



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel
171

Box
62

Folder
56

Cleveland School of Art, 1920.

19.

20-3

CLEVELAND, O.

[illegible]

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CLEVELAND, O.

Feb. 24-2-4

2. I am ~~entirely at a loss~~ as
going to lecture to you on Sat.
for I don't aim to amuse you.
I would like to give you some
the nature of a real man
who can do what some think
to the subject of the real value of
all human existence to the
world but in fact I am not
feel certain of this. I am not
sure - for I may at times be certain
generalizing in on the subject
where there are and have been
evident disputes. I would not
in when anyone fear to read.
And get assurance too must
have the compensation - or else
there wouldn't be so many ^{desires}
as - and I compensation is
the ^{sure} ~~sublime~~ simplicity ^{which} ~~of things~~ ^{gives}.

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The student of higher math. will
grow grey in the work & learn
that ~~in a sense~~ ^{does} ~~is~~ not great
to 2, and in the end he com-
pelled by the crude connection
of life to submit to the formula -
while the ignorant man
physically suffers weeks
 $2 \times 2 = 4$ is delighted with it,
and goes merrily on his way
~~and is satisfied~~
~~called~~ ^{supposed} ~~ignorant~~ ^{that} a
~~secret~~ ^{that} false heart & hidden
behind that innocent look
of the formula -

3. The nations of a rel. man
to the wish of art are very
simple - in fact rel. has
shown that the supreme

3

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simplicity in life - to appear
 for a little children - This
 age is afraid of simplicity
 and yet truth & certainly
 ethical truth is nobly
 simple
 Rel. man ~~thinks~~
 4. Act is one institution of society
 among others - It is a social
 creation + must be a social
 function - D. Act may have
 social inst. as evolved out
 of the necessity, Science, art,
 gov't - are social reactions to
 pressing experiences - So is act.
 Act may have an element
 of luxury or of devices in it
 it - It may not appear to have
 the same utilitarian reason
 as other institutions - and yet
 you have back the best

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Y

man - ^{live} to be ^{animal} sketches in the
you find art in some form -
It served some purpose -
Some assume that there had
a rel. ^{regiment} ^{that they were}
out ^{so} ^{was} ^{serg.} ^{the}
out. ^{most} ^{may be} ^{perhaps}
But ^{that} ^{may be} ^{perhaps}
we mean ^{that} ^{may be} ^{perhaps}
are ^{was} ^{called} ^{upon} ^{to} ^{serve}
the ^{vital} ^{needs} ^{of} ^{man}

1. Social utility & art to not
lost to day. Every unit must
advance life - Science must
explain life ^{Rel. must} ^{exact} ^{life}
perfect life - Industry must ^{serve}
Tame life - art must ^{interpret}
and beautify life - Whenever
an ^{art} ^{work} ^{becomes} ^{known}
more - it ^{loses} ^{to} ^{soul} ^{it}
becomes a ^{part} ^{of} ^{the} ^{whole} ^{it}
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5-

when sc. does not serve the
highest needs of hum. soul it
becomes a great wast. &
derogates life - when rel. - it
becomes a wonderful institution
that cherishes progress - when
Buss ^{is} ~~is~~ it becomes a vicious agency
for exploitation & corruption -
and art becomes a business
and immoral - the indulgence
of the press and the bane of the many.

2. Every art. has a mission
The mission of art is to ^{show the world} ~~make~~
the ~~essential~~ reveal the charm
and glory of the fine things of
life - the divine principle that is
in matter - the spirit values
in the simplest phys. phenom.
nature - the force of love and
movement, the mystery of

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6.

color - in short. the manner
of art is to make the good
beautiful -

3. You are no doubt familiar
with the aphorism - the Jews
worshiped the Beauty; the Greeks
the gods the Romans
Beauty - the Bible all
of human life is only partially
true - & yet it has this element
of truth - it shows the place
of emphasis in rel. & most
rel. em. the beauty & the strength
of life & duty -
service, sacrifice. Art Emph.
the ~~beauty~~ glory & sanctity of the
aesthetic values of life - In
the ultimate they are the same.

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In all hum. inst. are part
of one unity - but was orig.
person with Rel. It will
be so in the future -

5- Rel. regards art as a
supreme importance - bec.
its appeal - when all is
said & done is more sub-
lime than intellect - It
is not descriptive, analytical
It is not scientific, it is not
It is subjective. It
is dynamic - Overemphasizes reason
& logic & intellect -

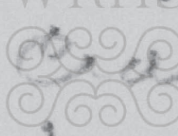
(2) Must not be main/paying
human endeavor - that
is a purpose, reforming
influence -

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6. Is International - American
 - art is class. first acca.
 to principle + style rather
 than country - what
 this world needs is
 a little healthy balance
 gone - art shows the
 friend -   for the heart.
 that is I will of all our
 masterpiece of place a
 rose.

6. Rel. art, ~~the~~ art that
 is the divine - not the
 divine that lowers stan-
 dards - that demands efficiency
 + evaluate by common
 standards - not that all
 men are artists - but

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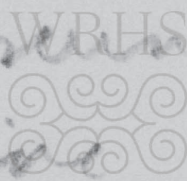
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9-

That art should be very That
there is an artistic instinct
in souls of most men -
that the capable of
creations. that it must
beauty of the line, the sum
long & clear to the intellect
of all men. That the
extensive even as it
is extensive - just as
education -



7. your opportunity -
1. Refused your art as a service
 2. To refuse souls
 3. To deny world
 4. To create masses