

Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series III: Personal Correspondence, 1914-1964, undated. Sub-series B: Alphabetical, 1915-1963, undated.

Reel	Box	Folder
144	50	316

Far East, Trip to the, 1958-1959.

Western Reserve Historical Society 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106 (216) 721-5722 wrhs.org American Jewish Archives 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220 (513) 487-3000 AmericanJewishArchives.org

September 8, 1958

Mrs. William Cohen 13302 Cormere Road Cleveland 20, Ohio

My dear Lillian:

As our new Temple Annex nears completion, we are asking our friends who contributed special areas in memory of someone dear to them to indicate the exact wording and spelling which they desire to place on a plaque which will be affixed to that area. I am enclosing herewith a card, and I would appreciate if you would fill it in so that we may be sure of having the reading on the plaque for the organ in the Auditorium of the new building accurate.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:1g

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CABLE ADDRESS COLLVERS CLEVELAND

OFFICE HOURS 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

500 Schofield Building - Euclid & East Ninth Opposite The Cleveland Trust Co. Main Office CLEVELAND 15, OHIO

November 3, 1958

Dr. A. H. Silver The Temple East 105th And Ansel Road Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

In reply to our request for an upper deck room with shower and toilet on the SS PRES. WILSON February 2nd -from Yokohama to San Francisco, they have tentatively offered A-deck room 104 with shower and toilet at the rate of \$775.00 per person.

However, we are working on an upper deck room and will advise you.

Sincerely,

THE COLLVER-MILLER CO. Callies Miller

Casper J. Miller

CJM:mr



J. M. ULMER AMOT-14-58 Dear Rabh': Mor-14-58 approximate dates your and Virgenia will be in her Delhi. Bombay - Hongtong Ete-Hyon han your Hatel Reservations & will them knowing same Vz able to alert here folls in Sand places who I hart Well Extend a hand of Welenne When you trut these wellererty places on your way round! the world - for hill Enjoy Shah a journer Such park 2000

J. M. ULMER B. F. KEITH BUILDING CLEVELAND

November 17, 1958

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver 19810 Shaker Boulevard Shaker Heights, Ohio

Dear Rabbi:

The enclosed letters of introduction to folks I know in several of the places you are to visit on your trip to the Orient I trust will be helpful in making your visit more interesting.

I shall be awaiting your return and then you can tell me of your impressions on this, your first trip to the Orient.

With kind regards to you and your better half, I am

Sincerely yours,

JUM:1w Enc.

My dear Yank:

- - -

We shall be in Bombay around the 20th of December and will probably stay in India for about ten days or two weeks. We shall then move to Hong Kong. I have as yet made no hotel reservations; I plan to do so as we get near our destinations. We are not going to travel on any rigid schedule.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHSibfm

Mr. J.M. Ulmer 1130 B.F. Keith Bldg. Cleveland 15, Ohio FROM THE DESK OF .

J. M. ULMER DEar Rabbi : Berhans it well work out well without Hatil reservations May I prograt that a. letter mailed non giving approximate date of Taj mahal Hotel new Delhi Imperial Holel Hong Kong : Penneula Hatel may be tadersahle you are not bound, yet Unless you alert save Hatels You may find at hand to to accordations

FROM THE DESK OF

J. M. ULMER We found that to be Ne the but way to pr is in a pa Our Sels the would when Holel a sex an i Lu Dr Silver Mr518.58

November 19. 1958

My dear Yank:

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in sending me your letters of introduction. I do appreciate it very much. I will contact the various hotels which you mention in your letter and have asked them to make reservations for us giving them approximately the date of our arrival.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

Mr. J.M. Ulmer 1130 B.F. Keith Bldg. Cleveland 15, Ohio

The Imperial Hotel New Delhi, India

Attention: Reservations Clerk

Gentlemen:

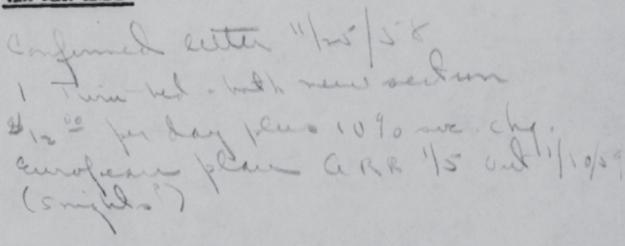
We plan to be in New Delhi around December 23rd. I would appreciate it if you would make reservations for me and Mrs. Silver - a comfortable room and bath. Please confirm the reservation to me.

With warmest regards, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHSitfm



The Taj Mahal Hotel Bombay, India

Attention: Reservations Clerk

Gentlemen:

We plan to be in New Delhi around December 2384. I would appreciate it if you would make reservations for me and Mrs. Silver - a confortable room and bath. Please confirm the reservation to me.

With warmest regards, I remain

Very cordially yours,

The

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS :bfm

Peninsula Hotel Hong Kong, China

Attention: Reservations Clerk

Gentlemen:

We plan to be in Hong Kong around December 30th. I would appreciate it if you would make reservations for me and Mrs. Silver - a confortable room and bath. Please confirm the reservation to me.

"ith warmest regards, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS thin

hirow or W

His Excellency, Abba Eban Ambassador of Israel Embassy of Israel Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Mrs. Silver and I are leaving for a two months' visit to India and the Far East. We are leaving on December 10th and plan to be in India from about the 20th of December to the 1st of January. We shall then visit Burma, Banghok, Saigon, Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokine. I thought that there may be some people that you would like me to contact in one or another of these places in a way that would be helpful; if so, please let me know and I shall be very happy to do so.

This is a part of the world where we have never been and this is the first time I have been able to get away for a protracted visit during the winter months.

Your statement before the United Nations on Israel's rediness to pay the compensations to Arab refugees even before the achievement of the final peace settlement, provided these refugees could be integrated in Arab countries, is an excellent one. I hope that it will serve to break the seemingly hopeless log jam.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

Hotel Raphael Paris, France

Attention: Reservations Clerk

Gentlemen:

Mrs. Silver and I plan to arrive in Paris on December 11th and we will remain there for a few days. I would appreciate if you would reserve a comfortable room and bath for us. Please confirm the reservation and indicate the rates.

With warmest regards, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILIEL SILVER

AHS :bfm

Confirmed 11/-4/58 Rome from Der. 11-FRS: 6.000 to 8,000 per day mento eizer hr. plus 10% Taxes + 15-70 service

Erawan Hotel Bangkok Thailand

Attention: Reservations Clerk

Gentlemen:

Mrs. Silver and I plan to arrive in Bangkok about January 3, 1959 and we shall remain for a few days. I would appreciate it if you would reserve a comfortable room and bath for us. Please confirm this reservation and indicate the rates.

Very cordially yours,

ABPA HELLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

The Raffles Hotel Singapore Malaya

Attention: Reservations Clerk

Gentlemen:

Mrs. Silver and I plan to arrive in Singapore about January 8, 1959 and shall remain for a few days. I would appreciate it if you would reserve a comfortable room and bath for us. Please confirm this reservation and indicate the rates.

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS thim

The Majestic Hotel Saigon, Vietnam

Attention: Reservations Clerk

Gentlemen:

Ĺ

Mrs. Silver and I plan to arrive in Saigon about January 7th or 8th, 1959 and we shall remain for a few days. I would appreciate if you would reserve a comfortable airconditioned room for us (river view). Please confirm this reservation and indicate the rates.

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS Ibfm

Sec.

My dear Wesley:

It was nice to talk to you yesterday and I am grateful to you for the very valuable information you gave me. We are planning our trip accordingly. If you think that a letter from you to the President of Vietnam would be helpful, I would appreciate receiving it. We plan to leave the country on December 10th.

With all good wishes to you and to Mrs. Fishel, I remain

Most cordially yours,

新福

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS :bfm

Dr. Wesley Fishel Michigan State University Lansing, Michigan

Reference and the

The Imperial Hotel Takyo, Japan

Attention: Reservations Clerk

Gentlemen:

Mrs. Silver and I plan to arrive in Tokyo about January 5, 1959 and we shall remain for a few days. I would appreciate it if you would reserve a comfortable room with bath in your newest unit. Please confirm this reservation and indicate the rates.

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS :bfm

December 5, 1958

My dear Wesley:

1

We are finally getting ready to leave. We fly from New York to Athens on next WednesdayFrom Athens, where we hope to spend about a week, we will fly to Bombay remaining in India for about two weeks. Unless there are last minute changes in our program, we plan to be in Rangoon around the first of January - in Bangkok around the third, and Saigon around the sixth. We will remain in Saigon for about three days. From there we will go on to Singapore and Hong Kong and Tokyo. We plan to sail from Tokyo on February fourth.

I want to thank you for your many courtesies and I hope to see you upon my return when I shall share with you some of my impressions.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bim

cc: Mr. Clarence Fishel

Mr. Wesley Fishel Department of Political Science Michigan State University Lansing, Michigan Mrs. Harry L. Kaplan

1819 Lee Road Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio

Dec. 8, 1958 Dear Rabbie and Mr. Silver, This is just to wish you a gloriously happy and most worthelele trip, and to hope for your safe returne to us liringel of good health and Spirits. Enclosed is a small check, which we hope you will dispense.

: Walt Rables A. H. Scher The Femple Angel Road Cleveland Olio.

as D/3N nife, wherever or whenever you see fit, and we hope you accept the mission. of course, we can gue you no directions lent we remember we did see a lette Sepherdic Synagof at Athens Greece that had a dwindling memberselif. because a number of its young people had settled in Israel. However we gues you no hunts. You are free agents in this munificance. Still you might guers that all this is just another special gimmick in the Jeweisk way, for a good yourney and a safe and joyous return home. DNECP De15 38'01 Your friends Harry , Anna Kaplan ...

December 8, 1958

My dear friends:

.

Thank you so much for your lovely note and for commissioning me to be a on my trip abroad. I shall try to carry out the commission.

With all good wishes for a very happy Chanukah, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Kaplan 1819 Lee Road Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio

ITINERARY - DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Leave New York City December 10, 1958

First stop - Arrive Athens, Greece December 11th - Grand Britain Hotel Following are approximate dates of arrival:

December 20, 1958 - Bombay, India - The Taj Mahal Hotel .

" 23, 1958 - New Delhi, India - The Imperial Hotel. January 3, 1959 - Bangkok, Thailand - Erawan Hotel . January 7-8, 1959 - Saigon, Vietnam - The Majestic Hotel . January 8, 1959 - Singapore, Malaya - The Raffles Hotel .



ITINERARY - DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Leave New York City December 10, 1958 First stop - Athens - December 11, 1958 - Grand Britain Hotel The following are approximate dates of arrival: December 17, 1958 - Bombey - The Taj Mahal Hotel December 23, 1958 - New Delhi - The Imperial Hotel January 4, 1959 - Calcutta & January 5, 1959 - Rangoon January 7, 1959 - Bangkok - Frawan Hotel January 10, 1959 - Singapore - The Raffles Hotel January 13, 1959 - Saigon - The Majestic Hotel January 15, 1959 - Hong Kong - Peninsula Hotel January 19, 1959 - Tokyo - The Imperial Hotel

TTINERARY

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Approximate dates:

Leave New York City December 10th, 1958.

First stop -	Grand Britain Hotel	- Athens - Greece	December	11,	1958
-	The Taj Mahal Hotel	- Bombay, India		20,	1958
-	The Imperial Hotel	- New Delhi, India		23,	1958
-	Erawan Hotel	- Bangkok, Thailand	January	3,	1959
-	The Imperial Hotel	- Tokyo, Japan		5,	1959
-	The Majestic Hotel	- Saigon, Vietnam	" 7-	. 8,	1959
-	The Raffles Hotel	- Singapore, Malaya	u	8,	1959



ITINERARY

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

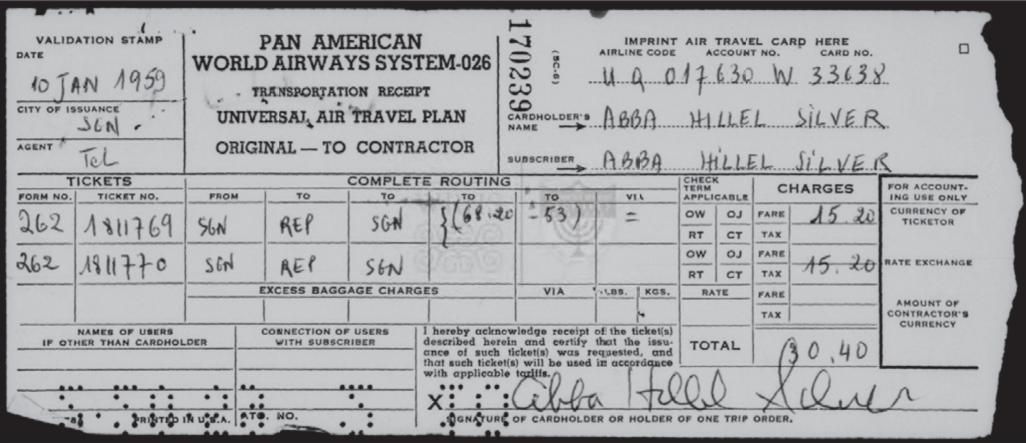
Approximate dates:

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Leave New York City December 10th, 1958.

First	stop -	Gran	d Britain	n Hotel	-	Athens - Greece	December	11,	1958
	-	The	Taj Mahal	l Hotel	-	Bombay, India	n	20,	1958
	-	The	Imperial	Hotel	-	New Delhi, India	"	23,	1958
	-	Eraw	an Hotel		-	Bangkok, Thailand	January	3,	1959
	E	The	Imperial	Hotel	-	Tokyo, Japan	"	15,	1959
	-	The	Majestic	Hotel	-	Saigon, Vietnam	** 7	- 8,	1959
	-	The	Raffles H	Hotel	-	Singapore, Malaya	п	8,	1959
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February 23, 1959

Mr. Casper Miller Collver-Miller Travel Bureau Schofield Building Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Miller:

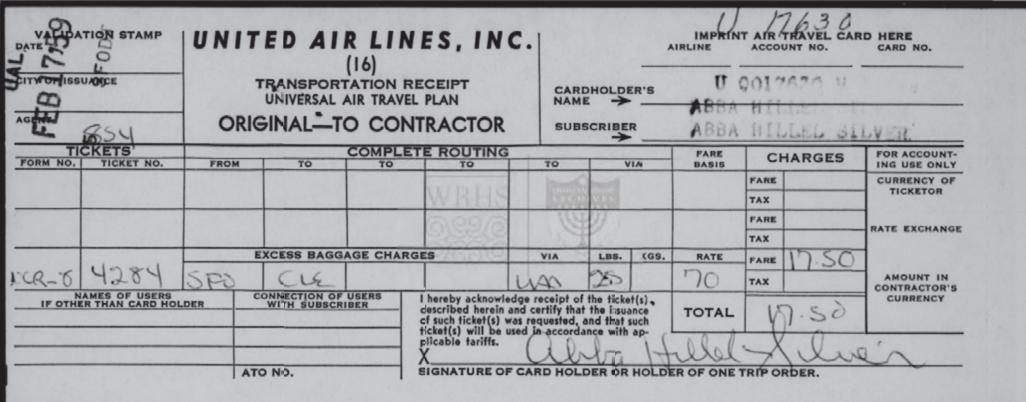
I am enclosing herewith the tickets of Pan-American. There may be some adjustments to be made and I am sure that you will attend to it. It was a pleasure to travel with Pan-American. Its representatives every where were most attentive and fracilitated in every way our trip around the world. The accommodations on the air lines were excellent.

With many thanks for your own personal assistance in arranging our trip, I remain

Very cordially yours,

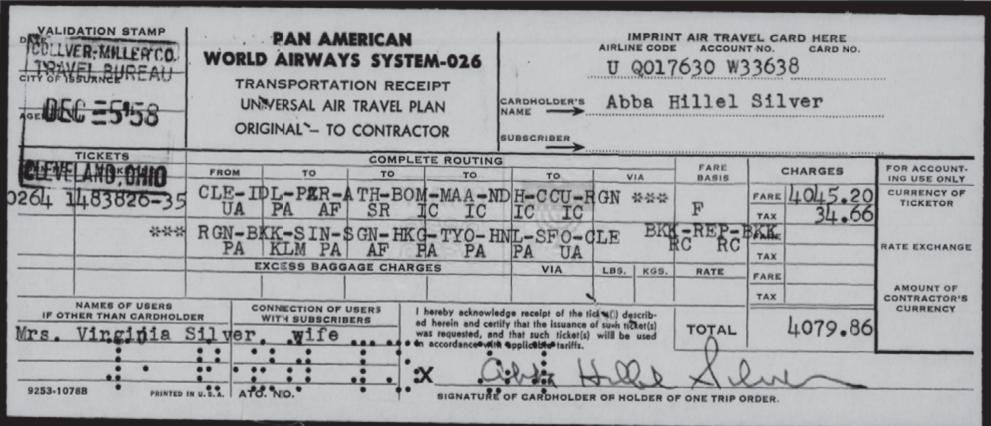
ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS :bfm



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CASPER J. MILLER, SR. PRESIDENT LAWRENCE W. MILLER SECRETARY



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OFFICE HOURS 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

500 Schofield Building - Euclid & East Ninth Opposite The Cleveland Trust Co. Main Office CLEVELAND 15, OHIO

February 24, 1959

Dr. A. H. Silver The Temple East 105th at Ansel Road Cleveland 6. Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

We are pleased to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 23rd, enclosing unused Pan American coupons,

> Cleveland to New York and Tokyo to Honolulu

which we have forwarded for credit to your air travel account.

I was indeed happy to note that your trip was enjoyable and appreciate your kind comments.

Cordially,

THE COLLVER-MILLER CO.

Casper J. Mill

CJM:mr



February 25, 1959

Dear Wesley:

We returned a few days ago from our trip abroad. It was a teemendously interesting trip. We saw a great deal, learned a great deal, and I am now beginning to digest all that we have seen and heard.

We had a very pleasant visit in Saigon. We were warmly welcomed andeentertained by Mr. Ladazinsky and by the Smucklers. While we did not get to see the President, who was away from the city, we had many opportunities to observe and to become acquainted with some of the problems of Vietnam.

I want to thank you for having apprised your friends of our coming and for the many courtesies which you extended to us. I trust that I will have the pleasure of seeing you in the very near future.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS :bfm

Mr. Wesley Fishel Department of Political Science Michigan State University Lansing, Michigan

March 13, 1959

United Air Lines Post Office Box 1194 Chicago 90, Illinois

Gentlemen:

. .

Sorry to be late in forwarding the enclosed check but I had returned some unused tickets to Mr. Casper Miller of Collver-Miller Travel Bureau and he has just informed me that a credit of \$277.84 is being refunded by the Pan American Air Lines.

. . .

Your statement was for \$4127.76. Deducting the \$277.84 would make Dr. Silver's balance due \$3849.92 which is the amount of check enclosed.

Very sincerely yours,

Beatrice F. May (Mrs.) Secretary to Dr. Silver STUDIO AT:

10.0

RUTTON VILLA 143B, CUMBALLA HILL, BOMBAY 26.

VITRUM STUDIO

(Prop. VITRUM Private LTD.)

TELEPHONE : 72458 " TELEGRAMS: VITGLASS

3rd FLOOR, HANVANT BHUWAN. NEPEAN SEA ROAD, BOMBAY 6.

Ref. No. VS/3848.

March 21, 1959.

Rabbi Dr. Hillel Silver, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Silver,

It was a great pleasure meeting you and Mrs. Silver and your visit will be remembered for a long time in Bombay. I was very happy that you spared me the time during your short sojourn here to visit our Studio and that you liked our work.

I have sent you three registered post parcels with some tiles which may now soon reach you.

Parcel No.1 sent on 27.2. contains:

One set of 6 tiles - Copy of Jewish Wedding - by Mane Katz.

One	"	"	6	"	-	Elephant Fight (Moghul		Style)
One	"	"	6	"	-	Indian Motif	-	by Vijoo.
One	"	"	2	"	-	Indian Motif	-	- by Vijoo

Parcel No.2 sent on 3.3. contains: First half of 40 tiles mural by Mane Katz (copy) Three tubes of Adhesive.

Parcel No.3 sent on 10.3. contains: Second half of 40 tiles mural by Mane Katz (copy).

AIRLINE FROM TO	NAME OF PASSENGER	DATE OF	TICKET NUMBERS	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
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This statement payable within 10 days from date of receipt in accordance with tariff on file with the Civil Aeronautics Board Remittances, charges and credits prior to the billing date that are not listed above will appear on your next statement.

VITRUM PRIVATE LTD.

All tiles are loose and, as mentioned above, we have included in the second parcel three tubes of adhesive which we use for fixing the tiles on Masonite. I don't think it will be difficult for a carpenter to do the job by giving a drop of the adhesive on the tiles in 9 places (please see the sketch below) and the same on the Masonite opposite the spots where the adhesive has been applied to the tile. Then put the tile on the Masonite glue on glue and let it dry under a weight for at least 24 hours.

Cont. Sheet No.

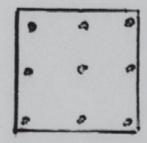
I hope this finds you and Mrs. Silver well.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

(S. Lifschuet

P.S. You can also cover the whole surface of the tiles and Masonite with glue, if you like.



SIR ELLY KADOORIE & SONS

ST. GEORGE'S BUILDING HONG KONG

FOUNDER SIR ELLY KADOGRIE, K.B.E., COM. LEG. HON. PARTNERS

LAWRENCE KADOORIE, CHEV. LES. HON. HORACE KADOORIE, O.B.E., CHEV. LES. HON. TELEGRAPHIC ADERESS:-"KADOORIE" Codes:-- {"Bentley's" "Bentley's Second" Tel. Nos. 27127, 20337.

REF. T.11-A-1/

31st March, 1959.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, Ansel Rd. at E. 105th, Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

It is indeed kind of you to have sent my brother and me a copy each of your book "Where Judaism Differed," which you have inscribed to us. My brother and his wife, who are away in Japan at present, would I know wish to join me in thanking you heartily for such a fine gift. I am looking forward to reading the book with much pleasure and interest. It has been well produced and is, I know, a comprehensive and scholarly account of the subject.

With kindest regards and every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Horace Radoois

Horace Kadoorie.

amb



Rabbi	Abba	Hillel	Silver,	
	the Te	emple.		
			at E. 105	
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RCHIVES

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Sender's name and address : SIR ELLY KADOORIE & SONS,

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ST. GEORGE'S BLDG.,

HONG KONG.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

April 28, 1959

Mr. S. Lifschuetz Vitrum Studio 3rd Floor, Hanvant Bhuwan Nepean Sea Road Bombay 6, India

My dear friend:

We have by now received the three parcels containing the tiles which you so graciously presented to us on the occasion of our visit to your studio. I need not tell you how deeply grateful Mrs. Silver and I are for your beautiful and generous gift. These tiles will grace our home and the larger tile, copy of "Jewish Wedding" (by Mane Katz) will find an honored place in our Temple center building. These will always remind us of you and of our pleasant meeting in Bombay.

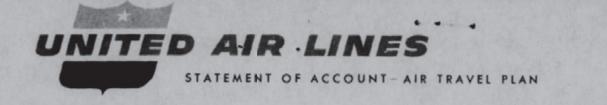
I do hope that we will have the pleasure of meeting again in the near future. Perhaps you are planning to come to the United States? With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

VIA AIH MAIL



Please detach this portion and return with your remittance to

Abba Hillel Silver 017630 The Temple Cleveland 6, Ohio 8A16-XE2 Date MAY 6, 1959

AMOUNT OF CHECK \$_

UNITED AIR LINES, INC.

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S. Lifschuetz

Hanvant Bhuwan Nepean Sea Road, Bombay, 6.

May 8, 1959.

Dear Rabbi Silver.

I was very happy indeed to receive your book "Where Judism Differed" and I thank you very much for it. I am reading it with great interest and as I am about to go on leave, I shall have time to study and enjoy it.

I also thank you for your letter of 28th April. I am very glad that the tiles have reached you in good condition and that you have given them places of honour at home and in your Temple center building. I don't think that I shall be able to come to the United States this year but I do hope that I shall have the pleasure of meeting you and Mrs. Silver again on some other occasion.

Thank you for your kind wishes which I warmly reciprocate to you and Mrs. Silver.

Yours very sincerely.

f. Infrelens

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



EMBASSY OF ISRAEL

שגרירות ישראל

Bangkok 26 May 1959

Dear Dr. Silver,

I was pleased to receive your "Where Judaism Differed" as a memento of your visit to Bangkok and I thank you most warmthly for your kind thought.

We have at length moved into our new Embassy after some three or four months of wandering over the luxurious wastes of the Erawan Hotel and other temporary abodes. It is a newly built house and we are, at this moment, occupying it in the company of the builders and the decorators. Nevertheless we are very much more settled in and Old-Siamese-Handlike than we were when you passed through here: so much so that I was forced to put on a pullover last night because the temperature plummeted down to 86 degrees.

With my very best wishes to Mrs. Silver and to you, in which my wife also joins,

> I am, Yours sincerely,

In Richan

M. R. Kidron

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver 19810 Shaker Boulevard Cleveland, Ohio U.S.A.

AJDC POB 731 Tehran Dec. 26

Dear Rabbi Silver,

It's now nearly a year since we last saw you, and in that time our thoughts have turned to you, your family and The Temple on many occasions. Mother has kept us abreast with news and clippings on developments at Silver Park and the new addition to the Temple; and quite coincidentally I bumped into your neice and her husband, Phil Bernstein, at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in August; also spent a pleasant few days in the company of Rabbi Rosental and his wife in Tel Aviv last July.

Since leaving the States have been on the look-out for items suitable for your museum. In Rome I requested, without success, an interesting artspiece from the centuries-old synagogue situated on the outskirts of the ghetto. For the past few months I've been negotiating for a Torah from Hamadan, legendary burial-place of Mordecai and Esther. The Jewish population is diminishing as more and more of the families are leaving Hamadan, some for Tehran, most for Israel, and we're concerned that the gradual evacuation may leave the Judaica and community religious objects unattended. But thus far my discussions--by mail and by messenger--with the Hamadani leaders have been inconclusive.

H Early this month, however, while in southern Iran, I came acrosss some items which I found of great interest, and I think you will too. Much of the interest and value of these papers grows out of the circumstances and the place in which I found them. To explain these, I must recount some history, much of which is no doubt familiar to you, but not in this context. In the account which follows some of the threads which tiex historical events together are based upon circumstantial evidence and educated but conjecture;/the knowledgable people here with whom I have discussed it think it is quite probable.

This much we know. Darius I, one of the great kings of the Achaemenian Dynasty, ruled the ancient Persian Empire from 521-485 B.C.E. During his reign the Empire was at its zenith, and it was he who began construction of Persepolis. It was here that I visited recently, and like most curious tourists or amateur archeologists was tremendously impressed with the art, architecture, planning, and grandeur of the ancient Persian capital as well as with the fortuitous manner in which nature and historical circumstances have allowed much of the building to remain almost as it was.

I visited the various rooms of the palane, some remarkably intact. Here came the great personages of a bygone era, here lived the descendants of Darius, including Artaxerxes, his grandson and the husband of Queen Esther. I trod the floors where she and Mordecai walked. I stood in her bed-chamber where the wear and tear of man and nature have been minimal. Its walls were so highly polished that it was known as the Room of Mirrors, and one can still see one's reflection in the smooth-rubbed stone. Standing there I recreated in my mind's eye the supper scene when Esther enter-(Artaxerxes) tained Ahashuerous/and Haman, and revealed to the former the evil plot of the latter.

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This may seem like I'm far afield from my topic, but I do want to make the point that Jews lived 2500 years ago in Persepolis, not only Esther and Mordecai, but also Ezra and Nehemiah to whom Artaxerxes gave protection, and also thousands of Jews whose **ancestors** had been forced to leave Jerusalem after the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians in 586 BCE.

This much more we know. That the Achaemenian kings, from Cyrus the Great on, were liberal and friendly toward the Jews, and it is reasonable to assume that many lived and prospered in the Persian capital. History also tells us that Persepolis had a population of about 1,200,000, so the people must have spread out over a wide area. Since there were no penthouses or apartments in those days and since the inhabitable area was south from the palace (mountains on the north with the range of hills circling east and west), we speculated that the city spread many miles southward.

Now to the 20th century. About 14 miles south of the ruins of Persepolis is a village called Zargan. It has a population of about 6,000, including 110 Jews. As far as we can discover, Zargan "has always been there". Our surmise is that it was once the outskirts or a suburb of Persepolis, and that when Alexander the Great destroyed the capital, the fire did not burn that far. Zargan then, would be the only continuous remains of the ancient capital, although it is now separated from the palace itself by 14 miles of uninhabited wasteland.

How long have Jews lived in Zargan? As long as anyone--or any records--can tell. It is well-accepted that the Shiraz Jewish community, 16,000 in size and the second largest in the country, and which has been in existence for centuries, was originally

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founded by Zarganis. Shiraz is about 25 miles further south from Zargan.

If Zargan was inhabited in Achaemenian days, and if Jews lived in Persepolis and its outskirts then, and if the present their Jewish population are/descendents, then it is reasonable to conclude that Zargan is one of the oldest--if not the oldest--Jewish communities in the world with a continuous existence.

I have been refering to the Zargan Jewish community in the present tense....which is the next point of my story. On Nov. 27 the entire community left for Israel. For the past year and a half it has been in a process of liquidation, and the process was completed only a month ago, bringing to a close what seems to me to be a fascinating chapter in Jewish history.

The departure was accompanied by moving ceremony. The elder of the community, 70-odd years old, with faltering hand signed over the deed of the synagogue to the Moslem population to be use it as a mosque. I was not there, but I was told that many of the Moslem women had tears in their eyes as they bade farewell to their Jewish neighbors.

I came to Zargan three days later, to find out if any Jews still remained and to look into the status of the Jewish communal property as well as any equipment that might belong to Joint agencies. Near the synagogue, in the dirt of a small passageway, I found the papers which I am enclosing separately. They are in Hebrew script and the local Pharsi (Persian) language. As the competent papers are now in translation, I don't know in detail what they say, but they are the last vestige of this unusual Persian-Jewish community. I hope you will find them as interesting as did I, though I regret that you could not share in the excitement of

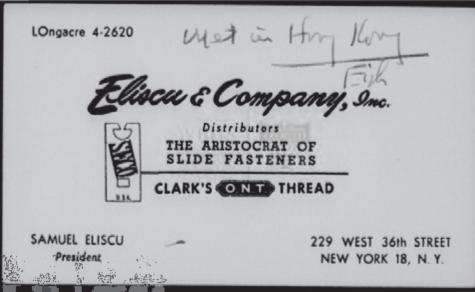
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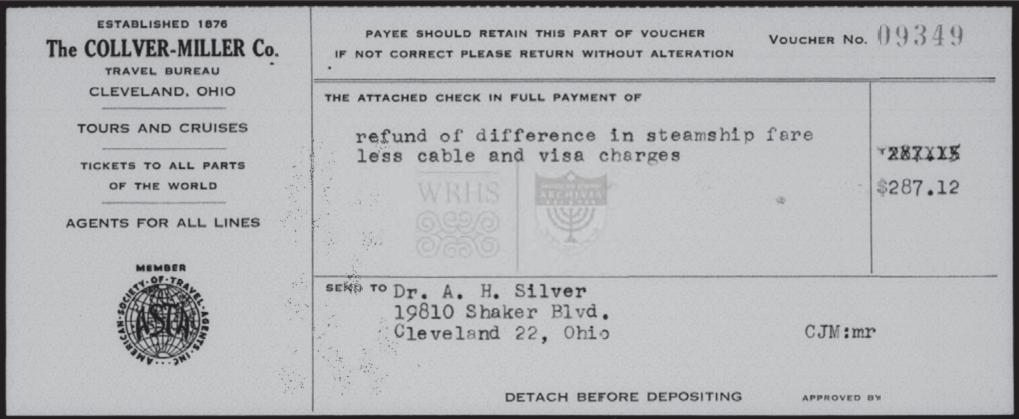
the "find" and the stimulation of the research of piecing together the parts of this story. //

Please give my regards to your family and to Mrs. Leikand, and to all of you and to the Congregation our best wishes for a New Year of Health and Peace.

Respectfully, Jui Seron

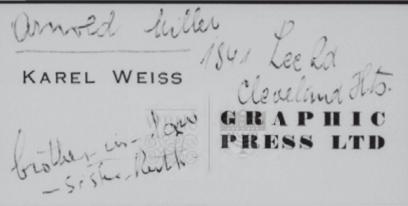






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