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Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund, 1938-1941.

Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund

קן התרבות העברית בארץ ישראל

125 East 85th Street

New York

November 11, 1938

Rabbi A. H. Silver
East 105 Street Temple
Cleveland, O.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We have in New York a distinguished guest from Palestine, Dr. Simon Ginzburg, chairman of the Hebrew Writers Association of Palestine and Honorary Secretary of the Hebrew P.E.N. Club.

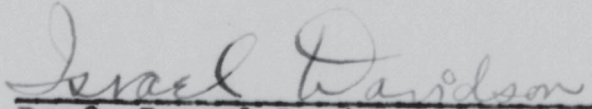
Dr. Ginzburg is a well known Hebrew poet, scholar and essayist. He came here in the interest of the two central agencies for Hebrew culture in Palestine and the Diaspora: The Hebrew Writers Association, Agudat ha-Sofrim, and the Federation of Hebrew Cultural Organizations, Brit Ivrit Olamit.

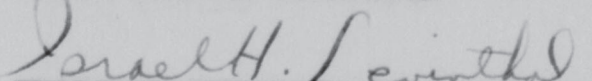
A meeting of leaders of the Jewish Community in New York is being called for the purpose of welcoming the chairman of the Hebrew Writers Association of Palestine and for devising ways and means of helping the cause of Hebrew culture which is a bulwark and a fountain of strength and inspiration not only to Yishuv in Palestine but also to world Jewry.

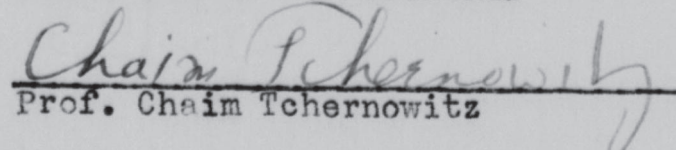
You are cordially invited to take part in our deliberations. The meeting will take place at the home of Mr. William Salzman, 300 Central Park West, on Thursday, Nov. 17th at 8:00 P.M.

Hoping that you will make every effort to be present,

Cordially yours,


Prof. Israel Davidson


Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal


Prof. Chaim Tchernowitz

Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund

קרן התרבות העברית בארץ ישראל

125 East 85th Street

New York

December 15, 1938

Rabbi Hilel Silver
East 105 Street Temple
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The writer of this letter is chairman of the Hebrew Writers Association of Palestine and honorary secretary of the Hebrew P.E.N. Club.

Some time ago I wrote you but, as I did not hear from you, I presume that you did not receive my letter.

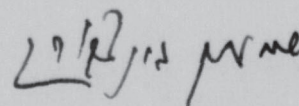
I am enclosing herewith a memorandum on the aims and activities of the two central agencies for Hebrew culture in Palestine and throughout the world: The Agudat ha-Sofrim of Palestine and the World Federation of Hebrew Cultural Organizations, Brit Ivrit Olamit.

We need for these activities the sum of \$50,000 for which an American Campaign Committee has been recently organized. The sponsors included Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Julian Morgenstern, Rabbi Solomon Goldman, Louis Lipsky, Sholom Ash, David Pinsky, Prof. Louis Ginzburg, and Prof. Israel Davidson. The executive committee includes as honorary presidents Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Julian Morgenstern, and Rabbi Solomon Goldman. The office of the president has not been filled as yet. The vice-presidents are Prof. Ch. Tchernowitz, Rabbi Israel M. Levinthal, Rabbi Milton Steinberg, and William Salzman. Sigmund Trau is the treasurer and Prof. Hilel Bavli is the secretary.

The American Campaign Committee is still in formation and I would appreciate greatly your accepting as president of the organization.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience,

Faithfully yours,



Dr. Simon Ginzburg

SG:FS
Enclosure

N. B. I would appreciate it greatly if you would authorize Mr. Blitz of the U. P. A. to cooperate with me by letting me copy some of his lists.

S. G.

י.ד. - הנני מקד סליחה כוללן, אלא כשראוי הפע
דאזער אטאמאט פאקטור (אמאנא) - דאזערס מאנו
אין איין זיין זיין (202).

January 3, 1939

Dr. Simon Ginzburg
Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund
125 East 85th St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Ginzburg:

Please pardon the long delay in answering your letter. I have been away from the city a good deal of the time and my correspondence has lagged.

I note that you are organizing an American Campaign Committee to assist you in raising funds for the Agudat ha-Sofrim and the Brit Ivrit Olamit. I appreciate your invitation to assume the presidency of this Committee. You know, of course, that I am the national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal which imposes upon me very heavy obligations in money-raising throughout the nation. As long as I am chairman of this important activity, I do not feel justified in assuming leadership in any other fund-raising effort, however worthy the objective, and I have been compelled to decline similar invitations for other purposes recently. I shall be pleased to serve as a member of your Committee but cannot assume any obligations other than those assumed by the other members of the Committee.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund

קרן התרבות העברית בארץ ישראל

125 East 85th Street

New York

January 10, 1939

Rabbi Hilel Silver
105 Street Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

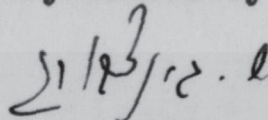
Just a few lines to acknowledge receipt of your very kind communication of January 3, 1939.

I wish to express to you in my own behalf as well as in behalf of our committee our deep appreciation of your acceptance to serve on our committee.

We hope that you will find it possible to give us, in any case, your very kind and active cooperation.

With many thanks,

Very sincerely yours,



Dr. Simon Ginzburg

SG:FS

N. B. I my previous letter I asked you to kindly authorize Mr. Blitz of the UPA to let me copy some of his lists for the Keren Hatarbut. May I have your kind authorization? Many thanks.

S. G.

יין שפוט. - הנני אומי אלא אלהיאל נר זיאא פזלאר אר אינר
ההסתברות, והנני מקוה כי כזאז אר א"ש זיין
נמצא אי זאורא זלא זאינר מגזיראמן יין הינזא!
והנני מכזזא ואקוין כאכא הרמ,
ל.ג.

Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund

קרן התרבות העברית בארץ ישראל

125 East 85th Street

New York

Feb. 12, 1939
Cleveland

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing herewith a more or less complete list of names for the Local Committee of the Keren Hatorhut. I have spoken to most of them and they mostly accepted.

A few are doubtful, like Mr. Wolf, Mr. J. M. Berne, Mr. S. C. Halle. In general they seem to me to be sympathetic to the cause of Hebrew culture. Mr. Wolf likes especially the project of our Young People's Division to publish translations of modern Hebrew literature in Palestine. Possibly your word may make them accept.

My best regards to Mrs. Silver. I hope she will find it possible to accept as Vice-President of the Women's Division Chapter.

I remain

Faithfully yours,

Shimon Singberg.

Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund

קרן התרבות העברית בארץ ישראל

125 East 85th Street

New York

March 15, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
105 Street Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am sure you have not forgotten your very kind promise to speak to Mr. Lipsky and to Rabbi Goldstein with reference to including the Keren Hatarbut in the \$20,000,000 Drive. Are there any developments at all? Is there any hope?

We have sent our application, in behalf of the Keren Hatarbut, for an allocation from the Cleveland Welfare Fund to Mr. Halle, and a copy of it was mailed to you at the same time. I hope you have received it and have given it your whole-hearted indorsement, as you promised me when I had the pleasure of conferring with you during my stay in Cleveland.

I have received a communication from Rabbi Armond Cohen in which he expressed his wish to resign as chairman of the Cleveland Keren Hatarbut Committee, giving as his reason his being obliged to continue working for another month for the Seminary drive. Of course, I wrote back to him asking him to continue in office and start our drive as soon as the other is over. Would you please speak to him and urge him not to resign?

The Keren Hatarbut is progressing nicely. Since I was in Cleveland, I have visited Miami, and now I am in Boston. Local committees were organized and some funds raised. By the end of the year we may be able to call a Keren Hatarbut convention during the World's Fair in New York.

But we still need a leader of national repute as president of the Keren Hatarbut and we are still looking to you to help us in solving this most important problem.

Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund

קרן התרבות העברית בארץ ישראל

125 East 85th Street

New York

Rabbi Silver

-2-

March 15, 1939

There is still another matter I should like to confer with you about but perhaps it will be best to leave it for the next time when I visit Cleveland.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience and thanking you for your great service to the Keren Hatarbut,

Faithfully yours,

Simon Ginzburg (S.S.)

SG:FS

Dr. Simon Ginzburg

N. B. Enclosed please find draft of the Cleveland Committee. Kindly have it okayed and returned to us so that we can send it to the printer.





KEREN HATARBUT

WASHINGTON COMMITTEE OF THE
Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund

1531 VARNUM STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

TELEPHONE COLUMBIA 1393 J

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Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund

קרן התרבות העברית בארץ ישראל

125 East 85th Street

New York

10.2.39

לכבוד רבי אבא הלל סילבר,
כאן - גאס וזריכה.

רבי סילבר הנאה מאד:

אחזיק, כי שית כעלך הסוגה והמראות
עם האצותי חזרי הליד גא קופר הטל"י: מי קלי, מי קרן
אמי וליי, והם השליחני כי דבר אופן שלא לא יהיו מן
המרגלים והכנים את יען התרגול" אלק קופר הטל".
עכשו אין הדני חסר אלא את המלכ"ל החמה ג מכנס=
הקשה אלו, כיז ה' הסוגה גלין. ואם אין אן דני
האמז דפני היצון" דפני היצון ג רבי אבא
הלל סילבר, ג אחת כמה אמה!

והנני חותם בגאולת חן,
המקוין כדכך היום אישנא
שמען יתעלות.

דיוק שכתבתי - הנני גלי גפלה ובקרה אהלאל
שיחתי עם איפסקי וגם קאזשטין.
גאולה וזה מראש
הנ"ל.



Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund, Inc.

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15 WEST 86th STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Phone TRafalgar 4-0470

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PRESIDENT

MRS. ISRAEL DAVIDSON

Copy

Oct. 20, 1941

Rabbi Armond E. Cohen, Chairman,
Contingent Fund Committee,
Jewish Welfare Federation,
Room 320, Chester-Twelfth Building,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Cohen:

I have your letter of October 16, 1941, and am enclosing herewith our financial statements for 1940 and the first half of 1941. Enclosed please find also our latest bulletin which will give you all the necessary information about our own cultural activities as well as those of our beneficiary agencies- the Hebrew Writers Association of Palestine, the Brit Ivrit Olamit and Bet Bialik.

Please note that of your 1940 allocation to Keren Hatarbut for the sum of \$150.00 only \$90.00 were transmitted to the Agudat Hasofrim of Palestine by the Vaad Leumi. It seems that what happens here in America happens there in Palestine as well. Physical problems overwhelm our leaders to such an extent that cultural needs are overlooked and neglected. That is why I took up the matter recently with Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver and he promised me to take up the matter with your committee.

I hope you will see to it that your next allocation for 1941 is increased in proportion to the increased needs of Hebrew literature and the Hebrew writers in Palestine and that it is forwarded to the Keren Hatarbut in New York which is the American office of the Hebrew Writers Association, the Brit Ivrit Olamit and Bet Bialik.

פעילות: קרן להוצאת ספרים, עזרת סופרים, סיוע ל"ברית עברית עולמית" ול"בית ביאליק"

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AIMS: To strengthen and further Hebrew culture in Palestine and throughout the world.



Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund, Inc.

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Rabbi Armond E. Cohen (2)

Ours is a cultural undertaking on a national scale, and for reasons of prestige we should not like to stand in the same list with the many Yeshivot in Palestine.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience and thanking you for your kind cooperation,

SG:DG
Enclosure



Sincerely yours,

Dr. Simon Ginzburg
Executive Director

N.B. May I not ask you also to transmit to the Vaad Leumi our protest against their above action which is against the Talmudic rule "אין מניין מצנח מצנח"?

Copy to Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

PALESTINE HEBREW CULTURE FUND

American Campaign Committee

The two central organizations for Hebrew culture in Palestine and the world at large--the Hebrew Writers Association of Palestine, Agudat ha-Sofrim, and the Federation of Hebrew Cultural Organizations of the World, Brit Ivrit Olamit,-- appeal for the first time to American Jewry to help them in the work of advancement of Hebrew learning and culture.

Following are the activities to be developed:

1. The Publication Society of the Agudat ha-Sofrim, founded recently, will publish books in all fields of literature, art and science, literary and scientific periodicals, cyclopedias, etc., no less frequently than one book every month. This will insure a normal development for Hebrew literature, will provide Hebrew readers all over the world with spiritual food and enable the Hebrew writer to exist doing his creative work.

It was revealed at the Hebrew Book Exhibition, held in Tel Aviv under the auspices of the Brit Ivrit Olamit, that during the last two years, notwithstanding terrorism and critical economic conditions, more than 500 Hebrew books were published in Palestine in all fields of literature and science. This was made possible by the Hebrew writer being both creator and maeenas. The time has come for Jewish intellectuals throughout the world to give them assistance if this heroic endeavor is to be continued.

It is worth noticing that the Hebrew book constitutes one of Palestine's industries. From its production more than a thousand families of printers, compositors, proofreaders, bookbinders, etc., derive their livelihood.

2. Spreading of Hebrew Culture. Creating Hebrew books is not sufficient. They must also be brought to the attention of Hebrew readers everywhere. Here the Federation of Hebrew Cultural Organizations of the World, Brit Ivrit Olamit, completes the creative work of the Hebrew Writers Association, the Agudat ha-Sofrim.

For this reason, the Brit Ivrit Olamit

a. is in constant touch with Hebrew cultural organizations in more than 25 countries, strengthening the old agencies and founding new ones. Thus a branch of the Brit was founded in Egypt, where it is regarded benevolently even by pro-Arabs as the "Alliance Hebrique Culturelle".

b. publishes periodically the bulletin "Am wo-Sefer", where brief reviews are given: 1--on the cultural and educational situation of every land of the Diaspora; 2--on the best books published recently in Hebrew so as to acquaint the Hebrew readers with new developments in modern Hebrew literature.

c. has established a Commission for Spreading Hebrew Books. Two years ago this Commission issued an appeal to Hebraists all over the world, signed by the Vaad Leumi, the Bialik Foundation, the Hebrew Writers Association, the Hebrew Teachers Organization, etc., calling upon the Hebraists of every country to found circles of Hebrew book-buyers, prepared to spend \$5, \$10, or \$25 annually for books to be delivered to them by the Brit Ivrit Olamit at a speci-

fied reduction. Thanks to the activities of this commission, Hebrew books to the value of over 500 pounds were sold to Lithuania. Canada sends in frequent orders. The youth league affiliated with the Hista-drut Ivrit of America is cooperating with this commission.

d. has established a Commission for distributing Hebrew books to Hebrew schools and libraries in cities and towns of those poorer countries, where, for the lack of funds, modern Hebrew books are often heard of, but rarely seen. This Commission, under the leadership of our great poet Tchernichevsky, had collected from private individuals in the Yishuv thousands of books and dispatched them to different localities in Poland and Roumania where they were most needed.

e. has established a committee for education whose function is to gather all available data on Jewish Education throughout the world. The committee plans to publish a catalogue of Hebrew reading material for youth, which will be of great help to Hebrew teachers and pupils alike.

f. is trying to send organizers to various countries of the Diaspora in order to assist in furthering Hebrew culture and learning. Thus, Dr. A. Rosenfeld, Secretary of the Brit Ivrit, is touring England, Holland, and Belgium for this purpose at the present time. Dr. S. Ginzburg, chairman of the Hebrew Writers Association of Palestine, is planning to tour the U.S. and Canada. The Brit Ivrit is also negotiating with a well-known Hebrew writer of Sephardic origin to obtain his services in bringing the Hebrew message to our Sephardic brethren in the Orient. So far, unfortunately, this remains only a pious wish, due to our lack of funds.

g. Last but not least: is planning to call a world conference of Hebrew writers, educators, and prominent laymen interested in Hebrew cultural work, in connection with the World Fair in New York during the month of May or June 1939. Of course this project requires a special fund to defray the traveling expenses of delegates from impoverished countries.

To finance all these activities, a minimum of \$50,000 is required. It is sincerely hoped that all intellectuals and lovers of Torah in the Jewish world will exert every effort to assist the two central agencies for Hebrew culture in Palestine and the Diaspora--the Agudat ha-Sofrim and the Brit Ivrit Olamit--in their efforts to develop the Hebrew genius and spread its manifestations among our people.

It is on the strength of the Hebrew spirit that our very existence as a people depends. The Yishuv in Palestine is waging a gallant Maccabean struggle for the preservation and enrichment of the Jewish spirit. Every sensitive Jew will doubtlessly be eager to assist the Yishuv in maintaining that heroic spirit, of which Hebrew literature is the sacred treasury.



KEREN HATARBUT

CLEVELAND COMMITTEE OF THE
Palestine Hebrew Culture Fund

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