



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
186

Box
70

Folder
991

Dead Sea Scrolls, 1959.

1/ Mss. - ^{Byblus} oldest - 9 and 10 c.
2/ Suddenly - 1947 - ^{Wilderness} Heb. Mss. over 2000 yrs. old - ^{Before Congress} discovered

Vast literature - When? Why? Where? Can text? ^{2nd Century}
What Sign for Biblical criticism - What light

The Mss. 1947 - not only - In 1949 add. fragments
belonging to some 70 scrolls - In 1952 - in another
cave 2 rolls 1 copper - plus many fragments
7 fragments belonging to about 100 separate scrolls
In 1956 additional distinct scrolls - in the same cave.

there may be others which are still in the hands
of Bedouins from the Wilderness - or Antiquarians
holding out for a price

3/ Story of Find - In summer, 1947 - 2 Bed. shepherds
- wilderness N. W. shore Dead Sea - 12 k

South 1314 East of Jerusalem in a lost spot - (cave)

next day 8 shepherds - In one - found seven rolls walk out

7 rolls - some covered with Faltered lines - showed
them around - Bethlehem - Trading center Bedouins in
desert, Jordan agreed to sell them. Finally an
Antiquarian belonging to Syrian - Dr. Samu'el brought
them - 20 pounds - In turn - sold 4 Mss. to the head
of the Monastery, St. Mark in Old Jerusalem - the Syrian

Orthodox Archbishop. Mr. Athanasios Samuel - Did not (2)
know true value - Took them to Amer. School of
Oriental Research in Jer. - Prof. W.F. (Albright) ^{thought} "an
absolutely incredible find" (dating 100 B.C.)

4/ In the mean-time - Prof. Elazar Sukenik - was
approached by an ~~Arab friend~~ ^{Arab friend} from Bethlehem. It was
during the stormy days of Mar. '47 - when Arab + Jew. sectors
in Jer. were separated by barbed wire. (S. met him at one
of the gates - showed him a ~~piece~~ ^{scraps} [rather with Heb. inscriptions
- told him he had ~~scraps~~ been approached by ~~him~~ ^{Arabians} - (Scraps)
That he would buy them for Heb. - Took to Bethlehem -
Received Mos. for study - And on Mar. 29 (U.N.)
requested the other three Mos.)

5/ Prof. S. and others tried to buy the 4 from Mos. holders -
Came to U.S. - better market - a few million dollars
- no purchases at that price.

(Gift given) - Would not sell direct to Jews?

- In Jan 1-1954 - "Hall Street Journal" - 4 Mos. holders
scraps for sale - apply to Box 206 W-St. Terminal
- Israel Gov. underwritten purchase \$50.000. (July 1-54)
requested - On Mar. 30th received \$50.000 -
- H. Un. Library - Saw them all - under glass - in May

The 7 MSS. 6 in Heb. 1 in Aramaic - an ^{new} ^{the} ³ friends
possession of Israel.

6/. Prof. S. Cleveland - (Mar. 21 - 1949) - Temple -
lectured with slides on the (3) MSS. Requested
me to help him publish them - text and photos - +
his ed. notes \$12,000 -

7/. These Seven MSS. are
1-2. Two copies of the Book of Isaiah - ^{the best}
preserved of all seven
3. A Commentary on the Book of Psalms.
4. A Book of Thanks giving Psalms.
5. A Manual of Discipline.
6. "The War bet. the Children of Light and the Children of Darkness."
7. Portner, the Book of Genesis in a free Aramaic
rendering.

8/. The well preserved Bk. of Isaiah - contains all 66 chapters
and is remarkable proof for the fact that it establishes
the authenticity of the Ch. & the Masorah Text - as we
now have it - slight variations - many 13p-113p
in ch. 6 (only twice)
Ch. 2.1.16. " ~~to~~ also 2/1 3/102 - 1/10 2/10 2/10 1/10
2/10 3/120 1/10 2/10 2/10 1/10

For thus the Lord said to us - "Within a year, according to the
years of a his reckoning - all the glory of Kodan will come to an end."

Ms. reads - and all.

Is. 4.12. who has measured the waters in the hollow, his
hand, and marked off the heavens with a span 2 1/2 in

Slight variations bet. first and second copies
Text not fully correct - and yet - amazing accuracy

9). Com. on p 1725 - included among the seven - in both
only ~~one~~ ^{as 1725} found in caves - Pralms ~~not here~~
- gives a mystic interpretation of the suffering, the righteous
at the hands, the world and the enemy the dread
challenges to conquer the earth.
The commentators clearly apply it to the pol.
conditions of his own time. - a time of great trouble
and affliction -

- Here for the first time we come upon the p 33 ²⁷ ~~28~~
the Teacher of Righteousness and the of 13 ¹² the wicked
host - his enemy - and Kittians - bent on
destroying the people far and wide - as the Great Judgment
Day approaches -

Who is this p 33 ²⁷ ~~28~~ - and of 13 ¹² and
the Kittians, a ~~and~~ whole liter. - he has been accurately

no final answer. - We shall come back to it in a moment 5

10/ "The Book of Thanks, or a Psalm" - rel. song - 2311
expressing the sentiments of the ^{or man} who belated to this
~~land~~ ^{on brotherhood} ~~a~~ ^{seed} - whose writings were found in these ^{ancient} ~~ancient~~ ^{manuscripts} ~~manuscripts~~
~~35 chapters~~ ^{Person} ~~and~~ ^{of} ~~God~~ ^{had} ~~been~~ ^{past} ~~to~~ ^{be} ~~revealed~~ ^{his} ~~his~~ ^{mystery} ~~to~~ ^{him}. - In ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{persecutions} -
persecutions - having been compelled to flee from his home -
- God has ^{strengthened} ~~strengthened~~ ^{his} ~~his~~ ^{hand} ~~in~~ ^{his} ~~struggle~~ -
saved him - and will ^{win} ~~win~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{ultimate} ~~ultimate ^{victory} ~~victory~~ ^{for} ~~for~~ ^{all} ~~all ^{his} ~~his~~ ^{enemies} - in the ^{end} ~~end~~ ^{days} - near ^{approaching} ~~approaching~~.
- May have been written by the ^{ps} ~~ps~~ ²³¹¹ ~~2311 ^h ~~h.
(Isaiah p. 128.) (129) (131) (132).~~~~~~~~

11/ I pass for a moment to the Ms. - "Psalms, or 102
in ^{Hebrew} ~~Hebrew~~ ^{contains} ~~contains~~ ^{many} ~~many~~ ^{details} - ~~many~~ ~~of~~ ~~these~~
^{not} ~~not~~ ^{found} ~~found~~ ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{Heb. text} ~~Heb. text - In style resembles
the Book of ^{Isaiah} ~~Isaiah~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{Psalm} ~~Psalm ^{epiphany} ~~epiphany - elaborate
in beauty & ^{not} ~~not~~ ^{found} ~~found ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{text} ~~text - When
the ^{text} ~~text ^{is} ~~is ^{found} ~~found ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{text} ~~text ^(p. 13) ~~(p. 13)~~
^{describes} ~~describes~~ ^{Abraham's} ~~Abraham's ^{movement} ~~movement ^{from} ~~from
place to place - May have name -~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

12/ Return to 2 Mss. "A Manual of Devotion" and

12
The workshops + W. ^{in Brit} ~~work~~ room - The tower + 8 tower - room
and the bath ~~rooms~~ / then remarkable cross on wall
this was their headquarters. Here they met for their ~~work~~
and ~~concern~~ daily meals - and then ~~school~~ preparation.
Here they wrote the ~~new~~ ^{new} books - which during the turbulent
days 165-20 - they had to hide ~~hardly~~ in ~~very~~ ^{secret}
caves - as they fled for their lives - & then ~~monastery~~
was destroyed - ~~many~~ is the ~~cave~~ where ~~then~~
dead were buried.

14/ Who were they - ~~Esenes~~ - ~~objects~~ to any
15/ 1 official rel. leader - Temple - ~~objects~~ to
free high priest Aaron ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~rule~~ ^{rule} he
worked in no way. Had a ~~calendar~~ which
differed from one in use ~~officially~~ - so that their
16/ days fell on diff. days - Could not keep
sacred to Temple - ~~was represented~~ ^{represented} ~~Had to be~~
not only ~~Roman~~ but ~~even~~ ^{even} ~~then~~

~~Had~~ for currency ~~lead~~ when the 1/20 ~~lead~~
was ~~circulated~~ - and ~~3 1/2~~ ^{1/2} ~~was~~ ^{would} ~~offer~~ ^{offer} ~~with the~~
Cure, Roman (100 ~~denarii~~) - ~~Esene~~ ^{children} ~~light~~ ^{light} ~~the~~

15/ ~~Hyperboreans~~ (1) Authentic Texts
(2) ~~Myer~~ / ~~Cherubim~~ - ~~Stream~~ -