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Jewish Publication Society, 1929-1954.

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SIMON MILLER,

PRESIDENT

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JULIUS GRODINSKY, SECRETARY

#### THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

FLINT BUILDING - 219 NORTH BROAD STREET

PHILADELPHIA

September 17, 1929

Dear Sir:

This is to advise you that the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, September 26, at 5 P. M., at the offices of the Society, 219 North Broad Street, Room 600.

Important matters will be considered, and the importance of your presence is respectfully urged.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary

JG'P

DR. CYRUS ADLER

DR. DAVID BLONDHEIM DR. S. SOLIS COHEN REV. DR. HYMAN G. ENELOW REV. DR. HARRY ETTELSON FELIX N. GERSON DR. ISAAC HUSIK RABBI MAX D. KLEIN REV. DR. JACOB KOHN OSCAR LOEB DR. MAX L. MARGOLIS DR. ALEXANDER MARX SIMON MILLER LEON S. MOISSEIFF REV. DR. JULIAN MORGENSTERN REV. DR. DAVID PHILIPSON DR. A. S. W. ROSENBACH FRANK I. SCHECHTER REV. DR. SAMUEL SCHULMAN SAMUEL STRAUSS HENRIETTA SZOLD



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SECRETARY

#### THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

FLINT BUILDING - 219 NORTH BROAD STREET

PHILADELPHIA

November 11, 1929

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that the meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held on Thursday, November 14, 1929, will start at 4:30 P. M. instead of at 5 P. M.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

JG P

DR. CYRUS ADLER

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TREASURER

#### THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY
FLINT BUILDING - 219 NORTH BROAD STREET
PHILADELPHIA

November 22, 1929

Dear Sir:

This is to advise you that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 1929, at 4:30 P. M., at the offices of the Society, 219 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

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JG 'P

# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA December 10, 1929

A meeting of the Poard of Trustees of the Jewish Publication Society of America was held on December 10, 1929, at 4:30 P. M., at the offices of the Society. Mr. Simon Miller, President, was in the Chair, and the following members of the Board were present: Dr. Cyrus Adler, Mr. Hart Blumenthal, Mr. Louis E. Levinthal, Mr. Howard S. Levy, and Mr. Julius S. Weyl.

#### REGRETS:

The following members of the Board regretted their inability to attend: Mr. Leo M. Brown, Hon. Josiah Cohen, Rev. Dr. Nathan Krass, Mr. Felix H. Levy, Judge Horace Stern, Mr. Ludwig Vogelstein, Mr. A. Leo Weil, and Mr. Ralph Wolf.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE:

SABBATAI TSEVI, by Sholom Ash:

The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of the Publication Committee with regard to the acceptance of Sabbatai Tsevi, by Sholom Ash, for publication by the Society.

### REPRINT OF HUSIK'S HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL JEWISH PHILOSOPHY:

The Secretary advised the Board that no word had been heard from Rabbi Lefkowitz, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, in response to the communication from the Society embodying the views of the Society with regard to the proposals made by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and submitted through Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, of the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati. This proposal of the Central Conference related to the reprint of the History of Medieval Jewish Philosophy on a basis which would have led the Society and the Central Conference to share the cost equally.

To this letter dated October 23, 1929, the Secretary received no reply.

The Board, after due consideration, resolved to reprint the volume with the Society meeting the entire cost.

### SALARY OF THE SECRETARY:

The salary of the Secretary was increased \$2,000. per annum, beginning January 1, 1930.

## COMMUNICATION FROM LEAGUE FOR SAFEGUARDING THE FIXITY OF THE SABBATH:

The request of the League for Safeguarding the Fixity of the Sabbath was deferred until next meeting.

#### POLICY WITH REGARD TO SPECIMEN PAGES:

The large addition to the cost of Ikkarim due to author's corrections was drawn to the attention of the Board. The Pre sident was requested to take the matter up with the Editor, whose duty it is to see that all manuscripts are in condition for composition. In works requiring special set ups, five or six pages should be selected containing the special mechanical features. These pages should be set up as specimens, and upon approval by the Editor, shall determine the set up for the volume.

#### CONTRACT WITH MR. MENKES:

The Board determined not to extend the contract of Mr. Menkes. The President reported he was in communication with applicants to supervise the Society's efforts to increase its membership.

DISCOUNTS ON BOOKS TO AUTHORS: .

The Board directed the Secretary to extend a discount to authors of books of 50% from the list price on such books that the authors desired in addition to the books they received gratis under contract with the Society (usually ten books).

On motion the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary (

DR. CYRUS ADLER

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DR. ISAAC HUSIK EDITOR



SIMON MILLER,

PRESIDENT

LIONEL FRIEDMANN.

JULIUS GRODINSKY.

SECRETARY

#### THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY FLINT BUILDING - 219 NORTH BROAD STREET PHILADELPHIA

March 12, 1930

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The Annual Meeting of the Jewish Publication Society will be held on Sunday, March 30.

As President of the Society, I desire to entertain the members of the Publication Committee and the Board of Trustees with their wives at a six o'clock dinner at Dropsie College, and I trust that you will accept this invitation.

Awaiting your reply by return mail, I am

Yours cordially,

Amon Miller President

SM'P

March 18th, 1930 Mr. Simon Miller. Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia, Pa. My dear Mr. Miller:-I regret very much that I shall not be able to attend the annual meeting of the Jewish Publication Society on Sunday, March 30th. I must remain in Cleveland on that day and occupy my pulpit. I should very much have loved to avail myself of your kind invitation to be your guest at dinner that evening. I hope that I may have the pleasure at some future time. With kindest regards, permit me to remain Very sincerely yours, AHS/IR

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA, TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 1930, AT 8:15 P. M., AT DROPSIE COLLEGE, BROAD AND YORK STREETS, PHILADELPHIA.

THE SPEAKER OF THE EVENING WILL BE DR. FRANK I. SCHECHTER, OF NEW YORK CITY.

THE SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY WILL ALSO SPEAK, EXPLAINING SOME OF THE ASPECTS OF THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY.

DR. CYRUS ADLER CHAIRMAN

DR. DAVID S. BLONDHEIM
DR. S. SOLIS COHEN
REV. DR. HYMAN G. ENELOW
REV. DR. HARRY ETTELSON
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SAMUEL STRAUSS
HENRIETTA SZOLD

DR. ISAAC HUSIK



SIMON MILLER.

PRESIDENT

LIONEL FRIEDMANN,

JULIUS GRODINSKY,

SECRETARY

#### THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

FLINT BUILDING - 219 NORTH BROAD STREET

PHILADELPHIA

June 18, 1930

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver East 105th Street at Ansel Road Cleveland, O.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

May we suggest for your consideration the use of our new and revised edition of OUTLINES OF JEWISH HISTORY, by Lady Magnus, as a text for the forthcoming school year?

The book has been thoroughly revised. Additional chapters have been added, bringing all the material up to date. Five helpful maps, of which four are colored, and a carefully arranged chronological table add to the usefulness of the volume.

This 418 page book retails at \$1.25, and is sold to you for schoolbook purposes at \$1.00, postage prepaid.

Sincerely yours,

Sacratami

JG'P Enc.

P. S. Can you give us the name and address of a young man or woman who could call upon prospects for membership in the Jewish Publication Society? We pay a good cash commission, and our representatives earn a good return. Either part time or full time.

July 3d, 1930 Mr. Julius Grodinsky, Jewish Publication Society. Flint Bldg. . Philadelphia, Pa. My dear Mr. Grodinsky:-In reply to your note of June 18th asking for the name of a young man who could call upon prospects for membership in the Jewish Publication Society I am sending you herewith the name of Sylvester Brown 5935 Storer Ave. Cleveland, Ohio He is a very nice appearing young man who is in need of work. He was confirmed in my Temple some years ago. I have advised him that he would hear from you. With kindest regards, permit me to remain Very sincerely yours, AHS/IR



DR. CYRUS ADLER CHAIRMAN

DR. DAVID S. BLONDHEIM DR. S. SOLIS COHEN REV. DR. HYMAN G. ENELOW REV. DR. HARRY ETTELSON FELIX N. GERSON DR. ISAAC HUSIK RABBI MAX D. KLEIN REV. DR. JACOB KOHN OSCAR LOEB DR. MAX L. MARGOLIS DR. ALEXANDER MARX SIMON MILLER LEON S. MOISSEIFF REV. DR. JULIAN MORGENSTERN REV. DR. DAVID PHILIPSON DR. A. S. W. ROSENBACH FRANK I. SCHECHTER REV. DR. SAMUEL SCHULMAN SAMUEL STRAUSS HENRIETTA SZOLD

> DR. ISAAC HUSIK EDITOR



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LIONEL FRIEDMANN.

TREASURER

JULIUS GRODINSKY,

SECRETARY

#### THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

FLINT BUILDING - 219 NORTH BROAD STREET

PHILADELPHIA

July 8, 1930

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Thank you very much for your note of July 3 recommending Mr. Sylvester Brown as a representative of the Society. I have written to him accordingly.

With very best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours

Secretary

DR. CYRUS ADLER CHAIRMAN

DR. DAVID S. BLONDHEIM DR. S. SOLIS COHEN REV. DR. HYMAN G. ENELOW REV. DR. HARRY ETTELSON FELIX N. GERSON DR. ISAAC HUSIK RABBI MAX D. KLEIN REV. DR. JACOB KOHN OSCAR LOEB DR. MAX L. MARGOLIS DR. ALEXANDER MARX SIMON MILLER LEON S. MOISSEIFF REV. DR. JULIAN MORGENSTERN REV. DR. DAVID PHILIPSON DR. A. S. W. ROSENBACH FRANK I. SCHECHTER REV. DR. SAMUEL SCHULMAN SAMUEL STRAUSS HENRIETTA SZOLD

DR. ISAAC HUSIK



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PRESIDENT

LIONEL FRIEDMANN,

TREACHRE

JULIUS GRODINSKY,

SECRETARY

#### THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

FLINT BUILDING - 219 NORTH BROAD STREET

PHILADELPHIA

March 6, 1931.

Dear Sir:

This is to advise you that the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Sunday, March 15, at the Mercantile Club, Broad and Master Streets, at 3 o'clock p. m.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA April 19, 1931 A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Publication Society of America was held on April 19, 1931, at 3 p.m., at the offices of the Society. Mr. Simon Miller, President, was in the Chair, and the following members of the Board were present: Dr. Cyrus Adler, Mr. Louis E. Levinthal, and Judge Horace Stern. REGRETS: The following regretted their inability to attend: Mr. Philip Amram, Mr. Hart Blumenthal, Mr. Julius S. Weyl, and Mr. Ralph Wolf. STATUS OF THE OBLIGATION OF THE HEBREW SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY TO TO THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY: The Secretary reported that due to its inability to dispose satisfactorily of mortgages in which the funds of the socalled Minnie, Katharine and Julia Mayer Fund were invested, it could not pay to the Jewish Publication Society an account outstanding of \$4,833.63. Doctor Adler pointed out that we have on hand some cash still uninvested from the Legacy of the late Louis Marshall. The idea was expressed that if the mortgages in which the funds of the Hebrew Sunday School Society were invested were sound, then it might be wise to purchase these mortgages with part of the funds left to the Society by Mr. Louis Marshall. The Secretary was directed to take up the matter with our Treasurer, Mr. Howard A. Wolf, for the purpose of determining whether the mortgages in which the funds of the Hebrew Sumday School Society were invested were sound. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE: a. The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of the Publication Committee concerning the request of Doctor Balaban, who is writing a volume on the History of the Jews in Krakau as follows: aa. That he receive balance of his honorarium if the Society does not publish his volume within one year after the delivery of his manuscript to the Society. bb. That he be permitted to publish his book in German within five years after its publication in English by the Jewish Publication Society. b. Commentaries: It was thought best in view of the illness of Doctor Margolis not to do anything definite concerning the Commentaries Series.

### PLANS FOR SOLICITATION OF MEMBERS:

The Secretary reported various suggestions concerning ways and means whereby through correspondence additional members of the Society could be secured.

Of these various suggestions, one was considered particularly suitable for immediate action. There are various members of the Boards, officers and faculty members associated with leading Jewish national institutions. Some of these are not members of the Society.

The Secretary was directed to make lists of those associated with selected national Jewish organizations who are not members of the Jewish Publication Society; and to send these lists to various members of the Board who would write personal letters asking such parties to become members of the Society.

Upon motion the meeting was adjourned.

Julius Grodinsky Secretary

WRHS 9,990 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MESTING OF the JEWISH PUTLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA MERCAN SOLUTION SOCIETY OF AMERICA MERCAN SOLUTION SOL

The Annual Meeting of the Jewish Publication Scciety of America was held on Eunday, March 29, 1931, at Dropsie College, Broad and York Streets, Philadelphia.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 8:30 p. m.

The motion was made and carried to dispense with reading of the minutes of the previous annual meeting.

The Chairman appointed Mr. Felix Gerson, Mr. Joseph Hagedorn, and Mr. Joseph Kaplan Committee on Nominations. The financial report was distributed.

The Committee on Morinations reported the following nominations:

> President-Mr. Simon Miller Vice-President-Judge Horace Stern Treasurer-Mr. Lionel Friedmann Trustees-

Mr. Adolph S. Ochs Mr. Philip B. Perlman Mr. Hart Blumenthal Mr. Leo M. Brown
Hon. Josiah Cohen
Mr. Bernard L. Frankel
Mr. Felix H. Levy
F.r. Simon Miller
Mr. Howard A. Wolf

Mr. Ralph Wolf

Upon motion the nominations were closed. Upon motion made, seconded and carried, the Secretary was instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for the nominees.

The President declared the following named elected to serve until their successors be duly chosen:

> President-Mr. Simon Miller Vice-President-Judge Horace Stern Treasurer-Mr. Lionel Friedmann Trustees-

Mr. Hart Blumenthal Mr. Adolph S. Ochs Mr. Leo M. Brown
Hon. Josiah Cohen
Mr. Bernard L. Frankel
Mr. Felix H. Levy
Mr. Simon Miller
Mr. Howard A. Wolf

The Secretary then presented the Treasurer's report.

Mr. Ralph Wolf

Dr. Judah L. Magnes delivered the address of the evening. This address will be printed in the American Jewish Year Book, 1921-28.

Upon motion the meeting was adjourned.

Julius Groding by Secretary





# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA January 26, 1932

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Publication Society of America was held on January 26, 1932, at 4:30 p.m., at the offices of the Society. Mr. Simon Miller, President, was in the Chair, and the following members of the Board were present: Dr. Cyrus Adler, Mr. Jacob Solis Cohen, Mr. Howard S. Levy, Mr. Bernard L. Frankel, and Mr. Howard A. Wolf.

#### REGRETS:

The following regretted their inability to attend: Mr. Philip Amram, Mr. Louis E. Levinthal, Rev. Dr. Louis L. Mann, Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, Mr. Ludwig Vogelstein, Mr. A. Leo Well, Mr. Julius S. Weyl, and Mr. Ralph Wolf.

#### MEMBERSHIP PLAN:

- A. The Secretary was directed to prepare a plan to serve as a basis for increasing membership on a communal basis. This was to be prepared along the suggestions made by Judge Horace Stern at a previous meeting. This report is to be based upon some adjoining community, such as Baltimore, Md., Newark, N. J. or Washington, D. C.
- B. It was suggested that an article prepared by Doctor Cyrus Adler explaining the work of the Society might be published in the local monthly Brotherhood Bulletin. Such an article, it was suggested, might be of considerable help. Doctor Adler expressed his willingness to prepare an article for this purpose.

#### ANNUAL MEETING:

It was decided that the Annual Meeting of the Society should be held on March 29, 1932.

The President appointed a Committee on the Annual Meeting as follows: Chairman, Doctor Cyrus Adler, Mr. Howard A. Wolf, and Mr. Bernard L. Frankel.

### REPRINT OF JEWISH LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES, by Israel Abrahams:

The Secretary reported to the Board the negotiations with Goldston, Ltd., London, concerning a reprint of Abrahams! Jewish Life in the Middle Ages. The Board after careful consideration instructed the Secretary not to accept the proposal of Goldston, Ltd.

CONTRACT WITH DR. SOLOMON SOLIS COMEN ON POEMS OF MOSES IBN EZRA, A VOLUME IN THE SCHIFF LIBRARY OF JEWISH CLASSICS:

The Secretary was instructed to prepare a contract giving Doctor Solomon Solis Cohen an honorarium for translation of this volume from Hebrew into English of \$1000., with all the other contractual provisions as usual.

Upon motion the meeting was adjourned.

Julius Grodinsky.



DR. CYRUS ADLER CHAIRMAN

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J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.,

PRESIDENT

HOWARD A. WOLF,

TREASURER

JULIUS GRODINSKY,

SECRETARY

# THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA BROAD AND SPRING GARDEN STREETS PHILADELPHIA

April 4, 1934

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You and Mrs. Silver are cordially invited to attend the dinner given at the Dropsie College on Monday, April 16, at 6.30 p. m. sharp. Since the Annual Meeting will be held the same evening, it is important that the dinner begin promptly at the time scheduled.

I would thank you for sending your acceptance to me at 1906 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

Sincerely yours,

J. Solis Cohen, Jr.
President

April 10, 1934. Mr. J. Solis Cohen, Jr., President, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1906 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. My dear Mr. Cohen: Let me thank you for your kind invitation to attend the dinner at the Dropsie College on Monday. April 16th. I regret exceedingly that it will not be possible for me to attend. With all good wishes, permit me to remain Very sincerely yours, AHS: BK

DR. CYRUS ADLER CHAIRMAN

DR. D. S. BLONDHEIM
DR. S. SOLIS COHEN
J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.
REV. DR. H. G. ENELOW
REV. DR. H. W. ETTELSON
BERNARD L. FRANKEL
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DR. 1SAAC HUSIK
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FRANK I. SCHECHTER
REV. DR. SAMUEL SCHULMAN
DR. SIDNEY S. TEDESCHE

DR. ISAAC HUSIK



J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.,

PRESIDENT

HOWARD A. WOLF,

TREASURER

JULIUS GRODINSKY,

SECRETARY

# THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA BROAD AND SPRING GARDEN STREETS PHILADELPHIA

Aug. 21, 1935.

Rabbi A. H. Silver The Temple Cleveland, O.

Dear Rabbi Silber:

This is to ask your help.

We are now actively engaged in increasing our membership, and we believe Cleveland with a Jewish population of 85,000, should prove a fertile field for our Society. Especially so, inasmuch as we have only 85 members in your city.

We would like to secure several young mem or women (even older men or women) to act as our agents in your city. We are prepared to give them all possible assistance, and to remunerate them liberally. The work is interesting, dignified, and can be made to pay quite well.

Will you help us by sending the names and addresses of any members of your Congregation or community who you think would be interested. We will then correspond directly with them and outline the nature of the work.

May we hear from you promptly? And in the meantime, accept our thanks for your helpful co-operation.

Very truly yours,

Leonard E. Liss for the

JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY

LEL:RB.

P. S. Enclosed are membership blanks which you may wish to distribute. In order to help build up your own library we are attaching a mimeographed list from which you may select a volume to be sent you gratis for each new member you enroll.

## The Jewish Publication Society of America

S. E. Cor. BROAD & SPRING GARDEN STS.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

#### WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A MEMBER OF THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Society is strictly an educational and not a commercial institution. There is no capital stock and there are no shareholders. The Society derives its income from membership payments, supplemented by donations and bequests. It uses its funds to disseminate information about Jews and Judaism; encourage Jewish writers to write on Jewish subjects; place Jewish literature in Jewish homes and public institutions; perpetuate our literature in Hebrew and English translation and further the cause of Jewish culture generally.

Any person may become a member on payment of an annual subscription. In consideration of the dues, which are optional as to amount, a member is entitled to the following:

- 1. At least three copies of the Society's books—without extra charge.
- 2. The right to vote at the annual meetings of the Society.
- 3. A copy of the president's annual report. The report gives an account of the work for the year, a detailed financial statement of income and expenses, and the general condition of the Society.
- 4. The names and addresses of all members are published in the American Jewish Year Book. The Year Book contains valuable information of timely Jewish interest. It is one of the books sent to members without extra charge.

#### MORE JEWISH BOOKS IN JEWISH HOMES

The value of good Jewish books in Jewish homes is evident. To the children they present ideas and ideals which do much toward the development of mind and character and give them a truer sense of Jewish ideals.

To the parents good books mean a mental stimulus, enlarged vision, and broader knowledge of Judaism in all its phases.

#### "JEWISH BOOKS IN EVERY JEWISH HOME"

THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 219 North Broad Street, Philadelphia.

Please enroll me as a \_\_\_\_\_\_ member\* for this year and thereafter annually. In consideration of my dues, which I herewith remit, I am to receive without extra charge, all the books published during the year to which my membership will entitle me.

Sustaining Member 100.00
Friend - - - - 50.00
Patron - - - - 20.00
Library Member - 10.00
\*Annual Member - 5.00

City State

\*The \$5 membership is to enable persons of moderate means to obtain the benefits of the Society's work; the income from this class of membership barely covers the cost of books supplied to members. The development of the Society's usefulness depends upon the measure of support given by the public-spirited of American Jewry.

I recommend the following as desirable members:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address

Name \_\_\_\_

Address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address

## Jewish Publication Society of America

S. E. Cor. Broad and Spring Garden Sts.
Philadelphia



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January 17 1 9 3 6.

Rabbi A. H. Silver c/o The Temple Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Dr. Otto Levita, a German immigrant has recently been appointed as a representative of our Society. He will shortly visit Cleveland, in an effort to increase our membership in your city. All cooperation that you may give this gentleman will be greatly appreciated.

Your interest in and cooperation with the work of our society in the past is appreciated. It is our hope that we may continuously serve you with our publications.

Very truly yours,

Leonard E. Liss, for the JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

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At the meeting of the Publication Committee on Sunday, December 7, the following were recommended by the Publication Committee to the Board of Trustees as members of the Publication Committee:

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Inasmuch as we are planning to print new stationery in connection with our moving, and since we desire to have the names of all members of the publication Committee on this stationery, will you kindly vote on the above nominees? Unless we hear from you to the contrary within ten days, may we register your vote as favoring the addition of these gentlemen to the Publication Committee?

Cordially yours,

MAURICE JACOBS

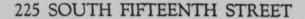
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MAURICE JACOBS, Secretary

March 9, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, 0.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

We are very anxious to have your picture for use in our publicity, and for general use at the office.

At your earliest convenience, will you please send us your latest photograph from which we can make a cut? The photograph will be returned if you so desire.

You may be interested in knowing that the new executive offices are complete, and represent a very forward move for the Society.

We look forward to an increase in memberships, booksales, and composition work for the Hebrew Press during 1937, and appreciate all the cooperation you have given us to further the interests of the Society.

Cordially yours,

MAURICE JACOBS

Executive Secretary

MJ P

March 10, 1937 Mr. Maurice Jacobs, Executive Secretary, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 225 South Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pa. My dear Mr. Jacobs: Enclosed herewith is a photograph of Rabbi Silver as per your request of March 9. Very sincerely yours, BJK Secretary to Rabbi Silver.



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May 10, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I take great pleasure in informing you that at the Annual Meeting of the Society held on Sunday, May 9, in Philadelphia, you were re-elected as a member of our Board of Trustees for three years.

I note from our Anglo-Jewish press that you are to be be in Philadelphia on May 18. May I extend to you a cordial invitation to visit our new offices, which are in the heart of the city, directly opposite the Academy of Music?

I would like you to see our new "set-up" and see how the machinery works at the Society's headquarters.

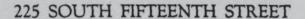
Cordially yours,

MAURICE JACOBS

Executive Secretary

MJ'P

May 12, 1937 Mr. Maurice Jacobs, Executive Secretary, Jewish Publication Society of America, 225 South Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pa. My dear Mr. Jacobs: Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your kind letter of May 10. I want to thank the Jewish Publication Society for the honor of re-electing me as a member of the Board of Trustees. While I have not had the opportunity of attending many meetings, I have followed up the work of the Jewish Publication Society with the keenest interest for I regard it as an essential contribution to the life of our people in this country. Very cordially yours, AHS: BK





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MJ:C

MAURICE JACOBS, Secretary

December 16, 1937.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I will be in Cleveland from December 28th right through to the first of the year, attending the Convention of the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity, of which I happen to be the Secretary.

I was delighted to note that you are to be our keynote speaker and am sure you will have a real message for the college Alumni and undergraduates.

While in Cleveland I would like to spend a little time with you, discussing the Society, its work, its plans and policies, and our possibilities of doing a better job in Cleveland than we are now doing. With the advent of the Fiftieth Anniversary, we want to expand wherever possible and it strikes me that Cleveland offers a very good opportunity for development.

Mr. E. M. Baker, a fellow member of the Board, has asked me to drop into see him and I will get his view also.

Should you have a moment in your busy day, I wish you would make some notes as to your suggestions on the procedure.

With cordial greetings and looking forward to seeing you in Cleveland. I am

Cordially yours.

ruco MAURICE JACOBS

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October 20, 1938

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

At the request of the Officers and Board of Trustees of the Jewish Publication Society of America, Dr. Cyrus Adler has accepted the Honorary Chairmanship of their Jubilee Celebration Committee for Philadelphia, and I have accepted the Chairmanship.

I am very eager to have you serve on the General Committee to arrange a proper observance of this Philadelphia-founded institution's fifty years of activity on behalf of Jewish literature.

There will be few meetings of the Committee, but I want to feel free to call on you for advice and aid from time to time.

At present we are planning to hold an historical meeting on the afternoon of Sunday, December 11th, and a formal banquet that evening.

Will you please sign the enclosed card and return it to me, so as to assure me that I will have your help.

Cordially yours,

MORRIS WOLF

MW P



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MAURICE JACOBS, Executive Director

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple. E. 105th St. & Ansel Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:-

For some time our Society has been hoping to increase its membership in Cleveland, but we have not felt it fair to call on you or Mr. Baker to do this work, since you are both so busy with other communal activities.

Our Rabbi Louis J. Haas is coming to Cleveland on the 27th to inaugurate his work for the Society. Rabbi Haas does not have sensational methods of increasing our membership through city wide campaigns or any of that technique. He speaks before Brotherhoods, Sisterhoods, Study Groups, Hadassah, Council of Jewish Women, etc., and then follows up these leads with personal visits.

We do need your cooperation when he comes to Cleveland and that cooperation can be in the form of letters of introduction, lists which he can follow and counsel as to how best to approach the Cleveland community.

Rabbi Haas' work in Boston, Baltimore, Washington, Detroit and Pittsburgh has resulted in vastly increased membership and we all feel rather certain that this work can be duplicated in your city.

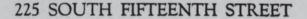
I assure you that any help which you will give him will be deeply appreciated by the Board of Trustees.

auco

Cordially yours,

MAURICE JACOBS Executive Director

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MAURICE JACOBS, Executive Director

March 28, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, East 105th St. & Ansel Rd., Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Doctor Silver:

I am very grateful to you for the marked copy of the Temple Bulletin of March 26th, which contains an announcement of our Society's work, and mentions the fact that Rabbi Haas is now in Cleveland in our behalf.

Publicity of this type is very desirable, and should mean a great deal to Rabbi Haas in his work.

Cleveland has not been very well represented in the past from the standpoint of membership, but Rabbi Haas is very rapidly expanding the membership list of the Society. When he completes his work within a few weeks, we feel sure that Cleveland will rank high in our membership rolls.

With sincere thanks for the splendid co-operation you have always given us, I am

Cordially yours,

MAURICE JACOBS

Executive Director

225 SOUTH FIFTEENTH STREET

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September 27, 1940

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Cleveland, Ohio. My dear Rabbi Silver:

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

The Temple,

May I take this opportunity of expressing to you, on behalf of the Officers and the "Official Family" of The Jewish Publication Society of America, our sincere thanks for the splendid cooperation you accorded us during the year 5700. Your Society has progressed again during this past year, and this progress is due to the wholesome cooperation which we received from you and your colleagues.

We look forward to the year 5701 with continued optimism.

May I be privileged to add a personal note of thanks for the cooperation you gave me last year.

With every good wish to you on the New Year, I am

Cordially yours,

MAURICE JACOBS Executive Director

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October 22, 1940.

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

My dear Dr. Silver:

Rabbi Louis J. Haas, our Extension Director, is planning to come to Cleveland next week to enlarge our membership roll in your city.

May I respectfully ask for your cooperation in making it possible for him to tell our story to as many members of your Congregation as possible?

Rabbi Haas will call on you personally and any courtesy which you will extend to him will be appreciated by us.

Cordially yours,

MAURICE JACOBS Executive Director

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# MINUTES of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

June 4, 1941

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Publication Society of America was held at the Executive Offices of the Society, 320 Lewis Tower, on Wednesday afternoon, June 4th, at 3:30 P.M. The following members were present: Mr. Bernard L. Frankel, Hon. Louis E. Levinthal, Mr. Howard S. Levy, Mr. Edward A. Norman, Hon. Horace Stern, Mr. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, Mr. Howard A. Wolf, the Editor, Dr. Solomon Grayzel, the President, Mr. J. Solis-Cohen, Jr., presiding, and the Executive Director, Mr. Maurice Jacobs.

## REGRETS:

Regrets were received from the following who were unable to attend: Mr. Philip Amram, Mr. Edward Baker, Mr. Lionel Friedmann, Rev. Dr. Nathan Krass, Mr. Samuel C. Lamport, Rev. Dr. Louis L. Mann, Mr. Carl H. Pforzheimer, Mr. Frank J. Rubenstein and Mr. Harry Scherman.

# I - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE:

The Executive Director read seriatim the recommendations of the Publication Committee made on May 11th, and the action of the Board of Trustees follows:

#### 1. NEW VOLUME ON ZIONISM

The Publication Committee recommended that Dr. Simon Halkin be invited by the Society to write a new book on ZIONISM. Inasmuch as Dr. Halkin is writing a volume on Zionism, the Board of Trustees instructed the Editor to write to Dr. Halkin and ask him to submit his manuscript when completed, to be referred to the Publication Committee in the usual manner.

#### 2. MYSTICISM

The Publication Committee had recommended for two consecutive years that Dr, Gerson Scholem of the Hebrew University in Palestine be invited to write a volume on MYSTICISM. The Editor was instructed to write to Dr. Scholem, suggesting that he write such a book for the Society, without any obligation on our part to publish the book, with the understanding that if the manuscript is acceptable to the Society, and if we have Dr. Scholem's permission to have a free translation suitable to American readers, the manuscript would be published.

### 3. KARAISM

The Publication Committee had recommended that Dr. S. Assaf of the Hebrew University be asked to write a volume on KARAISM. In view of a recent letter from Dr. Raphael Mahler that he was working on such a volume, the invitation to Dr. Assaf was not to be extended at this time.

4. BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES

The Publication Committee had recommended that cation of biographies of SAMUEL DAVID LUZATTO.

The Publication Committee had recommended that we undertake the publication of biographies of SAMUEL DAVID LUZATTO, AHAD HA'AM, JOSEPH JACOBS, ABRAHAM IBN EZRA, JOSEPH OF NAXOS and HAYYIM NAHMAN BIALIK. It had further recommended that Mr. Leon Simon be invited to become the author on the volume on AHAD HA'AM, Cecil Roth on the volume on JOSEPH OF NAXOS and M. Z. R. Frank on the volume on BIALIK. reported that Dr. Joseph Reider had submitted an outline on SAMUEL DAVID LUZATTO and the Board of Trustees agreed to await the submission of this manuscript. Since the meeting of the Publication Committee, the Editor had received a fictionized biography of AHAD HA'AM. the decision of the Board of Trustees not to invite Mr. Leon Simon to write the volume on AHAD HA'AM until a report had been received from our Editor on the fictionized biography. No decision was made on the assignment of the author on a biography of JOSEPH JACOBS. The suggestion of a biography of ABRAHAM IBN EZRA was referred back to the Publication Committee for recommendations for an author. No action was taken by the Board of Trustees on inviting an author to write the volume on JOSEPH OF NAXOS. The Editor was instructed to ask Mr. M. Z. R. Frank to submit his manuscript on BIALIK when ready.

5. AMERICAN JEWS by Lee M. Friedman

This manuscript, which had been unanimously recommended for publication by the Publication Committee, was accepted by the Board of Trustees.

6. HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF SAFED

The Publication Committee had recommended that Dr. Gerson Scholem be asked to write a volume for the Jewish Community Series on the HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF SAFED. The Board of Trustees voted that this matter be deferred until the volume on MYSTICISM had been written by Dr. Scholem.

## 7. NER HAMAARAVI

The Publication Committee had suggested, for two consecutive years, that Dr. Toledano be granted a subvention of \$350.00 to complete his admirable work on the Jews in the Moslem Areas. The Board of Trustees voted that because of lack of finances it was unable to grant this subvention at this time and the Editor was instructed to contact other organizations, including the Matz Foundation, and ask them to arrange for a subvention for Dr. Toledano. Dr. Toledano was to be asked to submit his manuscript to us for inspection and possible publication when ready.

# 8. Linfield's HELPS TO THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE

The Publication Committee had recommended that the Board of Trustees appoint a committee to meet with Dr. Harry S. Linfield to terminate the Society's agreement with him and to make a financial adjustment for the work already done. The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation for the President to appoint a committee with full power to act.

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- 3 -

# 9. COMMENTARIES

The Publication Committee had recommended that before any further assignments of Commentaries, other than the remaining books in the Pentateuch, that a committee of two representing the Society meet with a similar committee from the Commission on Jewish Education of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and decide upon a division of Commentaries still to be written. The Board of Trustees concurred in this recommendation and the President appointed Rev. Dr. Max D. Klein, Chairman of the Society's Committee on Bible Aids and Commentaries, and the Editor, Dr. Solomon Grayzel.

# 10. COMMENTARIES ON GENESIS AND EXODUS

The Board of Trustees concurred in the recommendations of the Publication Committee that an invitation be extended to Dr. Cyrus Gordon to write a COMMENTARY ON GENESIS and to Dr. Samuel I. Feigin to write a COMMENTARY ON EXODUS, with the understanding that the Society was not obligated to accept these manuscripts unless they were approved by the Publication Committee and conformed with the Society's planned Commentary Series.

# 11. REVISION OF GRAETZ

The Publication Committee had recommended that we proceed with the plan for revising Graetz as passed on by the Board of Trustees in December 1940 and that \$2,500.00 be made available for fees to the authors to cover clerical help, etc. The Editor was instructed to confer with Dr. Alexander Marx, who had been asked to become Editor-in-Chief of the revision, and work out the details, bearing in mind the additional recommendation of the Publication Committee that a study be also made on the advisability of making the revision an authentic translation of the entire Graetz and not continue the abridged translation.

# 12. LIVING THOUGHTS IN MODERN JUDAISM

The Publication Committee had recommended that we undertake the publication of a volume with this suggested title which would make available to English readers a taste of what German Jewry had of inner life and inspiration. The Publication Committee had suggested that Dr. Hans Kohn be asked to undertake the section on Martin Buber, Henry Slonimsky the section on Franz Rosensweig and Leo Strauss the section on Herman Cohen. The Editor was instructed to communicate with the suggested authors and have them submit specimen chapters.

#### 13. THE FUTURE OF THE JEWS

The Publication Committee had recommended that Dr. Jacob R. Marcus be asked to submit an outline of his plan for a volume of essays on THE FUTURE OF THE JEWS, to be written by prominent Jews and non-Jews covering the conditions on which peace should be made. The Board of Trustees voted that because of the Society's lack of funds at the present time it could not undertake the publication of this work and declined Dr. Marcus' project with sincere regrets.

14. JEWISH PORTRAITS by Emil B. Cohn The Publication Committee had recommended that the three stories submitted by Dr. Cohn be accepted, that Dr. Cohn be invited to submit additional stories sufficient to make a complete volume with the understanding that he would be paid for each story as it was accepted by the The Board of Trustees voted to accept the recommendation of the Publication Committee, and ask Dr. Cohn to submit additional stories to make a complete volume with the understanding that the total honorarium to be paid to him would be \$500.00 and that he be paid a proportionate amount of \$500.00 for the three stories already submitted. 15. THE RENEGADE by Ludwig Lewisohn The Publication Committee had recommended that the Society purchase an edition of this book for distribution to our members and had asked the Board of Trustees to take the necessary step to consummate the plan. The President reported on his interview and correspondence with the Dial Press, publishers of the volume, who were willing to postpone their publication from May 1941 until January 1942, sell the Society an edition of 4,000 flat sheets at 80¢ per set, including royalty to the author, and make the necessary changes in their own edition as suggested by our Editor. He further reported that it would be necessary for the Society to prepay \$500.00 as part of the author's royalty. After a very lengthy discussion the Board of Trustees voted to purchase an edition of THE RENEGADE for distribution to our members as the first book for 1942. 16. ANTHOLOGY OF AUTOBIOGRAPHIES by Leo Schwarz This manuscript which had been recommended for publication jointly with Farrar and Rinehart by the Publication Committee was not accepted for publication in 1942 because of the Society's lack of funds. Executive Director was instructed to communicate with Farrar and Rinehart and explain the matter to them in detail. 17. IN THE STEPS OF MOSES THE LAW GIVER and IN THE STEPS OF MOSES THE CONQUEROR by Louis Golding The Publication Committee had recommended that IN THE STEPS OF MOSES THE LAW GIVER be published by the Society, and if successful, to be followed by IN THE STEPS OF MOSES THE CONQUEROR. The Board of Trustees, because of lack of funds, found it impossible to include this title in the 1942 program and instructed the Editor to communicate with Mr. Golding and suggest that the two books be combined into a single volume for future publication by the Society. II - AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF DR. DAVID PHILIPSON The Executive Director read a letter from Dr. Jacob R. Marcus recommending that the Society purchase an edition of Dr. Philipson's Autobiography and offer it to our members as a membership book either in place of the Autobiography of Dr. Adler or in place of one other book. The Board of Trustees voted that because of lack of funds it could not undertake to purchase an edition of this book.

# III - SALVATION by Scholem Asch

The Executive Director read a letter from Scholem Asch's publishers, G. P. Putnam's Sons, offering the Society 2500 bound copies of SALVATION at the price of 50¢ per copy. The Board of Trustees regreted its inability to purchase these books because of lack of funds.

# IV - PERMISSION TO USE BIBLE TRANSLATION

A letter from Mr. J. Davidson, the Managing Director of the Soncino Press was read, asking permission to use our Bible translation in their proposed series of Commentaries on the Bible. Permission was granted with the understanding that similar permission was to be granted by Soncino to our Society, when needed, for use of their translation of the TALMUD, the MIDRASH, the ZOHAR, etc.

# V - REQUEST OF SONCINO PRESS

The request of the Soncino Press that the Society purchase some of their publications for resale in America was declined because of lack of funds. A proposal made by us to Soncino that they collect monies due us in England and send us some of their books in return was not accepted by them. A second proposal that Soncino send us some of their books on consignment was also not accepted by them.

# VI - Hertz' PENTATEUCH and HAFTORAHS

The Executive Director reported that an American Edition of this book would soon be published. The Society had granted Dr. Hertz permission to use our translation for his original edition. It was the opinion of the Board of Trustees that a diplomatic letter should be written to Dr. Hertz, suggesting that since royalties were being paid to him by the American publisher, that a part of this royalty should be paid to the Society for the use of its Bible translation.

# VII - CONTEMPORARY JEWISH RECORD

The American Jewish Committee had suggested that the Society join with them in the publication of the Contemporary Jewish Record or make arrangements for distribution of the Record to our members on several different bases. The Board of Trustees declined the invitation at the present time because of lack of funds.

VIII - SUGGESTION TO STORE PLATES OF FOREIGN JEWISH BOOKS IN AMERICA

Dr. Jacob R. Marcus had recommended that the Society correspond with Soncino and the Palestinian publishers and recommend that they store their plates in America until after the war. The Executive Director was asked to communicate with the publishers and report back to the Board of Trustees.

The meeting adjourned at 6 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Director

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Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, Cincinnati
Dr. Alexander Marx, New York City
Simon Miller, Philadelphia
Albert Mordell, Philadelphia
Rev. Dr. David Philipson, Cincinnati
Rev. Dr. David Philipson, Cincinnati
Rev. Dr. David de Sola Pool, N. Y. City
Dr. Joseph Reider, Philadelphia
Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, Philadelphia
Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, Philadelphia
Dr. Abram L. Sachar, Champaign
Harry Schneiderman, New York City
Rev. Dr. Samuel Schulman, N. Y. City
Dr. Ephraim A. Speiser, Philadelphia
Dr. Shalom Spiegel, New York City
Rev. Dr. Sidney S. Tedesche, Brooklyn
Edwin Wolf, 2nd, Philadelphia
Dr. Harry A. Wolfson, Cambridge
DR. SOLOMON GRAYZEL, Editor

MAURICE JACOBS, Executive Director

May 29, 1942

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gentlemen:

A meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at the Executive Offices of the Society, 320 Lewis Tower, 225 South 15th Street, on Monday afternoon, June 8th, at 3:30 P.M.

Since so few calls are made on members of our Board of Trustees to attend meetings, our President has requested that you set aside the late afternoon for the careful consideration of the Society's problems arising from the present difficult days.

Please return the enclosed postcard signifying your intention to attend this meeting.

Cordially yours,

MAURICE JACOBS Executive Director

MJ:RU Enc.

CONFIDENTIAL

# MINUTES JOINT MEETING of PUBLICATION COMMITTEE and BOARD OF TRUSTEES THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA DECEMBER 10, 1944

A joint meeting of the Publication Committee and the Board of Trustees of The Jewish Publication Society of America was held at the Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia, on Sunday, December 10, 1944.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

The following members of the Publication Committee and the Board of Trustees were present: Mr. J. Solis-Cohen Jr., President; Justice Horace Stern, Vice-President; Howard A. Wolf, Treasurer; Bernard L. Frankel, Lionel Friedmann, Rev. Dr. Nathan Krass, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Chairman of the Publication Committee; Howard S. Levy, Simon Miller, Frank J. Rubenstein, Dr. Salo W. Baron, Dr. Joshua Bloch, Felix N. Gerson, Henry Hurwitz, Dr. Louis L. Kaplan, Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, Dr. Alexander Marx, Albert Mordell, Rev. Dr. David Philipson, Dr. Joseph Reider, Harry Schneiderman, Dr. Shalom Spiegel, Rev. Dr. Sidney S. Tedesche, Dr. Solomon Grayzel, Editor; and Maurice Jacobs, Executive Vice-President.

The meeting was opened by the President, who welcomed the members of the Board and the Publication Committee and stated that the purpose of the joint meeting was to review the work of the past year and to expedite the business of The Society as much as possible. He extended a special welcome to Dr. Tedesche, who was attending his initial meeting as a member of the Publication Committee.

Judge Louis E. Levinthal, as Chairman of the Publication Committee, assumed the chairmanship of the meeting and thanked the Board of Trustees for the splendid cooperation which they continued to give the Publication Committee.

Der Sohn des verlorenen Sohnes (THE SON OF THE LOST SON), by Soma Morgenstern:

This publication had been approved by a mail vote of the Publication Committee and the matter was placed before the Board for ratification. The book was unanimously accepted for publication with the suggestion that a better title be found for the book, that we exercise great care in the selection of a translator, that the Sephardic spelling be used throughout in accordance with the tradition of The Jewish Publication Society and that a footnote be added in the introduction explaining our reason for the change from Ashkenazic to Sephardic spelling.

- 2 -PATHWAYS THROUGH THE BIBLE, The Holy Scriptures prepared for Young Readers, by Mortimer J. Cohen: Upon unanimous recommendation of the Publication Committee, the Board voted to publish this book, both as a single volume and in two volumes for use in schools. Illustrators suggested were Glicenstein and Temima Nimtzowitz Gezari. It was also suggested that new maps be used similar to those which have appeared in the recent Palestine Atlas or Nelson Glueck's maps which appeared in a recent issue of the National Geographic Magazine. ESSAYS IN JEWISH BIBLIOGRAPHY, by Alexander Marx: Dr. Marx reported that he was working on his manuscript and hoped to have the copy ready during 1945. THE ALEPH-BET STORY BOOK, by Deborah Pessin: This manuscript was unanimously approved by the Publication Committee and accepted for publication by the Board of Trustees as a half-book. THE NIGHTINGALE'S SONG, by Dorothy Alofsin: This manuscript was unanimously recommended by the Publication Committee and accepted for publication by the Board of Trustees as a half-book. REMBRANDT, THE JEWS AND THE BIBLE, by Franz Landsberger: This manuscript was unanimously approved by the Publication Committee and accepted for publication by the Board, with the recommendation that Dr. Landsberger be asked to include more about Holland and more about Rembrandt. The Board and the Publication Committee were advised that the initial cost of this book would be expensive, but that it would be a steady seller and eventually would become a very profitable book for The Society. Die Seinen Namen Heiligten (THEY WHO SANCTIFIED HIS NAME), by Selma Stern Taubler: This manuscript was recommended for publication by the Publication Committee and accepted by the Board as a 1946 publication. The Editor was cautioned to choose a very good translator for this book. OUT OF ENDLESS YEARNINGS, by C. Davidson: After very careful consideration, the Publication Committee could not recommend the publication of this manuscript. THE STORY OF MY PEOPLE, by Solomon Grayzel: This manuscript was unanimously recommended by the Publication Committee and accepted by the Board for publication in 1946 in two styles, a single book for general distribution and in two volumes for school purposes.

HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF KURDISTAN, by Erich Brauer:

It was decided to have two additional readers whose reports would be considered at the next meeting of the Publication Committee and a definite decision arrived at.

JUDAH TOURO, by Leon Huhner:

This manuscript was accepted for publication as a half-book with the understanding that we secure the author's permission to rewrite it in a style that would be satisfactory to The Society.

JEWISH YOUTH AT WAR, by Isaac E. Rontch:

This manuscript was declined.

JEWISH LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES, by Israel Abrahams:

Upon recommendation of the Publication Committee, the Board voted to reprint this book as originally published, with Abrahams' marginal notes and Roth's bibliography. This is to be published during a year when The Society has not sufficient manuscripts to complete its quota.

HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF ITALY, by Cecil Roth:

Upon the unanimous recommendation of the Publication Committee, the Board accepted this manuscript as a 1945 publication.

## HEBREW-ENGLISH BIBLE:

After considerable discussion, the following motion by the Publication Committee was referred to the Board for action: "That we recommend to the Board of Trustees the publication of a Hebrew-English Bible, using the text of the Hebrew University Bible, if satisfactory to a committee of our scholars." This recommendation was accepted by the Board of Trustees.

<sup>&</sup>quot;On Dec. 14, 1944, a meeting was held at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, between Dr. Leon Roth of the Hebrew University and Mr. Samuel B. Finkel, Director of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, and the following group representing The Society: Judge Louis E. Levinthal; Messrs. Bernard L. Frankel, Howard S. Levy, Simon Miller and Albert Mordell; Drs. Mortimer J. Cohen, William H. Fineshriber, Max D. Klein and Joseph Reider; Dr. Solomon Grayzel, Editor; and Mr. Maurice Jacobs, Executive Vice-President. At this meeting, Dr. Roth was asked to request Dr. Judah L. Magnes, of the Hebrew University, to send The Society photostatic copies of the text already prepared by the University scholars. These samples would be submitted to a group of our own scholars and then a report would be made to the Publication Committee and to the Board as to whether or not The Society should use the Hebrew University text or prepare its own text. It was made very clear at the meeting that The Society would very definitely set up its own Hebrew text and that the Hebrew University could set its own text.

ANTHOLOGY OF HASIDIC SONG, by A. W. Binder:

This manuscript was recommended to the Board of Trustees for publication as a commercial venture but not as a membership book. It was made clear at the meeting that the Hillel Foundations would advance \$1,000.00 toward the publication of the book and this \$1,000.00 would cover advance payments on copies of the book they were to receive. The balance of the money felt necessary to publish this book, \$1,500.00, would be advanced by The Society. The recommendation was approved by the Board.

# THE AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK:

Mr. Frankel, solicitor for The Society, reported that The Society was threatened with a libel suit because of certain statements made in Volume 46 of THE YEAR BOOK to which objection had been taken by the Emergency Committee for the Rescue of European Jews. It was Mr. Frankel's opinion that the statements were not libelous. The matter was placed in Mr. Frankel's hands.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 o'clock for lunch, at which time the Executive Vice-President made his report, which is attached hereto.

At the conclusion of the report, the joint meeting was reconvened. The President commented that he considered the report one of the finest reports of what The Society was doing in American Jewish life and that the report was an eye-opener to many who had not been as close to the work as himself or Judge Levinthal.

In discussing some of the recommendations made in the report, it was decided that all future meetings of the Publication Committee and the Board of Trustees would be joint meetings wherever possible.

It was unanimously voted that the thanks of the Board of Trustees and the Publication Committee be extended to the Executive Vice-President and to the staff for the work accomplished.

THE DUKE OF NAXOS (JOSEPH NASI) AND DONA GRACIA, by Cecil Roth:

It was recommended by the Publication Committee and approved by the Board that Dr. Cecil Roth be informed that it was the sense of the meeting that we would be interested in a book on both of these subjects, preferably in one volume, but that we would not turn down two separate volumes. There was no definite commitment to Dr. Roth on these books.

This manuscript, which was written on contract, had been read only by one reader, who felt that the whole work needed complete rewriting. The Editor recommended that Dr. Fischel be informed of the attitude of the Publication Committee and that it be suggested to him that it be rewritten by someone else before acceptance for publication.

THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN AMERICA, by Anita Lebeson:

This manuscript, the second to be submitted to us under our joint publication arrangement with the Hillel Foundations, would be ready in 1945 as a 1946 publication. The Editor reported that this was a very promising manuscript.

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH PROBLEMS, by Jacob J. Weinstein:

This manuscript, the third to be submitted to us under our joint publication arrangement with the Hillel Foundations, would be ready in 1946 as a 1947 publication. The Editor reported that this was a very promising manuscript.

JEWISH PORTRAITS, by Emil Bernhard Cohn:

Additional stories submitted by Dr. Cohn were to be sent to readers. Dr. Philipson, Dr. Krass and Mr. Gerson volunteered to read these. Three of the ten stories proposed for this book have already been accepted and as soon as seven additional stories are approved the manuscript will be published.

ISAAC LEESER, by Emily Solis-Cohen Jr .:

The Editor reported that the manuscript was almost ready for submission and expected it to be delivered within two or three months.

THE LAWS OF THE ANCIENT EAST, by Ph. Korngrun:

This manuscript was not accepted for publication.

THE ABODE OF LIFE, by David de Sola Pool:

This manuscript was not accepted for publication. It was the opinion of the Publication Committee that this was an important manuscript and should be published, but that it could not fit into the program of The Jewish Publication Society and should be published either by the American Jewish Historical Society or by the Congregation Shearith Israel.

CHILDREN'S HAGGADAH, by Emil Bernhard Cohn:

This manuscript was not accepted for publication.

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# Geschichte der Juden, by Simon Dubnow:

The Editor was asked to communicate with Simon Dubnow's daughter to inquire whether there was a translation in English. The matter was then to be discussed at the next meeting. Dr. Joshua Bloch stated that he felt that our Graetz HISTORY OF THE JEWS would become obsolete once Dubnow was translated.

ART IN THE JEWISH PAST, by Rachel Wischnitzer-Bernstein:

The Publication Committee recommended that Mrs. Wischnitzer be asked to prepare a manuscript on ART IN THE JEWISH PAST and the recommendation was concurred in by the Board of Trustees. No commitment was to be given to Mrs. Wischnitzer.

The meeting of the Publication Committee adjourned at 4:00 o'clock.

Mr. Solis-Cohen resumed the Chair to conduct the meeting of the Board of Trustees.

# EMPLOYMENT OF FULL-TIME EDITOR:

Dr. Solomon Grayzel was informed by the President that the Board had authorized him to offer him the position of full-time Editor. The position was accepted by Dr. Grayzel. Until he completed his work at Gratz College for the 1944-1945 academic year, his time would have to be divided between both institutions with an equitable arrangement for payment.

### SALARY OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT:

The Board unanimously approved the recommendation made by the President and the Treasurer for the compensation of the Executive Vice-President for the year 1944.

#### UNITED SYNAGOGUE:

The President reported that a settlement had been made with the United Synagogue whereby a cash payment of \$2,000.00 liquidated the debt which had been on our books since 1926. The settlement was approved by a unanimous vote of the Board and the money held for improvements at the Press.

# PENSION PLAN:

Mr. Frank J. Rubenstein, Chairman of this Committee, made a preliminary report which was referred back to a larger committee for study. The additions to the Committee were Mr. Bernard L. Frankel, the President, the Treasurer and the Executive Vice-President.\*

<sup>\*</sup>A meeting of this special Committee was held on Monday, January 29, 1945, to discuss the whole plan. The project will be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE:

Mr. Frank J. Rubenstein, Chairman of the Committee, asked that additional members he appointed to this Committee, so that a new Constitutional members he appointed to this Committee, so that a new Constitutional members he appointed to this Committee, so that a new Constitutional members he appointed to this Committee, so that a new Constitutional members he appointed to this Committee.

tional members be appointed to this Committee, so that a new Constitution might be reported on at the next meeting.

# HILLEL PUBLICATION PROGRAM:

The Executive Vice-President reported on the conference held with Dr. Sachar regarding the incorporation of the B'nai B'rith Hillel publication plan with that of The Society. A copy of Dr. Sachar's letter is attached for the record. The Executive Vice-President reported that HARVEST IN THE DESERT was the first book on the joint arrangement and that the plan had worked out splendidly. Hillel ordered 5,000 copies of the book, which made it possible to print a large edition. He considered this matter most important and urged the Publication Committee and the Board to accept Dr. Sachar's plan. It would mean distribution to young people all over the country, give them access to the works of The Society, widen the distribution of The Society's books and lower the cost of publication. By having the Hillel Foundations join with The Society in their publication program, it would also help to eliminate duplication of effort in American Jewish life. By a unanimous vote, the plan proposed by Dr. Sachar was accepted in principle and the Executive Vice-President was instructed to work out the final details for submission to the Board and the Publication Committee.

THE JEWISH CARAVAN and A GOLDEN TREASURY OF JEWISH LITERATURE, by Leo W. Schwarz:

The Executive Vice-President was instructed to work out a joint publication arrangement with Farrar and Rinehart, the cost to us, including royalties, not to exceed \$1.00 per copy.

#### ZANGWILL PLATES:

The Executive Vice-President was authorized to purchase several of the Zangwill plates from the Macmillan Company and to reprint these, when paper was available, in our cheaper series.

BOOKS FOR THE ECOLE RABBINIQUE, PARIS:

The Board voted unanimously to accede to the request of Baron Edouard de Rothschild to send, when possible, a set of the complete works of The Society to the Ecole Rabbinique in Paris.

## POCKET BOOKS:

The Executive Vice-President reported that there was a very distinct possibility, after the War, of bringing out a pocket edition of some of The Society's books to retail at 25¢. Based on our experience with the Jewish Welfare Board books, these books could be produced for 15¢ or under. He felt there was a large market available for books of this type.

# CONTACT WITH COMMERCIAL PUBLISHERS:

The Executive Vice-President reported that after the last meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Publication Committee, a letter had been directed to every commercial publisher in America asking that manuscripts of Jewish interest be referred to The Society for separate publication or for joint publication. Not a single worth-while manuscript had been received in eighteen months.

# ELECTIONS TO THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE:

By a unanimous vote of the Board, the Rev. Dr. Joshua L. Liebman of Boston, the Rev. Dr. Solomon B. Freehof of Pittsburgh and Mr. Ben Rosen, Executive Director of the American Association for Jewish Education, were elected to the Publication Committee. (Mr. Rosen died on December 24, 1944.)

The Executive Vice-President recommended the election of the Presidents of Hadassah, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Women's League and the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods as members of the "Official Family." The recommendation was referred to the Nomination Committee for action.

# ANNUAL MEETING:

It was voted to hold an annual meeting in March. (Since this meeting, the ODT regulation makes it impossible to hold a meeting.)

# 1945 PUBLICATION PROGRAM:

Upon unanimous vote of the Board, the following books were to be published during 1945:

THE SON OF THE LOST SON, by Soma Morgenstern
PATHWAYS THROUGH THE BIBLE, by Mortimer J. Cohen
THE ALEPH-BET STORY BOOK, by Deborah Pessin
THE NIGHTINGALE'S SONG, by Dorothy Alofsin
THE AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, Volume 47
REMBRANDT, THE JEWS AND THE BIBLE, by Franz Landsberger
THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF ITALY, by Cecil Roth

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

The Executive Vice-President reported on the many phases of The Society's activities since the last meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Publication Committee.

FINANCES
(The figures quoted below have been amended to include the total figures for 1944.)

The dues received in 1944 amounted to \$61,918.07 compared to \$56,068.00 for 1943 \$39,825.00 for 1942 \$37,039.00 for 1941 \$37,026.00 for 1940 \$36,838.00 for 1939 \$37,203.00 for 1938 \$29,000.00 for 1937 \$23,593.00 for 1936 \$19,795.00 for 1935 (last year of old administration)

Book sales amounted to \$76,432.00

against \$43,748.00 for 1943
\$29,836.00 for 1942
\$31,220.00 for 1941
\$29,332.00 for 1940
\$22,746.00 for 1939
\$22,977.00 for 1938
\$21,083.00 for 1937
\$19,075.00 for 1936
\$14,463.00 for 1935

1.5

The book sales represented an increase of \$5,300.00 in Bible sales, \$1,500.00 in GRAETZ, and the balance in The Society's general publications.

The Press billings for the year 1944 amounted to \$157,816.00

against \$154,039.00 for 1943

\$87,203.00 for 1942

\$69,087.00 for 1941

\$47,247.00 for 1940

\$38,924.00 for 1938

\$31,907.00 for 1938

\$30,000.00 for 1937

\$24,223.00 for 1936

\$26,610.00 for 1935

The Press billings would have been much greater had the binderies been able to finish a great deal of the work which was being held up for completion. Besides the large amount of work billed by the Press, the Press had a backlog of \$174,300.00 worth of work as of January 1, 1945, the largest backlog of work in The Society's history.

The income from Federations and Welfare Funds amounted to \$2,890.50, an increase from \$2,222.25 in 1943. The following Federations have given The Society allocations for the years 1944 and 1943, for which they receive three books for each \$5.00 sent to us, in accordance with our quid pro quo arrangement with Federations.

Fed	eration or Welfare	Fund		1944	1943
4.2	03.				
	on, Ohio			X	
	entown, Pa.			X	X.
	antic City, N. J.			X	X
	ora, Ill.			X	
	mingham, Ala.			x	X
	ton, Mass.				X
	ckton, Mass.			X	X
Cha	mpaign-Urbana, Ill.			x	X
Cor	pus Christi, Texas				X
Dal	las, Texas			X	
Jew	ish Federation of I	Delaware		х	X
Det	roit, Mich.				x
Dul	uth, Minn.			x	
Eas	ton, Pa.			X	
Eas	t St. Louis, Ill.			x	x
	Paso, Texas			x	x
	nsville, Ind.			x	
	t Wayne, Ind.			x	
	t Worth, Texas			x	x
	sno, Calif.			X	^
	tington, W. Va.				
	ksonville, Fla.			X	~
			AMERICAN JEWISH	X	X
	olin, Mo.			X	X
	caster, Pa.			X	x
	rence, Mass.			X	X
	iston-Auburn, Me.			X	X
	tle Rock, Ark.				X
	ison, Wis.				X
	mi, Fla.				X
	neapolis, Minn.			X	X
	ile, Ala.			X	X
	lesto, Calif.			х	
	Bedford, Mass.			X	X
	Orleans, La.			X	X
Nia	gara Falls, N. Y.			×	
Oak	cland, Calif.			X	X
Ome	ha, Neb.			х	
	erson, N. J.			X	
Phi	ladelphia, Pa.			X	X
Pho	enix, Ariz.			X	X
Pro	vidence, R. I.			X	X
Sag	inaw, Mich.			x	
	Paul, Minn.			x	
	ingfield, Mass.			x	
	onto, Ont., Canada			x	
	son, Ariz.			x	x
1000	er, Texas			x	
	ca, N. Y.			X	
	ren, Ohio			x	
	ston-Salem, N. C.			x	
	cester, Mass.			x	x
1101	ooboor, mass.			~	~

Discounts on purchases were \$2,936.72, against \$2,459.59 for the previous year. The \$10,000.00 generous contribution made by Mr. Harry Scherman in memory of his mother, Katherine Harri's Scherman, was used in 1944, with his consent, for working capital, which made it possible for The Society to earn this large amount of money in discounts. (The \$10,000.00 was repaid to the funds at the end of the year.)

Royalties received from the sale of our books were greater than ever before, amounting to \$625.00, mainly royalties for the use of our Bible translation in connection with Hertz's The Pentateuch and Haftorahs (American edition only) and royalties for the trade edition of Harvest in the Desert.

The total business for the year amounted to \$303,705.32

against 260,633.00 for 1943
\$156,864.00 for 1942
\$137,346.00 for 1940
\$113,605.00 for 1940
\$98,508.00 for 1939
\$92,087.00 for 1938
\$80,083.00 for 1937
\$66,891.00 for 1936

Approximately \$100,000.00 of the business for 1944 is war business which will not completely disappear with the cessation of hostilities. With universal conscription almost certain, the National Jewish Welfare Board will continue to be our best customer, since we are their supply source for Prayer Books, High Holy Days Prayer Books, Haggadahs and Readings from the Holy Scriptures.

# PROGRESS OF THE 1943-1944 PUBLICATION PROGRAM

# 1943

History of the Jews in Vilna, a 1943 publication, was mailed too late in the year 1943 to receive the membership or press reaction to the book. The reaction was not too good and yet it was no worse than the reaction to most of the books in this Series. The Jewish Communities Series has not been a popular venture for The Society and considerable study ought to be given to the question of the continuance of this Series.

A Century of Jewish Life, the fifth book in the 1943 program, was delivered to members in April, 1944. The entire first edition of 5,000 copies was quickly exhausted and preparations immediately made for a second edition. There have been minor criticisms of the book, primarily by Communists on Dr. Elbogen's viewpoint on Russian history, but most reviewers agreed that this book was a splendid addition to The Society's publications. The Editor has taken full cognizance of the criticisms and corrections have been made for the second edition.

The sixth and final book of the 1943 program, Sabbath, The Day of Delight, was delivered to members in December, 1944, a year later than originally planned. There were many manufacturing obstacles, primarily on having the music set, but the book was worth waiting for and the first printing of 3,000 copies will be exhausted in less than a year and a second printing necessary in 1945. At the time of the writing of this report, the reviews were excellent.

# 1944

The first book of the 1944 program was Harvest in the Desert, a book which was approved after considerable discussion by the Board of Trustees and the Publication Committee. The first printing was 21,500 copies, the largest first printing in The Society's history. This book was the first in our joint publication program with the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, which not alone secured the manuscript for The Society, paid the advance fee to the author, but ordered 5,000 copies of the book. The various Zionist groups ordered 8,250 copies and 1,500 copies were sold to Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., the trade publisher. In spite of the fact that so many copies were sold to the above sources, 4,176 copies were sent to our members. In December, Knopf reprinted 2,000 copies, making a total of 23,500 copies of this book in its first year. The Book-of-the-Month Club News, in the April issue, devoted a full column to Harvest in the Desert. sults of this must have been reflected in the sales by Knopf. A second large printing of this book will be necessary in 1945, and this book is destined to be one of the best sellers in The Society's history.

The Lionhearted was the second book of the year. Again, the Book-of-the-Month Club News devoted an entire column and over 100 copies were sold to the Book-of-the-Month Club.

Germany's Stepchildren, the third book of the year, had a first edition of 8,000 copies, which will be exhausted within one year from the time of printing. The Book-of-the-Month Club News again devoted a full column to this book, making the third book in one year's program to receive favorable comment by this excellent source for book distribution. The "fan mail" received from members indicates that this is the type of book which they want. The book has been favorably reviewed in many pulpits throughout the country.

Volume 46 of The American Jewish Year Book came off press rather late, due to problems in the preparation of the manuscript as well as the usual manufacturing problems every publisher is facing these days. In order to help bring the book out in time, the American Jewish Committee is going to close the "Review of the Year" a month earlier than usual and have the manuscript in our hands so that the book can be distributed closer to the High Holy Days.

A. M. Klein's Poems was delivered in December. This is a small book of 86 pages, and only 2,000 copies were printed. While The Society does not expect a large sale of a book of poetry, we feel it necessary to occasionally print such a book in order to encourage Jewish poets.

The two remaining books of the 1944 program are: Martin Buber's For the Sake of Heaven, translated from the German by Ludwig Lewischn (this book will be ready for distribution in April) and Grinstein's The Rise of the New York Jewish Community, the final book, which will be ready for distribution in May. With the limited amount of help at the Press and the problem facing us with a part-time Editor, it was impossible for us to complete the program on time, but, with the Editor on a full-time basis in 1945, The Society ought complete its program in the year planned.

# REPRINTS

The test of the success of a publisher's list is the story of his reprints, and we ought to be very flattered by the number of our books it has been necessary to reprint. During the year 1944, the following books were reprinted:

	Copies			
The Bible	AND DESCRIPTION OF PERSONS ASSESSED.		18th	printing
The Breakfast of the Birds				printing
Candles in the Night				printing
Margolis-Marx, A History of the Jewish People				
(Incidentally, I reported previously to you	1,000		0 011	P1 10
that we now have a Spanish edition of this				
book and have been paid the royalties for				
3,000 copies. We are corresponding about				
a Portuguese edition.)				
Selected Religious Poems of Solomon ibn Gabiro	1 1.700	-	2nd	printing
Husik's Mediaeval Jewish Philosophy	William .			printing
Modder's The Jew in the Literature of England				printing
The Jews in Spain, Volumes I and II				and printing
Let Laughter Ring				printing
Pilgrims to Palestine				printing
The same of the sa	Charles Control of the Control of th			printing
In the Steps of Moses				printing
Stars and Sand				printing
What the Moon Brought				printing
(It may be interesting to note that this book	100000000000000000000000000000000000000			200000000000000000000000000000000000000
is the best-selling Jewish juvenile in the				
country. In two years we have sold over				
8,000 copies and we will have to go back to				
press again next year. The sale of this				
book proves the value of investing in chil-				
dren's books and by investing I mean invest-				
ing in styling and in a good artist and not				
being picayune in the cost of the first				
edition.)				
Maimonides	1,000		,	
Jewish Contributions to Civilization	1,000			
The Jews of North Africa				printing
The Ship of Hope	2,000			printing
Aftergrowth and Other Stories				printing
Major Noah				printing
The Jews of Germany	1,000	-	oth	printing

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We now have more books in print than ever before in the history of The Society. Every good title is available again and this represents a return of approximately fifty titles to our active list which were missing in 1936. Some of these books had to be reset in order to be made available. Either we had no plates or there were so many mistakes in the plates that it was too expensive for us to make the changes. In some cases, it was also necessary for us to buy plates. We purchased the plates for the First Series of Schechter's Studies in Judaism and also for Zangwill's Dreamers of the Ghetto, as well as Husik's History of Mediaeval Jewish Philosophy. The Marranos was reset, Selected Poems of Moses ibn Ezra, Studies in Judaism, Third Series, and Wonder Tales of Bible Days, this work all being done at the Press when we were not busy.

It is my recommendation that after the War, when manpower is available, practically all of our children's books should be reset in a modern format and profusely illustrated. I mentioned above the success we are having with What the Moon Brought. We restyled The Breakfast of the Birds with a new cover. The same can be done to all of our children's books and I feel confident that the added expense will more than pay for itself. The plates of our children's books have been patched year after year and deserve retirement.

I am sure you will be interested in the results we have had with Leo W. Schwarz's Memoirs of My People, a book which was published on a joint arrangement with Farrar and Rinehart in 1943. On the original printing of 10,000, we received 5,000 and 5,000 were kept by Farrar and Rinehart, with all costs shared. Our 5,000 copies were distributed early in 1943 and we started calling on their stock. We have already used 2,000 copies of their edition, which means that we have sold 7,000 to 3,000 by the trade publisher. A reprint will be necessary in 1945 and we are ordering 3,200 copies to cover a two-years' supply while Farrar and Rinehart are ordering 1,000 copies. I think these figures should illustrate quite clearly that our method of distribution of Jewish books is definitely the best method.

# RELIGIOUS BOOK WEEK

I have reported at previous meetings of the activity of the National Conference of Christians and Jews relative to the celebration of Religious Book Week. In previous issues of The Year Book, we have listed those of our books which were chosen to be highlighted. There have been some complaints that the lists were not good lists and not designed for the average layman. The Conference this year asked me to recommend a committee of three in Philadelphia to choose the books for 1945 and I recommended three members of this Publication Committee: Dr. Grayzel, as Chairman; Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen and Dr. William H. Fineshriber, who will choose the Jewish books to be highlighted during the Religious Book Week of 1945.

# THE WORK OF THE JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL OF AMERICA

For the past few years, I have been reporting to you the activities of your Editor and your Executive Vice-President in connection with the Jewish Book Council of America. To us it seems that this organization offers an excellent opportunity for spreading the work of

The Society and for making American Jews conscious of the need of reading Jewish books. Three years ago, I approached Mr. Louis Kraft, Executive Director of the National Jewish Welfare Board, and suggested that the work of the Jewish Book Council was a "natural" for his organization. Mr. Kraft was not completely convinced at the time. but consented to let Dr. Mordecai Soltes, of the J.W.B. staff, become the Chairman of the Jewish Book Committee, to provide office space and other facilities, but not to assume the budget of the Jewish Book Committee. Even this represented a distinct improvement over the oneman or one-woman organization of the Jewish Book Week of heretofore. Under Dr. Soltes' able direction, a national committee was organized and Jewish Book Week became a reality. Your Editor and I served on the Committee from the very start, Dr. Grayzel acting as Editor of the trilingual Jewish Book Annual for two years and your Executive Vice-President acting as Chairman of the Administrative Committee for one year and Chairman of their Publication Committee for three years. Each year, we found a greater "consumer response" to our work, with more publicity, more sub-committees formed around the country and a keener interest in Jewish Book Week.

I am very pleased to report to you that this year the Jewish Welfare Board has accepted the complete responsibility for the work of the Jewish Book Council of America and has assigned a staff member, Rabbi Philip Goodman, as Executive Secretary of the Jewish Book Council. The entire budget has been assumed by the Welfare Board, which will now act as the sponsor and coordinator. The results have been phenomenal. In the past month, we have had more meetings on Jewish Book Week than ever before and I feel quite confident that this organization will redound to the benefit of The Society in years to come. In making people conscious of their literary heritage, we are bound to interest them in the reading of Jewish books. Indirectly, of course, we are bound to benefit from this by increased memberships and increased sales.

I want to record that Dr. Grayzel, now Vice-President of the Jewish Book Council of America, in February will assume the Presidency. Under his able direction and with the professional services we are now receiving, the Jewish Book Council of America will become a very important Jewish organization.

For the past three years, our Press has been printing the Jewish Book Annual.

In the Jewish Welfare Board's paper, the <u>Sentinel</u>, stressing Jewish Book Week, of the thirteen books highlighted all but three are the publications of our Society. Our efforts to stimulate the work of the Jewish Book Council of America are reflected in the cooperation which they give us.

I also want to call your attention to the new reading plan sponsored by the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods as the "Fifteen Minute Jewish Treasure Plan." Most of the books to be highlighted are The Society's books and the following books are specified for study: the biographies of Philo, Josephus, Rashi, Maimonides, Menasseh

- 8 ben Israel, Cremieux and Moses Montefiore. For the study of the Bible, our translation will be highlighted. On the history program, they are recommending A Century of Jewish Life. These and other reading plans are bound to increase the sale of our books and increase memberships. THE PRESS In spite of the shortage of manpower, the Press is turning out a phenomenal amount of work. We have nine full-time and one part-time man working at the Press against a total of nineteen full-time men and one on part time prior to the War. In spite of this small number of men, I am amazed at the volume being produced. The men work sixty and seventy hours a week in an effort to keep up with our commitments. During the year, we completed the following contracts: Booklets 1, 2 and 3 for the Sam Shainberg Foundation, Memphis, Tenn.; Sifriah Lanoar, II, for the Bureau of Jewish Education, Baltimore; Alexander Marx's Studies in Jewish History and Booklore for the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; the Hebrew composition for Volume II of the Union Prayer Book; Volume LIV of the Central Conference of American Rabbis Yearbook; Songsters for Sukkot, Hanukkah, Pesach and Hamisha Asar Bish'vat for the Jewish Education Committee of New York; four issues of The Jewish Quarterly Review; four issues of the Journal of Biblical Literature; Hebrew Union College Annual, Volume XVIII; two issues of the Westminster Theological Journal; David Wolffsohn, Herzl's Successor, for the Zionist Organization of America; Harishon I, II and III for the Joint Commission on Jewish Education; Paul Romanoff's Jewish Symbols on Ancient Jewish Coins; Volume 3 of the Jewish Book Annual; A Yiskor Prayer Book for Rabbi E. Phineas Friedman; Proceedings XIV for the American Academy for Jewish Research; Abridged Prayer Book, High Holy Days Prayer Book, Haggadah and Hebrew-French Prayer Book for the National Jewish Welfare Board. The Jewish Welfare Board continues to be our biggest customer and during the year we delivered 323,360 copies of their regular Prayer Book, 137,000 copies of the Haggadah, 175,000 copies of the High Holy Days Prayer Book and 11,550 copies of a French-Hebrew Prayer Book prepared for the use of the French Jews in the Armed Service in North Africa. A second printing of this book is under way. Our books for the Press are closed and we simply cannot take on any more business, first, because of the lack of manpower and, secondly, because we will not have paper sufficient to take care of any more customers. The Press has already booked ahead four books for 1946. MEMBERSHIP At the end of the year, The Society had 8,864 members: 5,878 Annual Members; 2,718 Library Members; 191 Patron Members; 16 Friend Members and 52 Life Members. Of this number, 3,303 were new members enrolled during 1944 and 5,514 were re-enrollments. This is the largest number of new memberships in any one of the past nine years and is indicative of the ease

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with which new members can be secured by The Society when the War is over and help is available continually to send out letters. All subscription book clubs lose about one-third of their members each year. Gradually The Society is shifting over to a mail-order business and, at the end of 1944, only one full-time representative was in the field and one part-time representative. Experience is proving that memberships secured from high-pressure solicitors result in heavy cancellations after the first year, while memberships secured from other sources last much longer.

During the year 1944, because of lack of help, the usual five billings to members were cut down to three. Of the new members enrolled, 1,234 were recommended by members of The Society, 388 wrote in to The Society and asked for information, 137 were secured through fullpage advertisements in the New Palestine and 292 were secured through full-page advertisements in the B'nai B'rith National Jewish Monthly. For these advertisements these magazines receive the regular first year's commission, so The Society is undergoing no risk. The balance of the new memberships were secured through miscellaneous sources. The number enrolled by paid agents was lower than in previous years and The Society paid commissions to agents on 997 new members. During 1945, the chances are that this will be cut down at least onethird more. The advertisements in the New Palestine and the National Jewish Monthly have brought news of The Society into homes which we could not reach ordinarily and the chances are that when people go to the trouble of clipping coupons and making their own selections, they will read these books and remain in The Society. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies, which enrolled 100 new members in 1943, enrolled 47 additional members during 1944.

With a streamlining of The Society's literature and more help available to do the work, a much larger membership is possible in future years.

Part of the increased book sales has come from a surge of foreign business. With the Jewish publishers of England practically out of business, all English-speaking countries must look to America for their source of Jewish books. With an excellent export agent handling our books, and with an American distributor handling our books to department stores and book shops, The Society is well equipped to handle a much larger sales volume.

# POST-WAR PLANS

## THE PRESS

The Press has proved its ability to take on large and complicated contracts and to do them to the satisfaction of customers. We have acted as sub-contractors for government work, setting Bulgarian, Russian, Greek and Serbian, and of course doing a great deal more on our Russian Bible contract. We are now equipped to do both Russian and Greek on the machine and the only type face that The Society still needs for machine setting is Arabic, and this we must have in the very near future. The Press must increase its number of English faces, so as to have a variety of type faces with which to set The Society's and customers' books.

The Press now owns eight keyboards and five casting machines, an increase from the two keyboards and two casting machines of 1935. Two new type casters will be necessary after the War, when available, so that we can cast a large number of matrices at one time. Two of these machines are on order for delivery when new equipment is available.

The addition of two or more Linotypes to our equipment would mean that the Press could take on a greater volume of work, when men are available, and that we could consider business in setting non-vowelled Hebrew and Yiddish. The cost of setting in Linotype is approximately one-third less than in Monotype. The Society would be able to set its own English books also on the Linotype. Linotypes are now available to do combination English and Hebrew without vowels. There are several magazines for which The Society can secure contracts if we are equipped to set type cheaper. Each Linotype machine costs \$6,000.00 and is a good investment for us.

The Press is definitely in need of more space. In the past nine years, we have added space about four times, but no additional space is available in the present building. The Press is completely equipped to stand on its own, as all of our equipment is now the property of The Society. Approximately 5,000 square feet are necessary at the present time, with additional space for future growth.

Immediately after the War, when young men are available again, we will once more start to train new typesetters.

# EXECUTIVES

Two additional executives are necessary, one to handle memberships and one to handle production. The addition of these executives will make it possible for the Executive Vice-President to spend more time "thinking out" The Society's problems and visiting the communities throughout the country to interpret The Society's work.

Additional space is necessary for the office. The office was originally laid out for six girls and now twelve girls work in the office. At least 5,000 square feet are necessary to properly conduct the business of The Society.

More typewriters and other office machinery are necessary if The Society is to continue to grow and handle its business expeditiously.

#### PUBLICATIONS

We ought to think ahead on expanding the publication program of The Society. Six books a year are not enough. I often said that the responsibility for keeping alive Jewish literature now rests with America and that our Society must carry more than its share of additional new publications. When we experimented in 1938 with doubling our program, we proved that the more books we published, the more our members will pay higher dues. I think we ought to step up, as soon as paper is available, to nine books and eventually to twelve books a year, making us definitely a Jewish Book-of-the-Month Club. Please note that our \$5.00 members now represent only two-thirds of our

membership list. One-third now are willing to pay \$10.00 and more, and I feel quite certain that when we develop a \$15.00 and \$20.00 membership which will bring the member nine and twelve books per year, a large percentage of our members will be willing to pay the extra amount. Moreover, with additional new titles, our sales will increase in proportion. Only when we start printing twelve books a year will I feel that The Society is really doing its share.

### COSTS

What does it cost us to operate under the present conditions?

In 1935, The Society employed one part-time executive, two full-time girls at the office, one girl on a half-time basis, a young man who did promotional work on a full-time basis, a part-time editor and a shipper who worked half-time, the equivalent of six full-time workers, plus six men at the Press. The total business for the year was \$65,000.00. At the present time, we employ twelve people at the office, a part-time Editor, plus nine full-time people and one on part-time at the Press, a total of twenty-one and a half people, and do a business of over \$300,000.00. It may be interesting to quote a few figures on costs. In 1935, our total salaries at the office amounted to \$6,683.00 against a combined business, that is, book sales and dues, of \$35,111.00, a percentage cost of 19%. We have been reducing this gradually each year until in 1943 the percentage of salary cost has been reduced to 15%. This includes not alone the salaries of our girls, but the salary of our Editor and part of the salary of the Executive Vice-President. At the Press, the cost of wages in proportion to the business has declined from 30% in 1935 to 16% in 1943. The percentage of salaries, the share of the Executive's salary plus the share of the salaries of the girls who are charged to the Press has been reduced from 15% in 1935 to 8% in 1943.

In spite of the fact that we have the largest number of books in print at any time in our history, we are still managing to turn the stock at least twice a year.

# INCREASED BOOK SALES

Another matter I would like to suggest to the Board for consideration in the post-war period is that we enter the field of general sales of Jewish books. The Book-of-the-Month Club has built up an excellent business among its members on publications which they advertise in their magazine and which are sold at the full retail price to members. This is profitable business and with our excellent list of members, all book buyers, we should have no trouble in selling many additional books.

The Society has remained out of the textbook field, the most fertile and profitable field. The Union of American Hebrew Congregations sold over \$120,000.00 worth last year, and I am convinced that we could do at least as good a job and perhaps better. The type of textbook we could print would be acceptable to all three branches of Jewish life, whereas the Union's books are written primarily for Reform but are used by other groups because they are the best avail-

able in the market. The commercial Jewish publishers have not gone into the textbook field too seriously and the market is a very large one. This market could also be amplified to include Hebrew textbooks.

We should try to work out some arrangement with Soncino to become their distributor in America. Their method of handling distribution has not been good and perhaps in the post-war period we could convince Mr. Davidson that we ought to be their agent in America. Similarly, we ought to make an effort to work with the Hebrew University and print and distribute as many of their books as we possibly can.

The addition of the Hebrew-English Bible to our list of books will add tremendously to our sales. I am convinced that we could dispose of from five thousand to ten thousand copies each year. This book can be very useful in many ways.

One project which may sound like very much of a dream at the present time is the publication of a Philadelphia Schass. The world must look to America for the production of the next Schass. There are no plates available of the Romm (Vilna) Schass and the books now being sold are poor, photographed editions. The Philadelphia Schass, edited by a scholar like Dr. Louis Ginzberg, would bring The Society more fame than it has ever had in its history. We have the manpower at the Press to do this work and I am sure that the money could be raised throughout the country for such a purpose.

Once our new GRAETZ is available, the old plates of GRAETZ can be used for a cheap edition in two, three or six volumes. These sets can be sold in volume through the Jewish newspapers for premiums or can be distributed through wholesale agencies at a low price. The old GRAETZ will in no way interfere with the new GRAETZ which we have been discussing for some time.

# MAGAZINE

Those of you who have attended annual meetings over a long period are fully familiar with the continual cry that The Society ought to have a magazine of its own telling the story of Jewish books. I am in hearty agreement with this and hope that in the post-war period we will be able to develop a magazine similar to the Book-of-the-Month Club News or the Literary Guild Wings. I feel quite certain that having the members receive periodically some sort of publication of this type will make it easier for us to retain our memberships, sell more books and enroll many more members.

# OFFICIAL FAMILY

In making our plans for the post-war period, I believe that we ought to study through and revamp our "Official Family." Having two separate bodies, the Publication Committee and the Board of Trustees, is a rather cumbersome way of doing business. It strikes me that we could without much trouble combine the two, with a small Executive Committee to handle the business of The Society in the interim between meetings. This body should be presided over by a Chairman of the

Board. We should develop an Advisory Board of key people throughout the country on whom we could call for membership stimulation and who could also act as our friends-at-court before local allocation committees. The Joint Distribution Committee, the Hebrew University and other organizations all have these national advisory committees. This expanded plan would make it possible for us to include in our "Official Family" many men who want to work for The Society but for whom there is no place at present in our setup.



## B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATIONS at American Universities

Abram Leon Sachar, National Director 605 East Green Street Champaign, Illinois December 3, 1944

Mr. Maurice Jacobs, 225 South 15th St. Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Maurice:

I have given some thought to the series of conversations that we have had on a cooperative plan which I hope can be worked out for the Hillel Library Series. I share your conviction that there are many mutual advantages in having the Hillel series published by the Jewish Publication Society. I have the following suggestions to make which I hope you will bring to the meeting on December 10th.

All books that are published in the Hillel Library Series should be so identified. The jacket, the cover, the fly leaf should indicate that the volume belongs to the Hillel series. There should also be a statement of policy in connection with the series such as appeared in Maurice Samuel's "Harvest in the Desert". If the volume is also released as a JPS book, it should nevertheless carry the same identification so that the JPS members who receive the volume will also know that it forms part of the Hillel Library Series.

The Hillel Editorial Board should have jurisdiction over the Hillel Library Series. In the case of the Samuel volume you will recall I arranged with Maurice Samuel to write the volume, believing that it was necessary to have this subject developed dramatically and authoritatively for young people on the college level. We now have our lines out for other manuscripts on subjects which we consider are vitally needed as resource material.

Perhaps our Editorial Board could be made a kind of Sub Committee of the Publication Committee of JPS. Our present Editorial Board includes Dr. Solomon Goldman, Dr. Louis L. Mann, Rabbi Milton Steinberg, Dr. Judah I. Goldin, Dr. I. Rabinowitz and myself. All of these with the exception of Rabbi Goldin and Dr. Rabinowitz are now members of the Publication Committee. I do not believe that there will be any jurisdictional difficulty since, if any manuscript approved by the Hillel Board does not pass the Publication Committee of JPS, the particular volume need not be included as a JPS membership book.

Naturally, we would expect that the Hillel volume would come to Hillel for the cost of production. We would make the volume available to our Hillel and B'nai B'rith family in the same way that "Harvest in the Desert" has now been made available. The very special price which is made possible for us in turn makes it possible to give the book very wide circulation among college youngsters and their B'nai B'rith sponsors.

Naturally, there are many technical details to work out but your meeting will probably be concerned only with the principle. If the principle is approved I am sure there will be no difficulty in implementing it to our mutual advantage.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

(signed) A. L. SACHAR

## MANUSCRIPTS NOT ACCEPTED May 1, 1943 to December 10, 1944

ETHICAL CIVILIZATION OR BRUTE FORCE, by Samuel Alkow IT HAPPENED TO ME, by Martha Appel MEN OF BRONZE, by Ben Aronin IRRFAHRT, by Ariewen COMMENTARY ON THE PSALMS, by Bernard Bay TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR MODERN ETHICAL INTERNATIONALISM, by Simon Barchak BUTTONS ARE CHEAP, by Edith Reider Barron DER FREMDE, by Ben-Chorim THE RETURN OF THE GOLEM, by Bohus Benes DER GROSSE OSMAN UND SEINE BANDE, by Ben-Gavriel THE JEWS IN WORLD HISTORY, by Norman Bentwich A story by Ruth Berges INDEPENDENCE ROCK, by Henry J. Berkowitz A JEWISH TOWN, by S. Bickel (Yiddish book, submitted for translation) CHILDREN'S HAGGADAH, by Amy K. Blank ESCAPE UNTO NEW LIFE, by Kenneth R. Boord ESTHER, by Arthur J. Brandus HIS NEPHEW, SAM LATTIMER, by F. Cecelia Brown STRANGE CHILDREN, by Harry Burnstein GATEWAY TO FREEDOM, by Joseph P. Byrne CROSSES AND BARBED WIRE FENCES, by Jose Calero THE LIE THE STRANGER TOLD, by Frances Q. Cardinal THIS OTHER EDEN, by Anne Nathan Cohen WHY FROGS CROAK AT NIGHT, by Marion E. Cox THE JEWISH CHILD EVERY DAY, by Edith Covich PASS OUT QUIETLY, by Thomas Deacon SIMON BARJONAS' SON, by Hans P. Dreyer POETRY, by Jean C. Druckman A Play (about the Jews of Warsaw), by Joseph Dunner Ms. of American Letters, submitted by Mary Emanuel Tableau, by Bertha C. Fenenbock AT THE BEGINNING, by George H. Fine Burla stories, translated by Helena Frank Short stories, by Marian Franklin Stories, by Faye E. Freehof UPROOTED, by Lipot Gedo LOVE AND MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO JUDAISM, article by D. Gerstein STRICTLY G. I., by N. M. Goldburg THE GHETTO FIGHTS BACK, short story by Walter M. Goldman POEMS, by Isidore Goldstick SCATTERED SOULS, by Anna Grombacher FOUR FROM THE OLD TOWN, by Antoni Gronowicz Art book, by Leah Grundig KULTURGESCHICHTE DER JUDEN, by Max Grunwald Stories, by Ethel F. Guttmann COAT OF COLORS, by Harriet Smith Hawley Short stories, by Helen Hirsch Ms. of sermons, by Moses Hirschkopf Republication of book on Jews of Majorca, by A. Lionel Isaacs Plays, by Judith Ish-Kishor COMMENTARY ON EXODUS, by B. Jacob THE NARROW PATH, by Abraham A. Kabak (Hebrew book, submitted for translation) DAS DRITTE REICH, by Selma Kahn MICHAEL AND THE BOOK, by Josef Kastein Three stories, by Max Kaufman

CHAYE, by Mrs. Max Keil CRISIS AND DECISION IN JUDAISM, by Jacob Klatzkin Stories, by Irma Kraft JONAS FUGITIVE, poetry by Cornel A. Lengyel JOEL AND GERSON GO A-TRAVELING, by Miriam Levensohn THE DOVE AND THE EAGLE, by Elma E. Levinger FLAME FOR MY PEN, by Ethel Lewine BREATHE UPON THESE, by Ludwig Lewisohn HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF FRISIA (outline), by Max Markreich RABBI ELI, by Max Masser SYNAGOGUE AND SOCIETY, by I. Maybaum CHRONICLE OF AN AMERICAN CRUSADER, by Samuel S. Mayerberg HERE'S A GOOD ONE, by S. Felix Mendelsohn JUDITH'S ANSWER, by Rebekah ha Levi-Mordeki LIKE A HUNGRY FLAME, by Rebekah ha Levi-Mordeki Stories, by W. J. Nexer Translation and publication of 1863, by J. Opatoshu THE END OF ISRAEL'S ENEMIES, two volumes by M. Osherowitsch Novel on Bar Kochba, by Abraham Parseit SHRINE OF JUDEA, by Mrs. Gurthie Shaw Patch UNTO THE THIRD GENERATION, by Joseph H. Paymer Story, by Carl Peterson DISTURBERS OF THE PEACE, by Leon Pritcher THE STORY OF THE MACCABEES, by Max Radin JEWISH IDEALS AND CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION, by Jacob S. Raisin MODERN PALESTINE, by A. Revusky DESTINATION UNKNOWN, by Zelda (Jennie) Roberts GOD'S WONDER BOOK, by Caroline Rosenbaum Ms. on Jews of Italy, by Mario Rossi LETTERS OF SIMON DUBNOW, ed. by S. W. D. Rowson RETURNED TO VILNA, by Ernest P. Sawer MEMOIRS of M. A. Schalit I AM A JEW, by Fred. A. Schuman SCAPEGOAT, by Bernard Segal CONTEMPORARY HEBREW POETS, by Eisig Silberschlag THE ZEPPELIN, by Solomon Simon THE STARS STILL SHINE, by Rembert G. Smith MY CARAVAN OF YEARS, by Goldie T. Stone THE STORY OF GIDEON, by Israel I. Taslitt Ms. on the Jewish family, by Jacob Turner Ms. on Edward Lasker, by Veit Valentin THE HEBREW GUIDE, by Benjamin Vend ENJOY IT IN GOOD HEALTH, by William Waller Stories, by Mrs. Pinchos Wechter JEWISH THOUGHT SINCE MENDELSSOHN (outline), by Max Wiener THE PENTATEUCH IN RHYME, by Dena Wilan TEL-AVIV, by A. Wissotzky THE HAGGADAH, by Ted Wolfert SAND AND STARS, by S. Wronsky Five sketches, by Mrs. Herman H. Rubenovitz

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225 SOUTH FIFTEENTH STREET

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MAURICE JACOBS, Executive Vice-President January 9, 1945

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Silver:

I know from the last issue of The Jewish Review and Observer that last Friday night you spoke on GERMANY'S STEPCHILDREN.

Do you have one of more copies of your sermon which we could have for our files?

During these very strenuous days for you, I hope there is some consolation in knowing that those who know you and admire you are behind you at all times.

Cordially yours.

Lewice MAURICE JACOBS Executive Vice-President

MJ:RU

January 10, 1945 Mr. Maurice Jacobs, Executive Vice-President The Jewish Publication Society of America 225 South Fifteenth Street Philadelphia 2. Pa. My dear Mr. Jacobs: Thank you so much for your kind letter. I regret that I have not available a transcript of the address which I delivered last Sunday morning at the Temple on "Germany's Stepchildren." I was delighted to have had the opportunity to speak of the book. It is one of the best things which the Jewish Publication Society has issued - a well-written and timely study of one of the great problems of Jewish life which manifested itself in its extreme form among German Jewry. Mr. Liptzin's treatment of the problem as seen through the lives and struggles of some of the foremost cultural leaders of German Jewry is most illuminating. His book should be widely circulated and discussed among our people in this country, for the same problem is here, though fortunately for the time being, in much less aggravated forms - although even here in some circles it is becoming pathological. Thank you for heartening words in connection with the controversy in which I am presently engaged. I have been gratified by the numerous expressions of confidence which have come to me from all parts of the country, and more especially, by the reaction in the Jewish press. With all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

## THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY of AMERICA



### 225 SOUTH FIFTEENTH STREET

### PHILADELPHIA 2, PENNSYLVANIA

March 22, 1945.

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Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple. Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am writing to you because you are both a graduate of the Hebrew Union College and a member of the "Official Family" of the Jewish Publication Society. A problem faces us regarding which we need your advice. I hope that you will keep the contents of this letter confidential.

For many years, the Jewish Publication Society has been committed to the publication of a biography of Isaac M. Wise. We owe it to him and to the American Jewish public. We have made honest and earnest efforts to find an author for such a biography. far, we have not succeeded.

The latest suggestion is that we invite Rabbi James G. Heller to write the biography. He is Dr. Wise's successor at the Plum Street Temple, he has written a history of the Synagogue, he has the material at hand and is acquainted with a good deal of it. Would he. in your opinion, be acceptable to Reform Jewry as the author of such a biography? If you care to, you might offer an alternative suggestion of an author and we shall be glad to follow it up.

Please bear in mind that we would very much like to have the biography published during 1946, in view of the impending anniversary.

I shall look forward eagerly to your response. will not only be kept confidential, but will be returned to you without being placed in our files.

Cordially yours,

SOLOMON GRAYZEI

Editor

SG: EZ

March 28, 1945 Dr. Solomon Grayzel, Editor The Jewish Publication Society of America 225 South Fifteenth Street Philadelphia 2, Pa. My dear Dr. Grayzel: A biography of Isaac M. Wise should of course be published by the Jewish Publication Society. Rabbi Heller would be a logical person to write the biography inasmuch as he is a successor to Dr. Wise at the Plum Street Temple. He is undoubtedly thoroughly qualified to write a competent and authoritative biography. My one hesitancy is the self-same one which you point out, namely, that Dr. Heller, being officially identified with the Zionist movement may not be regarded by non-Zionist or anti-Zionist members of the Reform Congregations as the most logical man to select to write the biography of a man who was certainly not a Zionist and who frequently attacked the Zionist point of view. As for other suggestions: - why not try Dr. Solomon B. Freehof, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, who writes exceedingly well and who is not so completely identified in the minds of Reform Jews with what one might call Zionist "partisanship?" If I think of any other name, I will be very happy to communicate with you. with all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

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MAURICE JACOBS. Executive Vice-President April 5, 1946

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Silver:

We know what a busy man you are and consequently did not expect you to attend the meetings of our Board and Publication Committee and our annual meeting on Sunday, March 31st.

We do hope that when, as and if your schedule permits, you will meet with us and join with us in the planning of our publication program.

I take great pleasure in informing you that you were re-elected to the Board of Trustees. We hope you will continue your affiliation with us for many years to come.

Cordially yours,

MAURICE JACOBS

Executive Vice-President

MJ:EZ

April 9, 1946 Mr. Maurice Jackbs, Executive Vice-President The Jewish Publication Society of America 225 South Fifteenth St. Philadelphia 2, Pa. My dear Mr. Jacobs: Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of March 5 and for the information which is contained in the letter that I have been re-elected to the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Publication Society of America. Permit me to thank you and through you the officers and members of the Society. Some day when things ease up a bit, I shall be most happy to attend the meetings and to take a more active part in the work of the Society. with all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

## J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.

REAL ESTATE APPRAISALS

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TELEPHONE
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# PHILADELPHIA 9, PA.

December 6, 1948

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Jewish Publication Society held November 30, 1948 it was definitely decided that The Society should immediately go ahead with the plan to raise a sum between \$150,000. and \$250,000. to place it in a sound financial condition.

A dinner meeting will be arranged early in 1949 in Philadelphia, and it is expected to be followed by a number of similar meetings in other large cities throughout the United States.

It is extremely important that for this initial meeting that we can report contributions from those closest to the work of The Society, namely the members of the "Official Family". Four of the Trustees have already contributed \$1,000. each. We should open this initial meeting with contributions of at least \$25,000. from members of the Board.

At the present time The Society is desperately in need of additional money for working capital to complete our present publishing program, and we must raise \$20,000. to move the Press to our new building for the purpose of economic management and because we have been ordered to vacate by our present landlord.

This is the first time in my administration that I have asked any of our Trustees for any money for The Society and knowing that you believe in and approve the splendid work our Society has been doing to spread Jewish culture and knowledge, I would appreciate if you would send a generous contribution to this fund promptly. Any contribution can be paid in either 1948 or 1949 whichever is more convenient.

Very\sincerely,

J. SOLIS-COHEN, Jr.

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February 26, 1951

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

It occurs to me that the time has come for you to write another volume, if possible, for us. I have recently looked again into your volume on the Messianic movement. It seems to me that a very interesting and useful volume could be prepared, consisting of important texts bearing on the Messiah Idea in Jewish Life, taking the subject down to our own day. Naturally, one thinks of you as the author of such a book.

While I hope you undertake the writing of it, you know enough about how the Jewish Publication Society works to realize that I have no authority to do more than suggest. If you are interested, however, I shall be very happy to find out to what extent this suggestion meets with the favor of the Sub-Committee of our Publication Committee in charge of this type of volume.

My cordial greetings to yourself and your family.

Sincerely yours,

Solomon Grayze

Editor

SG/s

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A NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION DEVOTED TO JEWISH CULTURE

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November 16, 1954

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

It has come to my attention that you are working on a book. I discussed the matter with Judge Levinthal, who is now chairman of our Publication Committee. Knowing you and your previous writings, we have good reason to believe that it will be a book of general interest, as well as of special interest to the Jewish community. Is it in place for us to ask you whether, in your opinion, it could be considered a book which the Jewish Publication Society might distribute to its members ? If you think so, will you be good enough to send us all or part of the manuscript, so that we can seek the advice of our colleagues on the Publication Committee and perhaps have the Jewish Publication Society join in its publication. Of course that would depend on how willing your commercial publishers are to co-operate with an organization like ours. We don't know who your publishers are. Generally there is no objection. However, I am skipping a couple of steps. You are acquainted with our procedure. We can perhaps cross the bridge between us and the publishers after we become acquainted with the nature of the manuscript.

Some years have passed since I last saw you. I hope all has been well with you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

Solomon Grayze

SG:ek

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November 23, 1954 Dr. Solomon Grayzel Jewish Publication Society of America 222 N. Fifteenth Street Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania My dear Dr. Grayzel: Thank you very much for your letter of November sixteenth. I appreciate very much the interest which you are taking in my book. It is, however, too early to begin to talk about its publication. It will be a few months before I finally whip it into shape and before I begin discussions with the publisher. I shall, however, be very happy to get in touch with you as soon as I am ready with the book. With warmest regards, I remain Very cordially yours, ABBA HILLEL SILVER AHS:rms