

# *Hillel Kook Archives*

COLLECTION GUIDE

## Palestine Statehood Committee Papers

"Concerning the Campaigns for a Jewish Army; To Save the Jewish People of Europe and  
the Establishment of a Hebrew Republic in Palestine"

Yale University

Sterling Memorial Library

Manuscripts and Archives

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## *Introduction*

The Hillel Kook Collection was microfilmed by the Yale University Library in August 1982, and re-compiled by the Ben-Gurion Archives in February 2015.

The following collections consist of correspondence, memoranda, reports, publications, advertisements, and clipping related to five committees active in the United States from 1939 to 1949:

- ❖ The American Friends of a Jewish Palestine (AFJP)
- ❖ The Committee for an Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews (CASPJ)
- ❖ The Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe (ECSJPE)
- ❖ The American League for a Free Palestine (ALFP)
- ❖ The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation (HCNL)

A small group of Jews under the leadership of Peter H. Bergson (Hillel Kook) were central figures in the formation of these committees. Their goals, as the names of the committees they formed indicate, were the creation of a Jewish army not under British command to fight against the Axis Powers, the rescue and repatriation in Palestine of European Jews, and the re-establishment of the Hebrew nation in an independent *Eretz Israel*. Peter H. Bergson, Eri Jabotinsky, Samuel Merlin, Alexander Hadani-Rafaeli, Arieh Ben Eliezer, Y. Ben Ami, and their supporters in the United States embarked upon a campaign to publicize the plight of the Jews in Europe and to raise financial support for their programs.

Their activities led to rivalry with the American Zionist leadership and the Jewish Agency in Palestine, who challenged the legitimacy of the Bergson committees. Both sides questioned the effectiveness of the other's methods and policies with regard to the rescue of European Jews, immigration quotas in Palestine, and resistance to British rule. The conflict was intensified by the Bergson committees' sympathies for the Revisionist Zionist movement and support of the Irgun Zvai Leumi (IZL), the underground army in Palestine led by Menachem Begin.

Among these papers are materials on the activities of similar groups in Great Britain and France. The collection also has the new edition of *The Rape of Palestine* by William Ziff and *We Will Never Die* by Ben Hecht. The predominant language of the documents is English, but readers will also find some materials in Hebrew, Yiddish, and French.

## Organization of the Index

The papers are organized into five series:

- I. Correspondence
- II. Public Statements, Press Releases, Reports and Clippings
- III. Subject Files
- IV. Files of *The Answer*, Advertisements, and Clippings
- V. Foreign Office and State Department Records

Additional clippings are attached at the end of Series V.

## How to Read a Chart

The guideline of each series and files are provided as following:

Series No. : Type of the Files [Correspondence, Public Releases... etc.]

Numbers of the Files that the Series Contains

[Numbers of Reels and Parts]

## Summary of the Series

File (Number of the File in Ben-Gurion Archives)	System No. (Number of the File in the Ben-Gurion Archives online system)	Reel/Part (Microfilm)	Time Periods	Language(s) (The language stated first is the predominant one)
1	243176	1/1	1937-1944	English, Hebrew
...	...	...	...	...

- ❖ All documents are retrievable and downloadable as PDF files.
- ❖ For any other inquiry and question, contact the Ben-Gurion Archives staffs.

Series I: CORRESPONDENCE

Files 1-9

[Reel 1 Part 1 – Reel 3 Part 3]

**Summary of Series I**

Series I contains correspondence of the American Friends of a Jewish Palestine, the Committee for a Jewish Army, the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, the American League for a Free Palestine, and the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. Since many individuals served cross-organizationally, correspondences are arranged in chronological order, not by individuals/organizations. Correspondence also includes congressmen and governmental officials from the US and the UK, the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, the United Palestine Appeal, and the Committee for an Army of Stateless Palestinian Jews.

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language(s)
1	243176	1/1	1937 – Sept 1944	English, Hebrew
2	243180	1/2	Oct 1944 – Oct 1945	English
3	243181	1/3	Nov 1945 – Apr 1946	English, Hebrew
4	243182	2/1	May 1946 – May 1947	English, French
5	243183	2/2	June 1947 – Feb 1948	English, Hebrew, French
6	243185	2/3	Mar 1948 – Sept 1948	English, Hebrew, French
7	243187	3/1	Oct 1948 – Apr 1949	English, Hebrew
8	243188	3/2	May 1949 – Dec 1959; 1940-1945 [ <b>Franklin Roosevelt Library Resources</b> ]	English, Hebrew
9	243190	3/3	June 1942 – 1945	English, German

Series II: PUBLIC STATEMENTS, PRESS RELEASES,

REPORTS & CLIPPINGS

Files 10 -29

[Reel 3 Part 4 - Reel 7 Part 5]

## Summary of Series II

Series II consists of chronological files on the documents concerning the same organizations in the Series I. Two-third of the content in the Series II concerns the American League for a Free Palestine and the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. Series II contains position papers prepared by committee members and others, pamphlets, booklets, posters for publicity campaigns in the US, alongside press releases, speeches, magazine articles and clippings. The minutes of committee meetings and conferences materials are also included in the Series II. Other materials include the transcript of the legal proceedings (Untermeyer-Warsaw Case, April 1948), undated brochures and financial records.

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language(s)
10	243192	3/4	1938-1942	English
11	243199	4/1	Jan 1942 - Dec 1942	English
12	243200	4/2	Jan 1943 - July 1943	English, Yiddish
13	243201	4/3	Aug 1943 - Feb 1944	English
14	243202	4/4	Mar 1944 - June 1944	English, Yiddish
15	243203	5/1	June 1944 - July 1944	English, Yiddish, Hebrew
16	243204	5/2	Aug 1944 - Oct 1944	English, Yiddish, Hebrew
17	243205	5/3	Nov 1944 - Feb 1945	English
18	243206	5/4	Mar 1945 - Sept 1945	English
19	243207	5/5	Oct 1945 - Jan 1946	English
20	243208	6/1	Feb 1946 - June 1946	English
21	243209	6/2	July 1946	English
22	243210	6/3	Aug 1946 - Oct 1946	English
23	243211	6/4	Nov 1946 - Feb 1947	English
24	243212	6/5	Feb 1947 - Apr 1947	English, French
25	243215	7/1	May 1947 - Dec 1947	English
26	243216	7/2	Jan 1948 - Mar 1948	English
27	243218	7/3	Apr 1948 - July 1948	English
28	243219	7/4	Aug 1948 - Dec 1948	English, Yiddish
29	252528	7/5	Dec 1943 - 1950	English, Hebrew

### Series III: SUBJECT FILES

Files 30 - 40

[Reel 8/1 - Reel 10/3]

#### Summary of Series III

Series III has individual files of correspondence, memoranda, interviews, reports, public statements, articles and clippings on specific individuals and special topics related to repatriation and resistance efforts, arranged in alphabetical order. Special topics includes: "Hebrew and Jews," "Irgun Zvai Leumi," "Repatriation," "Alef-Bet (Immigration)," "Zionist Organizations," and individual interviews conducted by the Institute of Contemporary History, Hebrew University. Those interviewed are Peter H. Bergson, Sam Dubiner, Alexander Hadani-Rafaeli, Eri Jabotinsky, Jacob Meridor, and Jacob Vinchel. Except for Dubiner, all interviews were conducted in Hebrew.

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language(s)
30	243222	8/1	1940 - 1972	English, Hebrew
31	243235	8/2	1943, 1946	English
32	243236	8/3	1935 - 1972	English, Hebrew, Yiddish
33	243238	9/1	1941 - 1966	Hebrew, English, Russian
34	243240	9/2	1968	Hebrew, English
35	243241	9/3	1967 - 1970	Hebrew, English
36	243245	9/4	1939 - 1968	English, Hebrew, French
37	243246	9/5	1947 - 1972	English, Hebrew
38	243247	10/1	1944 - 1950	English, French
39	243249	10/2	1937 - 1944	English, Hebrew
40	243252	10/3	1945 - 1971	English



Series IV: THE ANSWER, ADVERTISEMENTS AND CLIPPINGS

Files 41 - 43

[Reel 10/4 - Reel 11/1]

**Summary of Series IV**

Series IV contains the issues of *The Answer* publications, as well as advertisements of Arthur Szyk. Other files include: files of clippings, lists of advertisements, and mailings sponsored by various committees.

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language (s)
41	243266	10/4	1941 - 1946	English
42	243267	10/5	1942 - 1947	English
43	243269	11/1	1943 - 1948	English

Series V: FOREIGN OFFICE & STATE DEPARTMENT RECORDS

Files 44 - 47

[Reel 11 Part 2 - Part 5]

**Summary of Series V**

Series V has official records from the Public Record Office [Foreign Office] and the National Archives [Department of State] dated from 1939 to 1945.

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language (s)
44	243270	11/2	1939 - 1941	English
45	243271	11/3	1942 - 1945	English
46	243272	11/4	1942 - 1943	English
47	243284	11/5	1943 - 1945	English

### ADDITIONAL CLIPPINGS

Files 48 – 64

[Reel 12 – 19]

**Summary:** Reel 12 – 19 consists of *The Answer*, advertisements and clippings.

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language (s)
48	243286	12/1	1946 – 1948	English
49	243287	12/2		

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language (s)
50	243288	13/ 1	1946 – 1949	English, French  * <i>La Riposte</i> (French edition of <i>The Answer</i> )
51	243290	13/2		

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language (s)
52	243292	14/ 1	1943 – 1948	English
53	243295	14/ 2		

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language (s)
54	243296	15/ 1	1942 – 1947	English
55	243298	15/2		
56	243299	15/3		

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language (s)
57	243300	16/1	1942 - 1948	English
58	243301	16/2		
59	243302	16/3		

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language (s)
60	243303	17	1942 - 1972	English

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language (s)
61	243304	18	1942 - 1972	English

File	System No.	Reel/Part	Time Periods	Language (s)
62	243305	19/1	1946-1948	English
63	243306	19/2		
64	243307	19/3		

❖ File 65 contains the Manuscripts Guide and Description.

*End of the Index*