



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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Bloch, Ernst, 1933-1934.

September 24, 1933

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Ernest Bloch

just wrote me from San Francisco, that he has aroused a great deal of interest there with his lectures on the music he has written for the Temple Service, and he wondered if B. Silver would be interested in hearing him - As he was about to leave for Los Angeles to deliver a lecture there, he asked

as you can well imagine,  
 is magnificent! And  
 his explanation and  
 interpretation of this sacred  
 service, interspersed with  
 his playing and singing  
 of parts of it, is thrilling -  
 His fee would be \$150 -

Mr. Bloch came to  
 Quince two months ago  
 to arrange for the  
 publication and premiere  
 of this latest work, and  
 in another month or so,  
 he will return to Europe  
 where he will conduct his



2

me if I would also try  
to arrange an engagement for  
him in Cleveland -

Mr. Bloch has been  
in Switzerland for three  
years, working at this  
tremendous task - studying  
the Hebrew and its  
inflections, the deep meaning  
of the text - and  
becoming more and more  
imbued with the true  
spirit and the greatness  
of the Jewish religion -  
listen his genius as  
a musician, the result



4 works in England, Russia  
and Italy - Lincoln 155

He could give a  
lecture in Cleveland the  
evening of October 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
the afternoon or evening  
of October 4<sup>th</sup> (or possibly  
the afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup>, if  
you should want it then)  
of course this is very short  
notice! but it is also  
a wonderful opportunity  
for Mr. Bloch's many friends  
in Cleveland -

May I wish you and  
yours a very happy New Year -  
Cordially  
Aunt Frank

613 Richmond Ave  
Buffalo, N.Y.



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by the sender of this  
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telephone it to . . . .

**WESTERN UNION**

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## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

LEAVING FRISCO WEDNESDAY FOURTH AFTERNOON ARRIVING CLEVELAND

SATURDAY 5 PM COULD YOU KINDLY PROVIDE GOOD STINWAY FOR I

PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE STOP BEING TIRED AND NEEDING QUIET

PLACE TO STAY COULD YOU RESERVE ROOM WADE PARK MANOR AND

KINDLY WIRE 3435 SACRAMENTO STREET IF EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT

GREETING=

ERNEST BLOCH.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE



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East 9th St., Cleveland, Ohio

TELEPHONE

CHERRY 1740, LINE 87

1935 SEP 27 AM 3 55

CE96 27 NM=LOSANGELES CALIF 26

RABBI HILLIL SILVER=

CLEVE=

LECTURE OCTOBER FOURTH IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF ENGAGEMENTS  
HERE COULD THIS BE POSTPONED ABOUT A WEEK PLEASE WIRE CARE  
MRS LEWIN FOUR FIFTY SOUTH STANDREWS PLACE LOSANGELES

GREETINGS=

ERNEST BLOCH.

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER



October 4, 1933.

Mrs. Emil Brudno,  
2512 Euclid Heights Blvd.,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mrs. Brudno:

I am enclosing herewith admission cards to the Ernest Bloch Lecture Recital next Monday evening.

With reference to the invitation which you extend to me, I find that I cannot accept any engagement on the 18th or the 19th of this month. I am at the beck and call of the American League for the Defense of Jewish Rights, which is prosecuting the boycott. I am chairman of its Administrative Committee and it has been holding meetings almost every week in New York. I would suggest that you ask someone of my rabbinical colleagues in the city to speak on the German Boycott.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK  
Enc.



C. C. Birchard ~~Publishing~~ Co.  
Music Publishers  
Boston, Mass.

March 30, 1934.

Mr. Ernest Bloch,  
New York,  
N.Y.

My dear Mr. Bloch:

I was happy to read in the newspapers of your return to this country. I trust that you enjoyed your visit abroad as much as you had hoped to.

I was, however, very much shocked at the newspaper account of what was supposed to have been your comments on Hitler and the Hitler regime. Surely you must have been misquoted. The interview has created a painful impression among all Jewish circles and I believe that you owe it to yourself, if you are not clearly quoted to issue a statement immediately. Your praise of that venomous blood thirsty anti-Semite, Hitler, as a man of high principles is utterly incomprehensible. Anyone who has read his book "Mein Kampf" will know that the gentleman is a paranoiac on the Jewish question and a vicious militarist and reactionary on all other questions.

You have put yourself in the wrong light. Whereas Toscanini and other great non-Jewish musicians have refused to enter Germany because of what the Nazi Government has done to the Jewish musicians, you announce publicly that you are going into Germany -- in the fond hope of improving the situation by playing your Friday Evening Service.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK



A QUIET  
RESIDENTIAL HOTEL  
OVERLOOKING  
CENTRAL PARK

# Hotel Peter Stuyvesant

CENTRAL PARK WEST  
AT 86TH STREET

NEW YORK

April 4, 1934.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Silver;

Since my arrival every minute of my time has been taken with the most frightful job of revising full orchestral material for the forthcoming performance of my Service, which should have been ready months ago. I am exhausted. This accounts for the delay in answering your letter of March 30th.

I am led to think that you have not seen the article you spoke about. Some of it has been misquoted but it has been especially MISREAD. I am enclosing a copy of it. Where have you seen that I "announced publicly" that I was going to Germany??? I conducted the World premiere of the Service in Torino, January 19th. There was such an interest in it that it was broadcasted all over Europe, was heard even in Palestine, and Germany, naturally, (whereas no broadcasting company in the United States nor any Jewish Community in this country has manifested the slightest interest in having it broadcasted here). Several Jewish people in Berlin heard it and wrote me and this is how Mr. Alexander Weisbaum of the Jewish Kulturbund, after having asked special conditions and renouncements from my part, which I begged my European publishers to accept, decided to give a performance with big chorus, cantor and orchestra in the greatest synagogue of Berlin. I hear that Leipzig is going to do the same. Do you think I ought to have refused them to hear a work that brings them some solace and certainly be more of help to them than all the mock "trials" and other farcical affairs with which many people advertise themselves in this country, and which at the end do more harm to the poor suffering Jews in Germany than help them. The rich Jews of course are alright and safe in Germany, as elsewhere, but the poor suffering refugees I saw in Switzerland, in France, and in England are certainly not helped by the theatrical and useless gestures made here in the United States. Many Jews from Germany have written since months to prominent friends of mine in France and in England, begging them to stop such manifestations which only aggravate their sad situation in Germany.

I wish you would again read this interview. You would see that I never "praised" this "venomous, blood-thirsty anti-Semite, Hitler". I did not say "I greatly respect



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A QUIET  
RESIDENTIAL HOTEL  
OVERLOOKING  
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AT 86TH STREET

NEW YORK

Hitler's sincerity", but I said that I believed in his absolute sincerity as well as those connected with him. I have talked to many great Jews and non-Jews in Europe who feel the same and it is precisely what makes him and his movement the more dangerous. It is not in treating him as a "paranoiac", a maniac or a vicious militarist, or as a mad man, as many people say in this country that one can fight with the right weapons a movement that is spreading rapidly and dangerously to all parts of the world. I told you in Cleveland that I had foreseen this movement since 1913 when I read the Chamberlain book. People didn't want to believe me anymore than when I predicted the permanency of the Soviets at the time when everybody was fighting them here in America, or the financial and moral collapse of the United States' prosperity, which I predicted in 1926. It would be too long to tell you all of my experiences of the growing antisemitism of Europe, the tremendous seriousness of Hitlerism everywhere. I am unfortunately awaiting since months, since years, one single intelligent Jewish voice to answer it in the proper way.

I am sorry too that people like you who pretend to be my friends and know me, can so quickly form such superficial and erroneous judgment about a man whom, you know, has always been ready to sacrifice his own interest for a just cause and has never hidden but proclaimed his Judaism.

Yours very Sincerely.

Ernest Bloch