

AN INVENTORY  
TO THE BENAS LEVY COLLECTION  
1907-1909

Leo Lichtenberg, N.E.H. Manuscript Processor  
Klau Library  
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

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NOTE TO RESEARCHERS

Statistics

BENAS LEVY COLLECTION

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1 1/2.  
Number of containers: 2 Manuscript boxes.  
Approximate number of items: 1,500.  
Processed by: Leo Lichtenberg.  
Date completed: 1976.

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Acknowledgements

The inventory/register of the BENAS LEVY COLLECTION was made possible under a project supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D. C.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Benas Levy was born around 1849, a date tentatively established from information contained in Festschrift zur...Benas Levy (Berlin 1922). He was a prominent figure in the cotton goods and apparel business and an important member of the Fasanenstrasse Synagogue in Berlin. Since 1899 he was a liberal member of the Repräsentanten-Vesammlung of the Berlin Jewish community(See Mitteilungen Über die Verwaltung der jüdischen Gemeinde zu Berlin, 1916). He was also a member of the Vorstand der jüdischen Gemeinde. In addition to his commercial and community pursuits, he was the author of several books and articles. It is the work of the two community governing bodies, as well as Levy's association with them, that are documented in this collection. Because of the lack of more secondary material about him, little else can be said of his life or activities.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Benas Levy, Mitteilungen Über die Verwaltung der jüdischen Gemeinde zu Berlin (Berlin 1916).

Berlin jüdische Gemeinde, Festschrift zur Erinnerung an das 50 jährige Berufsjubiläum des Herrn Benas Levy (Berlin 1922).

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

Most of the documents in the BENAS LEVY COLLECTION relate to the administration of the multifarious activities of the Juedische Gemeinde zu Berlin. The vast majority of documents are recommendations made by the Repraesentantenversammlung. These may concern as trivial a matter as a request for an appropriation for an umbrella lost by a worshipper in a synagogue's wardrobe room to the planning of a new synagogue or the engagement of a rabbi. Even though there are several agendas of meetings of the Repraesentantenversammlung, the BENAS LEVY COLLECTION does not tell the researcher anything about the fate of the Vorstand's recommendations, since it contains no minutes of the Repraesentantenversammlung.

However, the collection shows ample evidence of the widespread activities of Germany's largest Gemeinde. Truly, it was not merely a Kultusgemeinde but tended to be much more of a Kehillah. In addition to the need for synagogues and cemeteries, for rabbis, cantors, teachers, and support personnel, the BENAS LEVY COLLECTION reflects activities in the field of culture. Not only religious, but also parochial schools were maintained, and there was a central Jewish Library.

Furthermore, there was a network of social and philanthropic services, such as special grants and care for the indigent, orphanages, hospitals, old age homes, and subventions for transients, presumably Jews from Eastern Europe on their way to America.

The personnel assignment sheets, particularly for the High Holy Days, including rabbis, cantors, organists, choir-directors, sextons, and gabba'im give some impression of the vastness of the community and its religious needs for the special occasions in the Fall. For Passover, Matzot and other dietary requirements were provided for those confined in penal institutions in Berlin and vicinity.

On various occasions, voluntary grants for retired employees or widows and other dependents of deceased employees were recommended by the Vorstand, actions which seem to reflect a truly humanitarian spirit.

The members of the Vorstand, chairmen and members of commissions frequently have academic degrees and honorific titles such as M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Justizrat, Kammerzienrat, Geheimrat and others. Apparently, they were more often than not members of the wealthy upper or upper middle class.

OTHER MATERIALS RELATED TO THE BENAS LEVY COLLECTION

Klau Library Holdings

Kirschstein Collection

German Collection

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1	Undated(Miscellaneous documents: recommendations, reports, shedules, agendas, etc.) alphabetically arranged.
	2	1907 (annual report)
	3	January-September 1908 (Miscellaneous documents)
	4	October 1908 "
	5	November 1908 "
	6	December 1908 "
	7	January 2-10, 1909 "
	8	January 13-20, 1909 "
	9	January 22-31, 1909 "
	10	February 1-6, 1909 "
	11	February 8-12, 1909 "
	12	February 14-17, 1909 "
	13	February 18-22, 1909 "
	14	February 23-28, 1909 "
2	1	March 1-5, 1909 "
	2	March 7-12, 1909 "
	3	March 13-19, 1909 "
	4	March 19-24, 1909 "
	5	March 25-31, 1909 "
	6	April 1-16, 1909 "
	7	April 18-20, 1909 "
	8	April 21-26, 1909 "
	9	May 5-13, 1909 "

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
2	10	May 14, 1909
	11	May 16-18, 1909
	12	May 20-30, 1909
	13	June 1-4, 1909
	14	June 6-13, 1909
	15	June 14-15, 1909
	16	June 16, 1909
	17	June 17, 1909
	18	June 18, 1909
	19	June 20-27, 1909



SUBJECT TRACINGS

Note: The following list of people and subjects represents a selective guide to the BENAS LEVY COLLECTION.

Administrators (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)

Ahlbeck, Cantor 1/3.

Alte Synagoge, Heyderentergasse (see SYNAGOGUES)

Altersversorgungsanstalten 1/5, 7, 11, 14; 2/1, 6, 9, 12, 19.

Altersversorgungsanstalt Schoenhauser Allee (see Altersversorgungsanstalten)

Alwine Lachmann Stiftung (see CHARITABLE WORK)

Anstalt Schoenhauser Allee (see Altersversorgungsanstalten)

Arbeitshaus Rummelsburg (see PRISONS)

Armenkommission 1/3, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14; 2/6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 18, 19.

Badt, Leopold (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)

Baerwald, Rabbi, PhD 1/3.

Bar Mitzvah 1/14; 2/15, 18, 19.

Bau Buero 1/12.

Bankkommission 1/5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14; 2/2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15.

Beethoven, Ludwig van 1/12.

Bergel, Siegmund (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)

Bergmann, Rabbi, PhD 1/3, 6, 9; 2/7, 11, 12, 14.

Bibliotheks-Kommission 1/3, 5, 6, 9, 14; 2/1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 19.

Birnbaum, Cantor 1/3.

Blaschke, Professor Dr. J. H. 1/3, 4, 6, 11, 12, 14; 2/4, 6, 18.

Bleichrode, Geschwister 2/2.

Bleichrode, Rabbi, PhD 1/1.

Blumenthal, Rabbi, PhD 1/3, 6; 2/11, 12, 14.

Blumenthal, Sanitaetsrat Dr. Julius 1/9, 10, 12, 13.

Bodenstein, Julius (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)

Booksellers and bookselling 1/1, 9; 2/2, 9.

Brandenburg Strafanstalt (see PRISONS)

Breslauer, Justizrat Bernard 2/1.

Breslauer (see KOSHER FOOD)

Budwig (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)

Buero fuer die Vermietung von Synagogenplaetzen 1/12, 14; 2/3, 8.

Cantors 1/1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 14; 2/4, 5, 6, 8, 15, 19.

Caro, Siegfried (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)

Cemeteries 1/1, 5, 8, 9, 14; 2/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19.

Charitable work 1/4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; 2/1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 18, 19.

Charité, Koenigliche 2/9, 10.

Charlottenburg, Religionsverein (see SYNAGOGUES)

Chewra Kadisha 2/11.

Choir directors (see CHOIR TRAINING)

Choir training 1/1, 3; 2/8, 18.

Circumcision 2/3.

Cohn, E (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)

Cohn, Ignaz, Dr. jur. 1/10, 11, 13; 2/6, 13, 19.  
 Cohn, Dr. J (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Cohn, Samuel (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Community leadership 1/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; 2/1, 4, 5,  
 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19.  
 Czernowitz, Kulturgemeinde 2/8.  
  
 Depositorium 2/2, 5, 8.  
 Deutsch-Israelitischer Gemeindebund 2/2.  
 Dietary Laws (see KOSHER FOOD)  
 Durchreisenden Kommission 1/5, 11, 14; 2/15, 19.  
  
 Eisner, Kommerzienrat Heinrich 1/3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14; 2/1, 8, 12.  
 Ephraim'sche Stiftung (see CHARITABLE WORK)  
 Eschelbacher, Rabbi, PhD 1/3, 4, 5, 6; 2/12, 14.  
  
 Fasanenstrasse (see SYNAGOGUES)  
 Feibel, Isidor (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Feilchenfeld, Dr. Wilhelm 1/5, 10, 11.  
 Festgottesdienstkommission (see KOMMISSION FUER DIE FESTGOTTESDIENSTLICHEN UND  
 MUSIKALISCHEN ANGELEGENHEITEN)  
 Fortbildungsverein Montefiore 2/2, 4.  
 Frauengefaengnis (see PRISONS)  
 Frauenverein "Helfende Hand" (see CHARITABLE WORK)  
 Friedenau (see SCHOOLS)  
 Friedhofshauptkasse 2/4.  
 Friedhofskommission 1/4, 5, 6, 7, 12; 2/6, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19.  
 Fuersorgekommission 1/10, 14; 2/1, 2, 5, 6, 18, 19.  
  
 Gaertnerei-Verwaltung 2/15, 19.  
 Galliner, Rabbi, PhD 1/6, 8; 2/10, 11.  
 Garrison (see JEWS AS SOLDIERS)  
 Geiger, Rabbi Abraham, Ph D 1/4, 5.  
 Geiger, Geheimer Regierungsrat Dr. Ludwig 1/4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; 2/9, 13, 18.  
 Gemeindeblatt 2/13.  
 Gemeinde Hauptkasse 2/2, 5.  
 Gesamtarchiv der deutschen Juden 2/5.  
 Ginsberg, Dr. Max (see CHARITABLE WORK)  
 Goldschmidt, Felix (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Grosse Hamburgerstrasse 25/26 (see CEMETERIES)  
 Gutmann, Dr. (see SCHOOLS)  
  
 Hahn, Alexander (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Hauff, Max (see SCHOOLS)  
 Hauptbuero 2/5, 16, 19.  
 Heyderentergasse, Alte Synagoge (see SYNAGOGUES)  
 Heilbrunn, Wolf (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Hirsch, Aron 1/4, 10, 11, 13, 14; 2/1, 6, 13.  
 Hochfeld, Rabbi, PhD 1/1, 6; 2/10, 11, 12, 14.

Holzman, Dr. (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
Hospitals 1/1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14; 2/1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19.

Israel, Berthold (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
Israelitischer Fotbildungsverein Montefiore (see FORTBILDUNGSVEREIN MONTEFIORE)

Jacob, Siegfried 1/8, 11.  
Jacobi, Julius 1/5, 6, 9, 11; 2/1.  
Jews as soldiers 1/4; 2/3.  
Juedische Arbeiterkolonie 2/9.  
Juedischer Volksverein 2/6.

Kaiserstrasse (see SYNAGOGUES)  
Kalischer, Professor Dr. S (see CHARITABLE WORK)  
Kirschstein, Sally 1/11.  
Klein (see SEXTONS, CANTORS, and PREACHING)  
Knabenschule (see SCHOOLS)  
Kommission fuer die baulichen Angelegenheiten (see BAUKOMMISSION)  
Kommission fuer die festgottesdienstlichen und musikalischen Angelegenheiten  
1/5, 7, 9; 2/4, 6, 7, 8, 19.  
Kommission zur Beschaffung des Koscherfleisches (see KOSCHERFLEISCH-KOMMISSION)  
Kommission zur Subventionierung von Religionsvereinen 1/11, 14.  
Kommission zur Verwaltung des Quellbades (see MIKVEH)  
Koscherfleisch-Kommission 1/6, 8, 12, 14; 2/3, 5, 13, 18, 19.  
Kosher food 1/6; 2/9, 10, 13. (See also KOSCHERFLEISCH-KOMMISSION)  
Kottbus-Synagogengemeinde 2/9.  
Kottbuser-Zentralgefaengnis (see PRISONS)  
Krankenvorstand 2/10.  
Kronfeld, Justizrat, Dr. 1/8, 10, 11.  
Kuratorium der Adolf Reichenheim Stiftung fuer die Lehrerbildungsanstalt 2/6.  
Kurhospital Salzbrunn 2/4.

Lachmann, Mrs. Alwine 1/9, 10, 12, 14.  
Lachmann, Justizrat Dr. Edmund 1/9, 11, 14; 2/4, 5, 14.  
Lachmann, Georg 1/9, 14.  
Lachmann, Norbert 1/12.  
Lachmann, Dr. Paul 1/7, 14.  
Lachmann, Dr. Siegbert 1/7, 14.  
Landau, Freiherr Dr. Wilhelm von 2/1, 3, 4.  
Laubhuetten (see SUKKOT)  
Lehmann, Rabbi Dr. 2/1.  
Lehranstalt fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums 1/5; 2/5, 13, 19.  
Lehrerbildungsanstalt 1/5, 9, 10, 14.  
Lehrerseminar 1/5.  
Lehmann, Eduard 1/11.  
Levy, Al (see SCHOOLS, PRISONS)  
Levy, Benas 1/1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; 2/1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11.  
Lewinsky, Adolf 1/4, 10, 11, 13, 14; 2/13.

Lewy, Benas (see LEVY, BENAS)  
Liberaler Verein fuer die Angelegenheiten der juedischen Gemeinde 2/13.  
Librarian 1/1, 9, 13; 2/5, 8.  
Library 1/4, 7, 10, 19.  
Lichtenstein, Max (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
Liebermann, Cecilie, nee Lachmann 1/9, 14.  
Lindenstrasse (see SYNAGOGUES)  
Lippmann-Tauss Synagogenverein (see SYNAGOGUES)  
Loewenberg, Oskar 1/13, 14; 2/1, 4, 13.  
Loewenthal, Willibald (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
Luetzowstrasse (see SYNAGOGUES)  
Luisenstaedtischer Bruederverein 2/8.  
Luzzatte 1/9.

Maedchenhaus Pankow 2/9.  
Maedchenschule (see SCHOOLS)  
Manheimer, Moritz 1/3, 11, 13, 14; 2/6, 11, 12, 18.  
Maybaum, Professor, Rabbi, PhD [Siegmond] 1/10, 12, 14.  
Mazzoh (see KOSHER FOOD)  
Mecklenburg, Max 1/3, 5, 11; 2/1.  
Mendelssohn, Moses 1/3, 12.  
Mendelssohn Bartholdi, Felix 1/12.  
Mikveh 1/7, 9, 10, 14; 2/5, 16.  
Minden, J.A., Dr. 1/3, 4, 8, 10, 12, 14; 2/6, 13.  
Mirauer, Zimmermeister Benno 1/10, 12; 2/15.  
Mohel (see CIRCUMCISION)  
Mosse, Emil 2/1.  
Mosse, Dr. Max 1/6.  
Munk, Rabbi E, PhD 2/1.

Neue Synagoge, Oranienburgerstrasse (see SYNAGOGUES)

Oranienburgerstrasse, Neue Synagoge (see SYNAGOGUES)

Organists 1/1, 3, 5, 6; 2/19.  
Orgelsynagogen (see REFORM JUDAISM)  
Orphanages 1/3, 4, 5, 6, 9; 2/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 15, 18, 19.

Passover 2/9, 10, 13.  
Pinkus, Emil 1/7, 11, 13; 2/13.  
Plachta, Julius (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
Plousker, Louis (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
Poizeigefaengnis (see PRISONS)  
Praeparandeanstalt 1/5; 2/1.  
Praeparandenklasse (see PRAEPARANDIEANSTALT)  
Preachers (see PREACHING)  
Preaching 1/1, 3, 9, 12, 14; 2/6.  
Prediger (see PREACHING)

Prisoners 2/9.  
 Prisons 1/6; 2/2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 13.  
 Proskauer, Eugen (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Pruefungskommission 1/10; 2/5.  
  
 Quellbad (see MIKVEH)  
 Quellbadkommission (see MIKVEH)  
 Quellbadverwaltung (see MIKVEH)  
  
 Rabbis 1/1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19; 2/1, 3, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18.  
 Rathenau, Oskar 1/8.  
 Reform Judaism 1/1; 2/19.  
 Rieger, Rabbi PhD 1/3.  
 Rixdorf Religionsverein (see SYNAGOGUES)  
 Rosenbaum, Louis (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Rosenow, Moritz (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Rosenzweig, Rabbi PhD 1/3, 6; 2/11, 12, 14.  
 Rykestrasse (see SYNAGOGUES)  
 Sachs, Gustav (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Sachs, Louis Eduard 1/3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13; 2/1, 5, 6, 11, 15, 18.  
 Sachs, Rabbi Michael, PhD 1/4, 5.  
 Sachs, Siegf[r]ied (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Salinger, Louis (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)  
 Salomonski [later Rabbi, PhD] (see PREACHING)  
 Salzberger, Rabbi, PhD 1/3.  
 Schmal, Cantor 1/1, 3, 7; 2/6.  
 Schoenhauser Allee 23-25 (see CEMETERIES)  
 Schools 1/1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14; 2/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19.  
 Schul und Talmud Torah Institut (see SCHOOLS)  
 Schul und Talmud Torah Vorstand (see SCHOOLS)  
 Seligsohn, Salomon 1/5; 2/6, 19.  
 Sextons 1/1, 3, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13; 2/5, 6, 8, 14, 17, 19.  
 Shophar 1/3, 13; 2/8.  
 Shophar-blowers (see SHOPHAR)  
 Siechenhaus, Staedtisches 2/9.  
 Silberberg 1/3, 5, 13; 2/12.  
 Simon, Kommerzienrat Gerson 1/6, 10, 11, 13, 14; 2/1, 13.  
 Simon, Dr. Herrmann Veit 1/4, 13; 2/6, 14.  
 Simonsohn 1/3, 12, 13; 2/5.  
 Soldiers (see JEWS AS SOLDIERS)  
 Stadtvoigteigefangnis (see PRISONS)  
 Steinschneider, Dr. M[oritz] 1/13.  
 Stern, Dr. J 1/3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14; 2/1, 4, 8, 12.  
 Steuereinzugsstelle 2/2.  
 Stier, Rabbi, PhD 1/3, 6; 2/11, 12, 14.  
 Strafanstalt, Ploetzensee (see PRISONS)  
 Subventionskommission 1/13, 14; 2/2, 4, 5, 6, 8.  
 Sukkot 2/13, 15.

Synagogue music 1/6.  
Synagogues 1/3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14; 2/1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12,  
14, 15, 17, 19.

Taharafrau (see CHEWRA KADISHA)

Taubstummenanstalt 2/9.

Tietz, Hermann 1/11.

Tietz, Oskar 1/11.

Timendorfer, Justizrat Berthold 1/5, 9, 11, 12; 2/5, 9, 18, 19.

Tuerk, Professor Dr. 1/10, 12, 13.

Untersuchungsgefaengnis (see PRISONS)

Veranlagungskommission 1/10, 11, 14; 2/4.

Verband deutscher Juden 1/12; 2/9, 19.

Verband fuer Statistik der Juden 1/10, 14.

Verein Fuer Arbeitsnachweis 2/4.

Verein fuer die Angelegenheiten der juedischen Gemeinde (see LIBERALER VEREIN  
FUER DIE ANGELEGENHEITEN DER JUEDISCHEN GEMEINDE)

Verein zur Erhaltung des ueberlieferten Judentums 2/13,

Verein zur Unterstuetzung hilfsbeduerftiger israelitischer Lehrer Achawa 2/16, 19.

Vereinigte Schochare hatow un B'ne brith Gemeinde (see SYNAGOGUES)

Wachsuer, Siegfried (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)

Waisenkommision 1/6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14.

Warschauer, Rabbi, PhD 1/3; 5, 6; 2/11, 12, 14.

(Weddings 2/5, 8, 19.

Weigert, Dr. Max 1/13, 14; 2/14, 18.

Weile, Maurermeister S 1/4, 10, 11, 12, 14; 2/1, 18.

Weinberg, Jacob (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)

Weiss, Max (see COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP)

Weisse, Rabbi, PhD 1/3, 6, 10, 12; 2/11, 12, 14.

Weissensee, Lothringenstrasse 22 (see CEMETERIES)

Wiener, Rabbi, PhD 1/3.

Wissenschaftlicher Beirat 1/13; 2/8, 12, 19 (see also LIBRARY)

Woehnerinnen Vereinigung 2/19.

Wolf Ez chajim Gemeinde (see SYNAGOGUES)

Zentralbureau 1/12; 2/1. 6. 18.

Zentralkasse 2/2.

Zentralstelle fuer die Wohltaetigkeitsanstalten 2/11, 14; 19.

Zlosisti, Rabbi, PhD 1/3, 9; 2/3, 11.

Zuehthaus (see PRISONS)