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Hurwitz, Henry (Intercollegiate Menorah Association for the
Advancement of Jewish Culture and Ideals), 1925-1927.

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INTERCOLLEGIATE MENORAH ASSOCIATION

FOR THE STUDY AND ADVANCEMENT OF
JEWISH CULTURE AND IDEALS

167 WEST 13th STREET
NEW YORK

Sept. 24, 1925.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St. at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba Hillel:

I received yesterday your note dated the 11th inst. I was happy to hear from you, and particularly pleased that you thought of writing me in the midst of what must be a very busy time for you, what with your return from abroad and the holidays.

As for our Menorah campaign in Cleveland, isn't it true that we have hardly started it? Of course, you realize that a circular letter from you, especially since people knew you were going abroad, is hardly a test at all of the responsiveness of your people, of Cleveland Jewry, to our cause. The four hundred odd dollars that came in as a result of the letter aren't a circumstance to what I am sure you will get as the result of a real, followed-up appeal this fall. Rabbi Krohngold was in Cleveland a few days during the summer, but upon the advice of Alfred Steuer particularly, he left the city so as not to prejudice our concentrated campaign this fall, when you should return, and when Rabbi Goldman and our other good friend Rabbi Brickner would also be there. Steuer offered to help in getting up a lunch or dinner of 50 picked men, as one of the ways of putting our campaign through. Krohngold (now in Indianapolis) is ready to come to Cleveland and be at your service.

I feel strongly that we should look to Cleveland for a minimum of \$5000 a year for our Menorah work. Please remember that what is at stake is not merely the Menorah Societies in our Universities (their maintenance and successful activities depend directly upon the guidance and service of the Intercollegiate, which in turn depends directly upon the funds we secure). What is at stake is the whole movement of promoting Jewish learning and culture-- if you like, Jewish religion in the deepest sense -- among the intelligent laity of our country. In the Universities, besides the agency of the Menorah Societies, we work also through the faculties: through our own Menorah faculty (headed by Professor Nathan Isaacs and Professor Harry Wolfson of Harvard) we are in a position to provide the guidance and literature which professors in the various humanities need to include the Jewish aspects of history, literature, religion, law, etc., in their regular courses. Perhaps Professor

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Isaacs spoke of this aspect when he was with you last Spring; he is especially interested in it, and realizes keenly the great need and opportunities in this sphere.

Incidentally, may I say that Professor Isaacs made a real sacrifice in coming to Cleveland when we wanted him, and he has told me that he was very hopeful of the results in view of the interest that seemed to be aroused. I think we owe it to scholars like Professor Isaacs to do our utmost to meet the sacrifice which they themselves make. Surely if Cleveland can raise millions for Temples and charities and other necessary communal, national and international causes, the small sum of \$5000 a year, with you sponsoring the cause, is not unreasonable and impossible?

In this connection I am most happy to tell you that we have succeeded in achieving one of our ambitions, namely, the establishment of a Chair in Jewish Literature and Philosophy at Harvard. It will be announced shortly, upon the formal acceptance by the Harvard Corporation (President Lowell has already indicated his approval). The donor whom we have succeeded in getting is Lucius Littauer, an old Harvard man. Dr. Harry Wolfson is slated for the Chair, and apart from the signal value of this establishment in itself for Jewish learning and for a Jewish scholar like Wolfson, we are hoping that it will serve as a stimulus for the establishment of similar Chairs in other universities. Without the existence and effort of the Menorah, we should not be having this Chair at Harvard now.

Another important aspect of our work -- which of course you realize -- is represented by The Menorah Journal. Not merely that it is the best, really the only cultural medium American Jewry has. But through The Menorah Journal we have attracted scores of first-rate intellects among Jewish scholars and writers who had no connection with Judaism before. Through the stimulus and the opportunity of the Journal we have gotten these men to apply their thought to Jewish life and problems. It would be gratuitous for me to tell you how important such accession of intellectual and spiritual strength is to American Judaism. Whether we like it or not, the fact remains that theology, the synagogue, doesn't attract a good many of our Jewish laymen, particularly our intellectuals. The experience of the Menorah, especially through the Journal, has amply demonstrated that they can be attracted through such an intellectual or academic or cultural appeal -- call it what you will -- as the Menorah makes. And I cannot help feeling that it would be an incalculable loss if we had to give up this magnet, this stimulus, this medium that The Menorah Journal provides, not merely for the enlightened discussion of Jewish questions on a high plane from all points of view, but as a liaison between Judaism and these brilliant lay intellects whom we are attracting and can attract more and more in the future. I could go into particulars of this phase, mention many names -- Waldo Frank, James Oppenheim, Alexander Goldenweiser, Edward Sapir, Jacob Zeitlin, any number of others; but you realize, I am sure,

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the sweep and implications of all this as well as I.

So, all in all, it seems to me it would be a real catastrophe to American Jewish life if, for want of so little money, we permitted the Menorah to go under after all these years.

In view of the work we are doing and can do more and more, in view of the very great significance, the unique value of our activity for American Judaism, I confess I am astonished myself at the little money that we require.

So let us go to it, and get our little quota this fall in Cleveland -- as I hope we shall in other cities -- so that we may carry on properly. Will you let me hear from you as to procedure? Please don't allow any other campaign to precede us now; we have deferred to others enough in other years.

With all good wishes to you for the New Year,

Faithfully,

Henry Duburgh

HH-CL



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INTERCOLLEGIATE MENORAH ASSOCIATION

FOR THE STUDY AND ADVANCEMENT OF
JEWISH CULTURE AND IDEALS

167 WEST 13th STREET
NEW YORK

October 5, 1925.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St. at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba Hillel:

I've just heard from Krohngold that you wish me to get in touch with you with reference to your proposed meeting for Menorah November 2nd or 3rd. As it happens, I have planned to be in Ohio about that time, and can easily make Cleveland if you wish me to.

I am very happy to know that you will push our cause through now, with the help of our other rabbi friends in your city. And I want to thank you for your continuance of your generous personal subscription.

Sincerely,

Henry Hurwitz
Chancellor.

HH/F

P.S. I am sending you tomorrow a list of people in Cleveland who have so far contributed or pledged for 1925.

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167 WEST 13th STREET
NEW YORK

Oct. 13, 1925.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St. at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba Hillel:

May I regard Tuesday, November 3rd,
as definite for our Menorah meeting in Cleveland?
For I have to make dates now also for other cities.

Sincerely,

Henry Hurwitz

HH-CL

NO

October fifteenth
1925

Mr. Henry Hurwitz,
167 West 13th Street,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Hurwitz,

I do not believe that Tuesday,
November 3rd is a good day for your visit
to Cleveland. In the first place, it is
Election Day, and in the second place, we
shall not then be through with our Palestine
Foundation Fund campaign, which is proceeding
very slowly and very laboriously.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

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THE MENORAH JOURNAL

*Published Bi-monthly by the Intercollegiate Menorah Association
"For the Study and Advancement of Jewish Culture and Ideals"*

167 WEST 13TH ST.

NEW YORK CITY



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MARVIN LOWENTHAL *European Editor*
ADOLPH S. OKO
HARRY A. WOLFSON *Associate Editors*
ELLIOT E. COHEN *Managing Editor*

Cable Address "MENORAH"

October 28, 1925.

The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sirs:

We are returning herewith the photograph which
you were good enough to let us have some time ago.

Thanking you for the courtesy, we are

Sincerely yours,

THE MENORAH JOURNAL

Ada Diamondston

Editorial Department

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INTERCOLLEGIATE MENORAH ASSOCIATION

FOR THE STUDY AND ADVANCEMENT OF
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167 WEST 13th STREET
NEW YORK

Dec. 4, 1925.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St. at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba:

I've just had a conference with Professor Kaplan about the matter he discussed with you in Cleveland. Inasmuch as I'm to be in Cleveland next Thursday, the 10th (Al Steuer tells me he has consulted with you about the luncheon meeting that day), Kaplan suggested I take that matter up further with you, Brickner, Goldman, Birnbaum (if I have the name correct.)

Now I must leave Cleveland Thursday night for Columbus, but I hope that some time between Thursday noon and train time you'll be able to see me.

Ever,

HH-CL

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Cable Address "MENORAH"

January 6, 1926.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St. & Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Silver:

Just after sending you my letter yesterday
I came upon your comment on Dr. Wise's Jesus address,
in the Jewish Tribune. A singularly sane comment. And
you end up by talking of "the cheapness, noisiness and
vulgarity of American Jewish life." My dear fellow,
are you quoting from "The Age of Brass"!

Cordially,

A handwritten signature, likely of Henry Hurwitz, in dark ink.

HH:YS

R

Temple B'rith Kodesh

117 GIBBS STREET

Rochester, N. Y.

HORACE J. WOLF, RABBI

E. J. WILE, SECRETARY

Jan. 8, 1926.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,

Cleveland, O.

Dear Abba,

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter I wrote to-day
to the Menorah Journal. It is self-explanatory.

I would like to know whether you, as a member of the
Menorah Journal Board, agree with the position which I have
taken.

Hastily but sincerely yours,

Horace

Jan. 8, 1926.

Intercollegiate Menorah Association,

New York City.

Dear Sirs,

I am returning to you the bill which you sent me for my 1926 subscription as I wish to cancel my subscription to the Menorah Association. I wrote the Association a year ago from Paris, protesting against the aspersions cast upon the American rabbinate in each issue of the Menorah Journal under the caption "Notes for a Modern History of the Jews". I felt free to criticise the bad taste shown by the publication of such cheap material by a Journal which simultaneously solicited the support of the American rabbinate, as I was never honored (?) by the attention of the writer of that column, and I had always assisted the Menorah movement when asked.

No attention whatsoever was paid to my letter of protest, although the accompanying check was promptly accepted.

The scurrilous, nasty indictment of the rabbinate like that in the last issue of the Journal in the article by Prof. Kallen is the last straw; the Journal is not responsible, of course, for the individual opinions of Prof. Kallen but it is responsible for accepting such an insulting paper for publication. It smacks of hypocrisy to accept and publish a slanderous paper like this, while constantly appealing to the insulted class for assistance.

Very truly yours,

January 13th, 1926.

Rabbi Horace J. Wolf,
117 Gibbs Street,
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Horace,

I am delighted with the letter you sent to the Menorah Journal. Mr. Hurwitz, the editor was in my study a few weeks ago and I called him over the coals for two hours. He is utterly misled by the Menkinish spirit which has victimized so many of the younger Jewish intellectuals of New York. Perhaps you would be interested in reading the enclosed letter which I sent him following a request of his to write an article for the Journal. The cynicism with which these men solicit funds from Rabbis and then use these funds to indulge in denouncing them is beyond me.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

February 24th, 1926

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Dr. Julian Morgenstern,
President, Hebrew Union College,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Morgenstern,

I have been requested by the Menorah Journal to write an article in answer to some recent attacks on the American Rabbinate which have appeared therein. I am collecting some data. I wonder whether you can tell me approximately how many of the present students of the Hebrew Union College come from Reform Jewish homes, and whether in your estimation the number of such students is decreasing

With kindest regards, and thanking you for your kindness, I am

Very sincerely yours,

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INTERCOLLEGIATE MENORAH ASSOCIATION

FOR THE STUDY AND ADVANCEMENT OF
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167 WEST 13th STREET
 NEW YORK

May 27, 1926.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
 c/o The Temple,
 E. 105th St. at Ansel Road,
 Cleveland, O.

Dear Abba:

I called you on the telephone yesterday before leaving Cleveland, to say hello to you, and though you were out I had the even greater pleasure of exchanging greetings with Mrs. Silver.

You will remember that Alfred Steuer took the Chairmanship of our Menorah Committee in Cleveland. He advises me that he hopes to push our cause forward about this time, relying on the promise of cooperation which you and others have been good enough to extend to him. Whipping myself up to a cheerful mood, in accordance with the prescription of Dr. Benderly's chassid, I pray for success. Alfred will doubtless communicate with you.

Cordially,

Henry Hurwitz

HH/AG

June 18th, 1926.

Mr. Jacob Landau,
611 Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Landau,

I thought it might be of interest to you to know that in the June issue of the Menorah Journal which is to appear, I suppose, some time during this month, there will appear my article, "Why Do the Heathen Rage"? This is in response to the recent criticism of American Judaism and the American Rabbinate made by Professor Kallen, Mr. Cohen and Mr. Hurwitz, which appeared in the Menorah Journal. I believe that some of the points which I make in my article would be of interest to you and to the readers of the Jewish Daily Bulletin.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain
Very sincerely yours,

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63 FIFTH AVENUE

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Cable Address "MENORAH"

December 5, 1927.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
Tifereth Israel,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I would heartily welcome your
thought on the observations and suggestions
in the enclosed article.

Sincerely,

Henry Hurwitz
Editor

HH-ND

M. J. Solomin
217 Northeast
First Ave.,



Miami Fla.