

# Guide to the Asher Lewis Shane Collection

MS 1774



compiled by Nanette Stahl, Curator of the Judaica Collection

January 2000

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1774

**CREATOR:** Shane, Asher Lewis, 1911-1991

**TITLE:** Asher Lewis Shane collection

**DATES:** 1850-1970

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.5 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** The collection is almost entirely in English, or in Hebrew with English translations.

**SUMMARY:** The collection which consists of about 800 items, includes primary source material relating to the communal life of British Jewry from the middle of the 19th century up to the 1970s. Of particular interest are the publications of synagogues in London and other centers of Jewish life in England commemorating special occasions in the life of the congregation or major events taking place in Great Britain. These include sermons preached by the local rabbi, editions of special prayer services in honor of the consecration of a synagogue, and memorial services for notable Jewish personages and for members of the royal family. Among the prayer pamphlets found in the collection are those held in many synagogues when England entered World War I and II and in memory of those who died in those wars. The bylaws and financial records of many congregations are also included in the collection as well as the publications of lectures on various topics delivered there. The collection provides a broad picture of Jewish religious, communal, and social life over a period of more than a hundred years.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1774>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1774>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Yeshayahu Vinograd, 1999. Transferred from the Judaica Collection, 2000.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Asher Lewis Shane Collection (MS 1774). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Asher Lewis Shane was born in the Welsh Valley. His desire to study law brought him to London where he placed first in the All England Laws Exams of 1933. After practicing commercial law and serving in the military during World War II, he established a highly successful real estate development company. At the time of its sale in the early 1980s, his company was the largest privately held property company in the United Kingdom. Mr. Shane also served as president of the Jewish Historical Society of which he was a member for some forty years, and for which he wrote several scholarly papers. Shane began collecting as a young man. Over time, he developed a large library of antiquarian and rare books, atlases, travel books and prints. His interest was focused especially on the history of European Jewry, particularly in England.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection which consists of about 800 items, includes primary source material relating to the communal life of British Jewry from the middle of the 19th century up to the 1970s. Of particular interest are the publications of synagogues in London and other centers of Jewish life in England commemorating special occasions in the life of the congregation or major events taking place in Great Britain. These include sermons preached by the local rabbi, editions of special prayer services in honor of the consecration of a synagogue, and memorial services for notable Jewish personages and for members of the royal family. Among the prayer pamphlets found in the collection are those held in many synagogues when England entered World War I and II and in memory of those who died in those wars. The bylaws and financial records of many congregations are also included in the collection as well as the publications of lectures on various topics delivered there. The collection provides a broad picture of Jewish religious, communal, and social life over a period of more than a hundred years.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1	Bound reports and bylaws of Anglo-Jewish communal organizations	
b. 2	Orders of memorial services	
b. 3	Pamphlets, orders of service, misc docs relating to English military engagements (India, Boer War, WWI, WWII), peace negotiations, anti-semitism, and the Holocaust	
b. 4	Bound reports, lectures, and sermons	
b. 5	Special orders of service for events held at the Spanish and Portugese Congregation (Bevis Marks)	1837-1953
b. 6	Bound reports and lectures, many relating to Anglo-Jewish history	
b. 7	Bound reports and bylaws of Anglo-Jewish communal organizations	
b. 8	Special orders of services	
b. 9	Special orders of services, lectures, sermons	
b. 10	Special orders of services, lectures, sermons	
b. 11	Special orders of services, lectures, sermons	

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Preferred Titles**

*Hazkarat neshamot*

### **Subjects**

Jewish sermons -- Great Britain  
Jews -- Great Britain  
Jews -- Great Britain -- History -- 19th century  
Jews -- Great Britain -- History -- 20th Century  
Jews -- Great Britain -- Social conditions -- 19th century  
Jews -- Great Britain -- Social conditions -- 20th Century  
Judaism -- England -- London  
Synagogue dedication services  
Synagogues -- Great Britain

### **Names**

Shane, Asher Lewis, 1911-1991

### **Corporate Body**

Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation  
(London, England)