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YIVO, 1939-1945.

SIMEON DUBNOW ALBERT EINSTEIN

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Society of Friends of the Yiddish Scientific Institute

American Branch

425 LAFAYETTE STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Tel. Algonquin 4-3493

.490

Cable Address YIVO, NEW YORK

February 15, 1939

Rabbi H. Silver 10311 Lake Shore Blvd. Cleveland, O.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Herewith we beg to enclose an outline of a projected department of the Yiddish Scientific Institute for the scientific study of Antisemitism in all its manifestations. Possibly in the process of realization certain points will require modifications. However, it seems to us that, all in all, the outline encompasses all the manifold phases of the problem.

The purpose of this research work is to fathom the history and workings of Antisemitism, and to acquaint both the Jews as well as the non-Jewish world with the truth concerning the various false accusations cast against the Jews as a people. For this task we propose to draw upon the services of the most prominent Jewish scholars, particularly the German and Austrian refugees now in the United States.

We should appreciate an expression of your opinion of the project as a whole and its points, after a thorough perusal of it, - and, whether we may count on you to help us raise the funds necessary for the work.

Thanking you in advance for a cordial reply, we beg to remain

Respectfully yours,

YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE

Dr. Jacob Shatzky, Pres.

N. Feinerman, Secy

NF:SK

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO COUNTERACT ANTISEMITISM

(DEPARTMENT OF THE YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE OF AMERICA)

**

Basic facts: Antisemitism, as a phenomenon in present-day life, has brought about changes in our society which constitute a problem for peoples as a whole, besides affecting the life of the individual.

An active being strives to find a base from which to battle the great madness, whereas the man of research seeks to determine what is the meaning of all that is happening around him. He is waiting for science to supply an answer to the questions: 1) What is antisemitism? 2) How to handle the problems of present-day antisemitism as a chronic sore on our social body, and 3) How to provide society with weapons to fight antisemitism?

Until now the Jews have been forced to face this phenomenon by a life infinitely mightier than they, so that they have indiscriminately registered facts, have written about countermeasures that could mean both fight and resignation, - but further than that nothing has been done.

But articles and periodicals, even truly artistic reporting at its best, do not adequately meet all the dreadful events in the life of today, when through forces which we still don't fully realize, a people of 100,000,000 is in the process of unification which sets for its object to carry antisemitism as a political idea and to convulse the world and thus seize other lands.

Only science is in a position to supply the man of today with a satisfactory answer and the means to seek the way out of chaos. It is the task and duty of Jewish science of the present day to assume leadership in the search for truth.

No cure is possible without a correct diagnosis. It is to be borne in mind that the entire world-history is indebted to the Jews of today for their contribution, in that they have themselves made it possible to make the diagnosis of the height of insanity of antisemitism. Without the present persecution drive against the Jews, there might still be room for doubt, as to whether other factors

(e.g. World War; Peace of Versailles; Imperialistic aims) may not be responsible for the incredible atrocities on the part of the Germans. As the Jewish excesses have nothing to do with them, there is no possibility of a doubt any longer.

The great Powers, e.g. England, now declare that the Jews are entitled to a debt of gratitude, since their case has shown how weak peoples are treated, and by this experience the English justify their huge rearmament program. But the Jews themselves must first of all make their full contribution in completely realizing antisemitism with the aid of Jewish science. An institution for this exhaustive study is not the antithesis to the spiritual offsprings of the centralized antisemitic propaganda and its scientific guise, - the Historische Reichs-Kommission of Munich. We must not start polemics and propaganda. The publications of passages which disseminate antisemitism including even those of the Historische Reichskommission are for us that much research-material which we must concretely interlock in a positive way with all the other data and draw our conclusions from them all. How to forge the results of our researches into fighting weapons, - that must be left to all those who itch to fight, for them to decide on the aims of their battle in accordance with their individual way of thinking.

THE SCOPE OF THE WORK.

However thoroughly we may work over the universal phenomenon of antisemitism, we must, in the first place, take into consideration that all the waves which convulse our society proceed from a center -- the living terrain of the German people. For this reason we must minutely explore the German Jews' cultural sphere in all its relations, and an investigation of this nature is capable of making our task much easier. This task requires a thorough familiarity with the cultural and social history of both the German people and the German Jew as well; accordingly, the work must be carried out by a German-Jewish historian who is thoroughly conversant with the German Jews' cultural domain, who knows the facts from first-hand observation and lifetime study and has, moreover, lived through the recent developments on German soil.

One must further assume that, by dint of his researches to-date, such a German-Jewish historian has already entrenched himself in the foundations of such a labor, is perfectly at home in antisemitism (both the past and the present) and its literature, and has been making researches in this field until now.

Department of the Research-Work:

A. HISTORY

1) Spiritual. Evolution of the general German popular conception of Jews, based on the rooted belief in the Devil, the conception of a contract and partnership with the Devil: witchcraft and witches; clarification of all ideas about the witchcraft trials that have persisted alive in the German people's conscience and have been later transferred to the Jews; winnowing of all these elements from present-day antisemitic practice and literature. Particular treatment of German historical folklore traced down to present-day antisemitism.

Detailed historical ideas. Malleus Judaeorum and Malleus maleficarum; the idea of Fritsch's hammer and the Stuermer Hammer (to trace particular antisemitic ideas in all intermediate links). Simultaneously historical, folkloristic and liguistic researches.

2) <u>Literary History</u>. To classify historical antisemitic literature according to its topics and give a survey of social and other tensions of a period as reflected in its literature.

Various topics: history of the clamor for numerus clausus in antisemitic literature; court-Jews in the light of this literature; the Jews as a soldier and the controversies about military service; intercourse between Jews and Gentiles as seen in literature. In all these topics the past must be compared with the present and conclusions drawn concerning the situation today.

3) Researches in Cultural History: concerning Jewish segregation in ghettoes; dress-regulation; regulations as to luxuries and amusements; real intercourse between Jews and Gentiles, especially sexual intercourse; regulations about education and autonomy in comparison with current antisemitic practice.

In particular to make public all historic German lawsuits to cancel all debts to Jews, as parallel to the movement to cancel all debts to Jews at the present time.

The former and the present fate of goods and chattels of Jews, and their contemporaries' ideas as to how it will finally work out.

- 5) Germans as mentors in the task of realizing Jewish historical questions (Otto Stobbe, Fr. B. Ave-Lallemant, Chr. D. Huelmann, etc.).
- 6) Genealogic researches laying special stress on the lower Folk-strata, along with the antisemitic theory and practice (racial-lore, research in kin-ships, etc.).

B. RESEARCH STUDIES IN PRESENT-DAY AFFAIRS

- 1) Classification of antisemitic propaganda under distinct heads on the basis of: manner, scope, influence.
- 2) The real intercourse between Jews and non-Jews when outside the field of propaganda as contrasted with intercourse when under its influence.
 - 3) Jewish emigration as a demand of propaganda and in practice.
- 4) How Jewish social concepts have changed owing to antisemitic practices: money, honor, wealth, the saving of human beings.
- 5) The new German Apocalypse. The destruction of human beings as an idea and as practice.
- 6) Special economic phenomena: Jewish enterprises; Jewish properties; personal estates of Jews.
- 7) How the economic practices of antisemitism affect non-Jews; origin of capital and property; standard of living; special economic groups; the problem of domestics; interested parties in the intercourse.
- 8) Terror as a practice and as a political means; speeding up of emigration and transfer of Jewish ownership.

- 9) W. W. J. (Wirtschafts Wichtige Juden) the problem of economically important Jews.
- 10) Special imposts on Jews in theory and practice; their economic effects.
- 11) In and around the problems of Jewish house-ownership.
- 12) Jewish goods and chattels as people's property; private persons' rights which are in conflict with these.
- 13) The fate of Jewish spiritual property (libraries; archives; Jewish author's rights; right to art-ownership; Jews who own works of art).
- 14) How the Jewish sense of sociableness has reacted in the catastrophe; self-help: Jewish assistance from outside; world-assistance.
- 15) The Jews and the catastrophe, in the religious, material and psychological spheres.
- 16) Jewish youth in the catastrophe: transition to adult life; the sources and possibility of protection against noxious experiences of youths.
- 17) The value and valuelessness of Jewish organized life during the tremendous events.
- 18) The ideal in the individual's life; the individual's ability to prevent suicides, because he possesses a social ideal. New terms in use among the youths: chalutz, hakhsharah, etc.
- 19) The new police; antisemitism as a German unity and as a police institution. The law's belief in the Jews as the Devil. German vision of the police as a people (to evaluate the "race" element).
- 20) Spiritual foundations of police activity: specializing in Jews; new Judaistic studies and old Bible-critics; the Jewish brigades in the new German police; censorship on Jews; management of Jewish affairs and supervision over Jews; chance of development of autonomous foundations.
- 21) How to "know" the German in the catastrophe; man forced into illegal life. Necessity and practice of keeping aloof from antisemitic events; non-belief in "witchcraft" on the part of present-day Germans.

- 22) The urge of the "why" among Germans of today; the search for a new faith.
- 23) How the urge for the "why" is stifled in the German. Intellectual preoccupation with the Jew as an escape from antisemitic usage. The impurity of the Jewish spirit and the historical "Jewish sow". The campaign against "white Jews". Variations on the "Jewish sow".
- 24) The campaign against "decent Jews". Unwillingness to believe in witch-craft is looked upon as immoral among the Germans of today.
- 25) Economic and political springs behind what is going on in antisemitism. Who is the gainer and from whom comes the gain; who is the loser, to who se advantage is the loss, and who is to bear it?
- 26) Yellow literature in the higher and lowest-class press. Objective truths and the lowest press's approach to them.
- 27) Fight concerning Jewish names and against Jewish names. The example of Joseph as a Biblical sales-agent of grain.
- 28) Antisemitism's language in its pictures and parables; antisemitism's Bible-language; Hosannah! Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's.
 - 29) Whispered jokes.

C. MEANS OF ASSISTANCE AND ORGANIZATION

- 1) To register and collect, as far as possible, present-day periodical literature as well as throw-away-leaflets.
- 2) To list and collect, as far as possible, the antisemitic literature in book form, of all ages and peoples.
 - 3) To register and collect antisemitic caricatures.
- 4) Build up an organization with regular scientific correspondents in all countries where there is an antisemitic movement.
- 5) To register, from general literature and the press, all data that may contribute information on the scope of our researches and have a bearing on the subject. Occasionally, to request reports from observers and those who were part and parcel of the events.

- 6) Have special scientific tasks assigned to students, fellows of the Yiddish Scientific Institute and other scholars.
- 7) To arrange addresses and lectures on the past and present of antisemitism as well as on all subjects connected with these questions and on the results of the work in the Institute.
- 8) To issue a periodical bulletin of the Institute about important events and the results of research-work on each case as it occurs; to supply the Jewish and the non-Jewish press with information containing facts or scientific material for the discussion of daily topics.
- 9) To establish scientific contracts with institutions and invidividuals engaged in similar work or interested in the work of such an Institute.
 - 10) Publications resulting from the Institute's labors.



Institute (15,1939 - ...

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Society of Friends of the Yiddish Scientific Institute

American Branch

425 LAFAYETTE STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Tel. Algonquin 4-3493

490

Cable Address YIVO, NEW YORK

דעם 16מן פעכרואר 1939

רבי ה. סילחער 10311 ל"ק שאָר כלחד. קליחלאנד, אָ

זייער חשובער רבי מי לחער,

אונדזער פאָרשמייער מלך ראווימש וואָס האָט באזוכט קליוולאנד שרייכט אונדז אז בעת ער איז בעווען פי אייך אין שמאָט האָט ער בראָד אָנ־ געטראָפֿן אויף א צייט, ווען איר זייט בעווען זייער פארנומען, און ער האָט אייך, ליידער, ניט בעקענט זען פערזענלעך.

דערפאר דערלויבן מיר זיך א"ך בעםן, איר זאלט אונד? צושיקן א"ער טשעק פאר א"ער מיטגליד"אפצאל וואס איר צאלט שוין מכמה יארן דעם "דישן וויסנשאפטלעבן אינסטיטום.

מיר האפן צו הערן פון איד כקרוב און פארבלייבן

מים פר "נדלעכסטע גרוסן

"די שער וויסנשאפטלעכער אינסטיטוט

נ. פיינערמאן, סעקר.

נם/סק

February 21, 1939 Dr. Jacob Shatzky, President Society of Friends of the Yiddish Scientific Institute 425 Lafayette Street New York, N.Y. My dear Dr. Shatzky: In reply to your kind letter of February 15, permit me to say that I am not in any position to undertake to raise funds for any additional projects, however worthy. I am devoting all my spare time and energy to the United Jewish Appeal which this year is reaching out, as you know, for a tremendously large sum of money. Furthermore, I am pretty well "drained" emotionally by the numerous worthy projects which have sprung up in such luxurious abundance in the last few years - all of them appealing to Jewish leaders not only to give money, but to raise money. As far as your proposed new project to carry on an extensive research work in the field of Anti-Semitism is concerned, there is, of course, nothing that one can say against it. Any scientific scholarly work in the field of Jewish thought or experience is commendable. Whether the accumulated data will have any affect on discouraging the Anti-Semite, is very dubious. There is a vast literature as you undoubtedly know on the subject and still the Jewbaiter insists on ignoring it. With all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

ייִדישער וויסנשאַפֿטלעכער אינסטיטוט

לאַפֿאַיעט־נאַס, ניו־יאָרק 425



Tel. Algonquin 4-3493

Cable Address
YIVO, NEW YORK

YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE

425 LAFAYETTE STREET New York City

דעם 20סן דעצעמכער 1940

רבי א. ה. מילווער 10311 לעיק שאר בלווד. קליוולאנד, א.

זייער חשובער פריינד רכי סילווער,

מסת מא האם איר כאקומען אונדזער צירמְּלְּלאר־בריוּ מכוח אונדזער 15מער יאריקער קאנפערענץ, וואָם וועם פאָרקומען אין ניודיאָרק דעם 1941, 1941 און 15סן יאנואר, 1941.

היות חי די דאָזיקע קאנפערענץ איז פון א"ן ז"ט די 15טע זינט דער אינסטיטוט איז ארגאניזירט געחארן און פון צח"טן ז"ט די ערשטע זינט אטערימע איז געחארן דער צענטער פון "דישן חיטנד שאפטלעכן אינסטיטוט חאלטן מיר זיער דעלן אז א צאָל פר"נד און אונטערשטיצער אונדזערע מחוץ ניודיאָרק זאָלן אין דער קאָנ־פערענץ אָנט"ל נעטען.

מיר האָכן דערפאר דעם כבוד א"ך פַּערזענלעך צו פארבעטן אויף דער קאָנפערענץ מיט דער האָפענונג אז אויכ טעכניש וועט עס נאָר פאר א"ך מעגלעך ז"ן, וועט איר אונדזער א"נלאדונג אָננעמען.

מים פר" נדלעכסטע גרוסן,

"דישער ווי מנשאפטלעכער אינסטיטוט

נ. פיינערמאן, סעקר.

נפ/מק

communication.

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TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE

NEWCOMB CARLTON CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD J. C. WILLEVER

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

January 6, 1941

Mr. N. Finerman Yiddish Scientific Institute Pa. Hotel New York, N.Y.



PLEASE CONVEY MY GREETINGS TO THE DELEGATES ATTENDING THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE. I REJOICE WITH THEM AT THE SIGNIFICANT WORK OF SCHOLARS AND BASIC RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF JEWISH HISTORY LITERATURE AND LIFE WHICH THE INSTITUTE HAS CARRIED ON AND WHICH I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE IN A POSITION TO CARRY ON EVEN MORE PRODUCTIVELY IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Abba Hillel Silver

[October 16,1942]



ייִוואָ – ייִוואָ אינסטיטוט ייִוואָ ייִדישער וויסנשאַפֿטלעכער אינסטיטוט 425

Tel. ALgonquin 4-3493 טעלי

Cable Address: קשבי? קשבי? YIVO, NEW YORK

YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE — YIVO 425 LAFAYETTE STREET

New York City

310

דעם 1942, אַקטאָבער, 1942

רבי א.ה. סילווער 10311 ליק שאר בל. קליוולטנד, אהיא

זיער חשובער רבי סילווער,

מיר זיינען זיבער, אז צוזאמען מים אונדז וועם איר זיך פרייען מים דער גוטער בשורה, אז דער יידישער וויסנשאפטלעכער אינסיטוט האָט זיך איינגעשאפט אן אייגענע היים אין ניו יארק.

אויף א באשידענעם, שטילן אָבער גאנץ אינטענסיוון אופן, האָבן מיר געפירט אן אקציע דערוויל נאָר צווישן אן ענגן קרייז פון אונרזערע פריינט אין ניו יאָרק און אונדז האָט גיך איינגעגעבן ביז איצט שוין צו שאפן 33 טויזנט דאָלער, ארום אונדז האָט גיך איינגעגעבן ביז איצט שוין צו שאפן 33 טויזנט דאָלער, ארום 60% פון דער טומע, וואס איז נויטיק אויף צו קויפן דאָס הויז.

צום קרעדים פון אונדזערע ניו יאָרקער פריינם רארף געזאָגם ווערן, אז זיי האָבן אויף א זייער שיינעם אופן זיך אַפגערופן אויף אונדזער ווענדונג זיך צו בא־שטייערן פארן בנין פון אינסטיטוט.

די מומעם פון די באשמייערער זיינען געווען פון 5000\$ ביז 100\$. דאם האם אונדו געגעבן א מעגלעכקיים דעם בנין צו קויפן.

דאָס הויז, האס מיר האָבן געקויפט, געפינט זיך אויף דער 123 גאט און בראָדווי, אין הארץ פון ניו יארקער אקאדעטישע אינסטיטוציעס. די געבידע האָט
יעקב שיף בשעחן געבויט פארן שעבטערס סעמינאר. דאָס הויז איז פונקט ווי אָנגעמאָסטן פאר אונדז - גרויסע ליכטיקע צימערן פאר דער ביבליאָטעק, ליעןזאלן, שטודיר-צימערן פאר דער אספיראנטור און ארבעט-ביוראָס. און מיר האָפּן,
אז סוף נאָוועמבער וועלן מיר זיך שוין קענען אהין אריבערקליבן. עם פעלט אונדז
נאָך אָבער א פּאָר טויזנט דאָלער פארן נויטיקן רעמאָנט און פארן אויסמעבלירן

ביי פארשיידענע געלעגנהייטן האָט איר אונדז ארויס גוויזן אייער נאָענטע פריינטשאפט און אונדז געהאָלפּן, ווען די הילף איז געווען דרינגענד. דערפאר דערלויבן מיר זיך ווענדן צו אייך, חטובער רבי סילווער, מיט דער בקשה, אז אויך איצט זאָלט איר אונדז קומען צו הילף, מיר זאָלן קענען איינאָרדענען אונדזער הויז אויף א אופן ווי עסב פאר א ביח חורה.

פשר אייער אינטערעם אין אונדזער ארבעט און פאר אייער הילף אין אונדזער איצים טיקער אונטערנעמונג דאנקען מיר אייך אין פארוים.

מים פריינטלעכמטע גרוסן,

נ. פיינערמאן, סעקדעמאר

[3910ay 18,1943]



ייִרישער וויסנשאַפֿמלעכער אינסמימומ — ייִווּאָ וועסט 123טע גאַס, ניו־יאָרק 535

YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE—YIVO
535 WEST 123RD STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Tel. ACademy 2-0600 'טעל'

Cable Address: קשבל־אַדרעט YIVO, NEW YORK

דעם 1943 יאנואר, 1943

רב! א.נ. סילווער 10311 ליק שאָר בלווד. קליוולענד, אָהייאָ

זייער חשובער פריינד, רבי סילווער.

מיר האָבן דעם כבוד צו לאָזן אייך וויסן, אז אויף אונדזער קאָנפערענץ, וואָס איז אָפּגעהאלטן געוואָרן דעם 8טן, פטן און 10טן יאנואר, זייט איר איינשטיםיק אויכדערוויילט געוואָרן אין דעם דירעקטאָרן-ראט פון יידישן וויסנשאפטלעכן אינטטי-שום.

לאונדיק אייך וויסן וועגן דעם, האפן מיר, אז אייער דירעקטע באטייליקונג אין די טעטיקיטן פון ייוא וועט זיין פרוכטבאר פארן אינסטיטוט און וועט אויך אייך פארשאפן א סך גייסטיקע האנה.

מיט בכטונג און פריינדלעכסטע גרוסן

נ. פיינערמאן סעקרעטאר

ד"ר מ.וויעריד, וויסנשאפטלעכער דירעקטאָר

11º: DJ

January 22, 1943. Mr. N. Fineman, Secretary, Yiddish Scientific Institute, 535 West 123rd Street New York, N.Y. My dear Mr. Fineman: Permit me to thank you for your kind letter informing me that you have elected me as a member of your Board of Directors. I am very grateful for this high honor which you have bestowed upon me. With all good wishes, I am Very cordially yours, AHS: bw

YIVO April 4. 1944. Mr. Sameul Goldhamer, Executive Director Jewish Welfare Federation 320 Chester-Twelfth Building Cleveland, Ohio Dear Mr. Goldhamer, Permit us to present the following material in support of our request for an increased allocation for the year 1944: 1. Budget for 1944; 2. Statement of each receipts and disbursements for the year ended December 31st, 1943 (submitted by a certified public accountant); 3. Explanatory notes; List of faculty, staff members, and contributors to YIVO publications; Informative material dealing with the activities of the YIVO (under separate cover). Cleveland plays a prominent role among the Jewish communities of the United States not only because of its size but because of its reputation as one of the best organized Jewish communities in America, setting an example for others to follow. We are looking to the greater Jewish communities to help us meet our expanded budget because only they are in a position to help us meet the demands that are being put upon us to increase the scope of our activities. Our request for an increase in our allocation also stems from the fact that the subvention granted us by the Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland bears directly upon the subsidies granted us by a large number of cities who look to Cleveland and other great Jewish communities for leadership. Should Cleveland indicate

[January 12, 1945]

AIND

ייִדישער וויסנשאַפֿמלעכער אינסמימומ -ייִווּאָ

YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE—YIVO 535 WEST 123RD STREET, NEW YORK 27, N. Y.



Tel. ACademy 2-0600 מעל׳

Cable Address: קאבל־אַדרעט YIVO, NEW YORK

דעם 1945 אנואר, 1945 דעם

זייער חשובער פריינד רבי אבא הלל סילווער,

פי אהרן מאלראות, פארזיצער פון דער פלענארער זיצונג פון דער קאנפערענץ, בעת וועלכער עם גיינען או סגעקליבן געווארן דער דירעקטארן ראט און די פארוואלטונג פון יווא אויפן יאר 1945, האט מיר איבערגעגעבן די אויפגאבע, וואס איז פאר מיר א כבוד און א פארגעניגן, מודיע צו זיין אפיציעל די אויסוע- עליבענע אין די אינסטאנצן פון יווא וועגן זייערע אמטן.

אויספירנדיק אַט די אויגאבע גיב איך אייך אייך אייבער, אז די 19טע יערלעכע קאנסערענץ פון ייוא האָט אויף איר זיצונג דעם 7טן יאנואר 1945 אויסגעקליבן אייך ווידער א מאל אין דעם דירעקטארן-ראט פון ייווא.

מיט די פריינדלעכסטע גרוכן, אייער,

מי:הב

February 5, 1945 Mr. Marc Juviler Yiddish Scientific Institute 535 West 123rd Street New York, 27, New York Dear Mr. Juviler: Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of January 12 and for the information that the Annual Conference of Tivo has re-elected me on its Board. I shall be very happy to serve. With all good wishes, I remain, (O) Very cordially yours, AHS: erb