The Divinity Library – Vanderbilt University

Nahum N. Glatzer Special Collection

Franz Rosenzweig Papers

Last Updated 2014

The Divinity Library acquired the Franz Rosenzweig Papers as part of the archives of Professor Nahum N. Glatzer in 1991 as a gift from the Zimmerman family. The Rosenzweig papers include manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, ephemera, and personal objects. The focal point of the Rosenzweig papers are the handwritten manuscripts of his masterwork, Der Stern der Erlösung. Also in the Rosenzweig papers are correspondence between Rosenzweig and Martin Buber regarding their collaborative work on Die Schrift, their translation of the Jewish scriptures into German.

Primarily in German; some English, Hebrew, and Greek.

If you have questions about these collections, please contact Vanderbilt University Special Collections and University Archives (e-mail Special Collections; phone: (615) 322-2807).

Biography

Franz Rosenzweig (December 25, 1886–December 10, 1929), one of most original German-Jewish theologians and philosophers of the 20th Century, was part of a small circle of Jewish scholars following the First World War that worked to develop a new synthesis of philosophy and theology and to shape the development of Jewish education.

Rosenzweig was raised in a well-to-do, non-practicing Jewish family, but he developed an interest in the Jewish faith under the influence of an uncle. He began his university studies in medicine in 1904 at Göttingen and then Munich, but he moved to Freiburg in 1906 to study history and philosophy. His PhD thesis, completed in 1912, became part of a two-volume work, Hegel und der Staat (published in 1920). In 1913, after nearly converting to Christianity, he instead rededicated himself to Judaism and began an intense study of Jewish classics. Although he served on the Balkan front in World War I, Rosenzweig saw no combat and spent his time studying, writing, and corresponding. In the fall of 1918, he began work on his magnum opus, Der Stern der Erlösung, which he wrote on army postcards and mailed to his mother. He completed the work after being discharged in 1919 and published it in 1921.

In the years after the war, Rosenzweig also joined with a group of Jewish scholars to found a Jewish school, the Freies Jüdisches Lehrhaus, in Frankfort, dedicated to reconnecting Jews to their past traditions without separating them from modern society. Rosenzweig became the first director, but less than a year later (in February 1922) he was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and resigned the post several months later (although he remained involved in developing the curriculum). The Rosenzweigs purchased a special typewriter in early 1922 that
allowed him to continue writing, but as the symptoms of his illness progressed, he slowly lost this ability as well. By December 1923, he could no longer type or communicate orally. He was able, however, to communicate by pointing to keys on the keyboard.

As a result, in spite of his handicap he continued his research and writing, turning his attention primarily to translation, publishing *Sixty Hymns and Poems of Judah Halevi* in 1924 (and an expanded edition in 1927). The work contained not only translations of the poems but also commentary. In addition, Rosenzweig published a number of articles on the nature of translating itself. In 1925 he and Martin Buber began a translation of the Jewish Scriptures entitled *Die Schrift*. Rosenzweig died on December 19, 1929.

**Scope and Contents Notes:**

Series one, subseries 1.1 includes manuscript pages (originals and revised drafts) of Rosenzweig’s definitive work, *Der Stern der Erlösung (The Star of Redemption)*, as well as several pages of corrections. All of these items are in the author’s handwriting and are written on a variety of sizes and styles of paper, which may be single or double sided and are sometimes numbered by sheet and sometimes by page; chapter manuscripts may also be dated by the author at the end. Each folder herein contains the manuscript of one of the sections (the Introduction or a chapter). In several cases, Glatzer has indicated corresponding page numbers to the first German edition or written marginal notes concerning the text. Item numbers indicate the actual number of pieces in the folder (which may be single sheets of paper, folded sheets, or stapled notebooks). Chapter titles are noted only when they differ from the published edition. Arrangement is by section and chapter.

Subseries 1.2 comprises original manuscript pages from a wide variety of Rosenzweig’s shorter writings (several unpublished). A number of these are handwritten (predating his illness). Several of these manuscripts are typewritten, perhaps by Rosenzweig himself (during the early days of his illness) or by an aide at his dictation. Subseries 1.2 also includes typewritten copies (many with hand-written corrections) of a number of Rosenzweig’s works, presumably readying them for publication. Finally, Subseries 1.2 includes a small number of papers of a personal nature: an essay written by FR for two friends on their wedding day, transcripts from FR’s notebook containing stories and details concerning his family tree. Most of this material is undated. Arrangement: alphabetically by title of the work.

Series two comprises correspondence (short notes, memos, postcards, telegraphs, and letters) written by and to FR. These letters take four forms:

- the original, handwritten autograph or a carbon copy of the original, made at the time of composition;
- the original, typed autograph of the letter;
- a typed copy prepared for publication;
- or a Photostat or photocopy of any of the above forms.
Subseries 2.1 contains the letters of FR written to various individuals. Of these, the original, handwritten autographs written prior to 1923 are in his handwriting; after December, 1923, original autographs are in the handwriting of the person transcribing the letter as dictated by FR. Typed copies of original autographs by FR prior to 1923 were made on a normal typewriter; letters from early March until early December, 1923, were typed by FR on a special typewriter after he had been diagnosed with MLS (and as a result, show the progression of his illness). Subseries 2.2 contains letters written by various individuals to FR. Subseries 2.3 contains correspondence written about FR among various individuals. Many of these letters relate to Glatzer’s attempts to collect and collate FR’s correspondence between the years 1942–1970.

Arrangement: subseries 2.1 arranged alphabetically by recipient, chronologically within the folder (undated correspondence is placed at the end); subseries 2.2, arranged alphabetically by author, chronologically within the folder; subseries 2.3, arranged alphabetically by author and recipient, chronologically within the folder.

Series three contains diaries of FR, primarily from his university days. The majority of these diaries have been transcribed, are typewritten, and are divided into four parts. They contain numerous marginal notes by NNG. *Folder xx contains several handwritten examples of FR’s diary pages, with typed transcriptons and English translation.* Arranged chronologically

Series four contains offprints, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings of translations and articles by FR; several excerpts from *Die Schrift*, with Martin Buber; and one article that mentions FR. Arranged alphabetically by title.

Series five contains unbound galley proofs of *Der Stern der Erlösung* with hand-written corrections by FR.

Series six comprises personal records primarily from FR’s university years. Arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

Series seven comprises ephemera, including postcards, newspaper clippings, posters, and miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically.

Series eight comprises photographs, most of which were used in publications of FR’s works. Arranged alphabetically.

**Series 1: Manuscripts**

**Subseries 1.1: Der Stern der Erlösung [1918 – 1921]**

**Box 1:**

- Folders
  1. *Der Stern der Erlösung* Postcards, 9 items.
  2. Erste Teil: Einleitung A, 3 items.
4. Part I; Einleitung C, 12 items.
5. Part I, Einleitung D, 27 items.
6. Part I, Chapter 1, Gott oder das Metaphysische; 6 items.
7. Part I, Chapter 2; Die Welt, oder des Metalogische A; 24 items.
8. Part I, Chapter 2, Die Welt, oder des Metalogische B; 13 items.
9. Part I, Chapter 3, Der Mensch oder das Metaethische A; 15 items.
10. Part I, Chapter 3, Der Mensch oder das Metaethische B; 7 items.
11. Part I, Chapter 3, Der Mensch oder das Metaethische; 16 items.
13. Part I, Übergang B; 6 items.
14. Part II, Einleitung A; 14 items.
15. Part II, Einleitung B; 5 items.
16. Part II, Chapter 1; 35 items.
17. Part II, Chapter 2; 68 items.
18. Part II, Chapter 3; 96 items.
19. Part II, Schwelle; 20 items.
20. Part III, Einleitung; Part I, Anfang zur Einleitung des I. Teils; 6 items.
21. Part III, Chapter 1; 37 items.
22. Part III, Chapter 2; 45 items.
23. Part III, Chapter 3; 42 items.
24. Part III, Tor; 8 items.
25. Notes, Der Stern der Erlösung A; 124 items.
26. Notes, Der Stern der Erlösung B; 5 items.

Subseries 1.2: Various Manuscripts by FR

Box 2:

Folders
1. Alte Rosenzweigsche Familiennachrichten, 5 items.
2. An die deutschen Juden!; 1 item.
3. Baalshem Tov; 4 items.
6. Der Denker; 6 items.
7. Diskussionsrede zur Einleitung; 7 items.
9. Genesis 2,3; 1 item.
10. Gott Ist die Gründe; 2 items.
11. Göttlich und menschlich (3 copies); 15 items.
12. Historical article, draft; 1 item.
13. Jehuda Halevi; 1 item.
14. Judentum und Deutschtum; 7 items.
15. Krankensbesuch (2 copies); 6 items.
16. Leitsätze. Zweck der Zusammenkünfte; 2 items.
17. Der Letzle Waffengang [Derletzle Waffengang?], von Albrecht Schaeffer; 3 items.
18. Martin Buber; 1 item.
19. Moaus Zur; 2 items.
20. Paralipomena A; 2 items.
22. Paralipomena C; 7 pages.
23. Parteien als Ideen; 4 items.
24. Pessach: Das Fest der Befreiung; 2 items.
25. Rudolf Steiner und Johannes Müller: Ein Doppelporträt; 2 items.
26. Schechina A; 1 item [1911].
27. Schechina B; 1 notebook [1911].
28. Die Schrift und das Wort; 4 items.
29. Staatsbürgerlicher Ausblick; 4 items.
30. Tischdank A; 1 item.
31. Tischdank B; 10 items.
32. Tischdank C; 9 items.
33. Tischdank D; 6 items.
34. Tischdank E; 17 items.
35. Tischdank F; 9 items.
36. Unidentified manuscript A; 10 items.
37. Unidentified manuscript B; 6 items.
38. Unidentified manuscript C; 12 items.
39. Unidentified manuscript D; 3 items.
40. Urzelle Der Stern der Erlösung A; 23 items.
41. Urzelle Der Stern der Erlösung B; 16 items.
42. Volksschule und Riechsschule A; 36 items.
43. Volksschule und Riechsschule B; 25 postcards.
44. Vox Dei? Die Gewissensfrage der Demokratie; 13 items.
45. Die Wissenschaft von Gott; 10 items.
46. Zeit Ists A; 1 item.
47. Zeit Ists B; 11 items.

**Subseries 1.3: Various Manuscripts by Acquaintences of FR**

49. Rosenstock-Huessy, Eugin, The Future Way of Life; 1 item.
50. Rosenzweig, Adele, Erinnerungen Adele Rosenzweigs an die Kindheit v. Franz; 4 items.
51. Unknown; 11 items.
52. Wessel, David, Franz Rosenzweig; 2 items.
Series 2: Correspondence

Subseries 2.1: Correspondence written by Franz Rosenzweig

Box 3:

1. Badt, Hermann; 8 items.
2. Buber, Martin, typewritten 1922—1927; 32 items.
3. Buber, Martin, typewritten 1923—1924; 43 items.
4. Buber, Martin, hand written 1924—1925; 60 items.
5. Buber, Martin, hand written 1925—1929; 67 items.
6. Buber, Martin, hand written undated; 21 items.
7. Cohen, Hermann; 6 items.
8. Duschinski, Eli; 1 item.
9. Ehrenberg, Richard; 5 items.
10. Ehrenberg, Viktor; 45 items.
11. Falkenberg, Herr; 1 item.
12. Glatzer, Nahum, Abschrift etwa Juni 1919; 1 item.
13. Glatzer, Nahum; 86 items.
15. Hallo, Rudolf; 3 items.
16. Kahn, Mawrik; 24 items.
17. Lazarus, Arnold; 3 items.
18. Paul [no last name]; 1 item.
19. Philosophical Faculty, University of Freiburg; 1 item.
20. Prager, Joseph; 10 items.
21. Rosenstock-Heussy, Margrit; 1 item.
22. Rosenzweig, Adele; 9 items.
23. Rosenzweig, Rafael; 1 item.
24. Schalit, Heinrich; 5 items.
25. Scholem, Gerhard; 7 items.
26. Seligman, Ilse; 1 item.
27. Simon, Ernst; 41 items.
28. Sommer, Eva; 5 items.
29. Sommer, Helene; 7 items.
30. Stahl, Rudolf; 1 item.
31. Strauss, Bertha Badt; 1 item.
32. Strauss, Eduard; 25 items.
33. Susman-Bendemann, Margarete von; 1 item.
34. Unknown A; 9 items.
35. Various letters excerpts; 9 pages.

Subseries 2.2: Correspondence written by various individuals to Franz Rosenzweig

36. Ehrenberg, Hans; 5 items
37. Ehrenberg, Rudolf; 4 items.
38. Gerlach, Kurt; 2 items.
39. Philips, [Carlo]; 1 item.
40. Plessen [?], Frau von; 1 item.
41. Prager, Joseph; 1 item.
42. Rosenstock-Huessy, Eugen; 6 items.
43. Rosenstock, Paula; 3 items.
44. Rosenzweig, Adele; 1 item.
45. Rosenzweig, Adele; 16 items.

Subseries 2.3: Correspondence written about Franz Rosenzweig by various individuals

Box 4:

1. Avnel, Ehud, to Buber, Martin; 1 item.
2. Badt-Strauss, Bertha, to Glatzer, Nahum N.; 1 item.
3. Ben-Gurion, David, to Buber, Martin; 1 item.
4. Borries, Achim v., to Glatzer, Nahum N.; 3 items.
5. Buber, Martin, to Ben-Gurion, David; 1 item.
7. Eidelberg, S, to unknown; 4 items.
9. Kepler / Kaplan, Morcecai N, to unknown; 1 item
11. Oppenheim, Gertrud, to Glatzer, Nahum N.; 30 items.
14. Rosenzweig, Adele, to Beckerath, Frau. 1 item.
15. Rosenzweig, Adele, to Ehrenberg [nee Sommer], Eva; 17 items.
16. Rosenzweig, Adele, to Ehrenberg, Julie; 1 item.
17. Rosenzweig, Adele, to Glatzer, Nahum N., 1929. 38 items.
18. Rosenzweig, Adele, to Glatzer, Nahum N., 1930. 44 items.
20. Rosenzweig, Adele, to Sommer, Frau; 1 item.
21. Rosenzweig, Adele, to Strauss, Frau; 1 item.
22. Rosenzweig, Adele, to unknown; 2 items.
23. Schwadron, Abraham, to Glatzer, Nahum N.; 1 item.
25. Simon, Ernst, to Glatzer, Nahum N. 1 item.
27. Strauss, Ilse, to Glatzer, Nahum N.; 1 item.
28. Susman-Bendemann, M., to ?; 1 item.
29. Trier, Carola S., to Glatzer, Nahum N.; 2 items.
30. Tuteur, Richard, to Glatzer, Nahum N.; 5 items.
31. Unknown; 1 item.
32. Unsorted Hebrew Correspondence; 28 items.

Series 3: Diaries of FR

33. Part 1, 14 December 1905—29 March 1906; 28 items.
34. Part 2, 1 April 1906—22 September 1906; 25 items.
35. Part 3, 29 September 1906—4 March 1908; 29 items.
36. Part 4, 6 March 1908—22 June 1908; 34 items.
37. Part 5, 9 July 1914—18 April 1922; 36 items.
38. 9 June, 13 September, and 18 June 1922; 5 items.

Series 4: [Publications] Offprints, pamphlets, and articles by FR

39. Articles on music: Einleitendes; Kammermusik; Beethovensche Klaviersonaten; Geistlicher und Geistiger Gesang; Instrumentalkonzerte; Schubert; Die vorbeethovensche Sinfonie; Die Sinfonie Beethovens und die nachbeethovensche Sinfonie; Katholische Kirchenmusik aus zwei Jahrtausenden; 1 item.
40. Die Bauleute über das Gesetz; 1 item.
41. Bildung—und sein Ende A; 1 item.
42. Bildung—und sein Ende B; 1 item.
43. Das Chanukkahlied; 1 item.
44. An Driesen; 1 item.
45. “Der Ewige” Mendelssohn und der Gottesname; 1 item.
46. Das Heimholerjahr; 1 item.
47. Der Herr der Welt; 1 item.
48. Der Knecht Gottes; 2 items.
49. Musiklexika; 1 item.
50. Nachrufe auf Rabbiner N. A. Nobel; 1 item.
51. Nehemiah Zvi Nobel: a rabbi who cast a spell; 1 item.
52. Paralipomena; 3 items.
53. Die Sachverständigen, von Dr. Adam Bund; 1 item.
54. Die Schrift und Luther; 1 item.
55. Der Tischdank; 1 item.
56. Unmittelbare Einwirkung der hebräischen Bibel auf Goehes Sprache; 1 item.
57. An Unpublished Letter of Franz Rosenzweig; 2 items.
58. Zeit Ists . . . ; 1 item.
59. Zum zweiten Band der Encyclopaedia Judaica; 1 item.

Series 5: Galley Proofs

Box 5: Unbound galley proof of Der Stern der Erlösung with corrections by FR. 12 items.
Series 6: Personal Records

Box 6:

1. Diplomas, 1896, 1905; 2 items.
2. Educational Certificates, 1905, University of Göttingen; 1906, University of Munich; 1907, University of Freiburg; 1910, University of Freiburg; 1912, University of Berlin; 1913; 6 items.
3. Registration book, 1905, University of Göttingen; 1 item.
5. Registration book, 1906-07, Freiburg; 1 item.
6. Registration book, 1908, University of Berlin; 1 item.
7. Registration book, 1909-12, University of Berlin; 1 item.

Series 7: Ephemera

Subseries 7.1: F. Rosenzweig

8. Envelopes; 10 items.
10. Freies Jüdisches Lehrhaus, poster; 1 item.
11. Freies Jüdisches Lehrhaus, program; 1 item.
12. Miscellaneous; 8 items.
13. Miscellaneous notes; 3 items.
14. Newspaper clipping concerning Adele Rosenzweig’s 66th birthday; 1 item.
15. Postcards, bookstores; 3 items.
16. Postcards, parental home; 2 items.
17. Prospectus, Sechzig Hymnen und Gedichte des Jehuda Halevi; 1 item.
18. Prospectus, Der Stern der Erlösung; 1 item.
19. Record of Innoculations; 1 item.
20. Rosenzweig’s Tallit; 1 item.

Subseries 7.2: N. N. Glatzer

22. Material concerning Martin Buber; 9 items.
23. Materials from exhibit; 22 items.
24. Miscellaneous; 5 items.
25. Notes, assorted; 3 items.
26. Notes concerning Adele Rosenzweig correspondence; 2 items.
27. Notes concerning FR’s correspondence; 6 items.
28. Notes concerning FR’s writings and career; 9 items.
29. Notes concerning Paralipomena; 1 item.
30. Notes concerning Rudolf Ehrenberg correspondence; 2 items.
31. Notes concerning various correspondence; 23 items.
32. Notes, conversation with unknown concerning FR; 1 item.
Subseries 7.3: Rosenstock-Huessy

33. Rosenstock-Huessy genealogical information; 4 items.
34. Notes, speech; 1 item.

Series 8: Photographs

35. Buber, Martin; 1 item.
36. Franz Rosenzweig’s Grave; 2 items.
37. Rosenzweig, Franz; 8 items.
38. Rosenzweig, Georg and Adele (Alsberg); 2 items