



## The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People Jerusalem (CAHJP)

### Bernard Gerson RICHARDS Collection – P 276

Richards was born in 1877 in Kedzinai (Lithuania), and was taken to the U.S. in 1886. He began his journalistic career as a reporter for the *Boston Post*, and wrote for several Boston and New York papers, as well as for Yiddish and other Jewish journals.

From 1906 to 1911 Richards served as secretary of the Jewish Community of New York. In 1915 he helped found the *American Jewish Congress*, of which he was Executive Secretary until 1932.

At the end of WW I he was a member of the *American Jewish Delegation* to the Versailles Peace Conference. He founded the *Jewish Information Bureau of Greater New York* in 1932 and the *American Jewish Institute* in 1942, both of which he directed. He was also a member of the *Zionist Organization of America* and of the Executive Committee of the *Council for the Rights of Jewish Minorities*, New York. Richards wrote a few papers on Zionism and American Jewry.<sup>1</sup>

The files in this collection refer mostly to Richards' activity as Executive Secretary of the *American Jewish Congress* and to his mission as a delegate to the Versailles Peace Conference.

Most of Richards' papers are held at the *Jewish Theological Seminar* in New York ([http://www.jtsa.edu/prebuilt/archives/jtsarchives/richards\\_bernard.shtml](http://www.jtsa.edu/prebuilt/archives/jtsarchives/richards_bernard.shtml)).

### Correspondence

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| 13 | - Letter to B.G. Richards from Louis D. Brandeis, in his position as chairman of the "Provisional Executive Committee for General Zionist Affairs", Sept. 1914 (copy)<br>- Letter to B.G. Richards, secretary of the "American Jewish Congress", from Thomas A. Edison, Sept. 1916 (copy)   | 1914 - 1916 |
| 1  | Copies of letters from B.G. Richards to L. Motzkin, N. Sokolov, Prof. N. Slousch and many representatives of Jewish and Zionist organizations in France   | 1919 - 1921 |
| 2  | <i>Comité des Délégations juives auprès de la Conférence de la Paix</i> (= <i>Committee of Jewish Delegations to the Peace Conference</i> ), Paris:<br>Correspondence and cables between the <i>American Jewish Congress</i> and others re the Peace Conference in Paris and its Jewish aspect (mainly the situation of Eastern and Central European Jews), financial matters etc.<br><u>Incl.</u> : Reports on the situation of Jews in various countries<br>English, French | 1919 - 1922 |

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<sup>1</sup> See "Richards, Bernard Gerson" in *Encyclopedia Judaica*, Jerusalem 1978, vol. 14, pp. 158-159.

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| 3 | Copies of letters and telegrams from Richards (?) to Motzkin and others   | 1925        |
| 4 | Correspondence with the <i>Committee of Jewish Delegations</i> and its Sub-Committee <i>Jewish Council for Minority Rights</i> and reports re the situation of the Jews in Romania, arranging of a Committee meeting, minutes of the meeting                | 1927 - 1928 |
| 5 | Letters, reports and cables to B.G. Richards from L. Motzkin of the <i>Committee of Jewish Delegations</i> and its Sub-Committee <i>Jewish Council for Minority Rights</i> , Paris and from the <i>Council for the Rights of Jewish Minorities</i> , Geneva | 1928        |

### **Minutes and reports**

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| 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes of sessions of the <i>Committee of Jewish Delegations to the Peace Conference</i>, March-April 1919, Sept. 1924</li> <li>- Minutes from a session of the Executive Committee of the <i>Council for the Rights of Jewish Minorities</i>, April 1932</li> </ul> English, German | 1919, 1924,<br>1932 |
| 7 | <i>Comité des Délégations juives auprès de la Conférence de la Paix</i> (= <i>Committee of Jewish Delegations to the Peace Conference</i> ), Paris:<br>Reports re the situation of Eastern European Jews<br>English, French  | 1920 - 1921         |

### **Varia**

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| 8  | <i>L'Émancipation Juive, Bulletin de la Ligue pour la Défense des Juifs opprimés</i> , no 3, 1916<br>French | Feb. 1916   |
| 9  | Obituary in memory of Prof. Joseph Halevy<br>French, Print  | 1917        |
| 10 | 2 newspaper clippings on Jewish aspects of the Peace Conference<br>French, Yiddish                          | ca. 1920    |
| 11 | Obituaries on Leo Motzkin in Yiddish newspapers<br>Yiddish  | 1954 - 1955 |
| 12 | Typescript of a paper by Richards on Motzkin and his activities   | no date     |