



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

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

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

Reel
20

Box
7

Folder
427

Central Conference of American Rabbis, Song Book Committee,
1945.

REPORT
of
COMMITTEE ON SONG BOOK
of the
Central Conference of American Rabbis

The Committee on the Song Book of the C.C.A.R. met on Monday, October 8, 1945, staying in session for about six hours. All the problems related to the song book were thoroughly discussed. Herewith is a summary of the decisions reached.

1. The committee discussed the contents of the song book and came to the following general conclusions with regard to themes to be included:

Religious Songs

God
Israel
Torah
Religion in Action
Bible songs
Blessings and prayers
Sabbath songs
Jewish Holiday songs
Patriotic songs.
Palestine (but not Zionist) songs
Zionist songs

2. The children's song book should be published in two forms:
(a) A volume for children only to contain either just the words alone or the words with a melody line. The book should be attractively published and well illustrated, as children's song books should be. It was agreed that if it will be possible to seel the book for \$1.00 or less and still include a melody line, that that should be done; otherwise the melody line should be omitted.
(b) A volume containing the music in full. This will be used only by the person at the piano or organ.

3. Mr. Harry Coopersmith, Director of Jewish music for the Jewish Education Committee of New York, has been invited by the committee to serve as editor of the book on a royalty basis.

4. In view of the fact that this will be essentially a book for schools, the committee recommends that even though it is being edited under the auspices of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, it be published by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which has a rich experience in the publication of material for educational purposes.

5. If the last suggestion is approved, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations will make the entire financial investment in the books, which we estimate to be in the neighborhood of \$8,000.00.

6. An effort will be made to secure assistance from a special fund, if possible.

7. The songs will be classified on three levels -- primary, intermediate, and senior -- so that the book, when completed, will

give us a curriculum on Jewish music for our religious schools.

8. On motion made by Dr. Reichert, seconded by Dr. Gamoran, it was decided that the section on Palestine and Zionist songs should be the last section in the book, so that if any congregation wishes to order the song book without those sections, they may do so.

9. The book shall include simple, illuminating notes introducing each series (such as the section on Torah, the section on Sabbath songs, the section on Palestine). Where necessary, short notes synopsizing the songs should be given, especially not overlooking any colorful material that may be related to any given song or composer.

10. It was decided to prepare an introduction explaining the contents of the song book, to be signed by the members of the Committee on the Song Book. Mr. Coopersmith's name shall appear as editor of the book.

11. It was decided to invite our colleagues to submit any poems or songs which, in their opinion, deserve inclusion in the song book, whether written by themselves or by other poets or teachers.

12. Members of the Conference and others who are musically gifted will be invited to compose music for some of the songs. Members of the committee will pass on the songs submitted, in accordance with the following criteria:

Genuine liturgical songs
Easy singability for children in groups
Satisfactory word tone connections
Use of traditional elements when possible
Rhythmic quality
Range and pitch

13. Criteria for the text of the songs shall be

- a. Jewishness
- b. Social significance
- c. Literary style

In the event a patron is found to give a substantial subsidy to the book, the usual acknowledgment on a page at the beginning of the book, will be made.

We suggest that the Conference should also plan to publish a separate volume of children's services instead of relying on just the few services which are now contained in the Union Hymnal. This would give greater variety which would, at least to some extent, solve the problem of the continuous requests which come for additional children's services.

In view of the growing need of junior choirs, we feel that more

material should be available for some choral work. In many cases the material already in existence is difficult to procure.

We also feel that creative work in this field should be encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRY COOPERSMITH
LEON FRAM
EMANUEL GAMORAN
VICTOR E. REICHERT
ERIC WERNER
JACOB SINGER, Chairman

