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Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1938.

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WESTERN UNION

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SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

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LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

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HA 152 56 NL 7 EXTRA XU=CINCINNATI OHIO 4 VIA TE CLEVELAND

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

OHIO 5

:BLACKSTONE HOTEL CHGO=

DOCTOR MORGENSTERN AND I WISH TO DISCUSS WITH YOU PRIVATELY
BEFORE YOUR ADDRESS HERE SUNDAY NIGHT A VERY IMPORTANT
MATTER WHICH WE ARE SURE WILL INTEREST YOU GREATLY PLEASE
WIRE IMMEDIATELY WHEN YOU WILL ARRIVE HERE AND WHETHER YOU
CAN DINE WITH US SUNDAY EVENING AT NETHERLAND PLAZA REGARDS=
Z DIESENDRUCK 3421 MIDDLETON AVE.

3421

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

THE FACULTY

January 5, 1938

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver,

I received your telegram. The matter we wanted to discuss with you concerns the American Academy for Jewish Research, of which you are a member. At our last annual meeting (Dec. 26 in New York City), we decided to enlarge the activities of the Academy and also to try to put it on a steadier and firmer financial basis, and for this purpose we wish to approach the various Welfare Funds in order to be included in their annual drives. Our friends, Ginzberg (who is the new president), Wolfson, Baron and others are convinced that this step must be taken in order to make a serious attempt to establish in this country a central, authoritative, and at the same time, productive institution for Jewish learning.

The activities of the Academy to date are well known to you. We publish regularly the annual proceedings. We published the volume, Taanit, by Malter and we supported some publications (Lewin, Kasovski) in Palestine. In the last 3 years we have maintained fully a research fellowship for a German refugee (Prof. S. Kisch). There is hope, however, thanks to Dr. Cyrus Adler, that we will soon be relieved of this rather considerable financial burden. We have, as you probably know, worked out a number of projects, among them the project of a critical edition of the works of Maimonides; three of his minor works have been prepared (e.g., Millot Hahiggayon by Efros, and others), and are ready for publication — yet we don't have the means. Besides, there is a considerable number of excellent younger scholars, Americans as well as German emigrés, who cannot possibly be placed in our few seminaries and who have to do all kinds of degrading work for a living.

In order, therefore, to help these men and to make them useful for the work for which they are really prepared and at the same time to carry out with their help some of our projects — in a word, in order to make the Academy worthy of its name and to establish this higher, non-partisan institution which a Jewry the size of the one in America should have, we feel justified in approaching the Welfare Funds for regular support. Think of the German Akademie für die Wissenschaft des Judentums, founded after the war and functioning a little even now, which was maintained by the Gemeinden of Germany and employed a number of younger scholars (Fritz Baer, Bamberger, Rawidowicz, and others), and published a series of excellent books, among them the several volumes of the new Mendelssohn edition! Why shouldn't a similar undertaking be possible here?

With a budget of only about \$20000-\$25000 a year we could do great things. If the various federations and Welfare Funds would give us not 2.5% (we might call it 2.5%), corresponding to 2.5%), but a 1/1000 i.e. 1/1000 of their total quotas, we could reach the desired amount.

Now before we approach the individual communities we think that this national convention in Cincinnati is just the right occasion to introduce this new cause to the many assembled 1/10/70 - and that you are the right man to do it in your address. If you feel, as we do, the great importance of this cause and introduce it in a general manner in your address, some supplementation could be made from the floor in the following general discussion. Dr. Morgenstern, who is very enthusiastic about the plan, is ready to take the floor after your address and speak about our

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

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Dr. Silver -2-

cause in more detail. But he can do it, of course, only if the matter is broached beforehand.

Since there will probably be very little chance to see you, since you are arriving so late, could you let me know your decision by wire or letter, so that we shall know whether to prepare the supplementary remarks from the floor.

With cordial regards,

Yours,

Z. Diesendruck
Z. Diesendruck

zd/s

Please address me; 3421 Middleton Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio



January 12, 1938

Dr. Z. Diesendruck,
3421 Middleton Avenue,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Diesendruck:

I am sorry that I only had a very brief moment to speak to you last Sunday evening. There was no opportunity at the Board Meeting following the public meeting to raise the question of the American Academy for Jewish Research. The Board Meeting was devoted entirely to the appointment of committees. I would suggest that you write to the welfare funds of the major Jewish communities of America outlining the work of the Academy and asking to be included among their beneficiaries. I am inclined to believe that you will receive a good response. The letter should be signed by yourself and some of the other leading members of the Academy. You can get the names and addresses of the welfare funds from Mr. Shroder of Cincinnati, or from the office of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, Inc., 71 West 47th Street, New York City.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

American Academy For Jewish Research
3080 BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY

President - Prof. Louis Ginzberg
Vice-President - Prof. Zevi Diesendruck
Treasurer - Prof. Alexander Marx
Corresponding Secretary - Prof. Ralph Marcus
Recording Secretary - Prof. Shalom Spiegel

3421 Middleton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio
January 29, 1938

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
E. 105th st. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver,

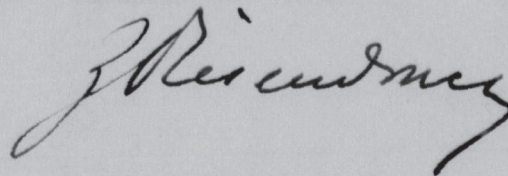
Thank you for your letter of the 12th. At the Cincinnati convention Morgenstern and I had occasion to contact quite a number of people from various cities. It was gratifying to see that all of them showed quite a good understanding of our cause. We are now sending from New York formal applications to the Welfare Funds of those cities and we hope for a satisfactory result. In each city we are approaching also members of our Academy or friends of Jewish learning to support our application before the Welfare Boards.

Probably by this time our application has arrived at Cleveland. It is addressed to you, I think, as president of the Jewish Welfare Fund. I wish, though, privately to call your attention to the petition because I don't know whether it will be presented to you officially. I am enclosing an extra copy of the application letter for your private perusal.

I think I made it clear in my first letter that we are mainly interested in getting a regular annual allocation from the Welfare Funds. Only so will we be able to make plans and to engage people for some larger undertakings.

Your suggestion that several people sign the application letters is being carried out in a slightly different manner, namely, the main letter is signed by the President only, but some of us write supplementary private letters to individuals, as stated above. Should you need some additional information, Ginzberg or I will be, of course, glad to supply it for you. Hoping to hear from you, I am

Very cordially yours,



p.s. How am I doing as a campaign salesman? From my little campaigning, and also out of "cosmic sympathy" (stoically speaking), I can appreciate your job as super-super U.P.A.A. President.

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January ,1938

In making formal application to your Welfare Board for a grant to the American Academy for Jewish Research, beginning with the current year, may I briefly describe the Academy's work and indicate its purpose?

The Academy, now in its eighteenth year, was organized by a group of American Jewish scholars to promote research in Jewish history and religion and in Hebrew literature, and to secure for Jewish studies the recognition and support which they merit.

At present the Academy has eighteen Fellows, connected with some of the leading universities and with the main Jewish theological seminaries in this country. These scholars represent various shades of Jewish belief and practice; as Fellows of the Academy they have a common purpose, to organize here in America the research being done by individual scholars in the Jewish field, and to make possible the publication of important works requiring the collaboration of several scholars.

With an annual budget hitherto of less than \$5000 the Academy may record a number of notable achievements, such as the publication of a critical edition of the Talmudic treatise, Taanit, by the late Professor Malter of Dropsie College, of a monumental Concordance to the Tosephta by Rabbi Kasowski of Jerusalem, and of several volumes of Proceedings of the Academy, containing contributions by some of the leading Jewish scholars of America. It is unfortunate that the Academy did not have the means to give a permanent form to the recent octocentennial celebration of the birth of Maimonides, which was observed by scholarly bodies throughout the world. If the Academy had possessed sufficient funds, it might have realized the plan, long considered by its Fellows, of publishing a critical edition of the works of Maimonides.

Not least of the Academy's undertakings has been the establishment of a Research Fellowship, now held for the third successive year by Professor Guido Kisch, formerly of the University of Halle. Professor Kisch was one of the foremost historians of law in pre-Hitler Germany. As the Academy's Research Fellow he has been engaged on a significant study of the legal status of the Jews in Germany.

Hitherto the Academy has enjoyed support from only a small number of individual philanthropists. Now, however, circumstances lay upon it specific obligations which it alone can fulfill, and so compel

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it to seek wider sources of revenue. We hope, therefore, that the various Welfare Boards throughout the country will make it possible to increase the Academy's annual income to \$25,000. This would enable the Academy to carry out the following program:

1. Invite Jewish scholars in Germany, Poland, Rumania, Palestine and elsewhere to cooperate with the Fellows in tasks of Jewish research, and provide them with a means of self-support, of which present political conditions abroad have deprived them.

2. Employ the services of young American and refugee Jewish scholars, whose special training in Hebrew and related fields cannot be put to use in existing institutions of learning, while, on the other hand, there is real need of just such specialized abilities in many parts of the broad field of Jewish learning. It is evident that these scholars can maintain themselves and their families only through opportunities such as additional Research Fellowships would provide; and likewise, that Judaism can ill afford not to take fullest advantage of the creative labors of its trained scholars.

3. Publish important scientific works which will bring to the attention of the learned world the contributions which the Jews have made to western culture and intellectual progress, thus making accessible the results of the researches conducted under the responsible supervision of the Academy.

For these projects the Academy asks your careful and sympathetic consideration. Should more detailed information be desired concerning the history and policy of the Academy, it will be furnished gladly and promptly.

Faithfully yours

President

THE JEWISH ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
INCORPORATED

ABRAHAM BURSTEIN, SEC'Y
46 WEST 83RD STREET
NEW YORK

*Members and Fellows**

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Cyrus Adler*
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Samuel Belkin
Raphael A. Bendove
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Israel Chipkin
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Lillian Wald*
Abel G. Warshawsky
Samuel Weiss
Franz Werfel*
Harry A. Wolfson*
Joseph Yasser

The Academy will hold its annual meeting at the Jewish Center,
131 West 86th Street, New York, at 8:30 Sunday evening, May 22, 1938.

The speakers will be:

Ludwig Lewisohn, honorary fellow of the Academy, on "Jewish
Literature in the Diaspora."

Abraham Burstein, executive secretary of the Academy, on
"Judaic Elements in Early American Literature."

Academy Bulletin No. 5, to be published in the fall, consists of
"Jewish Thought in the Sachsenspiegel", by Professor Guido Kisch,
honorary fellow.

Bulletins are sent without cost to fellows and members, important
publications, and the larger libraries. They are otherwise obtainable from
the secretary or ordinary trade media.