



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
187

Box
71

Folder
1075

Europe revisited, undated.

1. Drinker - a subtle man - present trip.
Bacon.

2. A purely - Sham - I find it
very different - standing on 2 feet. Hill.
- with 3 Headings.

3. Political.

1. In grip of Intense Nationalism
1- newly formed states Koruo.

2. Defeated - Retrievers - Rhineland

3. victors - Robert winning.

version . chauvinism -

2. In grip of Reaction . Conservatism.

1. Turn after war - liberalism -
then reaction - Waterloo.

2. liberalism product of peace -

3. Tories in Eng - Hindenburg - Macdonald -
Italy -

3. In grip of military preparedness -

1. Germany - Bingen - Turn-Verein.
Poland - soldiers everywhere - budget
afraid . 27 million -

4. Security fact only solution -

4. Economic

1. Better - no surplus value -
2. Germ. Fr. Chemo ^{Rumania} - prosperous -
3. Currency stabilized.
4. Peasant well-off
5. Europeans around Rosids.

5. Jewish

1. Politically free. Econ. in straits - socially persecuted.
2. Econ. Taxation - Poland.
3. Anti-Semitism rampant. - express itself as in writing, denunciations - occasional riot.
4. Causes - unrest - unhappiness - escape - Ben Aggass - waterworks comes in contact with the achei

5. Vienna: Habsburg Country

1. Reduced. 2. defeated. 3. impoverished. then unemployment -
4. Jew prominent.
5. Riots - Juden Heraus! Hängt sie auf! - Church to Church - Washington.
6. Poland - Supplican Jews so to the towns - Russians - Boycott Leuchter

6. Effects. 2 fild

1. Aperbury - Köln-Pandalaho
Stehende gekauft.

2. Nationauxin - spirit not
owned in East-Em. School
& gymnasium. Hebrew. Meisai
movement.



The economic conditions of our brothers in E. Europe is an unhappy one. This is especially true of Poland where 3 million Jews live. The lot, the working ^{in general} ~~classes~~ in those countries is at best a desperate one. They live in normal ^{living} ~~life~~ is one of poverty, want and squalor. They work hard and receive little. The lot, the Jewish working masses is even harder; for they are discriminated against by the Polish people and by the Polish Govt. The labor of the J. working man is exploited, and where ever the Govt. takes over an industry, such as the tobacco industry, it makes a joint monopoly of it - it throws thousands of Jew. working men out of employment - On the street car and railway systems of Poland, not a Jew is employed - An attempt is now being made to revive the old guild law, whereby any industrial worker would have to obtain a diploma, before he can engage in any gainful occupation. These certificates will be granted by examination boards composed, of course, largely of anti Sem. Poles. The consequence can readily be foreseen - The Jews will be kept out of the trades - as he has been kept out of Govt. offices and monopolies. So that the Jew. workmen of Poland have been driven by despair to the organization of what is known as the "Right to Work" movement - to defend the inalienable right of human beings to keep their families from starvation -

None is the lot of the Jewish merchant & small tradesman any better. The Jews have heretofore constituted the middle class of Poland - They lived chiefly in the cities & were the shopkeepers, the small capitalists, the entrepreneurs -

In Warsaw, I saw slums, the most appalling ~~one~~^{most}, where
the poor, my people live out their weary days in penury
& want, but I saw ^{where} schools in Warsaw & high schools
where the children, these same people received excellent
instruction at the hands of trained & competent teachers.

In Westchester, the ravage, was as still visible. Every-
where - we saw families still dwelling in the cellars
& buildings crumbled & beaten into debris by shot & shell.
We saw a stable in which 20 families still dwelt.
But ~~in that city of destruction~~ ^{in that city of destruction} ~~where~~ ^{where} to be found, could not, the
tear-wrenched "zlotas" & "grushens", these three-afflicted
brothers, our -

In Lemberg - where in ^{late Nov} 1918, shortly after the armistice,
the shocking pogrom occurred, in which 600 of our people
men, women & children were ~~assassinated~~ ^{assassinated} - we stood beside
their silent graves in the Cemetery of Lemberg &
~~read the prayer book from the mouth~~ ^{read the prayer book from the mouth}; the old Rabbi
heard the prayer book of those martyred ~~dead~~ ^{dead} in Lemberg.
I say, when in the Jew. quarter one can still see
on every side the scars & wounds, those bloody
days - we found Jew schools in which undaunted
& unabashed the spirit, our race was nurtured
as of old -

Everywhere we found a great loyalty, and a great devotion
to the people & the faith, Israel. The youth especially
have been ~~carried~~ ^{carried} lit up as it were, by a spirit of
great exaltation - They are Jewish to the core - They
pride us upon their knowledge, ~~where~~ ^{where} - they speak it
in the streets - they boast the blue & white insignia,
they are banded into ~~gangs~~ ^{gangs} athletes & sports fraternities.

Our unfortunate brothers of East. Eur. are not broken in
spirit. Their morale is not gone. They do not present
the spectacle of a dependent and a defeated people.
I wish that many free-born Am. Jews perceived
that sp. status is independence which their
German + French brothers possess — As
a rule prejudice & persecution degrade their victims
to a position where their degradation seems almost
justified — But the Jews, E. E. have not been so
degraded — Rather have they been shocked. In their
unquenchable faith, their unshaken steadfastness,
I read again the miracle of our indestructibility.



~~In W. Europe the Jew is subjected to~~

As regards the condition of the Jews, it should be noted first that the Jew is everywhere free. First the first time since they ~~first~~ entered Europe 2000 yrs ago - the Jews a day when they enjoyed formal political equality - up to 8 yrs ago - 1/2 of the Jew, the world, living in ~~the~~ Russia, where they were disfranchised and ~~treated~~ alien. To-day ~~throughout Europe~~ ^{the Jew} ~~the Jew~~ shares the same is a citizen in every country of Europe - And yet - such is the ~~unwisdom~~ ^{weakness} of pol. democracy ~~that in spite of this~~ ^{that in spite of this} equality the Jew ~~is~~ ^{is} everywhere in Europe - with the few exceptions of 3 or 4 countries - ~~discriminated against~~ ^{living} under various disabilities and discriminations - In W. Europe ~~but~~ in Germany - in Austria, in Hungary - his life has been embittered by a relentless and unscrupulous anti-Semitism which is directed towards one section of the people, which excommunicates him from the learned as well as from the ignorant, from the working classes as well as from the masses, which manifests itself in the ~~expressions~~ ^{expressions} of Jewish students' ~~propaganda~~ ^{propaganda} ~~and Jew~~ ^{and Jew} ~~propaganda~~ ^{propaganda} ~~in the numerous~~ ^{in the numerous} defamatory & inflammatory ~~publications~~ ^{publications} in hostile political alignments, ~~and~~ in a blind social ostracism, and occasionally in ~~public~~ ^{public} demonstrations & riots which ~~breaks~~ ^{breaks} on the progress - We witnessed such riots in Vienna in August: ~~back~~ ^{back} these riots were all the we missed seeing the grand riot which took place on the night before the opening of the Zionist Congress - for, true to form, I was delivering an address that night. That was one instance where an address & mine kept me out of trouble.

But the following Saturday afternoon, I stood on the
Arch of the Brandenburg, and saw 10,000 Viennese -
old & young - goldsmiths & unemployed - students
& professors - & children - & children... march
by on their way from the White Church to the Karlskirche
from one Chr. Church to another Chr. Church -
~~chanting~~ ~~chanting~~ in unison - Juden herans! Juden
herans! - 300 miles East of Vienna that they
would have been signal for a massacre!

This open & barefaced ^{and circumstantial} hostility, which the W.F. Jews
presumably say when "has in many instances overwhelmed
them - the less sturdy & their hands yielded to the pressure
and have sought escape in ^{circumstances}. ~~Thousands~~
have Communism is a daily occurrence in Germ. in
Austria, in Hungary - (Cologne). Fine Jew! March
Shalibo - 2 weeks later he was a 3rd! - I have
in my heart only pity for their weak & their victims
who find the life's pressure too great ^{to bear} for them. I
do not wish to judge them - Some others have attempted
to meet anti-semitism. Vilification by ~~falsely~~ emphasizing
their 100% Germ. & Magyarism. They stress their Germ.
A Berliner or Viennese family - They out German
the Germans. They talk as if their preferences were
the Virgils fought as Virgils against the Romans -
They convince no one, not even themselves -
~~the~~ a reaction has set in among the Jew youth
of Germany. They refuse to be kept from their minds
hypnotized by the muddled reasoning of their elders

they have decided - & logically every 4 - that the solution
of Antis. lies not in truckling to those who despise
you - but in recreating ~~your~~ own life with full
independence and self-respect. They are proud, their
of Jewish allegiance, ^{they} cultivate Jew. culture, & face life
as free men.

