion, portrait drawing, in the last decade of his life. He greatly admired Jacob Rader Marcus, and made this colored pencil drawing from a photograph of the renowned scholar, teacher, and rabbi. He accompanied his drawing with these oft-repeated words spoken by Jacob Rader Marcus: “A people that is not conscious of its past has no assurance of a future.”



Priesand: My Turn

Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik (b. 1972)

Mixed media, 2017

Collection of The Temple Museum of Jewish Art, Religion and Culture, The Temple-Tifereth-Israel, Beachwood, OH

Born in 1946 in Cleveland, Ohio, Sally Jane Priesand is America’s first female rabbi ordained by a rabbinical seminary, and the second formally ordained female rabbi in Jewish history, after Regina Jonas. Jonas was ordained in 1935

in Berlin and served German Jewry there and then in the Theresienstadt concentration camp before being murdered at Auschwitz in 1944.

Priesand set her sights on becoming a rabbi long before an emerging women's liberation movement raised the call for women's access to traditionally male professions. In 1964, she entered the University of Cincinnati. She knew that its joint undergraduate program with neighboring Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion would allow her to complete the first year of rabbinical school as an undergraduate. Accordingly, upon graduating from the University of Cincinnati in 1968, she was admitted to HUC–JIR's rabbinical class of 1972. As a rabbinical student, Priesand began to enjoy the rewards and experience the frustrations that would mark her career as the first female rabbi. She found herself standing before a wide spectrum of American Jews as a symbol of the emerging feminism they were just then confronting. As Priesand sought student pulpits and performed fieldwork in congregations unable to hire full-time rabbis, she discovered that synagogues refused to interview her, or interviewed her only for the novelty, claiming they could not possibly hire a woman rabbi. She described the challenges of her experiences in student pulpits as “the unbelievable and almost unbearable pressures of being the first woman rabbi.”



Priesand was ordained by the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion on June 3, 1972, at Plum Street Temple in Cincinnati. After her ordination she served first as assistant and then as associate rabbi at Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, and later led Monmouth Reform Temple in Tinton Falls, New Jersey from 1981 until her retirement in 2006. Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik is a Jewish artist living in Southern California. He cuts up comic books and reassembles them into work made of clean lines and patterns, sinuous shapes and sharp edges, large fields of color and small intimate spaces. His work is in the hands of private collectors around the world.

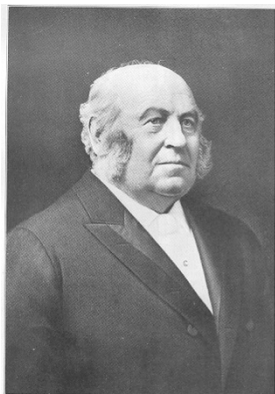
Trained in graphic design, Brynjegard-Bialik started cutting paper while living in Jerusalem. He regularly speaks about the intersection of art and Judaism, has written on the topic for the Central Conference of American Rabbis Journal, and maintains an annual summer residency at Union for Reform Judaism Camp Newman, where he leads workshops teaching campers about papercutting. In 2013 he was the artist-in-residence for the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial. In 2015 his work was included in the second annual Jerusalem Biennale and received a juror's award in the “Heroes & Villains” show at the Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center (affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution). In 2016 he served as a Teaching Fellow at American Jewish University's Dream Lab (a think tank of artists and educators developing a programmatic vision for infusing the field of Jewish education with creativity through the arts). Brynjegard-Bialik is married to his high school sweetheart Shawna, who is a rabbi in the Reform movement. Together they founded Paper Midrash, bringing together contemporary art, pop culture, and scholarship in custom workshops and residencies. They have three daughters, who often join Isaac in his studio.



This portrait of Rabbi Priesand was part of an exhibition organized by The Temple Museum of Jewish Art, Religion and Culture of The Temple-Tifereth-Israel in Beachwood, Ohio entitled *Men of Steel and Women of Valor*. The exhibition featured a series of large portraits made of cut-up comic books featuring Superman and Lois Lane, Daredevil and Elektra, the Fantastic Four – transformed into the biblical patriarchs and matriarchs, as well as modern figures. In the case of the Sally Priesand portrait, drawn from a photograph provided by the sitter, the artist must have had in mind the challenges she faced on her path to becoming America's first female rabbi.

The Freiberg and Fechheimer Families and Hebrew Union College

The Freiberg and Fechheimer families were intimately connected with the Hebrew Union College from its modest beginnings in Cincinnati's West End to the Clifton campus that stands today as a testament to their ingenuity and generosity.



In 1855 Julius Freiberg (1823-1905), along with his brother-in-law Levi Workum, founded the wholesale liquor business Freiberg & Workum, which eventually became the largest producers and merchandisers of whiskey in Ohio and Kentucky. Julius served as president of K.K. Bene Israel (today's Rockdale Temple) and as vice-president of the Union of American Jewish Congregations (today's Union for Reform Judaism) from 1873 to 1889, and then as president from 1889 to 1903. He was a member of the Board of Governors of HUC from 1875 to 1904, and a vice chairman for twenty-six years. Freiberg's son, J. Walter Freiberg (1858-1921) also served as president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. His wife, Stella Heinsheimer Freiberg

(1858-1921) was active in both civic and religious philanthropic activities. In 1894 she was one of the ten women who established the Cincinnati Orchestra, later serving as that organization's vice-president. Stella was one of the founders of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and served as vice-president to 1923, and president from 1923 to 1929. In 1923 she secured the funds to build a dormitory and donate a gymnasium, named for her husband, for the Hebrew Union College. The building now houses the Barbash Family Vital Support Center and the Heldman Family Food Pantry.



Symphony president. Federation from 1913 she secured campus of functions

Abraham Lincoln Fechheimer (1876-1954), a son of Leopold and Mary Fechheimer, preferred to be called Lincoln. Deaf from birth or infancy, he became a renowned architect at a time when educational and professional success for deaf and hard of hearing people was not at all guaranteed. He graduated from Columbia University School of Architecture in 1899, studied in Paris, and worked in Chicago before returning to Cincinnati by 1906, where he remained for the rest of his career. In 1907, Fechheimer and his partner Harry Hake, Sr. won the competition to design the original group of buildings at Hebrew Union College. The college moved from its West Sixth Street building to Clifton Avenue in 1912. The brick structures were designed in the then-popular Collegiate Gothic style and continued to be erected into the 1920s. The buildings designed by Lincoln include the Classroom Building, the Sisterhood Dormitory, the former Administration Building, and the Freiberg Gymnasium. This watercolor of the Sisterhood Building was painted by A. Lincoln Fechheimer in



Hebrew Union College. The college moved from its West Sixth Street building to Clifton Avenue in 1912. The brick structures were designed in the then-popular Collegiate Gothic style and continued to be erected into the 1920s. The buildings designed by Lincoln include the Classroom Building, the Sisterhood Dormitory, the former Administration Building, and the Freiberg Gymnasium. This watercolor of the Sisterhood Building was painted by A. Lincoln Fechheimer in

1921. He also designed buildings at the University of Cincinnati including the Wilson Auditorium, the Reptile House at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, as well as buildings for his childhood alma mater, the Clarke School in Northampton, Massachusetts. In 1930, with partner Benjamin L. Ihorst, he designed Cincinnati's Ault Park Pavilion.

Look for this symbol to find works of art throughout the Skirball Museum and Mayerson Hall that are related to *A Portrait of Jewish Cincinnati*.





© NOVEMBER 2021