



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.

Reel
48

Box
17

Folder
1158

Manson, Harold, 1959-1960.

November 30, 1959

My dear Harold:

I haven't been in New York in a long time and therefore haven't had a chance to talk to you. How are you and how is your family?

I am eager to know what progress you are making on the book. I think it should be finished before long and published. I find so much of distortion in re-writing of history in the books and the propaganda novels which have appeared in recent months that an accurate and definitive explanation of what actually took place is very much in order.

I send you all my good wishes.

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

Mr. Harold P. Manson
Zionist Organization of
America
145 East 32nd Street
New York 16, New York

115 East 92 Street
New York 28, N.Y.
December 9, 1959

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Your letter reached me today from the Z.O.A. and I was very glad to hear from you. Not that I needed reassurance about the state of your health, after the reports I had gotten from Mrs. Silver, Daniel and via Emanuel. But it was good to receive a direct indication that all is well with you.

My reply to your question about the book must, at this moment, be something less than exhilarating. Evidently I am not one of those people who can carry on high pressure jobs and write books at the same time. I have not yet been able to create the circumstances which would enable me to devote adequate time to the book -- before I am wrung out by the chores of the day. It couldn't be done at the Z.O.A., and thus far my A.F.H.U. job has been very hectic indeed. I am trying to remedy this situation. For one thing, I have obtained authorization to engage an assistant, whom I am now breaking in. And I hope that this will take some of the job pressures off me.

I know that this report will not make you happy-- which adds to my own distress at not having yet fulfilled the responsibility I undertook. I am no less mindful of my obligation to the Fund. But I can say in good conscience that I do intend to get the book done, though I cannot at this time honestly tell when this will be.

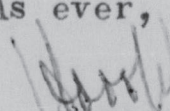
If this is unacceptable from the point of view of the Fund, I would undertake to refund the grant -- though without abandoning my intention of writing the full story. I would merely request permission to hold the papers which I organized. ~~TEXT~~ (At least the research work -- a formidable task in itself -- has been largely accomplished.)

I can only add the hope that I will be able to send you a better report on this matter before long.

For the rest, all is well. Natanya is fine (in every sense of the word) and our little David is pure joy.

I do hope that you and Mrs. Silver are keeping well and that you are getting lots of "naches" from your grandchildren.

As ever,


Harold P. Manson

March 30, 1960

My dear Harold:

Since hearing from you last December, I have been in Israel. I enjoyed my visit there tremendously and it is our intention to return there, perhaps at the end of this year, and spend a longer time there.

I became more impressed than ever before of the urgent need for the kind of a book that we have had in mind. Your last letter, as you yourself indicated, was "something less than exhilarating". It didn't make me very happy. On the other hand, I was reassured by your statement that you do intend to get the book done. I do hope that you are at work on it. Some of our friends in Israel wondered why I wasn't writing our story and I told them that it was being done and that I hoped that before long it would be published. I know that you are a busy man but you will always be, and if you are counting upon leisure time you will never have it. Time does move very fast for older people, though fortunately you do not belong to this category.

Please convey our best wishes to Natanya. I do hope to see your little David before very long. With warmest regards, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

Mr. Harold P. Manson
115 East 92nd Street
New York 28, New York

VIA AIR MAIL

115 East 92 Street
New York 28, N.Y.
April 14, 1960

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I hope that you and Mrs. Silver are both well and that you are having a happy Passover.

I followed your trip to Israel to some extent through press dispatches and through the Zionist grapevine. It should not surprise you to learn that your comments evoked much interest here, and that even a casual press interview in the course of a private trip carries great weight when the person being interviewed is yourself. I hear sad admissions that you were right all along quite frequently these days -- even from former opponents.

At my end the going has been rough. It's not a question of bemoaning the absence of leisure time -- for I believe I am capable of turning out the book we want while holding down a full-time job in a reasonably normal situation. But I have been dogged by an atmosphere of energy-consuming crisis. For example, how could I have foreseen that my new job would bring, not a more settled work situation, but daily intrigues on the part of a women's division which dominates the organization and whose leader, a bitter anti-Zionist, is determined to destroy my position in order to vindicate her support of my predecessor who had been fired over her protest? While I have been holding my own, it has been at some cost in time, energy and health.

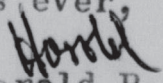
Things have not been made easier by a series of problems which have descended on me from my people in Rhode Island. These last months, in particular, have been quite grim and my "free" time has been eaten away--(even the writing of this letter has been delayed).

An insistent and often unreasonable present has been keeping me from the record of the recent past. But I wish to add that I have made a promise in connection with this book and, though its fulfillment has been delayed, I think you know that I am not given to breaking promises.

With respect to the suggestion that was made to you about a book of your own -- I believe that a decision on this does not depend only on the fact of my undertaking. As the central figure of the story on the American scene, your personal memoirs would have a special significance which no history could duplicate, and such a volume need not cancel out my own work. It depends primarily on whether you wish to write your memoirs, including events (and I know there were many important ones) prior to the forties which do not figure in the record I have gathered. If you should be so inclined, I would certainly not wish to inhibit the production of a document of historic significance. For the present, I shall do my utmost to achieve a "breakthrough" at this end.

I trust that all is well with Daniel, Raphael and their households, and that the grandchildren are flourishing. Natanya is fine and our David is a delight -- even with colds and bronchitis (but, oh, for a good night's sleep!).

As ever,


Harold P. Manson