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## Finding Aid for the Joseph Gaer Papers, 1934-1957

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## Finding Aid for the Joseph Gaer Papers, 1934-1957

**Collection number: 379**

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections  
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

Processed by:

Manuscripts Division staff

Encoded by:

Caroline Cubé

Online finding aid edited by:

Josh Fiala, November 2003

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Joseph Gaer Papers,

**Date (inclusive):** 1934-1957

**Collection number:** 379

**Creator:** Gaer, Joseph, 1897-

**Extent:** 5 boxes (2.5 linear ft.)

**Repository:** University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Dept. of Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

**Abstract:** Joseph Gaer (originally Joseph Fishman) (1897-1969) was a lecturer in contemporary literature at UC Berkeley (1930-35), editor-in-chief and chief field supervisor for the Federal Writers Project (1935-39), consultant to the administrator of the Farm Security Administration (1939-41), special assistant to Secretary of the Treasury (1941-43), publicity director of the Political Action Committee for the Congress of Industrial Organizations (1943-45), founder and director of Pamphlet Press (1945-46), and president of Boni & Gaer (later Gaer Associates Publishing Company) (1946-49). He also wrote many books, including *The legend called Meryon* (1928), and *Our Jewish heritage* (1957). The collection consists of manuscripts of books written or edited by Joseph Gaer, and includes typescripts with holograph corrections and corrected galley and page proofs.

**Physical location:** Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

**Language:** English.

### Restrictions on Use and Reproduction

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### Restrictions on Access

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Advance notice required for access.

### Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Gift of Joseph Gaer, 1953-58.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Joseph Gaer Papers (Collection 379). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

### Biography

Joseph Gaer (originally Joseph Fishman) was born March 16, 1897 in Yedinitz, Russia; came to U.S., 1917; attended colleges in the U.S. and Canada; lecturer in contemporary literature, UC Berkeley, 1930-35; editor-in-chief and chief field supervisor, Federal Writers Project, 1935-39; consultant to administrator of Farm Security Administration, 1939-41; special assistant to Secretary of the Treasury, 1941-43; publicity director of Political Action Committee, Congress of Industrial Organizations, 1943-45; founder and director of Pamphlet Press,

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1945-46; president, Boni & Gaer (later Gaer Associates Publishing Company), 1946-49; in 1958 became founder and director of Jewish Heritage Foundation, Beverly Hills; wrote many books, including *The legend called Meryon* (1928), *How the great religions began* (1929), and *Our Jewish heritage* (1957); died December 7, 1969.

#### Scope and Content

Collection consists of manuscripts of books written or edited by Joseph Gaer. Includes typescripts with holograph corrections and corrected galley and page proofs.

#### Organization and Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:

1. *Modern family Bible* (Box 1).
2. *The adventure of Rama, Jack London, The lore of the New Testament* (Box 2).
3. *The fables of India, Holidays around the world, Young heroes of the living religions* (Box 3).
4. *Holidays around the world* (corrected proofs), *The wisdom of living religions* (Box 4).
5. *Our Jewish heritage* (Box 5).

#### Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Gaer, Joseph, 1897- --Archives.

Authors, American--20th century--Archival resources.

Jewish authors--20th century--Archival resources.

Manuscripts for publication.

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- Box 1                    ***Modern family Bible, O.T. and N.T. edited by and annotated by Joseph Gaer and Chester C. McCown. Santa Monica, n.d.***  
                                  Creator/Collector: Bible. English. Selections. ca. 1950. Gaer  
                                  Physical Description: 8 parts in 4. "Prefinal draft" Multilith process. Some corrections in ink.
- Box 2                    ***The adventures of Rama. The story of the great Hindu epic Ramayana. Santa Monica, n.d. First published by Little, Brown, Boston, 1954.***  
                                  Creator/Collector: Gaer, Joseph, 1897-  
                                  Physical Description: 259, 10 leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections.  
                                  Note  
                                  Gift of the author, 11-10-1954.
- Box 2                    ***Jack London, bibliography, biographical data and index of works. From California State Emergency Relief Administration's California Literary Research Monographs no.1. [n.p., 1934].***  
                                  Creator/Collector: [Gaer, Joseph] 1897- . ed.  
                                  Physical Description: 45 leaves. Typescript.
- Box 2                    ***The lore of the New Testament. n.p., n.d. First published by Little, Brown, Boston, 1952.***  
                                  Creator/Collector: Gaer, Joseph, 1897-  
                                  Physical Description: 622, 41 leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections. Book jacket included. In brown binder.  
                                  Scope and Content Note  
                                  Gift of the author, May 11, 1953.
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- Box 3                    ***The fables of India.* Illustrated by Randy Monk. n.p., n.d. First published by Little, Brown, Boston, 1955.**  
                              Creator/Collector: Gaer, Joseph, 1897-  
                              Physical Description: 263 leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections.  
                              Note  
                              Gift of the author, October 1955.
- Box 3                    ***Holidays around the world.* New York, n.d.**  
                              Creator/Collector: Gaer, Joseph, 1897-  
                              Physical Description: 244, [18] leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections in 2 folders.  
                              Note  
                              Gift of the author, May 1953.
- Box 4                    **Also: corrected galley proofs. First published by Little, Brown, Boston, 1953.**  
                              Physical Description: 68 sheets. Book jacket included.
- Box 3                    **Young heroes of the living religions. n.p., n.d. First published by Little, Brown, Boston, 1953.**  
                              Creator/Collector: Gaer, Joseph, 1897-  
                              Physical Description: 244, [19] leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections.  
                              Note  
                              Gift of the author, November 1953.
- Box 4                    ***The wisdom of living religions.* n.p., n.d.**  
                              Creator/Collector: Gaer, Joseph, 1897-  
                              Physical Description: ca. 300 leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections.  
                              Note  
                              Gift of the author, October 1955.
- Box 4                    **Also: 1. corrected galley proofs. First published by Dodd, Mead, New York, 1956.**  
                              Physical Description: 77 sheets. 2. corrected page proofs. 324 pages.  
                              Note  
                              Gift of the author, November 1956.
- Box 4                    ***Our Jewish heritage* by Joseph Gaer and Alfred Wolf. n.p., 1957.**  
                              Creator/Collector: Gaer, Joseph, 1897-  
                              Physical Description: xv, 317, 30 leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections.
- Box 4                    **Also: 1. corrected galley proofs. First published by Henry Holt, New York, 1957.**  
                              Physical Description: 77 sheets. 2. corrected page proofs. 234pp.  
                              Note  
                              Gift of the author, April 1958.