

**THE PAPERS  
OF  
L.A. MAYER  
(1895-1959)**



Photo of L.A. Mayer from his personal archive (photographer and date unknown)

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(Arrangement & Description by Ofer Pogorelsky, June 2020)

# FINDING AID

## 1. DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Creator: Leo Aryeh Mayer (1895–1959)

Title: The Papers of L.A. Mayer

Physical description:

The papers described here comprise the estate of L.A. Mayer, which was transferred after his death to the Museum of Islamic Art in Jerusalem that was named in his honour. Although the exact circumstances are not clear, since in his will Mayer asked for his personal and professional papers to be destroyed, a large suitcase with Mayer's papers survived and was located in 2017 in one of the storage rooms of the museum. Some of the papers were scattered, others were very partly sorted thematically. The original arrangement into folders was probably done by H.Z. Hirschberg, who refers to certain documents from the estate in his *in memoriam* for Mayer (see no. 1 below). Although it is not very systematic, it was decided to keep the original arrangement into folders, with slight ad hoc modifications. The papers were put into new folders and these were numbered and divided into series according to their content.

## 2. BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Leo Aryeh Mayer (1895–1959; sometimes Leon Ary, known as L. A. Mayer) was a prominent scholar of Islamic art and archaeology in Palestine/Israel, and one of the founding fathers of the School of Oriental Studies (est. 1926) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Born in Stanislau, Austria-Hungary (now Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine), Mayer graduated from the gymnasium in his hometown, consequently starting his studies at the University of Vienna, where he also submitted his PhD on town planning in Muslim cities. Simultaneously, he studied in the rabbinical seminary of Vienna. After World War I, Mayer moved to Berlin and became an assistant at the Oriental Department of the Prussian State Library. Growing up in a Zionist home, in 1921 Mayer decided to immigrate to Palestine, where he was appointed inspector and later librarian at the Department of Antiquities for the Government of Palestine under the British Mandate. When the Hebrew University was opened in 1925, Mayer became a lecturer for Islamic art and archaeology, joining the School of Oriental Studies (SOS) a year later, and receiving his professorship in 1933. He was the director of the SOS from 1934 until 1948, also serving as the Rector of the Hebrew University in the years 1943-45. Mayer wrote pioneering studies on Islamic coins, Arabic epigraphy, Mamluk heraldry and dress and craftsmanship in Islam. Following Mayer's death in 1959, his friend and benefactor, the philanthropist Vera Bryce Salomons, established in 1974 the L. A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art in Jerusalem, whose initial collection was based on Mayer's personal collection and items donated by Salomons.

For further biographical and bibliographical information:

1. H.Z. Hirschberg, "Professor Leon A. Mayer – In Memoriam," *Eretz-Israel (L.A. Mayer Memorial Volume)* 7 (1964), pp. XI-XV
2. N.H. Tur-Sinai, "Remembering a Fine Man," *Eretz-Israel (L.A. Mayer Memorial Volume)* 7 (1964), pp. XVI-XVII
3. D.S. Rice and H.Z. Hirschberg, "Leo A. Mayer," *Ars Orientalis* 4 (1961), pp. 454-462.
4. *On Prof. L.A. Mayer: things said in his remembrance by Elihau Elath, H.Z. Hirschberg, M. Aviyonah and M. Rosen* (Jerusalem: Magness Press, 1964) (Hebr.)
5. Uri Ben-Horin, "L.A. Mayer – Bibliography," *Bulletin of the Jewish Palestine Exploration Society* 12 (1945-6), pp. 1-9 (Hebr.)
6. H.Z. Hirschberg, "The Works of Professor L.A. Mayer," *Eretz-Israel (L.A. Mayer Memorial Volume)* 7 (1964), pp. XIX-XXVII

### 3. SCOPE AND CONTENTS

**The archive is divided into 4 series:**

- Series 1: **Manuscripts and publication related material** (9 files). This series contains manuscripts and drafts from various stages of some of Mayer's works; and some correspondence related to the publication of these works.
- Series 2: **Research material notes** (31 files). This series contains Mayer's research notes on the various topics he was interested in, as well as photos, photocopies and hand copies of artifacts, inscriptions and Arabic and Persian manuscripts; as well as correspondence, mainly with museums and libraries, related to the research topics.
- Series 3: **Personal and biographical materials** (8 files). This series contains various documents from different stages in Mayer's life, including his diplomas and travel documents, official letters from the different workplaces, and his will, and some photos of him. The series also includes writings and letters by his mother, the writer Rachel Mayer.
- Series 4: **Correspondences** (3 files). This series contains Mayer's private and professional correspondence mainly with his two close friends, his backer Vera Bryce-Salomons and his colleague and former teacher Harry Torczyner/Naftali Herz Tur-Sinai.

## 4. INVENTORY LIST

### **Series 1: Manuscripts and publication related material**

**File No.: LAM/1/1**

**Series: Manuscripts and publication related material (1)**

Original File Name: The Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Prof. L.A. Mayer. Proofs (Hebr.)

Content:

- An offprint with pencil written proofs of Mayer's article "Mamluk Playing Cards" published in *Bulletin de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale* XXXVIII (1939), pp. 113-118, pls. X-VIX.
- Offprint of the plates that accompanied the article "Mamluk Playing Cards" (2 copies).
- 23 cardboard sheets with images of Islamic archaeological objects (pottery shards, bowls, inscriptions etc.) prepared to be used as plates in a certain publication.

**File No.: LAM/1/2**

**Series: Manuscripts and publication related material (1)**

Original File Name: Manuscript. Prof. L.A. Mayer, P.O.B. 613, Jerusalem

Content:

- A photocopy of a manuscript of a bibliographical list, containing 221 pages in various sizes. Seems to be an early draft of Mayer's *Bibliography of Moslem numismatics, India excepted* (Royal Asiatic Society, 1954).

**File No.: LAM/1/3**

**Series: Manuscripts and publication related material (1)**

Original File Name: Scientific Material. Stonecarvers. L.A.M.

Content:

This file contains the unpublished manuscript of Mayer's work on Islamic Stonecarvers. According to Hirschberg (1964),<sup>1</sup> "the book on Stonecarvers is being seen through the press by R. Ettinghausen", but it seems to have never been published.

- Dossier titled "III. Roll of Stonecarvers", 56 pages.
- Dossier titled "List of Monuments and Collections". 4 pages.
- Dossier titled "Desiderata", 4 pages.
- Dossier titled "Bibliography", 30 pages.
- 10 single pages, in different sizes, containing various notes, bibliographical notes, abbreviations, a draft of the introduction etc. Some are photocopies of hand-written notes.
- An envelope with photos of illustrative material for the book: sculptures, columns, and inscriptions.

**File No.: LAM/1/4**

**Series: Manuscripts and publication related material (1)**

Original File Name: Islamic Swordcutlers. photostats of last book(?) one draft (not necessary except for checking).

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<sup>1</sup> H.Z. Hirschberg, "In memoriam: Professor Leon A. Mayer", *Eretz-Israel (L.A. Mayer Memorial Volume)* 7 (1964), p. xiii.

Content:

- Photocopy of a typed manuscript, with hand-written notes, of a work titled “Roll of Swordsmiths” (38 pages). Probably part of Mayer’s work *Islamic Armourers and Their Works* (Geneva: A. Kundig, 1962)
- A dossier of typed and hand-written pages with listings of armourers, probably pertaining to the above-mentioned work.

**File No.: LAM/1/5**

**Series: Manuscripts and publication related material (1)**

Original File Name: Monsieur le prof. Mayer. Hôtel Mirabeau. Rue de Candolle [Genève].  
(Original photos for plates of *Mamluk Costumes*<sup>2</sup>)

Content:

- Dossier of photos arranged as plates.

**File No.: LAM/1/6**

**Series: Manuscripts and publication related material (1)**

Original File Name: Armourers, Swordsmiths. Islamic Swordsmiths & their Work.

Content: Draft material pertaining to Mayer’s work *Islamic Armourers and Their Works* (Geneva: A. Kundig, 1962).

- Preface.
- Roll of swordsmiths.
- Bibliography.
- Various notes (addenda et corrigenda)
- Two photos of two objects with a receipt.

**File No.: LAM/1/7**

**Series: Manuscripts and publication related material (1)**

Content:

A series of letters addressed by various institutions and libraries to Mr. Kundig (Publisher) acknowledging the receipt of Mayer’s book *Islamic Armourers and their Work* (Geneva: Kundig, 1962).

**File No.: LAM/1/8**

**Series: Manuscripts and publication related material (1)**

Original File Name: “Stonecarvers” 2nd. Copy of Photographs (enclosed with 1st copy photostats.

Content:

A photocopy of a manuscript of Mayer’s work on Islamic Stonecarvers (see **LAM/1/3**).

**File No.: LAM/1/9**

**Series: Manuscripts and publication related material (1)**

Original File Name: Film and 2 photostats of “Bibliography of the Samaritans”

Content:

- Two films
- Two pages containing a list of publications in Hebrew about the Samaritans.

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<sup>2</sup> L.A. Mayer, *Mamluk Costumes* (Geneve: Albert Kundig, 1952), 119 pp., 20 Pls.

## **Series 2: Research material and notes**

**File No.: LAM/2/1**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: Arab Sculpture

Content:

- Photocopy of the article T.J. Arne-Stockholm, "Monumentale Menschendarstellungen in der mohammedanischen Kunst", *Orientalisches Archiv* 1 (1910-1911), pp. 82-85. With hand-written notes on the back of the first page.
- A bibliographical list, probably pertaining to a certain publication, but with no indication to which one.
- A manuscript in English of probably a lecture, titled "Arab Sculpture".
- An untitled manuscript in English of probably a lecture, pertaining to the theme of Arab figurative art and sculpture.
- 3 versions of probably a lecture, written in French, titled "La Sculpture Arabe", all with hand-written proofs.
- A dossier containing a list of references from Islamic sources regarding figurative art.
- 7 single pages with hand-written notes and references.
- 21 photos of Islamic art objects, mostly figurative.
- An envelope containing 4 photos of art objects; an article from *The Illustrated London News* (Sept. 27. 1947) on Persian Art excavated at Gumbad-I-Kabuz; A reference list; An untitled manuscript in English of probably a lecture, pertaining to the theme of Arab figurative art and sculpture.

**File No.: LAM/2/2**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: London. Scientific Material [Hebr. לונדון. חומר מדעי]

Content:

- A letter (26/10/1953) in French to L.A. Mayer from the Historical Museum of the City of Strasbourg, containing a replay to his request to receive a photo of an object (a Caucasian dagger). The photo is attached to the letter.
- A photocopy of a photo of an object (perhaps a dagger) with an Arabic inscription.
- An envelope with micro-films of a book or a literary work (too small to identify without a reading machine). On the envelope: The Librarian, University Library, Palace Green, Durham.
- A Photocopy of an Arabic text from a scientific edition, 3 pages.
- A letter (2/6/1952) in French to Mayer from someone in the University of Istanbul dealing with scholarly issues.
- A letter (21/9/1953) in French to Mayer from Ing. Slavomir Benic, an architect from Dubrovnik, dealing the architectural remains of [Makarska](#). A photo of Makarska is attached.
- A dossier of photos and a list titled "Signatures Tirza, Textiles. Ten Objects - eleven photographs."

- A dossier containing parts of an article on Islamic Art (fragmentary) and a list of excerpts from the article: Nicolaus Pevsner, "Terms of Architectural Planning in the Middle Ages," *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* 5 (1942), pp. 232-237.
- A postcard (undated) from The Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, Maryland, acknowledging that it has received as a gift the book "Islamic Armourers and their Works" by the late L.A. Mayer.
- A letter (31/10/1962) from The Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries, acknowledging that it has received the book "Islamic Armourers and their Works" by the late L.A. Mayer.
- A letter (13/1/1963) to Ms. Salomns, hand written by someone at the Warburg Institute. Content and name of sender are hard to decipher.
- A letter (9/10/1961) to Ms. Salomns from someone, who lived in 17 Bialik St., Beth Hakerem, Jerusalem. To the letter is attached an article from Maariv newspaper (5/10/1961) reporting on the Numismatic congress held in Rome and mentions the late L.A. Mayer, whose name is marked by a pen. The content of the letter and the name of the sender are hard to decipher.

**File No.: LAM/2/3**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: Outline of Bibliography of the Samaritans. Photostats. Checked.

Content:

- Dossier of draft pages (not complete), both in English and Hebrew, from Mayer's work "Outline of Bibliography of the Samaritans".<sup>3</sup>

**File No.: LAM/2/4**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: Islamic Swordsmiths. In case of death please destroy.

Content: research material pertaining to Mayer's work *Islamic Armourers and Their Works* (Geneva: A. Kundig, 1962).

- "Arms and Armour" (list of objects)
- Photocopies of entries on swordsmiths (100+ pages).
- 4 letters addressed by Dr. Zander, 237, Baker Street, London,<sup>4</sup> to Museums inquiring about "Oriental arms or any other objects of Muslim art with Arabic, Persian or Turkish inscriptions". The letters are similarly phrased in 4 languages: English, Italian, German, and French, and are addressed to directors of museums in India, Munich and Prague.
- Dossier of Bibliographical entries, probably a draft of the bibliography to *Islamic Armourers*.
- Two copies of a letter (14/10/1954) to L.A. Mayer (and/or Dr. Zander) from Sayid Nasir Nakshabandi, director of Coins, D.G. of Antiquities, Baghdad, Iraq. The letter is a reply to a previous letter from Mayer regarding Nakshabandi's article in the journal *Sumer*. Scholarly issue is discussed.
- A manuscript of the bibliography of *Islamic Armourers and Their Works*.

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<sup>3</sup> The Hebrew version was published by Mayer: "Outline of a Bibliography of the Samaritans," *Eretz Israel* IV (1956), pp. 252-268. Mayer's revised and expanded English version was published posthumously: *Bibliography of the Samaritans* (Leiden: Brill, 1964).

<sup>4</sup> Dr Zander is likely Dr W. Zander, the secretary of the "Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in London".

**File No.: LAM/2/5**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: -

Proposed File Name: Scientific Material: Islamic Astrolabists

Content: the documents in this file seem to pertain to Mayer's work *Islamic Astrolabists and their Works* (Geneve: A. Kundig, 1956), 123 pp., 26 Pls. The file contains photos of objects; correspondences of Mayer and Immanuel Ben-Dor (on Mayer's behalf) with Museums and private collectors in Europe and the US regarding the purchasing of photos; receipts of payment for images; copies of published articles on the subject.

Documents of interest:

- A private, hand-written letter (18/8/1955) in Hebrew from [Immanuel Ben-Dor](#) to L.A. Mayer. The letter opens with "Dear Mayer" (מאיר היקר).

**File No.: LAM/2/6**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: Armourers II. Photos unsuitable for publication.

Content:

- Several Dossiers of photos of Islamic arms addressed to L.A Mayer from several Museums in Europe and India.
- A list of archaeological objects in Museums in Morocco with details on the objects.
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**File No.: LAM/2/7**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: -

Proposed File Name:

Series: Scientific Material

Content:

- Various photos of Islamic objects, monuments and art.
- photos and films of Islamic and Persian artifacts.
- photos and films of Islamic monuments and art.

**File No.: LAM/2/8**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: -

Proposed File Name: Communications with Museums worldwide about photos of Objects

Documents

- A dossier of photos of Islamic objects (mostly armory) from the Philadelphia Museum of Arts plus a receipt from the museum on behalf of L.A. Mayer for the purchase of the photos.
- A dossier of photos of Islamic armory from the Polish Army Museum with a list of the objects.
- A photo of an object and a letter from the City Art Museum of St. Louis, dated October 18, 1955, addressed to L.A. Mayer regarding his request to purchase photos.
- A dossier of photos of Islamic armory accompanied by a letter from the Museum für Deutsche Geschichte, Berlin.



- A dossier of photos of Islamic swords with Arabic inscriptions.
- A dossier of photos of Islamic swords with Arabic inscriptions accompanied by a letter from the museum voor het onderwijs der gemeente in The Hague, Netherlands.
- Two photos of swords and a letter (May 27, 1956) from an individual from Tehran who owns the objects (astrolabe and knife)
- A letter (June 14, 1956) to L.A. Mayer from the Folk Museum in Gloucester regarding photos of objects.
- A dossier of Islamic swords with a hand-written letter from “administrative officer, the Depot of South Wales Borderers”.
- A dossier of photos of Islamic swords and a helmet with a letter (January 31, 1956) from the antiquities service of the Sudan Government, addressed to Vera Bryce regarding the objects. A hand-written letter is attached, dated March 6, 1956, signed by Vera Bryce (the handwriting is hard to decipher).
- Photos of a bronze Persian bowl + a letter (March 12, 1958) from the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

**File No.: LAM/2/9**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Content:

- Dossier of photos of Islamic monuments and objects.
- Dossier of photos of Islamic monuments, objects and sites. .
- A description of a Vase or bottle from Syria,
- A photo of a sword with a short note handwritten by V.S. (=Vera Salomons?)
- A batch of photos of Islamic door decorations.
- Two photos of a mosque lamp from Syria with description.
- Photos of Islamic sword, helmet and art.
- A newspaper cutting of an article titled “Prince Philip Wore a Yarmulke” (no apparent connection to L.A. Mayer).

**File No.: LAM/2/10**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: Photographs of rubbing(?) of sword. (Armourers) Dresden Museum

Proposed File Name:

Series: Scientific Material

Content:

Several illustrations of objects of an unclear nature.

**File No.: LAM/2/11**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: Notes etc.

Content:

Various dossiers of scientific notes, bibliographical notes, drafts, lists of objects, etc. all pertaining to Mayer’s scientific work.

**File No.: LAM/2/12**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Content: various films (content undetermined)

**File No.: LAM/2/13**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: Giraudon, ?, woodcarvers(?) etc.

Content:

A dossier of photos of Islamic art, mostly from the Louvre, Paris.

**File No.: LAM/2/14**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Original File Name: Letters [Hebr. - מכתבים]

Content: letters from Museums and institutions regarding requests of photos of objects.

- A hand-written letter in French dated 12 August 1956 with photos of astrolabe attached.
- A letter (15 May 1956) from the Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries addressed to L.A. Mayer with a photo of a coat-of-arms attached.
- A letter (13 June 1956) from the Regimental Museum, Britannia Barracks, Norwich addressed to L.A. Mayes (*sic*) and/or Dr. Zander regarding an oriental sword with a photo attached.
- A letter (15 June 1956) addressed to Prof. Mayer with a drawing of an Arabic inscription attached.
- A hand-written letter (12 May 1956) in French with a drawing of a Muslim artifact attached.

**File No.: LAM/2/15**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Content:

- hand-written notes, drafts, and drawings.
- bibliographical entries.
- A draft in German and bibliographical notes.
- An offprint of a bibliography of the IBI (Internationales Burgenforschungs-Institut) (inside an envelope of the institute addressed to L.A. Mayer)

**File No.: LAM/2/16**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Content:

- Photos of Islamic monuments and art.
- Offprints from articles.
- Draft of bibliography of Jewish art.
- Hand-written notebook of notes from a lecture on Arabic paleography (in Hebrew).
- L.A. Mayer's Bibliography of Jewish numismatics (book from, in Hebrew)
- Offprint of Mayer's article on excavations in Jerusalem (the offprint is dedicated to H. Torczyner)
- A letter (September 20, 1958) from L.A. Mayer to Mrs. Salomons with instructions on how to go about publishing the work "Islamic Swordsmiths and their Work", in case of

Mayer's death. The letter lists several scholars proposed by Mayer to take care of the editorial work.

- A lecture in Hebrew of L.A. Mayer titles "Jewish Art in the Muslim World"

**File No.: LAM/2/17**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Content:

- Post material (stamps, envelopes etc.)
- Small hand-written notes of undefined character.

**File No.: LAM/2/18**

**Series: Research material and notes (2)**

Proposed File Name: Material on Astrolabes

Content: this file contains research material on L.A. Mayer's research on Astrolabes.

- A letter (September 19, 1958) of L.A. Mayer to Dr. Ettinghausen regarding Mayer's contribution to a memorial volume in honor of Kuehnel plus a draft of Mayer's paper "Islamic Astrolabists: Some new Material". Mayer states his poor medical condition.
- Photos of objects, mainly Astrolabes and related documents.
- A letter (June 2, 1956) of Dr. Jamileh Yeganeh (Frankford Hospital, Philadelphia) to L.A. Mayer regarding an astrolabe.
- 8 letters (all from 1958) sent to L.A. Mayer from Francis Maddison (assistant curator of the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford), all have to do with astrolabes and scholarly literature thereof.
- Letter exchange of 1958 between Vera Salomons and the Antiquities Department of Iraq regarding the purchase of certain photos of objects.
- L.A. Mayer's bibliographical notes.
- A letter (January 31, 1958) from Albert Kunding (publisher) to Vera Salomons in French regarding a publication of Mayer's work (not mentioned which)

### **Series 3: Personal and biographical materials**

**File No.: LAM/3/1**

**Series: Personal and biographical materials (3)**

Content:

- 3 Israeli passports of L.A. Mayer
- Traveling document (Laissez-passer; תעודת מסע) of Mayer
- A British Passport of Mayer.
- Visitor's certificate of the *service des Antiquites de l'Egypt* of Mayer
- A student certificate of the University of Vienna of Mayer.

**File No.: LAM/3/2**

**Series: Personal and biographical materials (3)**

Original File Name: The deceased Ms. Rachel Mayer

Content:

- Newspaper cutting (25 June, 1943) with the announcement of the appointment of L.A. Mayer to rector of the Hebrew University.
- 9 copies of Rachel Mayer's play for children "The Vision of Isaiah" (one signed as belonging to Haim Zeev Hirschberg).
- 5 copies of a postcard with Rachel Mayer's Hebrew translation of the German poem "Schlaflied für Mirjam" by [Richard Beer-Hofmann](#).
- Hand-written list in Hebrew of Rachel Mayer's articles published in the journal HaMizpe (המצפה) between the years 1910-1913.
- A copy of the Hebrew youth Journal Eden (1925) with a short piece by Rachel Mayer (page 278).

**File No.: LAM/3/3**

**Series: Personal and biographical materials (3)**

Proposed File Name: L.A. Mayer's Last Will

Series: Personal Material

Content:

- The last will of L.A. Mayer with notary's statement.

**File No.: LAM/3/4**

**Series: Personal and biographical materials (3)**

Content:

- An offprint of a review by Claude Cahen of Mayer's book *Islamic armourers and their works*.
- Dossier of announcements from newspapers of L.A. Mayer's fifth anniversary of death.
- A letter (22/12/1964) in German from P. Barth (Women's social service) to Mrs. Salomons announcing/informing about the placement of a memorial plate in honor of L.A. Mayer. A photo of the plate is attached.
- Newspaper cutting announcing the anniversary of the death of L.A. Mayer.
- A letter (29/12/1963) from Donald B. Webster, Jr. to Albert Kundig (publisher) asking for a review copy of Mayer's *Islamic Armourers and their Works*.
- Invitation to Mayer's fifth anniversary of death with a copy of [Eliahu Eilat's](#) speech (in Hebrew) at the occasion.
- A letter (March 4, 1962) from H.Z. Hirschberg to Mrs. Salomons.
- A letter (18.10.1962) from \*\* (name not deciphered) from Cairo to "Sir" with thank you note for receiving a copy of Mayer's *Islamic Armourers*. The sender says that Mayer was one of his best friends and that they used to meet in London every summer.
- An offprint of a book review by Maxime Rodinson of Mayer's *Islamic Armourers*.
- A letter (May 11th, no year) to Mrs. Salomons. The sender's name is undeciphered.
- A hand-written note.
- 2 letters (23 September?, 1962; 8 October, 1961), hand-written in French to Mrs. Salomon (*sic*).

**File No.: LAM/3/5**

**Series: Personal and biographical materials (3)**

Original File Name: Mementos

Content:

- Photos of L.A. Mayer and his family (mainly mother and father)
- Postcards.
- Personal card of L.A. Mayer.
- Mayer's reading card at the National Library of France.
- A photo of L.A. Mayer (A4 size)

**File No.: LAM/3/6**

**Series: Personal and biographical materials (3)**

Proposed File Name: Academic Diplomas

Content:

Academic diplomas of L.A. Mayer from the universities of Vienna and Berlin, and of the Israel-Theological Seminary in Vienna.

**File No.: LAM/3/7**

**Series: Personal and biographical materials (3)**

Content:

This file contains personal and biographical material of L.A. Mayer and his parents from the period before immigrating to Palestine. Among the Content:

- Various identity certificates..
- A short "curriculum vitae" hand-written in Polish by L.A. Mayer.
- Recommendation letter (21/12/1918) to L.A. Mayer from his former workplace as a librarian of the oriental institute of the Vienna University (Oct 1917-Oct 1918).
- A recommendation letter (April 1, year not mentioned) regarding L.A. Mayer, hand-written in Hebrew by the chief rabbi (*Oberrabbiner*) of Vienna [H.P. Chajes](#) addressed to [Sir Herbert Samuel](#), the 1st High Commissioner for Palestine.
- Recommendation letter (1/3/1921) of L.A. Mayer from his former workplace as an assistant at the Prussian State Library (May 1920 - Feb 1921).
- Recommendation letter regarding L.A. Mayer's father, Baruch, from his work at the American joint distribution committee (Jan 1920-June 1921).
- A warm recommendation letter (11.4.1921) of L.A. Mayer from [Harry Torczyner](#).
- Mayer's family tree hand-written/drawn in Hebrew, with some comments.

**File No.: LAM/3/8**

**Series: Personal and biographical materials (3)**

Proposed File Name: Employment files

Content:

- Files pertaining to L.A. Mayer's employment as an inspector and other posts at the department of antiquities in Palestine.
- Files pertaining to L.A. Mayer's employment at the Hebrew University.
- Files pertaining to L.A. Mayer's estate and last will.
- A letter (1.5.1930) from The Clarendon Press Oxford to L.A. Mayer regarding the publication of his work on *Saracenic Heraldry*.<sup>5</sup>
- L.A. Mayer's speech as rector of the Hebrew University at the inauguration of the academic year 1944/45, November 1, 1944 (Hebrew and English).

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<sup>5</sup> L.A. Mayer, *Saracenic Heraldry / a survey* (Oxford: Oxford/Clarendon Press, 1933).

- A letter (29.9.1948) of L.A. Mayer to Mr. Poznansky regarding matters relating to the Hebrew University, specifically to [S.D. Goitein](#) and [Shlomo Pines](#).
- A letter (14.7.1952) of [S.D. Goitein](#) to L.A. Mayer informing about the funeral of Mayer's mother and discusses matters relating to the Hebrew University.

**File No.: LAM/3/9**

**Series: Personal and biographical materials (3)**

Proposed File Name: Varia

Content:

- Photos of objects.
- Photos of L.A. Mayer (large and small).
- Newspaper cutting from Arabic Press, mainly Al-Ahram.
- Dossier of notes (mostly bibliographical) mostly in Russian relating to various branches of folklore (dance, music, etc.) of central Asia and the Caucasus
- 4 letters of L.A. Mayer to his friends (names not specified) from the years 1934, 1955, 1956 and 1958 regarding scholarly work.
- A hand-written inventory in Hebrew of items "found at L.A. Mayer's desk"

**File No.: LAM/3/10**

**Series: Personal and biographical materials (3)**

Content:

Photo-copies of documents from files **LAM/3/7-9**

**\* L.A. Mayer's personal watch is found in the archive.**



## **Series 4: Correspondences**

**File No.: LAM/4/1**

**Series: Correspondences (4)**

Original File Name: "letters of Ms. Mayer z"l, mother of Prof. L.A. Mayer z"l from the years 1939-1951 (Hebrew)

Content:

- 11 letters of Ms. Rachel Mayer, the mother of L.A. Mayer, hand-written in German, to Ms. Dora Zeidmann from the years 1938-1948. The letters appear to be personal indicating a close relationship between the two women. The handwriting is exquisite, but the small size makes them difficult to decipher.
- One letter (29.7.1951) of Ms. Zeidmann to Ms. Mayer, hand-written.

- 3 letters of L.A. Mayer to Ms. Zeidmann, two of which are hand-written from 1939 and one is typed and dated 12 July 1951. The typed letter concerns the physical and mental condition of L.A. Mayer's mother.
- 2 letters from 1959 from [Haim Zeev Hirschberg](#) to Ms. Zeidmann.

**File No.: LAM/4/2**

**Series: Correspondences (4)**

Original File Name: "Private. Mrs. Vera Bryce-Salomons".

Content: ca. 50 Letters of L.A. Mayer to Vera Salomons spanning over the period from 7 December 1947 until 14 February 1959. Most of the letters are dated, several lack mention of the year. Most of the letters are hand-written, few are typed. Except one, all letters are written in English.

- One letter (14.5.1952) is hand-written in Hebrew indicating Mrs. Salomons desire to study Hebrew.
- A note by L.A. Mayer hand-written in German asking that all his letters be given to Mrs. Salomons.
- An envelope with newspaper cuttings that were probably attached to certain letters.

**File No.: LAM/4/3**

**Series: Correspondences (4)**

Proposed File Name: Early Letters of L.A. Mayer to [Harry Torczyner/Naftali Herz Tur-Sinai](#).

Series: Letters

Content: this file contains early letters of L.A. Mayer, from the 1920s and 1930s, some in Hebrew and some in German, mostly hand-written, addressed to Mayer's former teacher [Harry Torczyner/Naftali Herz Tur-Sinai](#).

- 19 letters from L.A. Mayer to [Harry Torczyner/Naftali Herz Tur-Sinai](#) spanning the period between 28.9.1919 until 22.10.1931.
- 3 letters addressed to L.A. Mayer, written in German, without indication of the sender.