



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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Olivet, Michigan, 1946.

Olivet College
Olivet, Michigan
March 11, 1946

Rabbi A. H. Silver
246 East 105th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver,

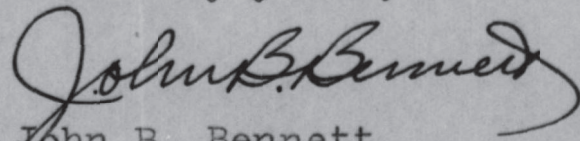
Our chapel committee, a student group in the main, is extending its duties beyond the planning of chapel services alone. It is working with some townspeople to bring leading religious individuals to the college community for worship services the first Sunday evening in each month.

Can you arrange to begin this series on April 7? We realize that this is a late date at which to ask you to come, but our project is newly planned and we sincerely hope you can speak for us on the date indicated.

The service will begin at 7:30, and, like most vesper services, will be rather simply planned. If you have any suggestions as to specific items to include in the worship program we shall welcome them, however.

I am new in this section of the country. But I have heard my colleagues and many of our students speak so highly of you that I am glad to concur in their invitation to you.

Sincerely yours,


John B. Bennett
Professor of Religion

March 13, 1946

Professor John B. Bennett
Olivet College
Olivet, Michigan

My dear Professor Bennett:

I deeply appreciate your kind letter and your invitation to address a meeting under the auspices of your chapel committee on Sunday evening, April 7. I feel honored that you have invited me and I wish I were free to accept your invitation. Unfortunately I am so heavily committed for the remainder of the season that I cannot in justice to myself take on any additional obligations. Perhaps at some future time I may be able to be of service to you.

With all good wishes, and again thanking you for the courtesy of your invitation, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

OLIVET COLLEGE
OLIVET, MICHIGAN

June 18, 1946

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Last year we had an exchange of letters in which you indicated that you would come to Olivet this year if we could arrange a suitable time.

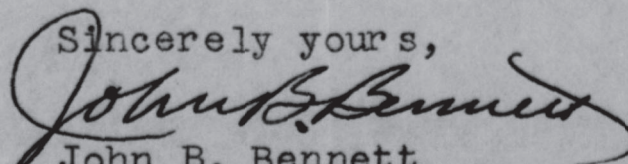
The Student Relations Committee is planning a program of religious activities for the next school year which we hope will be far more significant than the usual "religious emphasis week." The program includes, among other plans, a vesper program for the first Sunday evening of each month - a college and community assembly. We are interested in having men come to the campus who are eminently able to present religion as a matter of personal devotion and social action.

We want you for one of these services, preferably February 2, 1947. We should like for you to deliver the sermon at the vesper service and then participate in a forum later in the evening. If it is possible, we should like to have you remain for another day or two in addition to meet with individuals and small groups of students for further discussions.

You will know best what theme to develop with the college group as a whole. Our students are very able intellectually, and they have the usual skepticism about religion in general and organized religion in particular. We have a relatively large number of Jewish students here and I often feel that they are particularly lacking in the matter of moorings. Perhaps they are only more vocal and frank in their analyses. At any rate, we should like for you to have them in mind in your visit, particularly in relation to the informal discussions.

If you cannot come at the time suggested, will you please indicate another time so that we may arrange our schedule accordingly? We can work out the details later, and I am sure that we can make a satisfactory arrangement concerning honorarium and expenses. Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,


John B. Bennett
Professor of Religion

June 22, 1946

Professor John B. Bennett
Olivet College
Olivet, Michigan

My dear Professor Bennett:

I deeply appreciate your kindness in inviting me again to come to Olivet College next year. I should like to assure you that if I were at all free to accept additional lecture engagements for the coming season I would be most happy to come to you. As it is, I have been compelled to decline many invitations which under normal conditions I would be most happy to accept. I have so many commitments in connection with the Jewish situation overseas and in Palestine that I am unable to take on additional responsibilities. I was twice out of the country during this past season and I might have to be away again for a good part of this coming year. I am sure that you will understand.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK