



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.

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Temple sale of seats, 1924.

1. *Shema* —

2. This is the consummation of 2 yrs of building, 5 years of planning and 10 yrs of hoping. We have every reason to be proud and every cause to be grateful to our Father in Heaven for having ~~us~~ ^{bestowed} unto us the strength and the means wherewith to rear this magnificent sanctuary. Our fondest wishes have come ~~down~~ true, and our highest hopes have been exceeded. We had hoped to ~~not~~ build a beautiful Temple, and behold it is more so beautiful. It is rarely beautiful, uniquely and magnificently beautiful — a contribution to the architecture of our city, and to the architecture of America. We had hoped to build a school building sufficient and adequate for our needs. And behold we have built not only sufficiently and adequately — but spacious and completely for our future as well as our present needs — capable of an expanding program of education & recreation. We undertook ^{conscientiously} ~~to~~ ^{to} build along the lines of the best approved school architecture —

We can lay down our tools satisfied that we have builded well — for years and decades, and later life, for generations —

there is edifice will stand and bear the tide
of time, a monument to your faith, ~~which~~
~~you have~~ ~~loved so dearly~~ and your loyalty and
your self-sacrifice. As the advancing years
will crowd the quiet recesses of this
you - with memories and fill the
spaces beneath this overarching dome
with echoes of many things - sacred
memories - it will grow ^{ever} more dear and
precious to us - a thing of us - a part of
our life - a living presence - and a hallowing
influence -

3. There is much else, that I would wish to say -
much else that I will leave an expert to
say when we shall on the sacred occasion
of the formal dedication of this Edifice. There is
however, one thing which I cannot pass this
evening. There is one thing which we have
not yet done - and which alone will
be ~~the~~ ^{our} ~~best~~ ^{best} ~~contribution~~ ^{contribution} to
our ~~common~~ ^{common} ~~cause~~ ^{cause} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~alone~~ ^{alone} ~~will~~ ^{will} ~~enable~~ ^{enable} ~~us~~ ^{us} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~dedicate~~ ^{dedicate} ~~this~~ ^{this} ~~structure~~ ^{structure} ~~next~~ ^{next} ~~Sabbath~~ ^{Sabbath} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~a~~ ^a ~~free~~ ^{free} ~~heart~~ ^{heart} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~joy~~ ^{joy} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~happiness~~ ^{happiness} - We must free this Temple of
debt - of all debt, of every debt - We
must not begin our great work ~~in this~~
here, burdened with debt, hampered and

retracted at every turn in our expansion - by
~~the ever-present circumstances~~ financial cares
and worries. We do not wish to be compelled
to appropriate a very large part of our income
which should go into our educational and En-
gineering education and rel. work - for us to meet
interest charges. Nor do ^{we} wish to be compelled
at any future time to launch additional
campaigns for funds. That ~~is~~ ^{are} a very serious
affair at best - a waste of effort - and an irritating
nuisance -

4. Your committee, after almost 6 months of
thorough, painstaking, and thorough labor, has
envisaged a plan whereby this could be
effected, simply, speedily and without
hardship to any one - They have submitted
their scheme to you - If their plans come,
if the seats of in this Temple ~~are~~ so
classified and priced as your charts
indicate, are sold, we shall be out of
debt to-night. Our annual budget will
be provided for, our future assured and
you will forever be freed from ~~the~~ any
further ~~voluntary~~ ^{in funds} ~~in the~~ part of the Temple.

5. The Com. has borne one fact constantly in mind.
The financial burdens ^{if they are burdens} should be placed upon
the shoulders ^{of those} most able to bear them. ~~They~~
We did not wish to ~~not~~ render it impos. for
men owners of modest means to be members
here and to own pens in our Temple. Even
a hasty perusal of the chart will ^{show you} ~~convince~~
^{convince} you that the interests the Com. has protected
the interest of the average man of modest
means - The men who have been blessed
by lot with more of the world's goods
will in their free will offering bring more
to the altar of God. They have done so in
the past, freely, generously. They will do so now.

6. I need not tell you how proud I have been
of the response which to I and the Temple
have invariably received, whenever we
made an appeal for a Temple cause -
and esp. for the New Temple. It has been
one of the most heartening facts in my 7 years
ministry among you - You have been very
good, indeed, and very loyal. I ask
you just this ~~one~~ one act. Remove the load
of debt from off our shoulders - Place yourselves
into these classifications of when you means

enable you - It isn't when you sit when you
worship - It is - that by purchasing the pews
at the maximum point of your financial ability
you ~~will~~ ^{help to} by so much reduce our indebtedness
and meet our annual budgetary obligations
frankly

7. We shall have need of more funds in the year
to come. Not only that this ~~extra~~ eclipse
and will involve a greater overhead. But
that we plan to increase our ~~work~~ in
every dept. (1) Director of Temple Activities
(2) Added ~~20~~ ²² teachers to our staff. (3)
High School Dept. (4) Club Work

You wish this work to be done. Won't you?
That requires additional funds. With increased
our dues will not be large than that of
other synagogues. of an size or even of smaller
size.