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

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

Sub-series D: Writings, 1915-1963, undated.

Reel
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Box
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Folder
59

Where Judaism Differed, French translation, 1957-1958.

DR W. VON WEISEL

7, AVENUE BEAUCOUR
PARIS (8^e)

TÉL. : MAC. 29-54

Paris, December 19th, 1957

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street
Cleveland Ohio USA

My dear Dr. Silver,

Thanks for your letter of December 11th. With regards to the French translation of your work, I have to inform you that yesterday night a meeting of about 50 people, mostly wealthy, yiddisch speaking merchants, has taken place in Paris and that they have decided to found an "Institut Abba Hillel Silver". This institut shall be the cultural center of the General Zionists of Paris, become in due course a rallying point for young intellectuals, will give prizes for outstanding and original Jewish works and shall start immediately, in January with publishinghouse of its own.

Two prices of 100.000 ffrs. each are assured, so I have been told, for three years in advance. The first book to be published shall be your book, and the translator will be a brilliant young medical doctor, member of our executive committee, Dr. Oppenheim of Paris. The necessary money is ready.

The whole idea, including the choice of your name for the institut and the choice of your book as well as of the translator, is due to the initiative of Mr. Josef Weinberg, who will write you immediately separately in order to request your permission to use your name and to translate your book. I have been consulted, of course, but the whole work has been done by Weinberg with the help of Mr. Luksenburg.

With regard to the translation of your book, I feel that Dr. Oppenheim can be expected to do a good job. Whether it will be to your very best advantage to have the book published through a new publishing house instead of an old established one is an other matter which you have to decide. If you wish other proposals too, please write me and I shall make other connections.

With best Channukah-greetings I am

with warmest regards, most sincerely

yours

W. von Weisel

ההסתדרות הציונית בצרפת (ציונים כלליים)

הועד המרכזי

ORGANISATION SIONISTE DE FRANCE

SIONISTES GÉNÉRAUX

COMITÉ CENTRAL

47, RUE DE CHABROL

PARIS-X°

Tél.: PROvence 97-34

V/REF.

N/REF.

PARIS, le 19.12.57

Dear Dr. Silver,

We are pleased to confirm the telegram informing you of the foundation of our "Abba Hillel Silver Institute".

We hereby wish to give you some further indications on this subject.

The aim of this Institute is to provide the adequate conditions for research and popularizing of Jewish culture and Zionism. We plan to accomplish this aim by:

- 1) aiding Jewish scholars and intellectuals to make research work on these problems;
- 2) making possible the publication and diffusion of literary works concerned with all aspects of Judaism and Zionism;
- 3) establishing annual prizes for the best works written in this field.

As first volume, we intend to publish the French translation of your book "^{Where} ~~What~~ Judaism differs". This book will be translated by Dr. M. Oppenheim, who is a member of our Central Committee, and a very gifted translator of Judaistic writings. Dr. Oppenheim will write to you personally on this as soon as we get your reply.

We hope, dear Dr. Silver, that weshall have your

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PARIS, le

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agreement as to the name "Abba Hillel Silver Institute", as well as for the other points of our program. We should be very grateful to you for any suggestion and advice you could give us.

WRHS



Very cordially yours,

A. Luksenburg

J. Weinberg

Président de l'Organisation
Sioniste de France

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

1957 DEC 21 AM 9 33

3Q CLA012 60 PD INTL=CD PARIS VIA RCA DEC 20 1850:

=LT RABBI SILVER

DLR 105 TEMPLE EAST AND ANSEL RE CLEVELAND (OHIO):

=ZIONIMKLALIIM FRANCE CREATING INSTITUTE FOR JUDATIC
AND ZIONIST RESEARCH WORK WITH ACCENT ON EDITION

ACTIVITY STOP FOUNDERS MEETING PROPOSED NAME NEW
INSTITUTION QUOTE ABBA HILLEL SILVER INSTITUTE UNQUOTE
FURTHER MORE DECIDED EDITION YOUR BOOK IN FRENCH BY
KNOWN TRANSLATOR DOCTOR OPPENHEIM CABLE PLEASE YOUR
AGREEMENT ACCEPT OUR FELICITATIONS LUKSENBURG WEINBERG:

December 23, 1957

Mr. Guy Brown
The Macmillan Company
60 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

My dear Mr. Brown:

I received the following cable from Paris:

ZIONIMKLALIM FRANCE CREATING INSTITUTE FOR JUDAIC
AND ZIONIST RESEARCH WORK WITH ACCENT ON EDITION
ACTIVITY STOP FOUNDERS MEETING PROPOSED NAME NEW
INSTITUTION QUOTE ABBA HILLEL SILVER INSTITUTE
UNQUOTE FURTHER MORE DECIDED EDITION YOUR BOOK IN
FRENCH BY KNOWN TRANSLATOR DOCTOR OPPENHEIM CABLE
PLEASE YOUR AGREEMENT ACCEPT OUR FELICITATIONS
LUKSENBURG WEINBERG

I do not know the translator Dr. Oppenheim whom they suggest.
I do know the senders of the cable.

How shall I handle this matter of the translation?

I send you all good wishes for the season.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

AHS:sl

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

December 24, 1957

Mr. Guy Brown
The Macmillan Company
60 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

My dear Mr. Brown:

Supplementing my letter of the 23rd, I am enclosing a letter which I received today from Paris which elaborates on the cable.

With warmest regards and all good wishes for the New Year, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:sl
encl.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

The Macmillan Company

CABLE ADDRESS
PACHAMAC NEW YORK*Publishers*TELEPHONE
OREGON 5-4000*Sixty · Fifth Avenue · New York 11, N. Y.*

December 26, 1957

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Your good letter of the twenty-third has arrived in today's mail, and we are delighted to learn of the honor to be accorded you.

Since, by virtue of our original contract negotiations, the Company controls the translation rights, I would suggest the following procedure. If you are already acquainted with the French publisher who plans to issue the book, in French language edition, and if you are fully satisfied that they would be a good concern to handle such a French edition - why not have them write directly to us? In that letter they could propose the terms of an offer for such an edition. This letter ought be directed to the attention of Miss Jacqueline Clark who is in charge of translation and subsidiary rights.

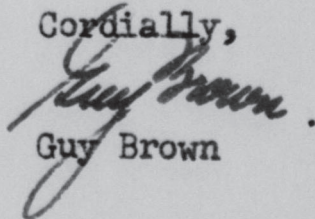
Undoubtedly they will need several months to complete the translation, and the matter of rights can be considered here in ample time. The department involved will have to check their records to be sure that the book has not been offered on option elsewhere in Paris. There are occasions where books are being considered by a foreign publisher, and in those instances we have to avoid duplication or wait out the option period which usually has a reasonable terminal point.

In the meantime, it is in order to refer them directly to us with the recommendation that they make a specific offer along the lines they customarily follow. At the same time I would welcome word from you as to your desire for such an edition. According to our original agreement, the royalty proceeds would be shared equally between you and us.

Ordinarily we would want to guarantee the right of the Author to approve the final and complete translation before the foreign language edition be published. I am quite sure that you will want to be protected in this manner.

May the New Year be rich in its blessings for you and Mrs. Silver.

Cordially,


Guy Brown

GB:ah

January 3, 1958

Mr. Joseph Weinberg
67 Rue de Chabrol
Paris X^e, France

My dear Friend:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt both of your cable and your letter. I did not reply sooner because of the need to contact my publishers.

I am deeply honored that you and your friends wish to establish an institute for the dissemination of works by Jewish writers and that you wish to name this institute after me. I, of course, have no objection to your proposal -- quite the contrary -- I am greatly honored. Whatever is done to encourage the writing and the reading of books of Jewish content by our people is a major contribution to the enrichment of Jewish life. I wish your project every manner of success.

As regards my own book my publishers have written to me that if my book were translated into French, they would prefer to negotiate for its publication with an old established publishing house rather than with a new one. This is their practice elsewhere and in all instances where translation into foreign languages is involved. They would have no objection, of course, to have Dr. Oppenheim do the translating if, as you say, he is thoroughly qualified for the task.

Perhaps you and your friends could contact such a publishing house in Paris and learn from them whether they would be interested in a French language edition of my book. In that case, please let me know and I will have the Macmillan Company get in touch with them immediately to make all necessary arrangements.

With warmest regards to you, Mr. Luksenburg and all my friends, I remain,

Very cordially yours,

AHS:sl
cc: Dr. W. von Weisel

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

January 3, 1958

Dr. W. von Weisel
7 Avenue Beaucour
Paris (8^e) France

My dear Dr. von Weisel:

Thank you so much for your letter of December 19th and for your thoughtfulness in writing to me.

I am enclosing herewith copy of a letter which I addressed to Mr. Joseph Weinberg in which you may be interested.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:sl
encl.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

The Macmillan Company

CABLE ADDRESS
PACHAMAC NEW YORK*Publishers*TELEPHONE
OREGON 5-4000*Sixty · Fifth Avenue · New York 11, N. Y.*

January 6, 1958

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

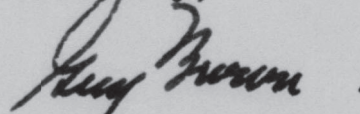
Dear Rabbi Silver:

Your letter of December the 24th was somewhat delayed in transit - due, no doubt, to excessive holiday mailings.

It is most encouraging to read Mr. Luksenburg's letter, which is now being returned to you for your files in accord with your request. The honor is really deserved, and I rejoice with you.

May this New Year be one of continued good health and happiness for you and Mrs. Silver.

Cordially,



Guy Brown

GB:ah
Enc.

ARCHIVES DE SOCIOLOGIE DES RELIGIONS

Publication Semestrielle

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France



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SILVER (Abba Hillel).

Where Judaism Differed : An Inquiry into the Distinctiveness of Judaism. (Enquête sur le caractère distinctif du Judaïsme). New York, The Macmillan Company, 1957, 318 p.

L'auteur est depuis quarante ans rabbin de la communauté juive libérale de Cleveland. Au lieu de se placer, comme son collègue Berkovits (*Arch.*, VII, n° 88), sur le plan de la polémique, il a préféré répondre aux attaques déclenchées en Amérique contre le Judaïsme par un exposé objectif destiné à la fois aux adversaires et aux amis. La part de la polémique est donc ici très restreinte et l'atmosphère de l'ouvrage parfaitement sereine. Sa connaissance approfondie de toute la littérature religieuse juive permet à l'auteur de présenter au public une synthèse où nul élément important n'est omis. Mais sa qualité de rabbin libéral américain colore cette synthèse au point qu'on se trouve en présence d'un judaïsme renouvelé. Celui-ci apparaît comme un « humanisme religieux », qui peut répondre à toutes les aspirations de l'homme moderne. On comprend qu'une revue américaine ait salué cet ouvrage comme « la meilleure introduction au Judaïsme pour le Juif moderne qui cherche sa voie ».

J. H.

n° 7 - 1959