



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
176

Box
64

Folder
350

Dedication of new Main Post Office, Cleveland, 1934.

On completion, this beautiful post office building is a just cause
of pride for ~~us~~ ^{all} the people of our community. This structure ~~itself~~
is of ~~enduring and satisfying~~ has been nobly planned and
built. Its lines of dignity and simplicity, its satisfying
proportions, the artistic ~~well manifest~~ ^{combined into} theme, ~~have given us~~
~~an~~ ^{an} architectural achievement of enduring ~~worth to dwell~~
the which will ~~adorn~~ ^{adorn} the life of our city for many years
to come. Cleveland ~~has many~~ ^{has many} public buildings, and the addition
of this new post office building will add to the ~~enhance~~ ^{enhance} the physical
attractiveness ~~that~~ ^{at} ~~part~~ ^{part} of our city which has not
been ~~allowed~~ ^{allowed} to neglect and decay. In except for the
public and semi-public buildings which have been erected,
in Cleveland ~~over~~ ^{along with many other large cities} ~~our~~ ^{city} has ~~been~~ ^{been} definitely ~~depressed~~
in its physical appearance in the last 20 years.

The ~~dedication~~ ^{building is being} ~~to day~~ ^{dedicated} is ~~dedicated~~
to a great human service. Communication between men.
Manhood has needed slowly through the ages and in spite
of many set-backs from isolation to intercommunication.
Trade which was first confined to the ~~local~~ ^{local} village passed
through successive stages of expansion until to-day it
is international and world-wide. Sent words at first
was local, tribal, ~~and~~ ^{limited to} ~~small city~~ ^{small city} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~soon~~ ^{soon} ~~spread~~ ^{spread}
over into empires. The need for communication, as swift
and as secure as possible arose and the post came forth.
Its history constitutes an ~~exciting~~ ^{exciting} and gratifying chapter
in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~development~~ ^{development} of the ~~human~~ ^{human} progress.
And it is ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~cooperation~~ ^{cooperation} of recent years - a little over a
half century ago - that the first ~~international~~ ^{international} postal convention
was signed - and a ~~system~~ ^{system} of international postal ~~relations~~
communication set up.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

~~then can organize~~ It is possible to organize human
activities as a Nat. center. scale if selfish interests
would put no obstacles in the way. Subsequent cooperation
is possible on more than one level. It is also a
factor to the

It is ~~evident~~ ^{unaware} that
they will ~~not~~ do the work of the world, ~~the~~ ^{efficiency}
and easily, even when there is no prospect of profit
involved, only that of security and promotion. The
love of profit as the ^{sole} ~~only~~ spur to initiative and
~~confident~~ ^{reasonable} work is a dogma which life
constantly refutes

WRHS



DEDICATION
of
THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
CLEVELAND
OHIO



SEPTEMBER THIRD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOUR
11:00 A. M.

THE NEW CLEVELAND POST OFFICE
WAS COMPLETED DURING THE ADMINISTRATION
OF

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
President of the United States of America

HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR.
Secretary of the Treasury

JAMES A. FARLEY
Postmaster General

CHRISTIAN JOY PEOPLES
Director of Procurement

W. ENGLEBERT REYNOLDS
Assistant Director for Public Works

LOUIS A. SIMON
Supervising Architect

GEORGE O. VONNERTA
Supervising Engineer

1934

DEDICATION PROGRAM



Introduction MICHAEL F. O'DONNELL
Postmaster

Remarks by the Chairman HON. MARTIN L. SWEENEY
Member of Congress, 20th District of Ohio

Invocation DR. FRANK JENNINGS
Baptist Church of the Master

Vocal Solo—The Star Spangled Banner FRANK A. KLEIN
Superintendent of Mails

Address HON. HARRY L. DAVIS
Mayor of Cleveland

Address HERMAN R. NEFF
President, Cleveland Chamber of Commerce

Address HON. ROBERT J. BULKLEY
United States Senator from Ohio

Address RABBI ABBA H. SILVER

Address ADMIRAL CHRISTIAN J. PEOPLES
Director of Procurement, U. S. Treasury Department

Address HON. SMITH W. PURDUM
Fourth Assistant Postmaster General

Address HON. J. F. T. O'CONNOR
Comptroller of the Currency, U. S. Treasury Department

Benediction RT. REV. JAMES A. MCFADDEN
Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland



HISTORY OF THE CLEVELAND POST OFFICE

While this territory was first settled in 1796, no regular mail route was established in the Western Reserve until 1801. In 1801 a mail route extended from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Warren, Ohio, via Youngstown. For a period of two years a fortnightly mail was carried, mostly on foot. This route was extended in 1803 to Cleveland, via Ravenna and Hudson.

The roads at that time were largely Indian trails through dense forests and over rivers and streams which had to be forded. The forests were full of wolves, bears and other wild animals. It took several weeks to bring news from New York to Cleveland.

In 1805, Elisha Norton was appointed the first Postmaster of Cleveland, Ohio, by Gideon Granger, Postmaster General. Norton remained in office only a short time and was succeeded by John Walworth. Walworth held the office of Postmaster until 1812. During his time as Postmaster, he also held positions of Justice of the Peace, Collector for the District of Erie, Inspector of Revenue for the Port of Cuyahoga, Clerk of Court, and County Recorder, also Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Although holding most of these positions at the same time, it is recorded that the business of each was so small that he did not neglect any of them. Postal receipts for the first quarter of 1806 were \$2.83.

After the War of 1812 mail was carried on horseback during good weather and on foot in bad weather, by two sons of Joseph Burke. This method of carrying the mail continued until 1820 when it was carried by stage-coach. "Post-haste mail" carried by relay riders in 1812, made the distance from Washington, D. C., to Cleveland in one week.

The first Post Office was located in an upper part of a frame building on the north side of Superior Street near

Water Street. It was later moved to a small frame office on the south side of Superior Street where the American House stood. A Government building was completed on the Public Square in 1860 on the site of the present Federal Building. The cornerstone for the present Federal Building was laid on May 20, 1905. During the time that this building was under construction, the Post Office and other Government activities were housed in the Wiltshire Building on the north side of Superior Avenue between West 3rd and West 6th Streets.

In 1863, Joseph William Briggs conceived the city delivery system and acted as the first letter-carrier in the city. There is a tablet of bronze to his honor, designed by the Ohio Society of New York, and presented to the Cleveland Post Office and the Cleveland public. This tablet was installed and unveiled in honor of Mr. Briggs, on December 9, 1921, and hangs on the south wall of the main lobby of the present Federal Building. Mr. Briggs was called the author of the present nation-wide free city delivery and collection system.

Contrast the volume of mail of the first Post Office with receipts of \$2.83 for the first quarter of 1806, with receipts of \$461,854.63 for the year 1890; and also with those of the year 1929 of \$10,122,212.97, the largest in the history of the Cleveland Post Office. This contrast is further enlarged when one considers that Mr. Walworth not only conducted the Post Office by himself, but also conducted numerous other duties at the same time, and now twenty-two hundred employees give their entire time to the mail service of Cleveland and community.

Carrying of mail by aeroplane was established in May, 1919. Today, mail can be carried in volume and with regularity, from Cleveland to Washington, D. C., by plane in three hours, over a distance which took seven days in 1812, by relay riders.

POST MASTERS OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

Elisha Norton	April 1, 1805	Edwin Cowles	Apr. 4, 1861
John Walworth	Jan. 1, 1806	Geo. A. Benedict	July 12, 1865
Ashbel W. Walworth	Oct. 25, 1812	John W. Allen	Apr. 4, 1870
Daniel Kelly	Oct. 22, 1816	Nelson B. Sherwin	Jan. 11, 1875
Irad Kelley	Dec. 31, 1817	Thomas Jones, Jr.	Mar. 3, 1883
Daniel Worley	Apr. 15, 1829	William W. Armstrong	Feb. 28, 1887
Aaron Barker	Mar. 2, 1839	Alfred T. Anderson	Mar. 3, 1891
Benjamin Andrews	Sept. 6, 1842	John C. Hutchins	Mar. 30, 1895
T. P. Spencer	Apr. 11, 1845	Charles C. Dewstoe	June 28, 1899
Daniel M. Haskell	Apr. 11, 1849	Ray G. Floyd	May 1, 1910
Joseph W. Gray	Apr. 1, 1853	William J. Murphy	May 1, 1914
Benjamin Harrington	June 12, 1858	Henry A. Taylor	Mar. 1, 1923
M. F. O'Donnell	Sept. 1, 1933		

OPERATING STAFF
CLEVELAND POST OFFICE AND POSTAL STATIONS

MICHAEL F. O'DONNELL, *Postmaster*
JAMES L. COLLINS, *Assistant Postmaster*

MAIN OFFICE

FRANK A. KLEIN, Supt. Mails
WM. A. SCHUSTER, Supt. Finance
FRANK E. DOUDA, Cashier Money Order
IRA A. STONEROOK, Asst. Supt. Mails
J. M. ATZBERGER, Foreman
YARO W. BERANEK, Station Examiner
FRED H. BLUIM, Asst. Cashier
WILLIAM BORSCH, Station Examiner
J. A. BYRNES, Asst. Cashier
JOHN J. COLLINS, Asst. Cashier
FRED L. ENSIGN, Foreman
GEORGE W. FISHER, Foreman
HENRY V. FOLTZ, Foreman
AARON E. FRIEDMAN, Foreman
WALTER C. GIESE, Foreman
JOHN F. HANLEY, Asst. Supt. Mails
THEO. M. HOHNSBEHN, Foreman
ARNOLD IMHOF, Foreman
SAMPSON P. KEEBLE, Foreman
JAMES E. KINSELLA, Asst. Supt. Mails
WM. E. KLEINSCHMIDT, Foreman
GEORGE W. KLIETZ, Asst. Cashier

ROBERT J. KOLAR, Asst. Supt. Mails
PAUL J. LaMARCHE, Asst. Supt. Mails
BENJAMIN C. McGEE, Foreman
FRED L. MIETHKE, Foreman
JOHN A. MITCHELL, Chief Bookkeeper
MAX MUSCHE, Foreman
HENRY E. PARRY, Foreman
GEORGE S. PHILLIPS, Asst. Cashier
JOHN H. PULLMAN, Foreman
P. J. RALEIGH, Asst. Supt. Mails
FRANK W. RERICHA, Foreman
OTIS W. RICHARDS, Bookkeeper
CLEMENS A. ROSING, Foreman
WALTER C. H. RUETER, Foreman
GEORGE SCHUMAN, Bookkeeper
E. A. SEVERIN, Asst. Cashier
KATE STANTON, Asst. Cashier
JAMES J. TEXLER, Asst. Supt. Mails
JOSEPH ZALUD, Asst. Supt. Mails
CHAS. F. ZBORNIK, Station Examiner
ROBERT J. ZIMMERMAN, JR., Foreman

PARCEL POST STATION

M. S. CANNON, Asst. Supt. Mails
ANTHONY J. BENDRICK, Foreman
WILLIAM J. BENDRICK, Foreman
WM. H. BURMEISTER, Foreman
FRANCIS H. COGAN, Foreman Carriers
EDWARD COWLEY, Asst. Supt. Mails
OTTO GODEN, Foreman
AUGUST C. GOEDE, Foreman Carriers
LAWRENCE J. HALLORAN, Foreman Carriers
ALEXANDER HAMBURG, Foreman
RAY A. HANCOCK, Foreman
CARL B. HARRIS, Foreman Carriers
WM. A. HARRISON, Asst. Supt. Mails
THEODORE O. JAENKE, Asst. Supt. Mails
WALTER A. LAUGHREN, Foreman

GUY R. LUCAS, Asst. Supt. Mails
CHARLES D. McMAHON, Foreman
CHARLES H. MacFEETERS, Foreman
WILLIAM J. MAHONEY, Asst. Supt. Mails
ANTON E. MALEK, Foreman
ALBERT MILES, Foreman
WALTER E. MILLER, Foreman
EDWARD H. MOSHER, Foreman Carriers
GEORGE W. NEWPERT, Foreman Carriers
GUSTAVE A. PARKER, Foreman
WM. C. PIPER, Foreman
WM. J. SHANNON, Foreman
ARTHUR J. SHARPE, Foreman Carriers
RAYMOND A. SHEA, Foreman Carriers
ALBERT F. WINTER, Foreman

SUB-STATIONS

JOHN E. CARROLL, Supt. Sta. A.
CHARLES E. DISTER, Asst. Supt. Sta. A.
LUDWIG WEGLEIN, Supt. Sta. B.
FRED N. SMITH, Asst. Supt. Sta. B.
EMMET C. HAMPTON, Supt. Sta. C.
FRANK W. VITEK, Asst. Supt. Sta. C.
WILLIAM TODL, Supt. Sta. D.
JOHN A. BECKA, Asst. Supt. Sta. D.
CHAS. W. DUERR, Supt. Sta. E.
MELVIN C. FISHER, Asst. Supt. Sta. E.
FRANK HERMANN, Asst. Supt. Sta. E.
DANIEL J. KEEFE, Supt. Sta. H.
CHESTER A. LELAND, Supt. Beachland Sta.
CLIFTON F. SNOW, Supt. Brooklyn Sta.
HERMAN F. HOTES, Asst. Supt. Brooklyn Sta.

CHARLES D. BURROUGHS, Supt. Collinwood Sta.
JOSEPH F. POELKING, Supt. E. Cleve. Br.
WILLIAM G. BURGESS, Asst. Supt. E. Cleve. Br.
EDWARD D. KUSHEN, Supt. Euclid Br.
WILLIAM J. KLINE, Supt. Heights Br.
CHARLES D. SCHACHA, Asst. Supt. Heights Br.
MAURICE C. KEEFE, Supt. Lakewood Br.
WALTER H. HYLE, Asst. Supt. Lakewood Br.
JOSEPH MALECEK, Supt. Newburgh Br.
SAGE P. DEMING, Supt. Rocky River Br.
THOMAS P. BRITTON, Supt. Shaker Sq. Sta.
DANIEL C. REIRDON, Supt. West Park Br.
JOHN A. MURPHY, Asst. Supt. West Park Br.
ALFRED MING, Foreman
FRANK J. YECH, Foreman

BUILDERS OF THE NEW CLEVELAND POST OFFICE

DESIGN

Under Direction U. S. Treasury Department

Walker & Weeks and Philip L. Small - - - - - Associated Architects

CONSTRUCTION

Under Direction U. S. Treasury Department

Frank M. Weakley - - - - - Construction Engineer in Charge
 John M. Snead - - - - - Consulting Engineer
 Herbert O. Valentine - - - - - Construction Engineer
 Samuel J. Berman - - - - - Construction Engineer
 James A. Langendorf - - - - - Construction Engineer

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

The Lundoff-Bicknell Company - - - - - Cleveland

ELEVATOR EQUIPMENT

The Otis Elevator Company - - - - - Cleveland

SUB-CONTRACTORS AND MATERIALS

Art Terrazzo Company, Cleveland - - - Terrazzo Floors
 Bass Construction Company, Cleveland - - Steel Erection
 Berger Mfg. Company, Canton - - - Metal Shelving and Bins
 W. Bingham Company, Cleveland - - - Hardware
 Buffalo Scale Company, Buffalo - - - Platform Scales
 Carey Company, Cleveland - - - Acoustical Work and Pipe Covering
 Chamberlin Metal Weatherstrip Co., Cleveland - Aluminum Screens
 Cleveland Builders Supply Co., Cleveland - - - Concrete Materials and Common Brick
 Diebold Safe and Lock Co., Canton - - - Vault Doors
 C. Sam Dreyer Painting Co., Cleveland - - - Painting and Finishing
 Economy Incinerator Co., Milwaukee - - - Incinerator
 Excel Metal Cabinet Co., Jamestown - - - Metal Cases and Counters
 Federal Seaboard Terra Cotta Co., New York - Terra Cotta
 Feldman Bros. Company, Cleveland - - - Heating and Plumbing
 Fort Pitt Bridge Works, Pittsburgh - - - Structural Steel
 F. E. Gates Marble and Tile Co., Indianapolis - - - Tile Floors
 General Bronze Corporation, New York - - - Steel Stairs and Expansion Joints
 General Refrigeration Sales Co., Cleveland - - Refrigeration Machines

SUB-CONTRACTORS AND MATERIALS—Continued

Jacob Halter Sons Company, Cleveland	-	-	Ventilating and Sheet Metal
Hanley Company, New York	-	-	Face Brick
John Harsch Bronze and Foundry Co., Cleveland	-	-	Ornamental Metal and Aluminum Windows
Hatfield Electric Company, Cleveland	-	-	Electric Wiring and Electric Fixtures
E. F. Hauserman Company, Cleveland	-	-	Metal Partitions
Haworth Marble Company, Cleveland	-	-	Marble and Slate Work
Interior Finish and Millwork Co., Cleveland	-	-	Mill and Cabinet Work
Kinnear Mfg. Company, Columbus	-	-	Rolling Steel Doors
Lamson Company, Syracuse	-	-	Mail Handling Equipment
Lamson Floors Company, Cleveland	-	-	Cork Carpet
Lennox-Haldeman Company, Cleveland	-	-	Plastering
J. H. Libby Company, Cleveland	-	-	Cement Finish
Mundet Cork Company, Cleveland	-	-	Cold Storage Rooms
National Fireproofing Corp., Pittsburgh	-	-	Structural Tile Arch Floors and Partitions
K. D. Nungesser, Cleveland	-	-	Linoleum Floors
Ohio Cut Stone Company, Cleveland	-	-	Sandstone
Overhead Door Company, Cleveland	-	-	Overhead Doors
Prospect Marble and Tile Co., Cleveland	-	-	Asphalt Block Pavement
Republic Structural Iron Works, Cleveland	-	-	Steel Plate Wainscots
Riester & Thesmacher Co., Cleveland	-	-	Kitchen Equipment
Robbins Flooring Co., Rhinelander, Wis.	-	-	Wood Block Floors
Safety Processing Co., Youngstown	-	-	Abrasive Stair Treads
Stark Brick Company, Canton	-	-	Salt Glazed Brick
Sterling and Welch Co., Cleveland	-	-	Asphalt Floor Tile
Jos. Stockhausen & Sons, Cleveland	-	-	Cleaning of Interior Brick
John Swenson Granite Co., Concord, N. H.	-	-	Exterior Granite
Toledo Plate and Window Glass Co., Cleveland	-	-	Glass and Glazing
Truscon Steel Co., Youngstown	-	-	Reinforcing Steel
United Metal Products Co., Canton	-	-	Hollow Metal Work
United States Gypsum Co., Cleveland	-	-	Acoustical Work
Van Dorn Iron Works Co., Cleveland	-	-	Miscellaneous Iron Work
Walter G. Warren Company, Chicago	-	-	Special Lighting Fixtures
Weathertite Company, Cleveland	-	-	Window Caulking
John Weenink and Sons Co., Cleveland	-	-	Roofing and Waterproofing
Wilson-Winfrey Stone Co., Shreveport, La.	-	-	Setting of Stone and Granite
Wood Tile Corporation, Grand Rapids	-	-	Strip Wood Block Floors
Yoder-Morris Company, Cleveland	-	-	Bi-Fold Doors

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

MAYOR HARRY L. DAVIS
Honorary Chairman

M. F. O'DONNELL, Postmaster
Chairman

FRANK M. WEAKLEY
Construction Engineer

E. E. NUSSBAUM
Secretary

GEORGE C. SMITH
Walker & Weeks and Philip L. Small,
Associated Architects

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

CARL E. MOORE, Chairman
Collector of Internal Revenue

JUDGE SAMUEL H. WEST
U. S. District Court

MRS. W. J. BUSHEA
Cleveland College

MRS. BERNICE S. PYKE
Collector of Customs

WARREN BICKNELL
Chairman of Board, The Lundoff-Bicknell Co.

GEORGE J. KEINATH
U. S. Marshal

C. W. LUNDOFF
President, The Lundoff-Bicknell Co.

CLIFFORD H. POLLOCK
Deputy Collector of Customs

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

KENT POPE, Chairman

MUNSEN HAVENS
Secretary, Chamber of Commerce

DAN MOLEY
President, Cleveland Federation of Labor

COL. W. A. COLSTON

MRS. M. F. O'DONNELL

ALBERT DALTON
Cleveland Building Trades Council

MRS. FRANCIS POULSON

ERNEST C. ZEHE

MRS. HAROLD MOSIER

CLIFFORD HENDERSON
Manager, National Air Races

MISS HELEN A. SHIBLEY

HAROLD W. METZGER
Director, Radio Station WTAM

MRS. ADELE PARKER

D. S. KINTNER
Director, Radio Station WHK

MRS. JAMES L. COLLINS

CARL D. FRIEBOLIN

MRS. FRANK A. KLEIN

J. J. LAFFERTY
Secretary, City Club

MRS. WM. A. SCHUSTER

MISS GERTRUDE GEHR
Office Director, Main Post Office

PARADE COMMITTEE

HARRY HUDDLESON, Chairman

ROY DeHAVEN, Grand Marshal

ANTHONY MISCH