



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

### **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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Reel  
58

Box  
21

Folder  
1394

The Temple, general, 1957-1958.

Mr. and Mrs. Abe M. Luntz

request the pleasure of your company

at a dinner and reception

honoring

Rabbi and Mrs. Abba Hillel Silver

Rabbi and Mrs. Daniel Jeremy Silver

Sunday, the twenty-second of September

at seven o'clock

The Wade Park Manor

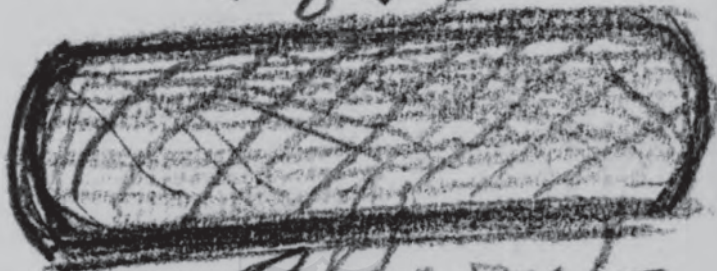
R. s. v. p.  
2821 Drummond Road

Black Tie

11,000

\$9,000 =

#8580 =



= Affront =



NATHANIEL S. ROTHENBERG, *Nassi-Grandmaster*

BENJAMIN E. GORDON  
NORMAN G. LEVINE  
DR. SIDNEY MARKS  
HON. ABRAHAM J. MULTER  
HERMAN Z. QUITTMAN  
DR. JACOB I. STEINBERG  
RUDOLPH EDELSON

*Sgan-Dep. Grand Master*  
*Sgan-Dep. Grand Master*  
*Sgan-Dep. Grand Master*  
*Sgan-Dep. Grand Master*  
*Mazkir-Grand Secretary*  
*Gizbor-Grand Treasurer*  
*Assoc. Grand Treasurer*

DR. HARRIS J. LEVINE  
HYMAN J. FLIEGEL  
SAMUEL M. STUCKGOLD  
LOUIS K. BLEECKER  
HON. ARTHUR MARKEWICH  
HON. HARRY A. PINE  
A. A. REDELHEIM

*Chief Med. Exam.*  
*Counsel*  
*Auditor*  
*Trustee*  
*Trustee*  
*Trustee*  
*Trustee*

DOROTHY S. LEVINE, *Chairman Women's Division*

September 30, 1957

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

On October 23, 1957, an exhibition of paintings done by a group of artists residing in Ein Hod, Israel, will open at the Riverside Museum, 310 Riverside Drive, New York City.

Ein Hod is a colony rebuilt by painters, sculptors and other artists, and is devoted entirely to the practice and teaching of the arts. It is the site of a Ceramics School which is now graduating craftsmen who, it is hoped, will create a new industry in Israel.

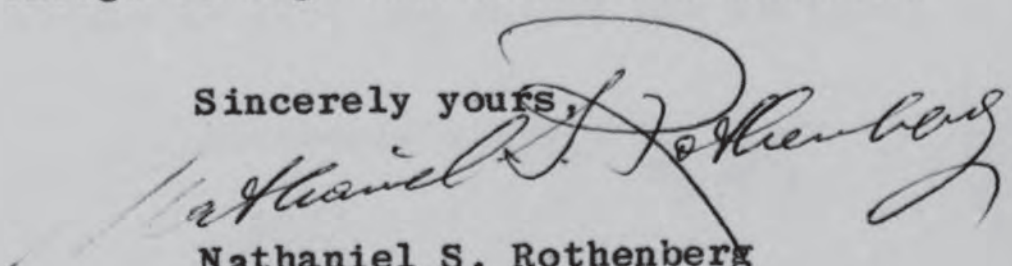
Ein Hod has recently been recognized by the U.S. Government by the receipt of an allocation of American counterpart Funds.

The paintings now being shown in the United States for the first time, are by a number of the leading painters of Israel, headed by Marcel Yancu, the Chairman of Ein Hod, who will be present at the opening. The exhibition is being sponsored jointly by Bnai Zion and the Riverside Museum.

May we ask you to join with us in this effort, and to serve as an Honorary Sponsor. This will, of course, entail no obligation on your part.

Will you be good enough to sign and return the enclosed acceptance.

Sincerely yours,

  
Nathaniel S. Rothenberg  
Nassi - Grandmaster

nsr:elg



October 2, 1957

Mr. Nathaniel S. Rothenberg,  
Nassi-Grandmaster,  
Bnai Zion,  
225 West 57th Street,  
New York 19, New York.

Dear Mr. Rothenberg:

I was interested in your communication announcing that an exhibition of paintings by artists of Ein Hod, Israel will be held at the Riverside Museum on October 23rd. I will, of course, be happy to serve as an Honorary Sponsor.

I will appreciate if you will let me know how long this exhibit will be held at the Riverside Museum and how much of an exhibit it is.

As you probably know, we have, at The Temple, a Museum where we display, from time to time, loan exhibits. We have in our Museum works of Yancu, Reuben and other Israeli artists. If the exhibit is not too large The Temple Museum ~~will~~ <sup>would</sup> be interested in presenting it to the Cleveland community.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:sl

ABBA HILLEL SILVER



CABLE ADDRESS:  
ZIONISTS, N. Y.

IN ISRAEL:  
1 DANIEL FRISCH ST., TEL-AVIV  
Cable Address: ZOAHOUSE, TELAVIV

של ארצות הברית

ההסתדרות הציונית



# ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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

October 28, 1957

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

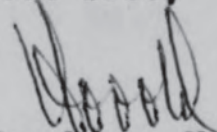
You had asked me to advise you concerning the Ein Hod exhibition.

I still can't give you a personal review, since I haven't gotten to see it yet. However, the attached criticism appeared in the Times of Thursday, October 24. It is most favorable --which does not displease me, as it tends to confirm that my artistic judgment is not related to certain monumental lapses in evaluating The Artist (or Artiste) As A Human Being. Moreover, critical confirmation of the skill of the painter of the "Warsaw Ghetto" in your Museum may also be of interest to you.

As for the general character of the exhibition -- since it was I who a few years ago provided the initial impetus here for the Ein Hod project, I can feel free to repeat the reservations I expressed then about a group show involving all or most of the artists of the village. Since only a few of them are first-rate, a group exhibition is bound to reflect that fact. I have a feeling that this is still the case, and that the Times reviewer concentrated on the good ones and kindly withheld an over-all appraisal.

When and if I manage to get to the exhibit I'll drop you another note.

Ever best,

  
Harold P. Manson

HPM:ha  
encl.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1957.

## Art: Painters' Village

### Work of Community in Israel Shown

By DORE ASHTON

A celebrated Israeli painter, Marcel Janco, some time ago persuaded the Israeli Government to turn over an abandoned village in the Carmel hills to a group of artists. The result was the Ein Hod Artists' Village, a self-governing community of some seventy artists, many of whom are exhibiting paintings now at the Riverside Museum, 310 Riverside Drive.

The artists in this community vary considerably in style, background and age, and it is probably thanks to Mr. Janco's skillful guidance that these variations have been sustained. In spite of their daily contact, most of the Ein Hod artists have maintained personal approaches. They are illustrated in this show by works ranging from classical cubism to outright experimentalism.

Michael Gross, for example, takes his place in an international movement with his bold compositions in few colors and greatly simplified forms. There are several expressionists in the group, notably Galya Tarmu-Pillin, whose painting recalls Jawlensky, and Arie Fain, who offers moody landscapes.

Several artists in the exhibition are already known in the United States. They include Moshe Mokady, whose fine draftsmanship distinguishes his ink drawings here; Zahara Schatz, and, of course, Ein Hod's distinguished Mayor, Mr. Janco, whose interpretive landscapes have frequently been praised here.

Alfred Leslie is a confirmed exponent of a school of painting known roughly as ab-



"Portrait of a Girl," by Galya Tarmu-Pillin, at the Riverside Museum.

to develop, painting concerned only with the heave and turmoil of paint on a canvas surface quickly palls.

Joseph Winter at the Artists' Gallery, 851 Lexington Avenue, is frankly concerned with neurosis. His paintings are representations of common symbols that haunt disturbed minds. There are, for example, several variations on the idea of death, the most compelling being a pale, bearded visage painted in thick, rhythmic strokes.

Other compositions are furnished with spirals and doodles in bright colors that vividly recall the paintings of mental patients; but, with the difference that Winter is a disciplined, apparently healthy artist who knows how to compose a painting.

**A. M. LUNTZ**

HANNA BUILDING  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

November 6, 1957

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
19810 Shaker Blvd  
Cleveland, Ohio

*mailed  
11/20/57*

Dear Rabbi:

I am enclosing pledge card which was  
given to me for solicitation for the Jewish  
Convalescent Hospital of Cleveland.

Kindly fill out and return to me at  
your convenience.

Thank you.



Sincerely yours,

*A. M. Luntz*  
A. M. Luntz

ANL:11



December 5, 1957

Reverend Everett R. Clinchy  
Building for Brotherhood  
43 West 57th Street  
New York 19, New York

My dear Ev:

I thought you might like to know that the meeting of the Northern Ohio Regional Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, held here on Tuesday, December 3rd, was one of the best meetings of its kind -- well attended by perhaps twice the number of persons as have been present at previous meetings.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of The Temple in Cleveland delivered an inspiring message, as did Dr. John S. Millis, President of Western Reserve University and Mr. Louis Seltzer, Editor of The Cleveland Press.

I enjoyed very much your recent visit with us.

Sincerely yours,

AML:sl

A. M. LUNTZ



THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILWAY COMPANY

TERMINAL TOWER - CLEVELAND 1, OHIO

CYRUS S. EATON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

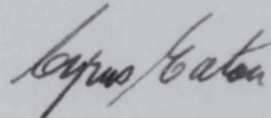
December 12, 1957

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Warm thanks for your fine letter of the 11th.  
I am delighted to know that you share my views on the  
desirability of better understanding between nations of  
opposing philosophies.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street At Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

CE:rmb



**MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL**  
*of Cleveland*

OFFICE OF  
THE DIRECTOR

1800 EAST ONE HUNDRED FIFTH STREET

December 20, 1957

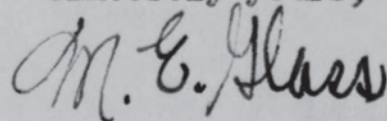
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Ansel at 105th Street  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for having made available to the hospital the very beautiful and inspiring menorah from The Temple Museum. We are presently displaying it in the main lobby of the hospital with a placard that relates some of its interesting background.

We are very appreciative of your thoughtfulness in this matter. With best wishes for a happy Chanukah, I remain

Sincerely yours,



M. E. Glass, President  
Board of Trustees

MEG/db



January 17, 1958

Mr. Charles E. Feinberg  
872 West Boston Boulevard  
Detroit 2, Michigan

My dear Friend:

It was a great pleasure for me to talk to you this morning.

I am profoundly grateful to you for your offer of certain items from your fine collection of Jewish ceremonial objects as a loan exhibit to The Temple Museum. It will add much to what I am sure will be an outstanding exhibition.

The Hebrew Union College Museum and the Museum of the Theological Seminary in New York are cooperating in every way with us and added to what we have in our own collection, the total should be very impressive.

I am particularly grateful to you for your suggestion of making available to us some of your valuable manuscripts, prayer books, Bindings, etc. One or two of your older Torah Pointers and Omer Calendar and Rimmonim would be most welcome.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:sl

ABBA HILLEL SILVER



Charles E. Feinberg,  
872 W. Boston Blvd  
Townsend 8-5807

Detroit (much)

(Res)

with  
letter

Argo Oil Corp. - Pres.  
14015 Hamilton - Highland Park  
Townsend 9-2800 - (Bus).

Items loaned to Toledo Museum  
1952

Torah Headpieces  
French, early 19th century

Torah Pointer  
Italian (Modena) 1700

Megillah - Dutch - 17th cent.

Remorim & Crown  
Italian (Padua) 18th century

Torah Pointer  
French - 19th cent.  
Ivory



Torah Pointer  
Near Eastern - 19<sup>th</sup> Cent.

Torah Pointer  
Bezalel -

Bottle for Sabbath Wine  
Syrian, 17<sup>th</sup> Cent,  
(Red glass).

Hanukkah Lamp for candles  
Brass, mounted on wood  
Italian, 19<sup>th</sup> Cent,

Megillah

Dutch, 1670 -

Parchment in black ink  
Silver Case.

Binding for a prayer book  
Silver - Italian - 16<sup>th</sup> century

Printed Hebrew prayer book for  
the holidays in silver binding  
Amsterdam, 17<sup>th</sup> century

~~Printed Hebrew Bible in Silver Binding~~  
~~Printed in Amsterdam - 17<sup>s</sup>~~

Omer Calendar  
Scroll in wooden box  
Italy - 17<sup>th</sup> Cent.

Beaker  
Glass,  
French 1776



Box containing objects used for  
Circumcision.  
Italian - 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Circumcision knife  
Dutch - 18<sup>th</sup> century

Wedding ring.  
Gold - Italian  
Gold - Venice  
Silver - Italian

Amulet  
Silver - Italian - 18<sup>th</sup> cent.  
Silver - Near Eastern

miniature from a Hebrew manuscript  
Color on vellum -  
Spanish

Cabbalistic Drawing  
Italy - 17<sup>th</sup> century



CHARLES E. FEINBERG  
872 W. BOSTON BOULEVARD  
DETROIT 2, MICHIGAN

January 20, 1958

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

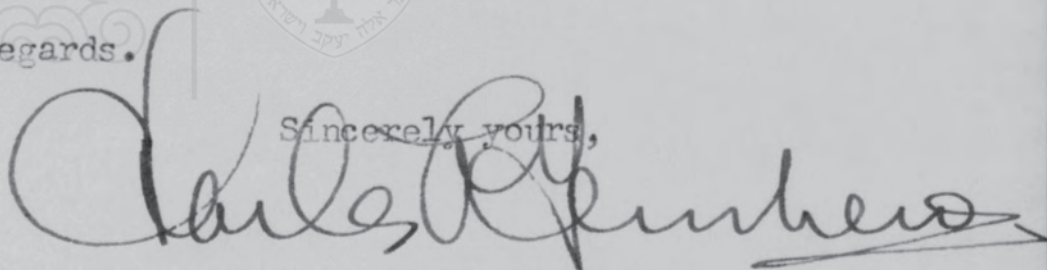
Dear Rabbi:

Will you be kind enough to let me know the dates of your exhibition, so that I can make the necessary arrangements for shipping and insurance - both opening and closing dates.

If you are preparing any sort of a catalogue, I will immediately send you the list of items.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

  
Charles E. Feinberg

CEF:AK

*William Mordecai Kramer*  
*Associate Rabbi*

*Temple Israel of Hollywood*  
*7300 Hollywood Boulevard*  
*Hollywood 46, California*  
*Phone Ho. 9-7231*

Jan. 21, 1958

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am preparing a booklet on ushering in the Temple. I would appreciate a word from you on the importance in which you hold it and the method in which ushering is offered in your congregation.

May I thank you for your help in this matter.

Most cordially,

*Bill*

WMK:sg

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
1855 Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio.



January 23, 1958

Mr. Charles E. Feinberg  
872 West Boston Boulevard  
Detroit 2, Michigan

My dear Friend:

Thank you so much for your letter of January 20th.

In answer to your questions, we plan to open our exhibit on Sunday, February 23rd. We would appreciate having all exhibit material in our hands by the Monday of the week preceding in order that they may be arranged, carded and previewed. The exhibit will run through Sunday, March 23rd.

We are planning to publish a catalog of this exhibit and would appreciate a descriptive list of the items which you will send.

May I thank you again for your courtesy in this matter and tell you how much I appreciate your kindness.

With warmest regards, I remain

Cordially yours,

AHS:sl

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

CHARLES E. FEINBERG  
872 W. BOSTON BOULEVARD  
DETROIT 2, MICHIGAN

February 1, 1958

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

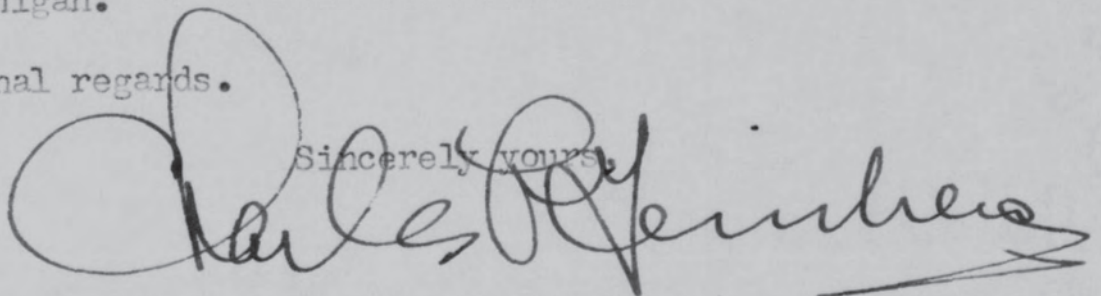
Dear Rabbi:

I am having Cecil Roth as my guest the week-end of February 9th. I am trying to arrange to ship or to bring the items for your exhibition some time during the week after Tuesday, February 11th.

The reason for the slight delay is that I have promised to exhibit and talk to a Temple group in Flint, Michigan.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Charles E. Feinberg, written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C' and 'F'.

Charles E. Feinberg

CEF/mc



February 13, 1958

Mr. Charles E. Feinberg  
872 West Boston Boulevard  
Detroit 2, Michigan

My dear Mr. Feinberg:

Some of our publicity of The Temple Museum display on the adult seminar is now complete. I thought you might be interested in it.

We have a beautiful collection of some one hundred fine Sephardic art objects of fine quality and caliber. I know that yours will be a most welcome addition to this display.

It would be a great pleasure to us if you could either be with us at the opening or attend one of our Friday night meetings.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

DJS:sl  
encl.

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER



February 24, 1958

Mr. Cyrus S. Eaton  
Chairman of the Board  
The Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company  
Terminal Tower Building  
Cleveland 1, Ohio

My dear Mr. Eaton:

I wish to thank you again for the contribution which you made to the panel discussion of the Temple Men's Club last Wednesday evening.

You made a tremendous impression upon everyone present. Your sound logic, your words of ripened wisdom and your broad tolerance won the hearts of the audience.

I wish to thank you personally for the time and effort which you spent in coming to us.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Cordially yours,

AHS:sl

ABBA HILLEL SILVER





THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILWAY COMPANY

TERMINAL TOWER - CLEVELAND 1, OHIO

CYRUS S. EATON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

February 26, 1958

Dear Rabbi Silver:

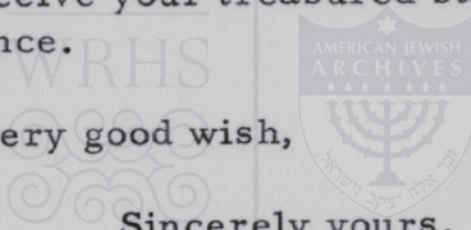
Your warm letter of the 24th made me extremely happy. I was honored to participate in the Temple Men's Club panel discussion, and am delighted to receive your treasured stamp of approval on my appearance.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street At Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

CE:rmb



ARGO OIL CORPORATION

14015 HAMILTON AVENUE  
DETROIT 3, MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 18, 1958

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

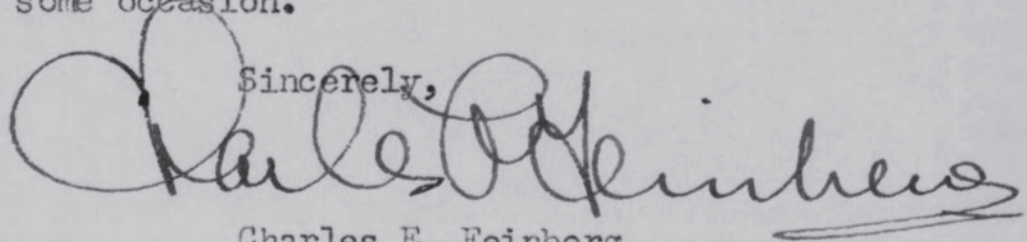
Dear Rabbi Silver:

I'm so pleased that the exhibit was a success and that my modest items were enjoyed.

You have no idea how much I appreciated your cooperation in having the items returned to me. I realized it was an imposition and your young lady was so sweet in taking the trouble to do as I suggested.

When you are next in Detroit, I would like to have you see other items in my collection which you may be able to use on some occasion.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Charles E. Feinberg'. The signature is written over a faint circular stamp that contains the word 'ARCHIVES' and some Hebrew text.

Charles E. Feinberg

CEF:AK

872 W. Boston Blvd.  
Detroit 2, Michigan





THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILWAY COMPANY

TERMINAL TOWER • CLEVELAND 1, OHIO

CYRUS S. EATON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

July 21, 1958

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You will be interested in the enclosed report that Mr. James Muir prepared for publication after his recent visit to China.

Mr. Muir is chief executive officer of The Royal Bank of Canada, the British Commonwealth's largest bank, with assets of \$3,760,000,000. Mr. Muir also serves as a director of Canadian Pacific Railway, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York, and other influential business institutions.

Mr. Muir writes of the new China from the viewpoint of an objective and realistic businessman. His impressions deserve to be carefully pondered by American statesmen, editors, and business leaders.

Sincerely yours,

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

CE:rjs  
Enclosure



Impressions of China  
by  
Mr. James Muir  
Chairman and President  
The Royal Bank of Canada

This is an attempt to report information on life and conditions in China as I saw them on a short visit. It is not meant to prove or disprove anything. If anyone is interested enough to read it, I ask that he read it all through before drawing any conclusions -- and particularly I ask that he refrain from lifting any passage from context which, with an elaboration built thereon, might create quite a wrong impression of the whole.

The first question you would probably ask is, "Why did you go to China, what was the purpose of your visit?" Quest of knowledge -- the desire to see how other people live and have their being -- the desire to see how business, and more particularly how banking operations, are conducted -- were the main urges that prompted me to go, plus of course a fairly healthy measure of natural curiosity.

I went of my own accord, at my own expense, and received invaluable physical assistance from Bank of China officials in arranging such things as accommodations and travel facilities. From first to last their courtesy, assistance, kindness and general good humour under all circumstances were of infinite help. Their explanations of their system were naturally of the highest interest, and they showed not the slightest reluctance to answer questions, and plied me with queries in return. I have read that in visits to China one is put in the hands of "Intourist", a Government Agency, which in effect leads one around by the nose. I was not under such auspices. Actually, I saw but one "Intourist" official and that was in Canton. In many respects I would com-



pare "Intourist", as I saw glimpses of it functioning, as a sort of Chinese Thomas Cook & Son or American Express operating under Government auspices.

The cost of living is unbelievably low, probably about 1/4 to 1/3 of ours in many directions. In the main cities we had good and immaculately kept hotel accommodation; laundry was done and returned the same day and looked less war worn than is the case on our continent; clothes pressing was often and prompt -- dry cleaning in a matter of hours in case of need.

I was told rats have been exterminated so bubonic plague has gone. I saw one fly and one mosquito and no sparrows in the cities. National campaigns were organized to get rid of these pests, and I believe were used as a test to see how successful or otherwise the authorities could be in organizing the populace to singleness of effort. From their point of view the results must have been astonishingly gratifying.

The growth in industry, the change in living standards, the modernization of everything and anything, the feats of human effort and the colossal impact of human labour are not within our power to describe and still give a worthwhile picture of the scene. All I can say is that it must be seen to be believed. It's truly stupendous. The effect is almost to bewilder one when he sees what has been accomplished in less than 10 years but, if he is a thinking person, to appal him and dumbfound him when he realizes what had not been done in the previous 4000 years or even 100 years. There are 600,000,000 people in the land -- the net population is increasing 20,000,000 per annum or 38 per minute. Take deaths into consideration, and births must be at something resembling machine gun speed - and we were freely told there is already a labor shortage. Twenty-five per cent of the population of the world lives in China and in a score of years or less it will be nearer half the world's population. How one can fail to "recognize" this colossal scene is over my head.



I shall give but one example, an exceptional one perhaps, of the inexorable effect of human effort in terms of human labour. I saw the new irrigation and flood control dam in the Ming Tombs Valley. It was practically finished and had taken only 140 days to complete. It is over 2000 feet long, about 95 feet high, 555 feet wide at the base and about 25 feet wide at the top. It has a concrete core, the upstream side is clay and the other is earth, gravel, and stone. 100,000 people were working in 3 shifts around the clock. All work was described as "voluntary" - certainly it was unpaid. About half of the work force was provided by the army, the rest by citizens from every walk of life who go and live and work at the site for days or weeks as circumstances, age, health, and physique permit. With little else than their bare hands, picks, and shovels, this colossal task has been accomplished. I stood on high ground and looked down upon this vast human ant hill. I took photographs of the scene, a shift of 30,000 toiling people, and hope when developed these pictures will have caught something of the atmosphere of the drama.

The almost fanatical drive towards hygiene and physical culture by the people is a study in itself. At 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. all work must stop and physical exercise be indulged in -- young and old, over and under weight alike. I saw few in the former category. Many people wear gauze masks as a protection against dirt and fumes. En route from Shanghai to Canton by air we stopped at an airstop for lunch. We were met at the plane by a girl wearing a white gauze mask, in white skirt and long white smock, spotless. She conducted us to the dining-room and it was she who served our lunch. Part of the table dishes was a porcelain spoon, resting upon a piece of paper. As I was about to pick up the spoon, she nudged my elbow, pointed to the paper and made motions to show I should first thoroughly rub the spoon with it.



In many ways Peking is a beautiful city and in and around it are vast historical buildings and relics. They have been maintained and repaired with the preponderance of Chinese red paint and offer a startling and pleasing appearance. To mention just a few, the Imperial Palace within the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Ming Tombs in the Ming Valley and, of course, the Great Wall itself, all go to fulfil a sight-seer's and photographer's dream.

I have been asked about the standard of living in China. It's difficult to give an understandable answer because for vast millions there is not such a thing as we know it. Man, woman and child have not risen much beyond the beast-of-burden stage. The sights one sees of the stresses, the strains, the unbelievable extent to which a human frame can be abused, leave one almost physically ill. And yet the lot of these people is better than it was, and improving. For millions more one sees contentment, happiness, and one would believe more freedom from oppression and civil strife than their previous generations have known. Corruption and graft we were told - and confirmed by people living outside the area - have disappeared. Petty theft is rare; one does not bother to lock his home. We did not bother to lock our hotel room doors. As an example of their apparently fanatical honesty, when leaving the hotel in Canton I failed to pick up some \$2 or less in change. They followed me to the station and found me after I was seated on the train in order that they might deliver this change to me.

It cannot be that the present way of life is pleasing to everyone; there are many refugees constantly arriving in Hong Kong, for example, but they can be but a flea-bite compared with the country's population of 600,000,000 people, and we should think they are mostly small farmers who are still individualistic enough to resist being brought into the co-operative farm movement. Those in authority freely state that the aim is to add slowly and patiently, yet without interruption, to the standard of living,



that to try too much too quickly would be fatal -- lead to inflation and endanger their whole program.

Unless the whole scene is a dream or one's senses of observation and appraisal are less than useless, then we think the vast majority of the people of China have a government they want, a government which is improving their lot, a government in which they have confidence, a government which stands no chance whatever of being supplanted. All this quite obviously indicates a political problem that will sear the very souls of some Western powers, and which at some stage is going to pose an overwhelming facesaving problem in more directions than one. It's difficult to believe that anything resembling war is desired in China if for no reason other than that such a development would have a disastrous effect upon the plans for improvement they are trying to bring about.

While in personal contacts we found individuals courteous, friendly, goodnatured and prepared to go through a generous dose of goodnatured ribbing, they are as a people exceedingly sensitive and touchy at the slightest implication of lack of confidence in their business undertakings or at sharp or belittling criticism of them as a nation or at the thought that there is or ever can be a divided China. We would caution those businessmen and men in public life who would have dealings with China to bear the foregoing ever in mind. Only undesirable results can ensue and nothing whatever can we hope to gain by ignoring these sensitive areas in the Chinese character.

The so-called strategic list of prohibited exports adopted by some nations has become in Chinese eyes almost ridiculous. So far as we can see (always with the exception of really strategic materials) about all that is happening so far as China is concerned is that annoyance is created, the goods are forthcoming from some other source, progress is not being seriously retarded, and ironically, a great long-run benefit may be conferred upon the Chinese by forcing them to make things for themselves.



One highly placed person, not resident in China but thoroughly familiar with Chinese people, made the statement to me that the capacity of the Chinese to learn and perform is governed entirely by the teaching capacity of others who would undertake to instruct them. Their thirst for knowledge is now great, and a visit to the University of Peking shows a lot of eager and enthusiastic students. A similar attitude, we were told, prevails in other seats of learning. As far as education of the masses is concerned, they have a long, long way to go. Steps are now afoot to change the Chinese characters to the Roman alphabet which is in general use in the Western world, and it is believed this will be a tremendous help in the educational process. There seem to be many professors of political economy around - and many students. We twitted one professor with the gibe that no doubt he found Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill among his mentors. Laughingly he replied, "Well, their theories are not exactly popular with us at present."

One innovation in economic organization has resulted from the liquidation of the Kuomintang. Businessmen who were "clean" or free from entanglement with this organization have been allowed to maintain their financial interest in the business and receive 5 per cent on their capital, even though the enterprise may be managed by state-appointed personnel. If the owner of the business is appointed manager he will, of course, receive the regular state salary for his type of managerial service plus the 5 per cent return on his investment. Here we have joint private - state enterprise which should be of interest to all students of comparative economic organization. How long this hybrid will persist, one cannot say. But I understand that the private rights involved may be bequeathed or transferred; and, if this is true, the joint private-state type of enterprise may last for generations to come.

The all-important matter of Trade was constantly coming up, and listening to the Chinese side of the story and to the outside phase of it, none of which incidentally



came from traders, we are frankly a little confused.

One thing is certain -- China needs a multitude of things and is most desirous of trading. It would be a waste of time for us to try to cover this field in a report of this kind. Any Canadian exporter who wants to trade with China -- and if he is conscious of his own interests and is farsighted enough to realize his responsibilities to our Canadian economy -- can readily obtain from our Department of Trade and Commerce in Ottawa a good idea of what is wanted. The Trade Commissioners of our Government who cover that area are fully conversant with the picture, and we feel we should assume they keep Ottawa headquarters fully advised.

If we have anything to suggest here it is that our exporting fraternity shake themselves loose, get busy and visit China either individually or as a group, probably in the latter form initially, but keep at it. It was galling to meet and to talk with the selling forces of other Western powers, not only obviously getting business, but enthusiastic about it while our people seem to sit back and wait for a silver platter deal. Our exporters have got to learn to develop resourcefulness and to take reasonable business risks. Outside China we heard a good deal about the Chinese importing movement endeavouring to make one-sided deals, about their reneging on contracts and so on; but we were unable to uncover a substantiated case. Our people should make clear the deal they want, make it reasonable and orthodox, and have a full and complete understanding of the transaction before they start -- documented, if necessary, throughout. If they do this, deliver on time, and do not deviate from the terms, we should be inclined to believe they won't experience undue difficulties. This opportunity, coupled with our need for export markets, should sound a clarion call to our Government to see to it that, if any Canadian enterprise should be induced by outside



influence to deviate from its responsibility to the Canadian worker and to the Canadian economy by declining legitimate and clean business, drastic and immediate steps be taken to discipline any such Canadian corporation. Canada needs export trade, and it should be sought after everywhere with no interest other than the welfare of Canada involved.

We had some interesting discussions relative to the new Chinese Constitution which provides for freedom of speech, right of assembly and freedom in the practice of religion. Freedom of speech, we believe, can be followed in the criticism of how things are being done in a material way, or of the people who are charged with the responsibility of doing them -- but the Chinese can't be "agin the Government" as we know it. Anything savouring of sedition would meet with the inevitable treatment: so perhaps freedom of speech could in our view be largely confined to the "suggestion box" principle. In this highly restricted sense it might even be welcomed by the authorities.

Right of assembly exists in the sense that crowds can immediately assemble and listen to a speaker. We saw such crowds at street corners and at country crossroads. When we asked what the spouter was dispensing, it was always a harangue on the virtues of hygiene, on the desirability of continuing to swat flies and kill mosquitoes, or on some such subject. Theoretically, we suppose one could assemble a crowd and talk about anything - but for how long we don't know. There is no Chinese "Hyde Park".

Regarding the freedom to practise religion, there could be a need for this - not perhaps out of regard for religion but because there is a political problem due to the large number of moslem followers in addition to the Buddhists. I found Christian



churches of many denominations - I also visited a Buddhist temple. On Sunday morning in Peking we heard what sounded like church bells. At first we could not believe our ears. Persistently we went down a side street from which the sound was coming, and certainly it was the sound of church bells. We found the church, a large Roman Catholic edifice, within a walled enclosure. The front court was full of children playing, the front doors were closed and again children playing and squatting in front of them, but we proceeded to a side door and found a church which could accommodate a very large congregation. Mass was in progress; the church was not full but there was a large congregation of people, devout to all appearances, young and old - male and female - very small children crawling in the aisles - older ones moving around from pew to pew. The clergy were all Chinese. We stayed for part of the service. There are other authorities more competent than I am to discuss this phase, but so far as I could find out all clergy must be Chinese and, if this is so, then perhaps "freedom" is more apparent than real. This is only an observation. Someone else, I am sure, can give a positive answer.

Unquestionably there is some subtle difference in life between China and other nations of Marxian persuasion. One feels no sense of domination, no depression, no lack of freedom in moving around and so on. Perhaps it is inspired by the courtesy, good nature and natural politeness of the people. One goes shopping as he would in Montreal -- big stores, little stores, all sorts of goods. Food is rationed on a seasonal basis, we were told. In hotels and restaurants there are no restrictions. One can go sightseeing, rubbernecking and camera using at will - but must get an export permit for his undeveloped film which was a rather perfunctory procedure.

For those who have read so far no doubt a variety of impressions of life in China has been formed. Some may be favourable, even too much so, some sceptical and unbelieving. Both are wrong.



As I said at the beginning, one has to see what is going on with his own eyes before he can realize what the picture unfolds. Nobody can do so for him. China is a socialist state, a managed economy adhering to the teachings of Karl Marx with some modifications to meet Chinese reality. The State is supreme, man an instrument -- therefore he can't be really free. There is none of the "Comrade" technique, there is no pretense that all are equal; on the contrary "the working class", "the peasants", are freely referred to. One is rewarded in the material sense according to his talents and his responsibilities; but the plunder, the privilege and corruption are said to be gone. One wonders what China would be like today if over the last 150 years it had moved along the lines of democratic progress instead of exploitation and corruption. The wind was sown, the whirlwind is being reaped.

As mentioned earlier, 25% of the world's population live in China; maybe in 20 years they will be one-half of the world. Their present rate of progress is beyond description - but they have, as we have said, a million miles to go before the masses have a semblance of a decent standard of living. They are moving fast, however. If one can picture a future nation of one billion people - skilled, educated, industrialized, and with a capacity for work that beggars description - the high cost economy of the West is eventually in for revision. We of the West want no part of the political and economic philosophy that governs such states - but I wonder if we had a similar experience as a people how we would feel about it? The answer seems to be clear.

Regarding the so-called "recognition" of China in the political sense, one just does not see how six hundred million people, which may be a billion before too long, can be given myopic treatment. I am no prophet - but a "bonnie Prince Charlie" from across the sea from Taipan seems more than unlikely. Just how face is to be saved there presents a staggering problem. There is every indication that the people of China as a



whole are satisfied with their Government. It seems to meet their needs and it seems to be conscious of a great job to be done to lift the standard of living and the general way of life of the masses out of the black hopelessness that has prevailed in the past.

I believe there is good and legitimate trade to be done. Other Western people are getting it. Canada will be negligent and unfair to herself if she does not get her share. She won't get it, however, without aggressive action.





July 23, 1958

Mr. Cyrus S. Eaton  
Chairman of the Board  
The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company  
Terminal Tower Building  
Cleveland 1, Ohio

My dear Mr. Eaton:

I wish to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of Mr. James Muir's report on his recent visit to China.

I read it with extreme interest and profit.

With warmest regards and all good wishes for a pleasant summer,  
I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:sl

ABBA HILLEL SILVER



August 4, 1958

Mr. Cyrus S. Eaton  
Pugwash, Nova Scotia  
Canada

My dear Mr. Eaton:

I called your office today and I was told that you were in Nova Scotia. I hope that you are enjoying your vacation there, although the weather here in Cleveland has also been very pleasant.

I should hesitate to intrude upon your rest but for the fact that the women's organization of The Temple has been pressing me to write to you and to convey to you their invitation to address their body at the important opening meeting of the New Year on Wednesday afternoon, January 14, 1959.

This will be their first open meeting in the new Temple Auditorium which is rapidly nearing completion and they wish to make this opening meeting a distinguished one.

I am personally eager to have you see our new Temple Annex which I believe will be a very beautiful and useful one and not an unimportant addition to the religious and cultural life of our community.

If your schedule will permit you, it would give us all a great deal of pleasure if you would accept the invitation of The Temple fellowship, and more especially its women-folk, to address this meeting on any subject of your choosing. Whatever you say is always weighty and rewarding.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:sl

ABBA HILLEL SILVER



August 14, 1958

Miss Betty Royon  
Secretary to Mr. Cyrus S. Eaton  
The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company  
Terminal Tower Building  
Cleveland 1, Ohio

Dear Miss Royon:

Rabbi Silver has asked that I forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Cyrus S. Eaton at Pugwash on August 4th.

Sincerely yours,

/sl  
encl.

Miss Sophia Levine  
Secretary to Dr. Silver

