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

Series III: Personal Correspondence, 1914-1964, undated.

Sub-series A: Chronological, 1914-1964.

Reel
140

Box
49

Folder
278

Personal correspondence, 1956?.

[1956]

ABYSS
OF
DESPAIR
—
HANOVER
—
MESCH

*THE FIRST ENGLISH EDITION OF THE
FAMOUS 17th CENTURY CHRONICLE*

ABYSS OF DESPAIR

["YEVEN METZULAH"]



By
RABBI NATHAN HANOVER



Translated from the Hebrew

By
RABBI ABRAHAM J. MESCH



With a Preface by
DR. SOLOMON GRAYZEL



BLOCH PUBLISHING CO.

BLOCH



\$2.25

"ABYSS OF DESPAIR"

For the first time, English readers have access to the famous 17th century Hebrew chronicle, "Yeven Metzulah" by Rabbi Nathan Hanover, who recorded the horrible account of the Chmielnicki massacres which swept over Russia and the Ukraine in 1648-9, a period considered at the time one of the darkest chapters in the life of Russian Jewry.

This first English translation of the "black book," "Yeven Metzulah" is the result of painstaking efforts by Rabbi Abraham J. Mesch who undertook this work in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the Chmielnicki massacres.

Rabbi Mesch has added great significance to this tragic historical chapter by including in *Abyss of Despair* a lengthy historical introduction, a biographical sketch of Rabbi Hanover, as

Continued on back flap



Continued from front flap

well as explanatory notes and facsimile portraits and a map. Dr. Solomon Grayzel, editor of the Jewish Publication Society of America, has written a Preface to the book from which the following is quoted:

"One must therefore admire the devotion of Rabbi Abraham J. Mesch and be grateful to him for his efforts in presenting us with this excellent translation of the "Yeven Metzulah." The literalness of his translation reproduces the tone and flavor of the original, its horror, its pathos, its piety. His introduction gives the essential facts needed for an understanding of the chronicle and his notes serve to remove obscurities. Otherwise he lets the author speak for himself. Rabbi Mesch has done well, and has unquestionably rendered a service to those who seek to understand the history of the Jewish people.

"One dares hope that, even as Chmielnitzki's hordes tried but failed to uproot Jewish life, so Hitler's even more bestial gangs will be proved to have left the roots of Jewish life untouchable."





Rabbi Abraham J. Mesch, the translator of *Abyss of Despair*, has been the spiritual leader of Temple Beth-El, Birmingham, Ala., one of the largest congregations in the South, for the past 15 years. He received his rabbinical training at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Seminary in New York and the Hebrew Theological

College in Chicago, pursuing his secular education at the College of the City of New York, Lewis Institute of Chicago, and the University of Denver. He was ordained in 1934 in Jerusalem by the late Chief Rabbi Abraham Isaac Hachohen Kook after a period of study at Yeshivat Merkaz Harav.

Rabbi Mesch has written extensively on various Jewish subjects. He is now editing and translating sections of the "Sefer Hassidim" by Rabbi Judah Hechasid. His confirmation program, "*The Rebirth of Israel*" was recently published. He is also devoting some time to the revision of a manuscript he prepared some years ago on *Biographical Sketches of Pseudo-Messiahs*.

WRHS



[1956]

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Barb and I wish to thank
you for the lovely service.
It wasn't too many years
ago that we were kneeling
before you during confirmation.
We both intend to make
every effort in following

SIDMON J. KAPLAN

WRHS



Your advice about lighting
candles on Friday.

Congratulations to you
with your sons. Looking
forward to seeing you after
our honey moon.

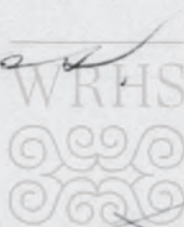
Fondly
Sid & Barb

[1956]

Mrs. Jack H. Schwartz
3149 Kensington Road
Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Please accept the
enclosed check in
appreciation for your
kindness.



Sincerely,

The Family of Daniel Klaus

Ch # 5-29 - Cedar Lee off. Cl. Trust
JD - cashed for \$18

[1954]

Tom H. Lang
Cleveland

Sunday

Dear Rabi Silver:

A few of Ray's friends have
arranged a "Stay Dinner" for him
on Tuesday night June 19 at the
Hickory Grill. We would be
very pleased if your schedule would
allow you to be our guest.

When you decide whether or not
you can make it please send the enclosed
card back to me.

I hope very much that you will be
able to attend.

Cordially yours.

Tom Lang



WRHS



Dear Rask' and
Mrs. Silver,
I can't resist
congratulating
you on such a
happy occasion.
May God give



[19567]

to you and your
dear son all the joy
and happiness you
deserve. Pardon my
writing as my
eyes have been
getting poorer

and pray by leaf
and tounde. Old of
age is getting
the better of me in
more way than one.

Since my partner
left me, I feel it
more and more.

But I thank God
for all things.
May God Bless you
and keep you
and yours.

Accept these few
poor lines in
the spirit they are
written.

You are an
inspiration to

WRHS



me, for which

I sincerely thank
you, very truly

and sincerely
your friend

Belle Blum Gellberg

[1956?]

Dear Dr. Silver,

Going through a stack of
pictures which I have failed so far,
to arrange in my album of photographs
I have come across a few snaps which
put me back three years when I had
the honor to show you round Jerusalem
and explain to you the various battlefields.

I am not sure whether the same
snapshots that were taken of your group

at that time, have been sent to you,
after you left Israel.

Please accept the enclosed pictures
as a belated token of the settlement of
an overdue debt. I would much appreciate
it, if you could ~~send~~ return to me the first
snapshot autographed by you, as I have seen.

On this occasion pray accept my
best wishes

Yours truly,
A. B.

o/b

Alonzo D. B.

[1956]

H 1567

It is estimated that² - the publication expense of the book

would amount to near IL. 10,000.- In order to obtain that sum we have decided to Publish at first a limited special exquisite Edition of a couple of hundred books, to be beautifully bound and printed on the best paper obtainable in this country. Each and every book will be numbered and will carry a dedication in the name of the person who had paid its equivalent - IL. 25.- in advance.

The fact that I have already gone to print goes to show that there are people in Israel who are willing to give me a helping hand, by subscribing and paying in advance for such books. But the trouble is, that owing to the present difficult economic situation in Israel, the project does not run as smoothly as it should, and time is running short.

I therefore thought it would be a good idea to ask you whether you would be able to subscribe (for the family, friends etc.) for a certain number of books (of the said first edition) and advance the money, the way it is done in this country).

As soon as the books are ready I shall have them forwarded to you, or directly to the addressees as per list you will kindly supply me with.

As you will see it is not relief or support that I ^{am} seeking, only a helping hand - an advance of money for a period of 2 - 3 months.

By the way, this first limited Edition will also contain:

1. An English translation of the Preface.
2. " " " of the Foreword.
(By Dr. Bernstein)
3. " " " of the Index.
4. " " " of the list of Illustrations.
5. " " " of significant events of the Life of Dr. Silver.

As regards the Pictures I am afraid there is a mistake somewhere. The number of pictures I intend to give would actually be between 80 and 100 altogether.

With kindest regards,

Most cordially yours,

I. Vinegrad

I. Vinegrad

[1956]

Phone CH. 3-3700.
CH. 3-8768.

René Shapshak
Sculptor
Hotel Chelsea,
222. W. 23 St.
New York. 11. N.Y.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105 St. at Husel Rd.
Cleveland, 6.

P.S. Kindly return
cuttings when
I will send with
them.
Thank you
René Sh.

Dear Rabbi,

While you have been in South Africa,
Johannesburg, I have made a charcoal
portrait of you at my 47. Saunders St. Studio.

I am settled now in New York. I had
one exhibition of my sculptures at the
United Nations, New York & New Orleans & in
August month in Paris.

I do know that your Congregations are
building Synagogues all over the United States.

Would it be possible for you to let
me have a letter of recommendation
to these Congregations so as to get some
decorative work on these Synagogues.
I have been doing work on Synagogues
in the past, the last one was on the
Parkview-Greenside in Johannesburg.

I am including in this letter
newspaper cuttings to a Parkview-Greenside
pamphlet on the occasion of the opening.

With kindest wishes for a happy
Chanukah, Best wishes from my wife to you
Sincerely yours,

René Shapshak
P.S. Regards from Rabbi Weiler from Johannesburg

Dear Rabbi Silver: [1956?]

I would like your opinion concerning a point of law in a wedding ceremony in an Orthodox Temple.

Would it be permissible for the bride to repeat the vows in English during a double ring ceremony.

We would appreciate an answer as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

Mrs. A. Spector
2022 Rosedale
Youngstown, Ohio

[1956?]

Constance Lurie is a member of our senior class in our Temple High School Department. She has attended both our Elementary and Jr. High Departments of the Religious School as well as High School, and in the latter has been very active in extra-curricular activities. She has demonstrated real capacities for group leadership.

She is a very lovely young lady; possesses fine personality; makes a fine appearance; and is capable, reliable, and serious in everything that she undertakes. Constance is a good student and is also a good musician. I am very confident that she will succeed in college atmosphere and I take pleasure in recommending her to you.



Rabbi

The Temple, Ansel Road at East 105th St.

Cleveland 6, Ohio

...[1956?]

William E. Sanders is a member of our High School Department and, at the moment, is seriously considering preparing for the rabbinate. William is a very serious student, and I am quite sure he will do very well at College.

He is a boy of extraordinarily fine character, possesses a good personality, and in general has the makings for a successful career. I recommend him very highly.



Rabbi

The Temple, Ansel Road at East 105th St.

Cleveland 6, Ohio

[1956?]

Lundated

ישעיהו וינוגרד

א ב א ה ל ל ס י ל ב ר

מסכת-חיי, חזונו ופעלו.

פרשת-חיים סוואנת של מנהיג ולוחם לציון, בארצות הברית.

ת ו כ ן ה ע נ י נ י ם :

מ ב ו א.

א. מסכת חיי

ב. ח ז ו ן

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) בית-אבא | (7) לבטים בית-אבא |
| (2) נעורים | (8) טריבון ומטיף בית-אבא |
| (3) שנות-השתלמות | (9) השפה והתרבות העברית |
| (4) בצבא ארצות-הברית | (10) מטיף בית-אבא |
| (5) מנהיג בית-אבא | (11) בשלבי הרעיון המשיחי |
| (6) האח מרדכי (מכסוויל) | (12) מנחם ומבשר |

WRHS

ה ג ו ש ם ה

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| (13) במעגל "ועידת-בילטמור" | (33) ב"ועידת היהודית הכל-אמריקאית" |
| (14) עמנואל ניומן שותפו בהגשמה | (34) בקונגרס הציוני הכ"ב (10/12/46) |
| (15) לכוד יהדות אמריקה | (35) " " (16/12/46) |
| (16) 1944 - שנת ההתנגשות הגדולה | (36) באדמות המאוחדות (8/5/47) |
| (17) בימי ועדת החקירה האנגלו-אמריקאית | (37) " " (2/10/47) |
| (18) בוויין הולך לאו"ם | (38) " " (22/4/48) |
| (19) אשור ההחלטה הארץ-ישראלית ע"י הקונגרס האמריקאי | (39) בקונגרס הציוני הכ"ג - בירושלים (אוגוסט 1951). |
| (20) הרהורים בשעות גורליות | |
| (21) בעצרת או"ם ובעצרת יובל - ה.צ.א. | |
| (22) החלטת ה-29 בנובמבר 1947 | |
| (23) הדרמה המשיחית של ישראל הגיעה לשיאה | |
| (24) הנסיגה האמריקאית | |
| (25) עם הכרזת המדינה | |

(33) משיחית (אמריקאית) 1929
(34) בקונגרס הציוני הכ"ב (א'ג' 1936)

ה. מנאומיו המדיניים

ד. ה ג מ ו ל

- | | |
|--|--|
| (26) בהרי יהודה וכפריה - ינון שמו | (35) ב"ועידת היהודית הכל-אמריקאית" |
| (27) ערי ישראל חולקות לו כבוד | (36) בקונגרס הציוני הכ"ב (10/12/46) |
| (28) מסע-פאר בישראל | (37) " " (16/12/46) |
| (29) קליבלנד מכבדת את "אזרחת הראשון במעלה" | (38) באדמות המאוחדות (8/5/47) |
| (30) חגיגת יובל הששים בניו-יורק | (39) " " (2/10/47) |
| (31) הד יובלו במדינת ישראל | (40) " " (22/4/48) |
| (32) החלטת בית-אבא | (41) בקונגרס הציוני הכ"ג - בירושלים (אוגוסט 1951). |

(32) חתום על ידי אברהם

[1956?]

[undated]

ועד להוצאת ספר תולדות-חיו של ד"ר אבא הלל סילבר

ת. ד. 272

הנשיאות

פ. ברנשטיין — חבר הכנסת ונשיא ה.צ.כ.
ישראל רוקח — חבר הכנסת
יוסף ספיר — חבר הכנסת
יוסף סרדין — חבר הכנסת
מאיר גרוסמן — חבר הנהלת הסוכנות
חיים לבנון — ראש עיריית תל-אביב
א. קריניצי — ראש עיריית רמת-גן
עובד בן-עמי — ראש עיריית נתניה

גזברות כבוד

יוסף ריבלין — חבר הנהלת ה.צ.כ.
י. מ. מוקמלי — בטוח ופיננסיס

מזכירות כבוד

יוסף תמיר — מזכיר כללי ה.צ.כ.

גנזך

יעקב ברמדות — מזכיר כללי ה.צ.כ. ת.א.

מחבר הספר

ישעיהו וינוגרד

תל-אביב

WRHS

א.ב.א.
AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
RESEARCH

הועד הצבורי להוצאת ספר תולדות-חיו של ד"ר אבא
הלל סילבר, מתכבד בזה להזמין את כב' להשתתף במפעל הוצאתו-
לאור של הספר הנזכר. ב-400 עמודיו - לערך (כולל כ-100
תמונות ותצלומים נדירים) משתקפת בצורה עובדתית ומוחשית
ביותר, תרומתו הכבירה של ד"ר סילבר לתנועה הציונית ולמדינת
ישראל.

ספר זה הבא להאיר את דמותו, חזונו ופעלו של
חברנו הדגול, יש בו משום מתן כבוד - לא רק ל"גבור" הספר
עצמו - אלא גם לכולנו: ידידיו, חברי המפלגה ואוהדיו -
בארץ ובחו"ל.

איבנו מבקשים תמיכה אלא מקדמה שתמורתה תוחזר
במלואה במספר אכסמפלרים מתאים משל הספר הנדון, עם הקדשות
על שם כבודו, שיומצאו מיד עם הופעת הספר.

בתקווה כי כב' יענה בעין יפה להזמנתנו,

הננו

בכבוד ובברכה

ה ו ע ד

ר"ב: "תוכן הענינים" של הספר.

[1956?]

Wednesday

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I have applied for admission to do graduate work in psychology at Catholic University and given your name as a reference. (They require the recommendation of my "pastor"!) I hope you will not mind the imposition, if it is one, and can recommend me as "a serious student and personable young lady."

I am planning to do work in guidance and counseling, for which there is an increasing and urgent need, and am interested in Catholic U. for several reasons — partly, the high standards and severe discipline of the work done there and, largely, because I have a keen interest in the so-called "Catholic mind" and the role I feel it is going to take

in the history of our times. Don't worry,
I'm not planning on conversion!
Am quite happy being a Jew!

I hope you and Mrs. Silver
are well. It was a pleasant
surprise seeing you in Washington.

Sincerely,

Pita Bruson



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CLEVELAND 3, OHIO

[1956]
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845 South High Street
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1918-28 Canton Street

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WASHERS—IRONERS—DRYERS
SEWING MACHINES
TRAFFIC APPLIANCES
HEATING EQUIPMENT
KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Dear Ratti

Enclosed check is for your Charitable
Fund—in honor of your Birthday
May you be with us for many
years to come—Enjoying good
Health and Happy days with your
dear family

Sincerely
Always
William A. Kane

[1956]

HAROLD J. FRIEDMAN, M. D.
CARNEGIE MEDICAL BUILDING
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver:

The Temple:

Ansel Rd:

Cleveland Ohio:

Dear Rabbi:

Thank you very much for
your kind words of comfort at the
time of my mother's death.

Sincerely

Harold Friedman

[1956]

MRS. WM. B. SCHWARTZ

5622 Greenspring Avenue

Baltimore 9, Maryland

Dec 30,

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The

WRHS



Shusterman have
invited us to have
dinner with you on
February 5 th and we

are looking forward
to it.

Burch and I would
like very much to
have you at our
home after your
lecture. I know
some of the committee
and the other
rabbis would
enjoy talking with
you. I have worked
on the committee
for eight years and
I know how

anxious everyone
is to hear you.

My best regards
to Mrs. Silver.
Please let us hear
from you. Cordially
Sylvia Devay Schwartz





The family of
Rabbi Louis I. Egelson
acknowledges with grateful
appreciation your kind expression
of sympathy

(over)

MRS. LOUIS I. EGELSON
240 Central Park South
New York 19, New York



My sincere thanks for
your thought of me
in my great sorrow.

[1956?]



Dear Rabbi Silver:

your message of
good words, I shall
always cherish. It
was kind of you to
so remember me.

Thank you,

Amiel Wold



Rabbi and Mrs. Amiel Wohl

[1956?]

Mrs. Julie Kravitz

2560 Traymore Rd.

University Heights 18, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Just to think that you took the time out of your busy schedule to send me a letter for my achievement of Woman of Valor in the Israel Bond movement. Rabbi Silver, I felt so deeply moved by your words, and I pray I may live up to your expectations.

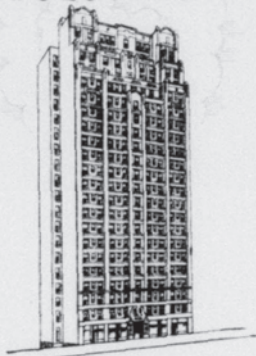
You are responsible for my accepting this Cleveland Women's Division chairmanship, and you have been my secret stimulating force, along with my great desire to fulfill my covenant to Israel.

Rabbi, please know I feel humbly grateful to you for your thoughts in my regard, and for such a magnificent letter.

Lovingly,

Marie Kravitz

Dr. Y. Galili



c/o

KENMORE HALL HOTEL

145 East Twenty third St.

New York 10, N.Y.



The Honorable Rabbi

Dr. Aba Hilael Silver

CLEVELAND, OHIO

