



## 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 VII: Personal Miscellaneous, 1908-1989, undated.

Sub-series A: Biographical, 1908-1981.

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Correspondence re: Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, 1964-1969.

September 17, 1964

Mr. Harold Manson  
320 Central Park West  
New York 25, N. Y.

Dear Harold:

First, a happy New Year. I am grateful to you for sending on the Library inscription at the Hebrew University. It seems most appropriate.

Now, down to tachlis. You know that Dad left a biographical manuscript, and you know also that it stands in need of considerable revision. I worked on the first part of it this summer, the personal and the rabbinic, and using Dad's own language, found scattered here and there, I managed to reshape the first part. Going over the archival material, there is enough and then more with which to amplify and to develop the Zionist side of the story. I need, however, one who is intimate with the details of the forty through the fifty period. I think that it could be done in a two months period. Could you arrange a leave of absence from the American Friends and spend that time with us? The Archives has sufficient funds for your expenses and for any reasonable salary, say \$1000.00 a month.

I am now beginning to draw together materials to publish in our Abba Hillel Silver anthology, and I should like the autobiography to be done at about the same time. How about it?

With all good wishes for the New Year, I remain

Cordially yours,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:lg



RE  
DR. SILVER

320 Central Park West  
New York, New York 10025  
April 5, 1965

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

When we last met, some months ago, we discussed the possibility of your sending me a photocopy of the biographical manuscript so that I might offer specific suggestions in the event that you decide to proceed with the original publication plans.

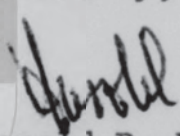
Please let me know your present plans in this regard.

My love to your mother.

Ever best to you and yours.



Cordially,

  
Harold P. Manson



DOCTOR ILIE BERGER  
DENTIST  
176 WATERMAN STREET  
PROVIDENCE 6, R. I.  
GASPEE 1-2333 - 1-2334

Dear Rabbi Silver,

May 28/65

I was trying to find out for quite a while where you are located. It was Rabbi William Brand of Temple Beth El, who gave me your address. Your father was one of my dearest friends. Even when he joined the group against Lipsey, I still loved him. God forgive him about the time when we were delegates to a Zionist Congress, during Hitler's Holocaust, when he addressed the Congress, he got himself in dispute with the then chief Rabbi Brody of Belgium, now a prominent Rabbi in Britain. When your father was chairman of the U.S.A. said that he was against illegal immigration to Israel in spite of the Jewish people trying to escape the concentration camps with their ultimate destruction. He later apologized in audience at a private meeting. He certainly was one of the main figures in getting Israel as a nation. As a Republican and S. Stephen was as a Democrat succeeded for the partition of Palestine. He addressed once a graduating class of Brown University in a church. And spoke about Tolstoy's 6 feet deep grave, that is all we need he said, when he finished with the great oratory of his, the applause was tremendous. No one was ever applauded in the church before. I just donated in Florida is moving in Kfar Blue Agricultural School about \$1275.00, in Hollywood Temple, on account of me they have raised \$40,000 toward the same Project.

Sincerely,  
Seymour



June 1, 1965

Mr. Harold P. Manson  
320 Central Park West  
New York, New York 10025

Dear Mr. Manson:

Pardon this delay in answering your note. We have made a decision to delay publication of the biographical manuscript and to expand publication of dad's lectures and sermons. We plan seriously to have the first volume off the press by early spring.

Everyone is well here. It has been a busy but good year. I hope that we will see you soon.

As always,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:mgm

June 2, 1965

Dr. Ilie Berger  
176 Waterman Street  
Providence 6, Rhode Island

Dear Dr. Berger:

Thank you for your kind note and for the memories involved. I am enclosing several sermons of the past year which you may find of interest.

Sincerely,



DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:mgm  
Enclz.



The Temple

Date: 9-16-67

From: LEO S. BAMBERGER

To: Rabbi Silver

This is from N.E.

Blank — Can be

reached temporarily

Go R. Silenko

1707 Warrenville  
Av. Rd.

Phone:  
449-3513

74121

September 18, 1967

Mr. N. E. Blanke  
% R. Gilenko  
1707 Warrensville Center Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44121

Dear Mr. Blanke:

I received from Mr. Bamberger the beautiful photograph of Dr. Silver and I am most grateful. It has been placed in the Archives where it will be permanently available.

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rvf



THE TEMPLE



*Congregation B'nai Jehudah*

712 East Sixty-Ninth Street • Kansas City, Missouri 64131  
Telephone: EMerson 3-1050

DR. WILLIAM B. SILVERMAN, Rabbi

August 7, 1968

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
c/o The Temple  
University Circle & Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

I meant to answer your letter before leaving on vacation but never had a chance. When I sent you the letter from Elinor Borenstine, Eddie Jacobson's daughter, it was not meant to disparage your dear father in any way. Please remember that I knew him and loved him from childhood. As one of the greatest leaders of American Jewry, he needs no defense. It just seemed to me that this was an interesting item and that's why I sent it to you. No offense intended -- I'm dropping the matter.

With kindest personal regards and affectionate greetings for you and yours, I am

Most cordially,

Rabbi William B. Silverman

WBS:jv



SILVERMAN

August 9, 1968

Rabbi William B. Silverman  
The Temple Congregation  
B'nai Jehudah  
Kansas City, Missouri 64131

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your note. My purpose was to indicate that the American Jewish Archives had initiated this whole issue and was not the place for any further discussion of it.

When am I going to get something from you for the Journal?

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rvf



RABBI LEON I. FEUER, D.D.

COLLINGWOOD AVENUE TEMPLE

TOLEDO, OHIO 43620

May 12, 1969

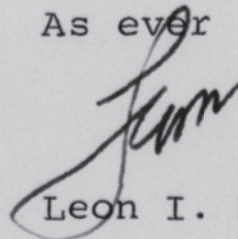
Dear Dan,

I have been invited to do the biographical essay on your Dad for the new Encyclopedia Judaica.

I would like to make it a little different from the usual conventional article of that sort, so would appreciate it if there is any material or data that you would like to make available to me in connection with it. I have to begin writing it in a couple of weeks so will greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Hortense joins me in sending our love to Virginia, Adele and to yourself.

As ever



Leon I. Feuer

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106



May 14, 1969

Rabbi Leon I. Feuer  
Collingwood Avenue Temple  
Toledo, Ohio 43620

Dear Leon:

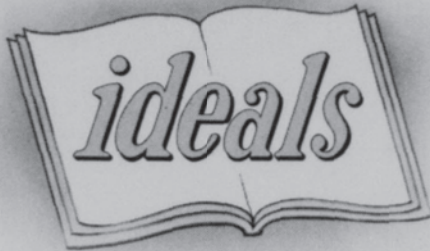
You are welcome to any material. The Archives are cataloged and open and everything we have is in them. Perhaps a day here would be a happy day for us and a pleasant day reviewing the past.

As always,

DJS:mgm

Daniel Jeremy Silver





PUBLISHING CO.

11315 WATERTOWN PLANK ROAD • MILWAUKEE • PHONE 414-771-2700

MAILING ADDRESS: POST OFFICE BOX 1101, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201, U. S. A.

September 9, 1969

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Good Morning, Rabbi Silver:

In our forthcoming INSPIRATION IDEALS 1970 we would like to reprint your fine poem: AMERICA.

This was taken from: A TREASURE CHEST. The acknowledgment was as follows: "From A TREASURY OF SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS by Charles L. Wallis."

Abingdon Press has asked for an inclusion in the credit line.

If you own the rights to this poem, may we have your permission to use it? If you do not, may we have the name and address of the copyright owner.

Upon publication we shall send our reproduction fee of \$10.00 and also a complimentary copy of the issue.

Enclosed is a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience. May we hear from you soon?

Sincerely,

*Geraldine Zisk*

Geraldine Zisk  
Editorial Assistant

*"America's most beautiful and wholesome publications!"*



September 11, 1969

Geraldine Zisk  
Ideals Publishing Co.  
P. O. Box 1101  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Miss Zisk:

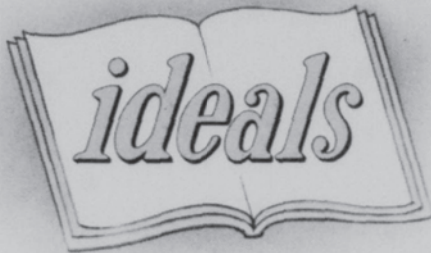
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver went to his eternal rest in November, 1965. This fact is noted in Who's Who which your office could have searched out before addressing its letter: "Good Morning, Rabbi Silver."

Yours truly,

mm

Miss Mihok for Rabbi Silver(Daniel J. Silver)





## PUBLISHING CO.

11315 WATERTOWN PLANK ROAD • MILWAUKEE • PHONE 414-771-2700

MAILING ADDRESS: POST OFFICE BOX 1101, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201, U. S. A.

October 6, 1969

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Good Morning, Rabbi Silver:

We have received a letter regarding Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, stating that Rabbi Silver passed on in November 1963. We are sorry that we were not aware of this when we sent our letter to you on September 11, however, one copy of Who's Who noted his birthdate, but no date of his death - - while another issue did not have his name in it - we therefore, presumed that he was still living.

We regret having to write to you again regarding the use of the poem "America", but after contacting the Abingdon Press, they suggested that we contact the author for copyright clearance.

Do you hold this copyright, and if so, may we have permission to reprint it in our forthcoming INSPIRATION IDEALS. The poem was taken from the anthology "A TREASURY OF SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS".

To further acquaint you with our publication, please accept a copy of one of our inspirational issues.

Miss Geraldine Zisk who contacted you previously is on vacation at the present time, and we are in need of this permission before the book goes to press. May we hear from you?

Cordially,

Lorraine Obst  
Editorial Assistant

Enc.

*"America's most beautiful and wholesome publications!"*



BELLEFONTE PA.  
10/2/69.

DEAR SIR:

ENCLOSED FIND CLIPPING  
FROM PHILADELPHIA SUNDAY  
BULLETIN. DATED 10/5/69.

COULD YOU INFORM ME  
IF YOUR LATE FATHER  
COMPOSED THIS POEM. AND  
WHAT DATE IT WAS WRITTEN.

/ ALSO WOULD LIKE YOUR  
PERMISSION TO RE PRINT IT  
IN OUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER  
AND ALSO USE IT IN  
OUR ELKS AMERICANISM  
PROGRAM. & FLAG DAY  
SERVICES.

C. B. MOERSCHBACHER  
442 E. BISHOP ST  
BELLEFONTE  
PA.



Mr. Fixit

# America, A Continent Of Glory ...



Got a problem? Call Mr. Fixit at CO 3-6767, 5 P. M. to 9 P. M., Mondays through Fridays, or, better yet, write him at The Evening and Sunday Bulletin Post Office Box 8700, 30th and Market sts., Phila., Pa. 19101. Mr. Fixit works on many problems and some of the answers appear in this column.

Several years ago, in one of my high school textbooks, I found an inspiring poem by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver. I copied it out of the book and carried it with me wherever I went. It was titled "America."

Now I've lost it. The textbook in which I had first seen it is no longer used by my school. I've looked in anthologies and hunted for copies everywhere. Mr. Fixit, can you help? It is an inspiring poem, and it would be a real comfort to have it with me.

We made many fruitless calls to Washington and other cities, trying to find a copy of "America." Even B'nai B'rith's Washington headquarters could offer nothing more tangible than other sources to contact.

Finally, we called Rabbi Charles D. Mintz, director of the Pennsylvania Council, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, with headquarters in Philadelphia. He joined in the search which ended happily at Congregation Tifereth Israel in Cleveland, Ohio. Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver found it among his late father's papers. He promptly forwarded it to Rabbi Mintz and with his permission we reprint it here:

October 17, 1969

Mrs. Lorraine Obst  
Editorial Assistant  
Ideals Publishing Company  
11315 Watertown Plank Road  
P. O. Box 1101  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Dear Mrs. Obst:

I will be pleased to grant you permission to reprint  
"America" in your publication.

Sincerely,

DJS:mgm

Daniel Jeremy Silver





October 21, 1969

Mr. C. B. Moerschbacher  
442 E. Bishop Street  
Bellefonte, Penna.

Dear Mr. Moerschbacher:

Dr. Silver did indeed write "America" in the 1920's. You have my permission to use it in any way you see fit.

Sincerely,

DJS:mgm

Daniel Jeremy Silver



GREENWOOD PRESS, INC.



PUBLISHERS

51 RIVERSIDE AVE., WESTPORT, CONN. 06880, (203) 226-3571 CABLE ADDRESS: GREENPRESS WESTPORTCONNECTICUT

OCTOBER 24, 1969

MRS. VIRGINIA HERKHEIMER SILVER  
THE TEMPLE  
UNIVERSITY CIRCLE AT SILVER PARK  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106

DEAR MRS. SILVER:

I understand that you are the owner of the rights to the book  
entitled RELIGION IN A CHANGING WORLD BY ABBA SILVER.

We would like to have your permission to reprint this book in  
a hardcover edition. The terms are \$100. advance against a  
royalty of 10% of the list price.

If these terms are satisfactory and you can allow us to reprint  
this work, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

*Carol Gallo*

(Miss) Carol Gallo  
Director of Rights & Permissions



November 10, 1969

Miss Carol Gallo  
Greenwood Press, Inc. Publishers  
51 Riverside Avenue  
Westport, Connecticut 06880

Dear Miss Gallo:

Concerning Religion in a Changing World and the possibility of reprinting it, I would like to have some information about the Greenwood Press.

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rvf



# Rabbi Jack Riemer

Nov. 2, 1969

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver,  
The Temple,  
University Circle at Silver Park,  
Cleveland, Ohio, 44106

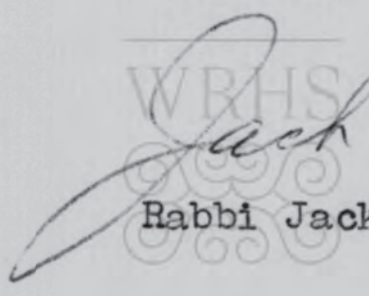

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Enclosed is a copy of the responsive reading. I hope that you will find that the additions and modifications that I have made are in the spirit of the original.

Of course we will give proper identification of the source if permission is granted.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and with every good wish,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

   
Rabbi Jack Riemer



## I WAS WITH ABRAHAM

I stood with Abraham in his lonely vigil  
And read the destiny of my people in the stars.

I was with Isaac when he built the altar  
Where his faith and devotion were put to the test.

I stood with Jacob at Jabbok's ford,  
When he wrestled through the night  
With the angel of despair  
And won a blessing at the break of dawn.

With Joseph I dreamt of sheaves and stars  
And climbed the steps from the pit to a prince's throne.

I was with Moses, an alien prince among an alien people.  
Unshod, I stood with him before the vision in the wilderness.  
And from the fire I heard the Voice summoning him to service.

I was at Sinai and entered there the everlasting covenant  
Between my people and its God.  
I suffered and I hungered with them  
All the way across the wilderness to the Promised Land.

I was with Joshua at Gibeon,  
And with Deborah by the waters of Megiddo  
When the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.

I stood with the blind Samson in his agony  
And I heard the wild cry of his desperate courage  
As he pulled down the pillars over the Philistines.

I heard Samuel admonish his people to remain free  
And not to reject God by enslaving themselves to a king.

I listened to the harp of David,  
And I saw him bow before the wrath of Nathan  
And before the truth of his accusation.

I heard Solomon in the Temple  
On the day he dedicated it as a House of Prayer for all peoples,  
And I learned from him  
Of a God whom heaven and the hosts of heaven cannot contain  
Whose compassion extends to all,  
Even to the stranger who comes from a far off country.

I was with the prophets  
Who came to destroy old worlds  
And to build new ones.

I heard them lash out against injustice.  
I warmed at their compassion for the weak.  
From them I learned what a raging fire within one's soul  
An unfilled mandate from God can be.



I was with my people by the rivers of Babylon  
 And I heard their oath:  
 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem.

I entered their makeshift synagogues in Babylon,  
 And learned there that prayer and study can be as beloved to God  
 As the sacrifices of the priests in the Temple  
 Or the songs of the Levites.

I returned with them from the captivity  
 And saw how a people can rebuild upon ruins.

I sat with the sages and the scribes  
 Who patiently interpreted the word of God  
 And slowly formed the Oral Law.

I moved among the mountains of Judea  
 With the lionhearted sons of Matathias.

I saw the miracle of the single cruse of oil  
 That illumined the Temple of the Lord.

I was with Hillel  
 When he summarized the whole Torah  
 In the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself.

I was with Akiba  
 When he inspired a revolution,  
 Defied an empire,  
 And died a martyr.

I wandered with my people into many lands,  
 Where the cross and the crescent reigned.  
 I walked with them over all the highways of the world.

I was with them when they drank out of the bitter chalice  
 Of pain, humiliation, cruelty, and hatred.  
 I saw them stay sane, in the midst of madness,  
 I saw them stay civilized, in the midst of brutality.  
 I saw them lighting candles in the midst of darkness.

Then I saw the night lift and the dawn break,  
 And into a new world, blessed with liberty and freedom  
 I marched with them exultingly.

I saw the shackles fall from off their limbs,  
 I saw the radiance of their emancipated minds and hearts.  
 I saw them enrich every land that gave them opportunity.

I was with them when they landed at Ellis Island,  
 And fell in love with the land that stood for liberty.





Then I saw the night descend again.  
 I saw them suffer as no people had ever suffered before.  
 I saw them burned and gassed and tortured.

Then, like a Phoenix, I saw them rise again in the old land.  
 I saw them begin a new life there  
 Based on the ancient teachings of justice and mercy.

I saw them nurture saplings in the wilderness,  
 And I watched them make the desert bloom.

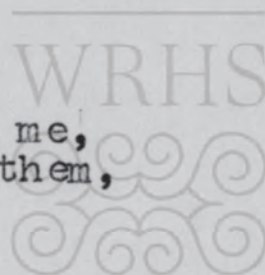
I was with them in the Six Day War.  
 I stood by them when their precious hard-earned state was in danger.  
 I trembled when they did, and I rejoiced when they rejoiced.  
 I was at the Wall. I was in the Sinai. I was on the Golan Heights.

Shall I leave them now?  
 Can I part company with this immortal band whom I love?  
 They have become too dear and precious to me.

They are bone of my bone,  
 Flesh of my flesh,  
 Soul of my soul.

They are my people.  
 Their quest is mine.

They will live within me,  
 And I will live with them,  
 Forever.





November 10, 1969

Rabbi Jack Riemer  
Beth Abraham Synagogue  
1306 Salem Avenue  
Dayton, Ohio 45406

Dear Rabbi Riemer:

Thank you for showing me the amended text of your responsive reading. I think it is quite effective but I would prefer that Dr. Silver's material remain separate and distinctive. We have used it responsively in our Confirmation service here and it already has a familiarity to many.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rvf



November 11, 1969

Rabbi Daniel Jeremiah Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi:

I would like to have a copy of your Father's Poem  
in the English version, as it was written originally.

אלהות אלהים

I have the poem in Hebrew, a good translation by Hayim Orlan. That was printed  
in the Hadoar Hebrew Weekly,

הדואר העברי

Our Temple here wishes to Honor the Memory of Your Great Father  
on his Memorial day.

הרב אבא רמל

I mentioned the Poem that he has written at the age of twenty, and they asked me to  
try and get the English version.

Would you please take the trouble and have your secretary mail it out to me?

Thank You.

הרב דניאל סילבר

הדואר העברי

1101 Alma St

Palo Alto, Calif.  
94301

Sent by M. Leikind

11/18/69



# CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

790 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

(212) AG 9-2811

November 18, 1969

Rabbi Daniel Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio  
44106

Dear Dan:

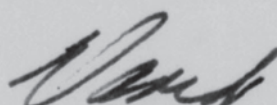
In connection with the Convention of the CCAR in Israel, I have been asked to prepare a paper on the ROLE of REFORM JUDAISM in the ZIONIST MOVEMENT and the STATE OF ISRAEL for the press. I doing this I want to have a special section in which I can briefly list the Zionist and/or Israel oriented activities of some of our Rabbis.

Because of the need for brevity, would you please write, in ESSAY form, DOUBLE SPACE, approximately ONE PAGE, about your FATHER, including his DATE OF BIRTH as well as DATES OF ALL VITAL POSITIONS and ACHIEVEMENTS.

Can I have this as quickly as possible since it must be sent to Israel well in advance of our meeting.

Thank you for your help with this portion of our convention.

Sincerely,

  
Rabbi David Polish  
Vice President

jk

*mailed Current Biog  
1969*

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\* Ex-officio



December 17, 1969

Mrs. Louis N. Gross  
20977 Shelburne Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44122

Dear Elaine:

Bud Eisner brought down to me this morning a copy of the Troy's newspaper story on Dad and his poem "America." It is a well done piece and I am most grateful to you for clipping it out and sending it in. We are adding it to the Archives.

Adele joins me in sending our love to all of you for the New Year.

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER









## THE CHAPEL

HUC-JIR, CINCINNATI, OHIO



זכר צדיק לברכה

**KADDISH**

WILL BE RECITED IN MEMORY OF

*Abba Meir Silver*

DURING THE CHAPEL SERVICE

AT THE

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-

JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

IN CINCINNATI

ON *November 29, 1969*

*"The memory of the righteous will be a blessing."*

PROVERBS 10:7



DURING THE CURRENT COLLEGE RECESS THERE WILL BE  
NO SERVICES IN THE COLLEGE CHAPEL. THE KADDISH  
LIST WILL BE READ AT

THE ISAAC M. WISE TEMPLE  
*Reading Road at N. Crescent*  
CINCINNATI

ROCKDALE AVENUE TEMPLE  
*Rockdale at Harvey Avenue*  
CINCINNATI

*8501 Ridge Rd*