



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

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

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

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Manson, Harold, 1959.

115 East 92 Street  
New York 28, N.Y.

March 5, 1959.

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

This first note to you following your return gives me the opportunity to extend a hearty "welcome home" to you and to Mrs. Silver. I trust that your trip was both interesting and enjoyable, and I hope that I shall have an opportunity of learning some of your impressions in person soon.

I assume that you have seen the various published items which I forwarded to your office during your absence. Publication of my letter to Hadoar was delayed because it seems that the Hebraists there found the translation of my comments too formidable a task. I finally had to see to the translation myself -- with an assist from Emanuel. A copy of the Hebrew text, which is scheduled to appear in the current issue, is enclosed.

With respect to the other items (the Davar interview etc.) -- I have assumed that if you believe they warrant clarification, you would have made or authorized appropriate comment.

Where the Z.O.A. is concerned, there isn't much to report -- not that there has been any lessening of sound and fury for their own sake. But lest you get the impression that my life is joyless at this point, I hasten to add that there is no end of naches at home.

My hopes regarding appropriate office arrangements for the writing of the book have not been realized yet. It would seem that Redelheim had some second thoughts on the matter after Emanuel spoke to him (no doubt along the lines of "What's in it for me?") and he has sidestepped the question every time I have raised it during the past weeks, putting off a final understanding and arrangement until some indefinite time. (During the past few weeks I haven't been able to speak to him at all, since he hasn't been feeling well.) So I can only try to do what I can whenever I can.

Meanwhile, there has been a development on another front which could have a salutary effect on this matter as well, since it would involve a radical change of my professional circumstances. I received a call from an executive placement agency with which I had registered around the time of our last meeting. The agency wished to know whether I would be interested in a certain opening for which they are prepared to recommend me enthusiastically. The opening:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

March 5, 1959

public relations directorship for the American Friends of the Hebrew University. I confess that I am deeply interested and that not the least attractive feature is the salary of \$25,000 per annum. While I agree with the agency that I'm a "natural" for the job, I am not at all certain that this view would be shared by the Hebrew University people for the very reasons which so impressed the agency -- namely, my background as a Zionist political propagandist. I hope I'm not imagining things, but recalling past attitudes of some of the Hebrew University crowd, I have a feeling that before being ready to engage someone with my history, they would have to be convinced that I'm not really a wild man.

I have taken the liberty of advising the agency that those concerned may feel free to check with you -- even at this stage -- as to the validity of my professional résumé, particularly my assertion that I occupied the key public relations position in our political struggle of the 'forties.

I also inquired about the advisability of bringing influence to bear on the leadership of the American Friends of the Hebrew University. I was advised to hold off for the present but that this might prove most helpful during the days to come. I am therefore giving you the background at this time, so that -- if I should take the liberty of requesting a note or call from you to the AFHU leadership -- you will have the full picture. I am under the impression that you have done a great deal -- especially recently -- in behalf of the Hebrew University, and you may, therefore, be in a position to give me a definite impression of the proposition and also perhaps to let the AFHU people have your opinion of me, assuming that you are requested to do so and that you do not regard me as utterly useless. I have no idea as yet which of the AFHU Board members are most concerned with this matter, though the agency mentioned that it was in touch with a Mr. Herbert W. Steingarten -- probably a professional executive.

Well, that's the story. You may be hearing further from me on it.

For the rest -- I had a small experience with a surgeon last week which involved a short stay in the hospital. A growth

Page Three

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

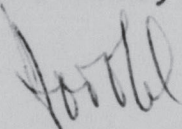
March 5, 1959

was removed from my arm. The laboratory reports are all O.K.

My love to Mrs. Silver.

Warmest regards.

Ever best,



Harold P. Manson

HPM/d



DOCUMENT DAMAGED

115 East 92nd Street  
New York, N.Y.

March 11, 1959

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

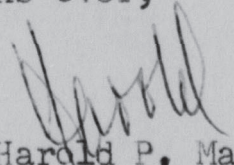
Regarding the American Friends of the Hebrew University matter about which I wrote to you last week -- the placement agency has advised me that a high level intervention of the type I had mentioned might prove useful.

I am enclosing a list of the leaders of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, taken from a letterhead dated May, 1958. I imagine that the two key people on this list are Daniel G. Ross, the President, and Dr. Frederick R. Lachman, the Executive Vice President. (I see no mention of Herbert W. Steingarten, who is the person with whom the placement agency is in contact.) You will know best whether your relations with any of these gentlemen would warrant a letter of recommendation in my behalf, assuming that you wish to write such a letter. (I have some recollection of contact with Dr. Lachman in connection with the mushroom which a Hebrew University scientist named in your honor, but I have no idea of the nature and extent of your dealings with him.)

Permit me to suggest that any letter or letters that you may decide to send should make no specific reference to any placement agency in connection with the opening. It would be best to say that you had heard that the AFHU is currently seeking a top-flight public relations person, and that in view of your deep interest in the Hebrew University you venture to suggest that they might do well to get in touch with Harold P. Manson -- adding whatever favorable comments concerning my abilities you might be inclined to make with a clear conscience.

With many thanks for anything that you may be inclined to do in this connection, and with warmest regards, I am,

As ever,

  
Harold P. Manson

HPM/d

Letterhead (1st of May, 1958)

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Inc.

9 East 89th Street • New York 28, N.Y. • ATwater 9-5200

DANIEL G. ROSS      - Office Phone - Oxford 7-2310  
President                      Home      "      Rhineland 4-2112

JAMES MARSHALL  
Chairman of the Board

JOSEPH M. MAZER  
Assoc. Chairman of the Board

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PROF. OSCAR I. JANOWSKY  
Chairman, Academic Council

PROF. MILTON HANDLER  
Chairman, National Council

DR. FREDERICK R. LACHMAN  
Executive Vice President



Person with whom Agency is in contact:  
Herbert W. Steingarten

## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

# WESTERN UNION

## TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

## SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International Letter Telegram

1201

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of

(31).

BA043

DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM

B UDA177 PD=UD NEW YORK NY 12 1026AME:

=DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

1959 MAR 12 AM 10 37

THE TEMPLE CLEVE: *Ansel + E105*

SW 17755

=AFTER THOUGHT TO MY LETTER IT MAY BE THAT POSITION WOULD INVOLVE REPLACEMENT LACHMAN IN WHICH CASE LETTER TO HIM UNWISE. THEREFORE SUGGEST HOLD OFF ON LACHMAN PENDING FULLER INFORMATION AFHU SETUP. HOWEVER PERSONAL LETTER ROSS OR OTHER AFHU TOP LEADERS WOULD BE HELPFUL ASSUMING THIS WARRANTED BY YOUR RELATIONSHIP. WARMEST REGARDS:

=HAROLD P MANSON=

NO	BY	1118A	SP
			<i>[Signature]</i>

115 East 92 Street  
New York, N.Y.

March 17, 1959

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

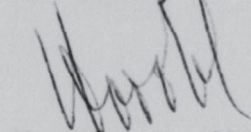
Further sniffing around the AFHU set-up does not indicate that the reportedly imminent public relations opening would involve Dr. Lachman's position. At the same time, I have no idea to what extent he is participating in the search for a new public relations director. (Mr. Steingarten, who contacted the agency, has been described to me as one of the newer lay leaders of the AFHU.)

If your interests in the Hebrew University should involve contact between Dr. Lachman and yourself during this period, you might wish to mention, agav urcha, that you have heard certain rumors regarding the future public relations set-up of the AFHU and that, if these rumors are correct, you may have an important suggestion to offer.

In any case, a letter to Ross or other AFHU lay leaders, along the lines suggested in my letter of March 11, would be helpful, assuming that this would be warranted by your relationship.

With warmest regards, I am,

As ever,



Harold P. Manson

HPM/d

115 East 92nd Street  
New York 28, N.Y.

March 20, 1959

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

This will bring you up to date on the situation with respect to the American Friends of the Hebrew University.

Yesterday I met with an additional counsellor on public relations for various business firms and advertising agencies -- at the request of the agency which had originally contacted me. In the course of this conversation I managed to get a picture of what is cooking. It seems that a group of advertising agency owners and executives, headed by Henry W. Steingarten, have become deeply interested in the Hebrew University. These men, particularly Mr. Steingarten, have been highly critical of the character and quality of AFHU public relations, and have expressed themselves strongly along these lines to the Board of the AFHU. As a result of pressure by Steingarten and his associates, it was decided to replace the current public relations director, Mr. Cohen, and to obtain a new man -- if necessary, at a considerably higher salary than had been paid heretofore. Steingarten was authorized to find such a person -- with the understanding that his selection is to be confirmed by the Administrative Committee. Steingarten and his associates proceeded along the lines followed in their own businesses -- namely, they contacted the best executive personnel placement agencies, and this is how I was brought into the picture.

Both of the agencies which interviewed me agreed that I was the man and told me that they were advising Mr. Steingarten that they are accordingly eliminating all other candidates and recommending me alone. This morning I met with Mr. Steingarten. At the beginning of the conversation he told me that he had seen and was planning to see others; at the end of the conversation he indicated that he was eliminating all others from consideration and that, so far as he is concerned, I am the man. He went so far as to ask me when I could begin at the AFHU.

One question remained unresolved. He told me that while he had advised his AFHU associates that they should be prepared to go as high as \$25,000, and that he had indicated this figure to the placement agencies, he anticipated some resistance on this score and wished to know whether I would be amenable to further negotiations. I, of course, took a strong stand on the basis of the figure which had been officially listed by the placement agencies and am awaiting further word from him on the matter, which he indicated would be forthcoming soon, (perhaps even today) following conversations which he proposed to have with Mr. Ross and with Dr. Lachman, these two evidently being the key members of the Administrative Committee.

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Page Two

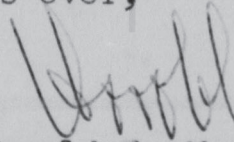
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

March 20, 1959

In the course of our conversation I mentioned your name in the context of our working relationship through the years. I also told him that you had indicated to me a desire to advise Mr. Ross of your opinion of me and I asked him to tell me frankly whether this would be called for in this situation. After expressing his own high opinion of you, he replied that this might be a good idea, but that since Mr. Ross (and probably Dr. Lachman as well) would be leaving either today or tomorrow for Jerusalem to attend a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University, he suggests that you put in such a call upon Mr. Ross' return, which would probably be a week from Monday -- namely, on or about March 30th. There are other aspects, including internal administrative problems which Mr. Steingarten described, about which I shall not trouble you. I will continue to keep you posted on the progress of the matter and, unless you hear from me to the contrary, the call which you indicated you wished to make to Mr. Ross should be put through at the time suggested above.

With warmest regards, I am,

As ever,

  
Harold P. Manson

HPM/d

[March 30, 1959]

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International  
Letter Telegram

1220  
(11-54)

Int of destination

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134

GQ CLA093 LONG DL PD=UD NEW YORK NY 30 156PME=  
DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER, THE TEMPLE:

ROSS SCHEDULED RETURN TODAY. SITUATION ESSENTIALLY AS  
OUTLINED MY LAST LETTER. GRAPEVINE JEUSALEM INDICATDES  
ROSS OTHER KEY MEN AGREE I'M IT BUT BALKING SALARY WHICH  
AFHU ITSELF LISTED WITH AGENCY THROUGH STEINGARTEN.  
• SLIGHTLY DISQUIETING NOTE IS REPORT ROSS DISCUSSED  
MATTER GUZIK CHAIRMAN ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE WHO MAY NOT  
REMEMBER ME KINDLY AS HE DIDNT DO TOO WELL AGAINST ME  
IN DEBATE DURING POLICY COMMITTEE CONTROVERSY. IF HIS  
NAME SHOULD COME UP IN CONVERSATION WITH ROSS SURE YOU'LL  
POINT OUT ACADEMIC CHARACTER PAST DIFFERENCES. MAIN  
POINT AFHU SHOULDN'T PREVENT PERFECT SHIDUCH BECAUSE  
SECOND THOUGHTS ON SALARY. EVER BEST:

=HAROLD=

CH 1-1780

TELEGRAM - 4/1/59

Mr. Harold P. Manson  
115 E. 92nd St.  
New York City



HAVE JUST SPOKEN TO ROSS SUGGESTED HE GET  
IN TOUCH WITH YOU HE SAID HE WOULD IN THE  
VERY NEAR FUTURE KINDEST REGARDS

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Cable Address:  
ZIONISTS, N. Y.

In Israel  
1 DANIEL FRISCH ST., TEL-AVIV  
Cable Address: ZOAHOUSE, TELAVIV

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

# ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32nd STREET • NEW YORK 16, N. Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

June 4, 1959

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

My negotiations with the American Friends of the Hebrew University finally reached a successful and mutually satisfactory conclusion, and I am scheduled to undertake my new duties at the beginning of August.

I am sure that your personal recommendation weighed heavily in the AFHU's decision to select me from among the many other persons who were being considered for the post. Thank you very much.

I am in the process of terminating my professional association with the ZOA and expect to leave at the end of the month.

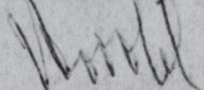
It will be interesting to see what kind of severance arrangement is offered to me after my many years of service to the cause.

I know that this decision and its implications need not be explained to you.

Please convey my love to Mrs. Silver and my very best to Daniel, Raphael and their families.

With warmest regards, I am,

As ever,



Harold P. Manson

HPM/d

*Z. O. A. Program — Aid to Israel and Service to Our Community*