



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 108, Folder 30, University of Notre Dame - Dedication of
Abrams Library [South Bend, Ind.]. 21 November 1980.



University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Office of the President

June 27, 1980

Cable Address "Dulnc"

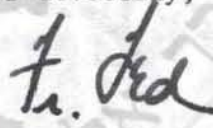
Dear Marc:

I am thrilled to learn from Jim Frick that you have accepted my invitation to be with us and give a lecture on the occasion of the dedication of the Abrams Collection in Judaic Studies. It will be a great occasion for Notre Dame, made even more so by your participation. I know that Eddie and the other members of the Abrams family will be very pleased by your presence.

Jim will write you in August of the details, as you requested.

With every good wish and a prayer from here, I am

Ever devotedly,



Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

*mtg folder
harr 1*

The American



Jewish Committee

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August 12, 1980

Mr. James Gibbons
Director of Special Projects
214 Administration Building
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Dear Mr. Gibbons,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 8th to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, in which you detail the activities scheduled for Friday, November 21st, at Notre Dame University.

The Rabbi is currently on vacation and is due back in our offices on September 3rd. I know he will respond to your letter personally at that time.

I have enclosed a news release which I am certain will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Rita P. Reznik
Secretary to Rabbi Tanenbaum

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Enclosure

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University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

*Vacation letter
P.C. - MT*

Director of Special Projects

August 8, 1980

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

We are delighted, of course, that you are to deliver the lecture on the occasion of the inauguration of the Alfred R. and Lee Abrams Collection in Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Notre Dame on Friday, November 21st. With this letter I am following up on your telephone conversation with Dr. James W. Frick, Vice-President for Public Relations and Development.

For your information the following are the events of the day. Your lecture is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. in the Memorial Library Auditorium. (I would be grateful if you could provide me with a title for use in printed material). Following your lecture at 5:00 p.m., Father Hesburgh will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in the President's Lounge atop the library.

A reception to be followed by dinner will be held in the Center for Continuing Education beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Provost of the University, Professor Timothy O'Meara, will be the Toastmaster. Father Hesburgh will be the principal speaker, preceded by remarks from Mr. Edmund A. Stephan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Mr. Robert C. Miller, Director of Libraries. Ed Abrams will respond for the family.

Participating in these events will be the officials of the University, members of the Abrams Family and their guests, the Advisory Councils of the Library, and the Law School which will be meeting on campus, representatives of the Theology Department headed by the chairman, Father Richard McBrien, Library Officials and Leaders of the Local Jewish Community.

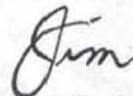
As you requested, I am providing you with two pieces of material. One memorandum on "Judaica At Notre Dame", has been provided by Professor Charles Primus, the other "The Abrams Collection of Judaica", has been written by David Sparks of the library staff.

You are cordially invited to remain at the University for the events of Saturday, November 22nd. These include the President's Buffet Luncheon, the Notre Dame/Air Force Football game at 1:30 p.m. and the post game reception and dinner. You will, of course, receive a formal invitation to the events of both days. We will provide accommodations at the Morris Inn at the entrance to the campus.

Please let me know if you have questions about any of these matters.

We look forward to your visit with great pleasure.

Cordially,



James V. Gibbons
Director of Special Projects.

JVG/ps

cc: J. Frick
T. O'Meara
R. Miller
Father McBrien
File (2)



MEMO

TO: James Gibbons
214 Administration Bldg.

DATE: August 1, 1980

FROM: Charles Primus

SUBJECT: Judaica at Notre Dame

Inauguration of Judaica in the Theology Department at Notre Dame dates from the establishment of the Rosenstiel Endowment in the late 1960s. The Department sponsored lecture series for several years. Topics included, "Jewish-Christian Worship," "Scholarship on the Dead Sea Scrolls," and "Wisdom in Judaism and Early Christianity."

In 1975, I was appointed Rosenstiel Lecturer in Judaica and Assistant Professor in the Theology Department. My appointment signalled the Department's interest in early Christianity and the origins of rabbinic Judaism. In 1976 the Theology Department reorganized its graduate programs. Significantly, biblical and historical sections were regrouped under the title, "Christian and Jewish Antiquity." The theory underlying the program has been that in order to understand the origins of Christianity, a student must also be familiar with the evolution of Judaism (and vice versa).

Judaica programs have been conducted in recent years under the aegis of the Center for the Study of Judaism and Christianity. The University of Notre Dame Press publishes a monograph series under the aegis of the Center. Most recently published in an important study by Professor Lawrence Hoffman, The Canonization of the Synagogue Service. Prophecy and Canon, by Professor Joseph Blenkinsopp, of Notre Dame, won a National Religious Book Award three years ago.

Notre Dame maintains close ties with the Ecumenical Institute at Tantur in Jerusalem. Our (graduate) students and faculty frequently visit Jerusalem for conferences or for extended periods of study and reflection. Our former chairman, David Burrell, currently serves as rector at Tantur.

Last June Notre Dame sponsored its first dig in Israel. Plans are underway to continue exploration in a consortium at a site in the Galilee.

Our faculty has pursued interests in Judaica through programs at other universities. For instance, one of our philosophically-oriented colleagues spent a summer at the Jewish Theological Seminary in a NEH program. Our colleagues have also taught and attended conferences at universities in Israel.

The Center for the Study of Judaism and Christianity has sponsored seminars for scholars in the Midwest with interests in Judaica.

A new lecture series on the Liss endowment has recently brought Professor Steven Katz, of Dartmouth, and Professor Pincas Peli, of Ben Gurion University to Notre Dame.

Two topics of central importance for Jews, the Holocaust and Israel, receive careful and sympathetic scrutiny at Notre Dame. President Hesburgh, of course, is a member of the President's Commission on the Holocaust. Elie Wiesel, Chairman of the Commission, has spoken at Notre Dame on more than one occasion. (Last June Wiesel received an honorary degree.) Mr. Sigmund Strochlitz, also a member of the Commission, lectured at Notre Dame two years ago. Three years ago a major Holocaust commemoration ceremony, planned in cooperation with individuals at ND and off campus, was held here.

An active chapter of American Academics for Peace in the Middle East meets at the University. Last December the Midwest Regional Conference of AAPME met at Notre Dame. (Hillel maintains an outreach program for Jewish students, of whom there are remarkably few, on campus.)

By our count, there have been in any semester between 200 and 700 students enrolled in courses at this University which touch on Judaica. Courses on Jewish religion, Hebrew language, Jewish prayer, and the Holocaust are offered regularly. Courses in the Theology, Government and English Department often touch on topics explicitly related to Jews and Judaism. Probably the most noteworthy experiences have been those in which students have come into contact with important representatives of contemporary Judaism. Rabbi Sandi Sasso had some very interesting conversations with students on this campus two years ago. Michael Wyschogrod has been influential with students whom he has met on this campus on two occasions. Larry Hoffman and Jules Harlow have each spent a week on campus conducting seminars for students enrolled in the liturgy program in the Theology Department. Hoffman spoke on Passover liturgies; Harlow dealt with the High Holidays.

The American Catholic Bishops Conference and the Synagogue Council of America have conducted dialogues at Notre Dame during the past two years. Discussion groups on themes relating to Judaism and contacts between Jews and Christians have been organized among faculty and students in recent years.

The Abrams Endowment has been planted in a fertile soil.

D. Sparks
7-31-80

The Abrams Collection of Judaica

The earliest collection of works in Judaica at Notre Dame seems to have been focused on apologetic and historical writings intended to present Jewish life and thought, and Jewish history, to a non-Jewish audience. These sketchy beginnings were in time extended to include a selection of contemporary Jewish writing, especially some major journals (CCAR Journal, Hebrew Union College Journal, Judaism, Commentary, etc.) and a good representative selection of current monographs by Jewish authors on what might be termed (by an extended analogy) the ecclesiology of modern Judaism.

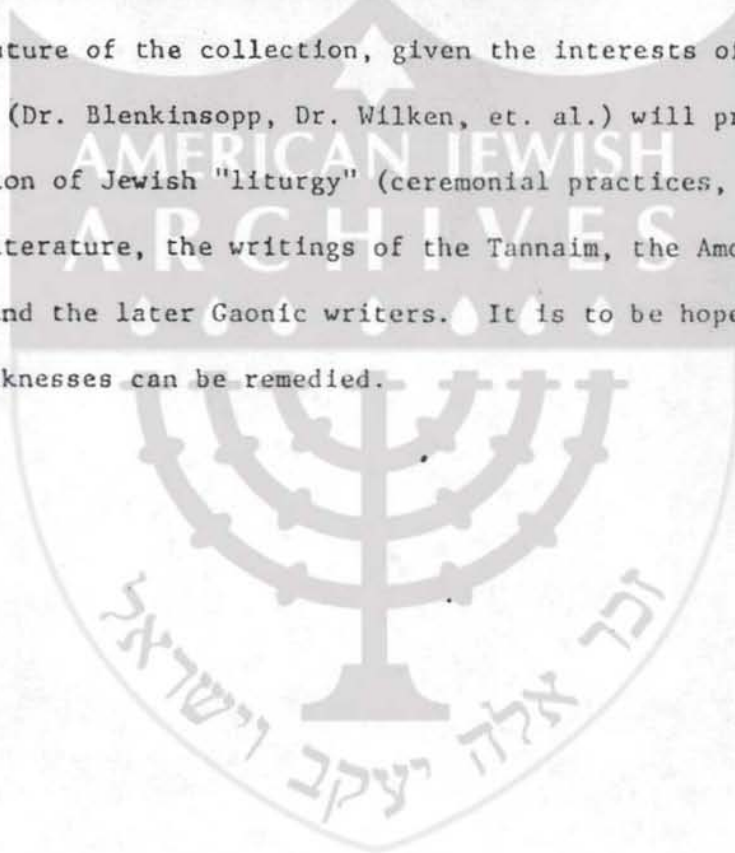
A more important development, inspired perhaps at first by Christian interest in the Qumran findings, has been the growth of a respectably solid collection of basic sources and texts in Hebrica and Judaica.

While Masoretic texts of the Old Testament and Targum are still somewhat sparse in the Notre Dame collections, an excellent collection of Talmud editions has been assembled. These include the standard published editions and (especially important) the three major English translations by Epstein, Steinsalz and the El Am Press, and even some recent facsimile publications from medieval manuscripts. There is little Gemara apart from the Talmudic texts, but there is little publishing of the commentaries in this form to warrant acquiring it. Mishnah is also represented in other editions, including the commentaries of Rambam (Maimonides). Minor halakhic writings, baraita, tosefta, etc., seem also to be fairly well represented. The Soncino Press' English language edition of the Midrash Rabbah is strongly supported by a substantial collection of Hebrew Midrash including even minor works, the sifrei and mekhilta and

extending to the aggadic writings. There is even some representation of Kabbalistic works.

Writings in Jewish philosophy and theology of the modern era are well represented although there is an obvious need to strengthen the collection in this area, since historically Notre Dame had little interest in this field. Also well represented are collections of Jewish folkloric material and works on Jewish-Christian relations.

The future of the collection, given the interests of the faculty who use it (Dr. Blenkinsopp, Dr. Wilken, et. al.) will probably be in the direction of Jewish "liturgy" (ceremonial practices, etc.) and early Rabbinic literature, the writings of the Tannaim, the Amoraim, the Saboraim, and the later Gaonic writers. It is to be hoped, also, that present weaknesses can be remedied.



University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Department of Information Services

September 15, 1980

Miss Rita P. Reznik
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 65th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Miss Reznik:

I am preparing program material for the inauguration of the Alfred R. and Lee Abrams Collection in Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Notre Dame, for which Rabbi Tanenbaum will deliver the Inaugural lecture.

I would be grateful if you would provide me with biographical information and a head-and-shoulders photograph of Rabbi Tanenbaum for use in the program as well as for publicity purposes.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Diane Wilson

Diane R. Wilson
Assistant Director

9/17

University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Vice-President - Public Relations
and Development

June 26, 1980

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

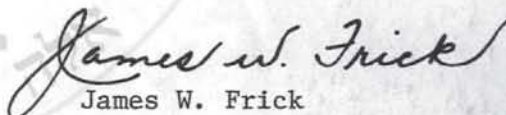
Father Hesburgh is elated that you have accepted his invitation to give a lecture here in November. The University will provide you an honorarium of \$1,000 plus expenses.

I have told Eddie Abrams you will be with us for the dedication of his Collection and, of course, he is very pleased.

During the month of August we will send you an outline of the program and some background of the material on the Collection.

Warmest regards.

Cordially,


James W. Frick

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, N. Y. 10022