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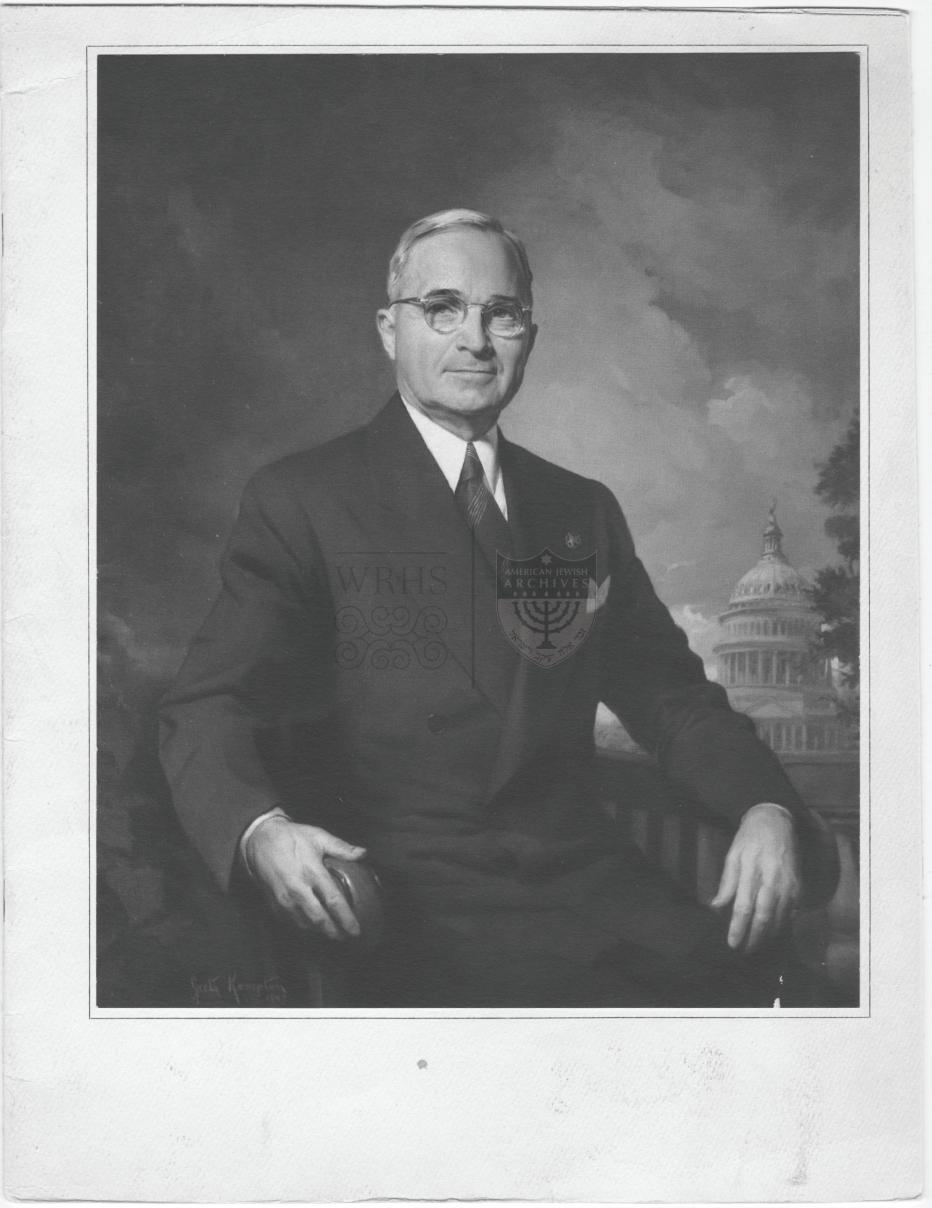
MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel	Box	Folder
185	69	905

All-Ohio Harry S. Truman Library dinner, 1955.

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# All-Ohio THE HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY FUND DINNER



FRIDAY, JUNE THIRD, 1955

# Grand Ballroom, HOTEL CLEVELAND, Cleveland, Ohio

Menu

## ORANGE AND GRAPEFRUIT SUPREME AU PORT

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CONSOMME MADRILENE

HEARTS OF CELERY

GREEN OLIVES ROSE RADISHES

The March State



CHARCOAL BROILED STEER TENDER FILET MIGNON AU CHAMPIGNONS OR FRESH LAKE ERIE WHITEFISH SAUTE ALMONDINE

POTATO AU GRATIN

**BROCCOLI AU BEURRE** 

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SALAD PRINCESSE, FRENCH DRESSING

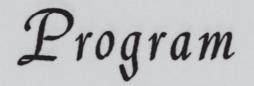
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MERINGUE GLACE CHANTILLY

**CRUSHED STRAWBERRIES** 

COFFEE

### MANHATTAN OR MARTINI



A. C. Marchen

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

THANKSGIVING	·WRHS ·	. AMERICANI JEWISIDR. Harold C. Phillips A R C H I V E S
GREETINGS	0690	Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze

WELCOME TO OHIO . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Governor Frank J. Lausche

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# The Harry S. Truman Library

### Why a Library?

The nearly eight years during which Mr. Truman served as President were a critical period in United States history. They cover the end of World War II, our post-war problems, and the transformation of our Nation from an isolationist power to the leader of the free nations of the world.

The story of those years is revealed, in large part, in the Truman papers. It is difficult to realize how extensive the Truman files are. George Washington's complete collection of papers, covering his entire life, consist of some 200 bound volumes. The Truman papers, for the period of his Presidency alone, fill over 400 large filing cabinets.

The papers of former President Herbert Hoover are preserved in the Hoover Library at Palo Alto, California. Those of Franklin Delano Roosevelt were given, in their entirety, to the United States Government, in the Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park, New York.

Now the Truman papers are to be made similarly accessible in Independence, Missouri. Mr. Truman, like F.D.R., has long wished to give his personal record to the Government and to have them preserved as a single collection for the use of historians and other scholars in perpetuity. The Harry S. Truman Library will realize that public-spirited desire.

When completed, the Library and the papers will be offered as a gift to the United States Government, to be managed by the National Archives, as the Hyde Park Library is.

The Government of the United States is already assisting former President Truman to prepare his papers for eventual transfer to the Government, in accordance with his firmly expressed intentions. Ground for the structure was broken May 8.

Edmund F. Mansure, Administrator of the General Services Administration, with the approval of the White House, has provided archival assistance for the task of arranging, classifying and selecting the papers for ultimate deposit with the Federal Records Act of 1950. High among the axioms of Americanism is that there can be no partisanship in preserving intact the facts which are the fabric of our history. In view of the great historical value of presidential papers, forehanded provisions for their orderly preservation and opening to historical research at a reasonably early time have been far too rare."

Under Dr. Grover's direction, professional archivists are classifying and sorting the papers which are now in safekeeping in the Jackson County Court House in Kansas City, Missouri.

# Who Will Benefit?

Citizens in all parts of the country will benefit from the preservation of the Truman papers and from their availability for study. To those throughout the middle section of the Nation, however, the library will have particular interest.

The new institution is to be located in the Greater Kansas City area on a large tract of land adjoining Slover park in Mr. Truman's home city of Independence. Throughout this whole part of the country today there exists no comparable collection of historical papers and no center of historical research such as the Truman Library will provide. It will be a resource of inestimable value to the colleges and universities of an immense territory.

Hereafter, indeed, anyone who wants to make a serious study of one of the most important periods in our national history – whether he is interested in its international policy, domestic politics, economics, or social conditions – will find a visit to the Truman Library virtually indispensable for that purpose. But the Library will not be of concern only to specialists. It will attract thousands of ordinary men, women, and children every month of the year.

the United States. This work is under the direct supervision of Dr. Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the United States.

Stressing the importance of the Presidential papers, Mr. Mansure said:

"The present arrangement is a significant contribution to American history. It fulfills a request of the former President, has the approval of the White House, and is in keeping with Its exhibition halls will contain many mementos and rare gifts presented to President Truman by rulers and other persons from all over the world. Its auditorium will offer historical films and lectures. And there will be a replica of the famous oval office of the White House exactly as it was arranged during Mr. Truman's occupancy. The Truman Library thus should stimulate an ever-increasing interest in our government and, particularly, in our foreign affairs.



# Presidential Papers

What they show - What happens to them

The papers of the Presidents—the messages they receive and the messages they send, formal and informal letters, personal jottings, notes, memos, and scrawls on scraps of papers, tell a story apart from that recorded in the official records of government. It is a story which rises from the hearts of the people, a story which reflects the spirit of America and a story only Presidents can tell.

It has been so since the days of George Washington. And from the beginning a President's files have always been considered to be his personal property. Yet, although they are personal property, they are also of the greatest historical importance to the Nation. the people. You can judge a good deal of a man's character by the kind of problems people take up with him and by the extent to which they confide in him. The simple and homely correspondence of Abraham Lincoln, for instance, opened to the public at long last only seven years ago, is a good illustration. These letters to Lincoln are a lot more accurate in showing his true character than are the files of the newspapers of his day.

Personal letters, however, are but a part of the papers of President Truman. There are, for example, reports from all

Presidential papers are unlike those of any other governmental official. A President's papers are not departmental records. They are the records of a man, not the files of a government department or agency.

The personal letters of a President reveal his character and show the measure of the esteem in which he is held by sources on the major problems of our times, covering the period from the explosion of the first atomic bomb to the conflict against aggression in Korea. There are the papers to and from cabinet members, ambassadors and heads of state, covering the whole story of our acceptance as a Nation of our international responsibilities, our response to the threat of communism and our participation in the affairs of the United Nations. Many of the documents show how President Truman stood up for the common man, how he fought for human liberty and for human welfare. There are writings which prove the tremendous pressures brought to bear against his position on these and other world problems, revealing how much easier it would have been for him to give in to the forces of reaction.

There are papers which show, like flashes of light, the character of the man himself. In the Roosevelt papers some of the most interesting items are little memo slips on which FDR gave directions to his staff about pending matters. President Truman in the same way jotted down his reactions, at times quite freely and plainly, in telling his staff what to do.

Another class of papers comprises the reminders President Truman wrote to himself as a record of important events or of things he wished to remember. He did not keep a diary, in fact, few presidents have ever had the time to do so, but these purely personal memos are much like diary jottings.

When we realize that the papers of many of our Presidents have been tragically lost to the Nation, the need for the Truman Library is evident. The son of President Millard Fillmore ordered his executors to destroy his father's papers, which they did, in large part. All of President William Harrison's papers were destroyed when his old home burned down. In other cases the widows or heirs lost or sold or gave away records which were important milestones in the progress of our American history.

Only a very few of our Presidents have been wealthy, and it has, therefore, been a temptation for the families of some Presidents to sell their papers to pay off debts, or to bequeath them to heirs as valuable gifts.

For example, half of the papers of Thomas Jefferson, who left a most carefully indexed collection, were scattered to all parts of the country, picked up by libraries, institutions and private collectors. Today, after much expense and long research, a complete collection of the Jefferson papers is finally being published.

To avoid these dangers, President Truman decided long ago to give his papers to the Government, to become the property of the American people. The people, in his opinion, made his papers valuable by the office they conferred on him, and it is the people, therefore, who ought to own them.

This is the basic principle which underlies the concept of the Truman Library. It will be a library built by the people to preserve the papers which Mr. Truman desires to turn over to them as a record of service during a time of world crisis.



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