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Dropsie College, 1958-1963.

**THE DROPSIE COLLEGE
FOR HEBREW AND COGNATE LEARNING
PHILADELPHIA**

(Founder: Moses Aaron Dropsie)

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NATIONAL OFFICE
OF
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
1776 Broadway
New York 19, N. Y.
JUdson 2-3967

February 7, 1958

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You were good enough to accept our invitation to join our Sponsors Committee for the observance of our 50th Anniversary. Among those who served on this committee were distinguished persons drawn from this country and abroad -- Jewish and non-Jewish, scholars and lay leaders.

The observance program as you know took place in Philadelphia last May. A series of public meetings and academic conclaves was arranged. Scholars of world renown and celebrated men of letters participated. During the week of the Jubilee celebration Philadelphia was rightly characterized as the capital of advanced Jewish scholarship and culture.

We now deem it desirable to reorganize the Sponsors Committee as a National Advisory Committee with which we could discuss some of our problems--particularly in the matter of making our unique significance as a Jewish educational institution better understood.

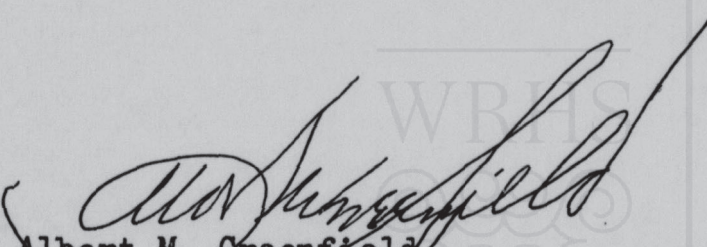
It is our plan to have the committee meet in Philadelphia once a year. We are hoping that those who reside nearby will arrange to attend these meetings. A transcript of the proceedings and discussions will be made available to those who cannot attend.

In order to make these meetings fruitful to the participants as well as beneficial for the college, we shall discuss also issues currently confronting our people in a manner in which our institution could make a contribution to a better understanding of these issues along the lines of scholarship and research.

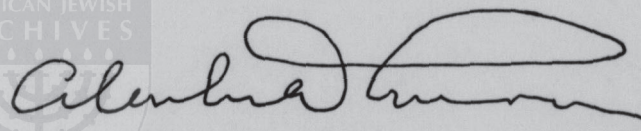
It is our plan and hope to make the annual meeting of the Advisory Committee an important event and attendance at it a rewarding experience -- both to the college and to the members of the committee.

We invite you to join this committee and earnestly hope that you will accept our invitation regardless of whether you will be able to attend the annual meeting. Looking forward to your acknowledgment to this effect, we are

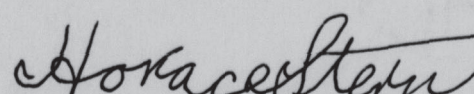
Sincerely yours,



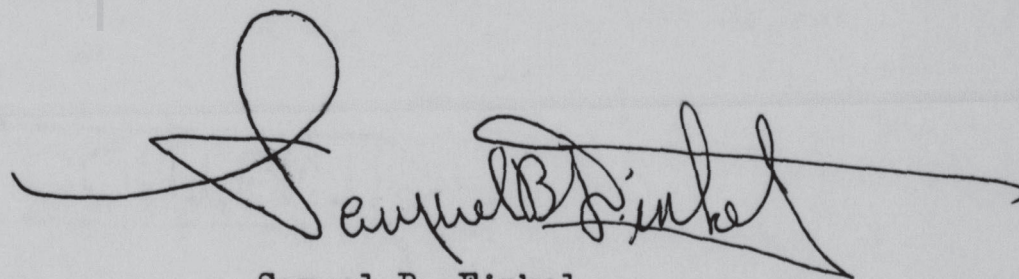
Albert M. Greenfield
Chairman, National Advisory Committee



Dr. Abraham A. Neuman
President



Judge Horace Stern
Chairman, Board of Governors



Samuel B. Finkel
Executive Vice-President

February 12, 1958

Mr. Samuel B. Finkel
Executive Vice-President
The Dropsie College
1776 Broadway
New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Finkel:

Replying to your letter of February 7th I shall be very happy to serve on the National Advisory Committee in behalf of The Dropsie College.

With warmest regards, I remain

Cordially yours,

AHS:sl

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

THE DROPSIE COLLEGE
FOR HEBREW AND COGNATE LEARNING
PHILADELPHIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

February 26, 1958

Dear Doctor Silver:

Greetings. You may have heard that a great literary enterprise has been undertaken by a joint board of American and Israeli scholars, namely to prepare a twenty volume history of the Jews from earliest times to the present day along lines similar to the several Cambridge History Series. About a hundred scholars are now engaged upon this work. The finances are covered by a small group, who have already advanced over \$100,000 in the processing of the work to date.

The history will be published simultaneously in two editions: Hebrew and English. Doctor Joseph Klausner is chief editor for the ancient period (seven volumes); I am in charge of the medieval period (six volumes); Doctor Salo W. Baron is chief editor for the modern period (seven volumes).

Each volume in the series is under the editorship of a scholar who has made the particular theme of the volume the area of his specialization. Volume I, (Professor Ephraim E. Speiser editor) is ready for the press. Volume II (Professor B. Mazar editor) will be completed within a period of about three months.

A prospectus announcing and describing the work and its importance is about to be prepared. We are eager to include in the announcement your Hascamah. We also hope that you will co-operate in the work proper by contributing several chapters in the later volumes on Messianism and related subjects.

Among the scholars who are editing individual volumes in the Series, are the following:

Benjamin Mazar
B. Dinur
I. Heilprin
Harry M. Orlinsky

THE DROPSIE COLLEGE
FOR HEBREW AND COGNATE LEARNING
PHILADELPHIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Abba Hillel Silver

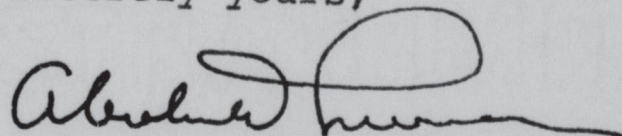
February 26, 1958

Cecil Roth
H. Schirmann
Ephraim Speiser
Y. Guttman
Solomon Grayzel
S.D. Goitein
E. Urbach
Harry A. Wolfson
Solomon Zeitlin
Benzion Netanyahu

I hope that this brief sketch of a truly gigantic undertaking -- one of the greatest co-operative enterprises in the history of Jewish scholarship -- will appeal strongly to your fertile and vibrant Jewish impulses and that you will express your approval of our enterprise in your own characteristic style.

Needless to say, I shall be glad to supply any additional information that you may desire.

Sincerely yours,



ABRAHAM A. NEUMAN

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

THE DROPSIE COLLEGE
FOR HEBREW AND COGNATE LEARNING
PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 26, 1958

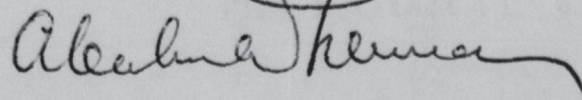
Dear Doctor Silver:

Only the combined forces of the snow-storm and the breakdown of the Pennsylvania Railroad prevented me from joining you at the Dropsie College Symposium in New York last Thursday. But of course I received full report of the events, the remarkable attendance in view of and despite the storm, and the enthusiastic response of the audience to the program and your part in particular. Again you have put us under deep obligation for your readiness to serve the Dropsie College and revealing under its light your brilliant scholarship in the fellowship of some of the great scholars of our generation.

A check to cover your travel expenses will be forwarded to you by the treasurer. What we owe you in gratitude must be left to the imagination.

Incidentally, when may I have your statement concerning the History project about which I wrote you some time ago and which Doctor Zeitlin discussed with you last week. The time element is important as we want to incorporate it in the prospectus which is now in preparation. Many thanks in advance for the hoped-for statement.

Cordially yours,



ABRAHAM A. NEUMAN

Doctor Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

March 28, 1958

Dr. Abraham A. Neuman
The Dropsie College
Philadelphia 32, Pa.

My dear Dr. Neuman:

The news contained in your letter of February 26th was most welcome and exciting. A project which I have long hoped for and regarded as of utmost importance has finally been launched -- and under the most acceptable auspices.

A history of our people from earliest times to the present in which a hundred scholars will cooperate -- what a thrilling enterprise! We shall at long last have our history told by a consortium of eminent scholars, each a recognized authority in his field, whose combined efforts, incorporating the latest available data in their respective fields, will, I am sure, produce a monumental work which will immeasurably enrich the field of Jewish historiography. Their work will also prove a welcome addition to the historical literature of the world whose civilization was so greatly influenced by the mind and spirit of Israel.

I know of no more appropriate literary enterprise with which to crown this unprecedented age in Jewish history in which we are privileged to live -- an age of marvelous fulfillment and of rich promise.

Most cordially yours,

AHS:s1

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

THE DROPSIE COLLEGE
FOR HEBREW AND COGNATE LEARNING
PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 14, 1958

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105 St. at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

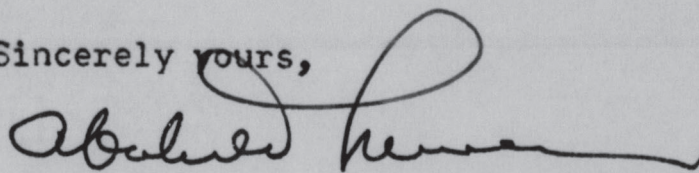
Dear Dr. Silver:

I gratefully acknowledge your statement of March 28. My colleagues and I highly appreciate your wonderful commendation of our history project.

I need hardly add that we shall feature your approbation prominently in the prospectus which will shortly announce the projected publication.

Again assuring you of our warm appreciation, I am, with high regard,

Sincerely yours,



Abraham A. Neuman
President

AN:mb

THE DROPSIE COLLEGE
FOR HEBREW AND COGNATE LEARNING
PHILADELPHIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

June 20, 1958

Dear Dr. Silver:

I take pleasure in sending you herewith the twofold brochure describing the nature of the projected World History of the Jewish People, and the reaction of leading Americans whose statements we solicited, including your own.

We are most grateful for your participation and we hope that you will derive deep satisfaction from your gracious helpfulness.

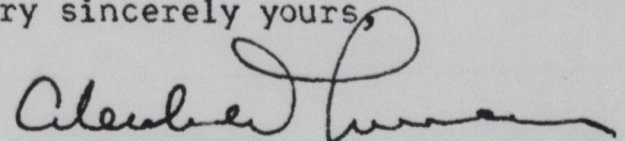
We are now planning to form a Sponsors' Committee of distinguished laymen whose prestige will lend moral support to the scholars whose fame in the scholarly world should be equally recognized in the intelligent lay community.

I have the honor to extend to you a cordial invitation to serve on the Sponsors' Committee for the World History of the Jewish People.

The Committee will be purely advisory or consultative. It is not contemplated that the members of the Sponsors' Committee be burdened with any specific responsibilities or obligations. The prestige of your name, we feel confident, will add strength and lend appeal to this great historic undertaking.

Hoping that you will grant us this added cooperation,
I am

Very sincerely yours,



Abraham A. Neuman
President

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105 St. and Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

June 30, 1958

Dr. Abraham A. Neuman, President
The Dropsie College
Philadelphia 32, Pa.

My dear Dr. Neuman:

Let me thank you for sending me the Brochures on "The World History of the Jewish People". They are very attractive and I read them with interest.

Of course I shall be most happy to serve on the Sponsonr's Committee.

With warmest regards and all good wishes for a pleasant summer, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:sl

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

June 18, 1963

The Dropsie College
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Attention: Dr. Abraham A. Newman,
President

Dear Doctor Newman:

I am happy to advise you that upon the urgent request of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, the Trustees of The Louis D. Beaumont Foundation have approved a special grant in the aggregate amount of \$25,000.00 payable in annual installments of \$5,000 each, for the purpose of establishing a research fellowship to enable a qualified "young scholar" to prepare himself through intensive study during the five year period to succeed Professor Solomon Zeitlin upon his retirement.

Promptly after you advise us that the fellowship has been awarded, the first installment of \$5,000 will be paid, and the remaining four installments will be paid at annual intervals thereafter.

We trust that you will be able to make the award promptly and that the purposes of the award will be successfully achieved.

Sincerely,

Nathan L. Dauby,
President

NLD:fj

cc: Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

June 24, 1963

Dear Mr. Dauby:

I am happy to acknowledge with warm appreciation your letter of June eighteenth.

I applaud the action of the Trustees of the Louis D. Beaumont Foundation in voting the designated special grant as a far-sighted measure to promote the continued development of rabbinic culture in America. For this, let me express our gratitude. We are also most grateful to Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver for having brought this matter urgently before your Trustees. All of us who are hopefully striving for a renaissance of Jewish culture and scholarship are indeed facing an urgent situation.

Doctor Zeitlin is expected to return shortly from a scholarly exploratory trip to Israel and the Near East. We shall then designate a suitable candidate for the grant to carry out the purpose designated in your letter.

Most sincerely yours,

cc to Rabbi Silver

ABRAHAM A. NEUMAN

Mr. Nathan L. Dauby
The Louis D. Beaumont Foundation
800 National City - E, 6th Street Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio

C O P Y
THE DROPSIE COLLEGE
PHILADELPHIA

November 8, 1963

Dear Mr. Dauby,

I am glad to advise you that upon the recommendation of Professor Solomon Zeitlin and with my full concurrence, we appointed Mr. Zvi H. Szubin, formerly of Israel, as Research Fellow in Rabbinic Literature, in pursuance of your letter of June 18th. We were careful and deliberate in our selection so as to be reasonably sure that the appointee will in time fulfill the purposes for which the Beaumont Foundation made the generous grant. I may add that Mr. Szubin will carry on his studies and research under the immediate guidance of Professor Zeitlin.

The appointment will go into effect November 15, 1963 on an annual basis.

I earnestly trust that the joint effort of the Dropsie College and the Beaumont Foundation with the blessing of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver will fulfill our hopes and expectations.

Sincerely yours,

Abraham A. Neuman

Mr. Nathan L. Dauby
The Louis D. Beaumont Foundation
800 National City - E. 6th Street Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio