



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Reel  
186

Box  
70

Folder  
990

On naming of mushroom for A. H. Silver, 1958.



*On naming of plant  
by the Reichert 58-30*

I need not tell you that I am deeply moved by the honor which you have bestowed upon me today. I have, in the past, received -- in many instances quite undeservedly -- marks of recognition, but this is a unique experience for me and deeply appreciated.

I want to thank the eminent scientist, Professor Israel Reichert, especially for having selected me to receive the honor of having the new mushroom which he found and classified, named after me. This is the highest honor which a scientist can bestow upon anyone. I have, for years, enjoyed the privilege of his friendship, and that of Mrs. Reichert, and this, his latest expression of friendship, I shall deeply cherish.

To have one's name associated with a plant in Israel is a rare distinction indeed. Our people was always fond of associating precious things and high human values and ideals with growing things and with natural phenomena. Our Torah is likened to a tree of life. The good man is like a tree planted by streams of water. The life of man and of nations are likened to grass and flowers which flourish and pass away, while the word of God endures forever. How often is the House of Israel compared to a vineyard of the Lord, and the men of Judah to a plant of His delight. In the gladsome time of Restoration -- which may also apply to our own times -- "the wilderness", we read, "will be turned into a pool of water and the dry land into springs of water. God will cause to plant in the wilderness the Cedar, the Acacia-tree, the Myrtle and the Oil-tree and He will cause to be set in the desert the Cypress, the Plane tree and the Larch". (Is. 41.18-19).

The impressive scientific discovery of Professor Reichert of the Hebrew University School of Agriculture, is a signal achievement from a great scientist and from a great institution from which many new discoveries, I am sure, will be vouchsafed in the future to mankind in many fields of human endeavor. The little land of Judea has in the past sent forth revelations and influences which have affected the course of human history. It has been a land of light and leading for mankind. Revolutionary ideas in religion and in ethics have come forth from among these mountains in Judea and plains of Sumeria. The vigor and vitality of the



people of Israel which made these vast contributions to civilization are not spent. The creative spiritual and intellectual energies are here -- the vision and the dedication are here -- of men and women who love truth and wish to serve their people and mankind in the highest ranges of the mind and the soul. There will be many startling discoveries emanate from this land which will be a blessing, not only to Israel, but to the whole of mankind.

The land of Israel is small, but the people of Israel will make it great. The monumental contributions to civilization have been made by great peoples which have inhabited little countries. Generations of men and women to come, living in this land of challenge and renewal, will speak great words and do great deeds. Not in opulence but in eminence will their destiny be fulfilled, and their pride will be distilled not out of dominion or far-flung borders, but out of the rare achievements of heart and mind.

Israel  
April 1958

