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MS-4850: Daniel Jeremy Silver Papers, 1972-1993.

Series II: Subject Files, 1956-1993, undated.

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257

Greece trip, correspondence, 1980-1981.



[Dec 1980]

142 King Paul Street
Ano Voula/Athens, Greece
Tel. 895-4294

Dear Adele and Daniel,

This year's picture shows frescoes and ikons from the 13th C. Byzantine Church of Palea Panayia, near the Meteora. Our visit this year was our first since 1959, when our old friend Bishop Irenaeus of Trikala took us there.

That's a hint that instead of globe-trotting in 1980 we stayed home and "saw Greece first." People came to visit us instead of the other way around:

Doris and Firdaus twice from Indonesia; Anita's sister, and other relatives from America and Austria; our goddaughter from her university in Mexico; other young people from United States, Scotland, and Europe; former colleagues from Geneva and New York; and of course friends of many nationalities from here in Greece..

Their visits gave us a great excuse to go often to various favorite corners of Greece--Delphi, Olympia, the Meteora, Lake Prespa, the Mani, Bassae, Mycenae, Epidauros. We went twice to Crete, and explored an island new to us, Symi, where church-supported relief and reconstruction projects were underway twenty years ago (another chapter in our private effort to trace the echoes of several such activities a generation later.) Two leisurely trips into Macedonia got us better acquainted with this area, and helped us understand better and enjoy the magnificent finds in the grave ascribed to Alexander the Great's father Philip.

The rest of the time we enjoyed our home by the sea, which we were delighted to be able to share with so many welcome guests. The biggest "party" of the year followed the baptism of three lovely New Zealand teenagers from St. Andrews English-speaking Church--by immersion, in the blue Aegean near our house. It was an unexpected diversion for several hundred Greek Sunday swimmers who were at first not quite sure what was going on but who quickly entered the spirit of the occasion and followed the ceremony with reverence and interest. Then cold drinks at our home while the girls dried their hair, and supper for forty or so of us at a nearby taverna. One of the unexpected pleasures of an international, interdenominational congregation like St. Andrews, whose young Presbyterian minister had never even seen such a baptism before he waded into the sea to conduct this one!

Right now we are back in the United States for a few weeks, revisiting family and friends.. In 1981 we will spend several months in the Far East with Doris and Firdaus, also continuing our visits to Tibetan refugee communities at the invitation of the Dalai Lama. Apart from that, you'll find us at home in Greece.. Come and see us!

And in the meantime, joy and peace at Christmas, health--and more peace!--in the New Year.

Love from the Kilpatricks

(over)

From New York City - December 28, 1980

Dear friends,

Valter's operation took place on December 9th. After the operation was over his surgeon phoned me to say "no complications". In the intervening period the healing process has been taking place despite a cold with a cough nagging him even to to-day. Otherwise as of the 25th I began to feel confident that his ^{good} health has been established.

Thank you so much for the afternoon and evening we spent together with you over a month ago in Cleveland. As I write I can still see Pam's head staring at me with its bulboous eyes. I thank you Daniel for your perception of Beth's unvoiced anguish. Your embrace helped her, I think.

Tomorrow we are leaving New York for Cleveland. We are planning to spend New Year's Eve and day with Beth and then on to Prescott, Arizona, for a few days with my sister and her husband. We are due to return to our And Vonda home January 13th.

With our affectionate greetings,

Anita

February 8, 1981

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kilpatrick
142 King Paul Street
Ano Voula/Athens, Greece

Dear Anita and Walter,

It turns out that I must give a lecture at the Rabbinic Conference in Jerusalem on June 30. Adele will not be coming with me since she and I will be traveling to Israel in May under other auspices. Two trips in six weeks is a bit much and I plan to break the second trip by stopping in Greece for a week or so beginning around the third of July. I hope you will be in the country at the time.

I am writing in the hope that you can be of help in planning my trip. I have long wanted to spend a few days in northern Greece visiting the monasteries and learning something about Greek orthodoxy and its culture. I am wondering if you have any suggestions as to the best way of accomplishing this. I will write to Nissiotis in the hopes that he can give me some useful direction in this matter. Needless to say, I would love to see him also.

Adele and I are both delighted that the operation turned out to be easy and we hope that your recuperation is now complete. All is well with us. We send you our love.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

February 10, 1981

Mr. Nikos Nissiotis
Achilles Str. 5
P. Faliron
Athens, Greece

Dear Nicos,

We had the good fortune of spending some time with Anita and Walter during their American trip and they were a happy reminder of a pleasant visit in Athens during which we had the special opportunity to meet you.

It turns out that I have a chance to spend a few days in Greece the first eight to ten days of July. I am lecturing in Jerusalem the last week of June and my thought is to come over around July 2. My special hope is to spend some time in northern Greece visiting some of the monasteries and learning something about the Greek Orthodox tradition. I am writing to you for any guidance that you can offer me in the organization of such a trip so that it becomes something more than just a tourist's visit.

We are well. I had the good fortune of a sabbatical last year. For half of it I was a fellow at the Post Graduate Center for Jewish Studies at Oxford, and for the rest Adele and I traveled in the Far East. She is well and busy with her work at the Museum. She will not be coming to Greece with me since, by chance, we will both be in Israel in May and there is no reason for her to take the second trip.

I hope all is well with you and that we will have a chance to spend some time together in July. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

142 King Paul Street
Ano Voula/Athens, Greece
March 3 1981

Adele and Daniel Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland Ohio 44106

Dear Adele and Daniel,

Alibis, alibis! First I waited to try to get in touch with Nick Nisiotis before replying to your letter; then--as you may have read!--we had an earthquake. Etc. Now I agree there is no direct relation between a few tremors a week ago and getting down to work. But it is a long time since I had that good an excuse, so I had to put it in.

Talked with Nick this evening, and I'm sorry to report that neither he nor we will be around when you come early in July. He is president of the International Olympic Academy, and will be lecturing there (it's how he spends his vacation, he says.) And Anita and I will be in Indonesia, or maybe just on our way back, but not in Athens until late in July, more or less. Greece's peculiar customs laws require the car and me (since it is entered on my passport) to be out of the country for three months and one day, continuously, after any two year period before bringing the car back in for a new duty-free registration period. So I plan to leave Little Butterfly (that's our Toyota, not a nickname for Anita) with friends in Austria, in the course of April; then Anita and I will spend several weeks visiting Tibetan communities in India (including a week with the Dalai Lama and his entourage in Dharmasala, we hope) and then go on to spend a couple months with Doris and Firdaus in Indonesia.

Nick will write you also. We both agree that a few days at Mt. Athos would be a very interesting experience. That requires Foreign Office clearance in Athens, and Nick will see to it that is in hand. The Meteora is another interesting and beautiful medieval monastic area, although with much less current religious vitality.

Thessalonica has half a dozen of the finest Byzantine churches, and that area has such churches almost everywhere. The American Farm School is a 75 year old institution at the edge of Salonica, and has the highest standing of service in this country. The director Bruce Lansdale has lived here all his life and knows Greece probably as well as anyone in the country. The School has a guest house (no official charge but you can make an appropriate contribution if you wish.) Salonica might be a good place to rent a car for a few days, see if you can stay at the Farm School (of course there are plenty of other accommodations all around), and drive to places like Verria (they have recently discovered what many believe to be Philip of Macedon's burial place there, intact--all items now in the Salonica Museum). Mt. Athos itself is also approached from Salonica.

We had no damage ourselves - the earthquake - first a few light cracks - plaster - some in porch but later things broken - plastered away was a disaster. The village just before the airport was a - village completely destroyed. Several people killed. How clear and calm we had that!

March 3, 1978

Mr. ~~Nikos~~ Nikos Nissiotis
Achilles Str. 5
P. Faliron
Athens, Greece

Dear Nikki:

I delayed writing to you because I knew you were planning to be in the Far East for much of February. I hope the trip was successful and that you had enough time in the Palace Museum on Taiwan.

Adele and I were deeply touched and grateful for your unexpected hospitality our last night in Greece. Across the table I learned a good bit about your world and found it absolutely fascinating. Since I had thought a good bit about Greece and Israel and the problems of a state religion from which both suffer. It is an interesting comparative issue.

I know you travel frequently and I hope if you are ever in our neck of the woods you will forewarn us. Our hopee is open and we are eager to have you at our table.

As a small token of gratitude I am sending under spparate cover a copy of my latest book which I hope you will find interesting.

With all good wishes and many thanks, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

American Farm School
Karolou Xaous 12, Phenix/Salonika
(or P.O. Box 140, Salonica, Greece)

School tel. 425-445

Bruce and Tad Lansdale 411-411 (their house is on
the School grounds.)

Nick may be suggesting individuals who can give you more
of a picture of Orthodox life (Bruce is extremely knowledge-
able from the social and cultural standpoint, although not
himself Orthodox--or a theologian. His father was YMCA
representative in Greece, and later National General Secre-
tary of the YMCA in the USA.)

A name I will put in, if Nick doesn't, is Mr. Papantoniou.
He is an officer at the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox
Church (Archbishop and ecclesiastical machinery all there.)
One of his special responsibilities is InterChurch Aid
(World Council of Churches, Church World Service in NYC,
etc.) so he has received Christian leaders from all over
the world. I will see him before we leave so he will
be expecting to hear from you. (Years ago, when he was a
student and applying for a WCC Fellowship, I "examined" him
in German, since he wanted to study in Germany--he did, at
Berlin, Marburg, etc.) The Holy Synod Office is a
block to the left of the Cathedral, a few minutes from
Constitution Square. His phone is 738-691 (Papantonious.)

You met Savas Agourides at our party here, also. Savas is
professor of New Testament. He comes on a bit stronger
than Nick, but is a very able and warm person.

Prof. Savas Agourides
Euphranoras St. 12
Pangrati TT 502
Athens, Greece

Home 7015379 Office 7794643

Why don't you postpone the whole thing for a month, so
Anita and I can take you around to some of these places
and people?

Our love to both of you. Our address in Indonesia will
be c/o Siddik P.O. Box 2169 Jakarta. We'll probably
leave Athens more or less the middle of April, and reach
Indonesia by mid- or late May.

Have a fine trip -- or trips.

Walter and Anita

P.S. You can also look up the Robinsons.
They will be in Athens & Crete through
the summer June - Sept. Their current address
is: 409 High St.

Moorestown 08057, N.J. Affectionate greetings,
Anita.

Carding all the parent theses - it's a way to keep my
old - age rambling under some punctuated control.



UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

ILISSIA - ATHENS

TEL. 77.97.210 - 36-20.014

PROFESSOR DR. NIKOS A. NISSIOTIS

Athens, March 6 1981

Professor
Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Colleague,

Due to my absence from Athens I could read your letter of the 10th of February only three days ago. I am happy to hear that you are coming back to Greece next July and that you make plans to visit the northern part of the country this time. Unfortunately, July for me is the most difficult month, while it is for others the month of vacations. I have a supplementary teaching obligation for summer courses near ancient Olympia, as President of the International Olympic Academy. I shall be returning to Athens for welcoming some personalities of the Olympic world around the 5th to the 7th of July but I will be not able to see you during these two days on account of a very busy and delicate schedule during this short time in Athens.

If understand well, this time you would wish to pay a visit to Mount Athos, since you are writing about monasteries. In this case you must know some details that I have cleared on this occasion here with the authorities. First, it would be wise not to say that you are a Rabbi, because in this case you will have many complications in getting the necessary visa of entrance, because, as you perhaps know, Mount Athos is an independent state depending on the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. You ^{must} appear as ~~theological~~ hebrew Professor. The procedures are as follows. First, you have to get a "nota" from your american Embassy in Athens and then apply for a permission of entrance to the Direction of the Churches (Thiefthinsis Eklision in Greek) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece. I will have arranged things before you arrive here. In this direction of the Ministry both the director Ambassador Antonopoulos and especially a younger theologian Mr Vaphiades are good friends. But especially the latter can help you if you tell him that you are recommended by me to him, something that I have already done. I hope that if you follow this procedure there would not be any difficulty.

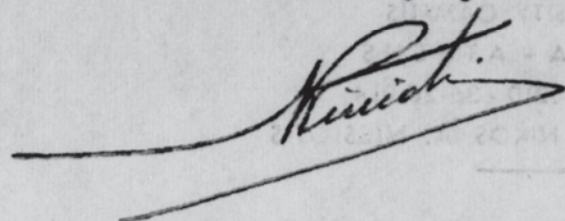
Walter told me that he will bring you in contact with an american teacher of the Anatolia College in Salonica. This will be of a great help for visiting Churches in Salonica as well as the Museum with the recent findings of Vergina that you should perhaps visit also. I think on the other hand that it could be interesting for you to visit the other complex of monasteries in Meteora near Kalambake in the north-western part of Greece.

That is the only thing I can do for you at this moment. I am very sorry that I shall not be here available in July. It was very nice to hear

from you again. If there is something that I can do more in view of your visit, please let me know. Greetings from my wife. Please, convey our best regards to yours.

With my best wishes

Sincerely yours



Nikos A. Nissiotis

WRHS



March 28, 1981

Prof. Savas Agourides
Euphranoras St. 12
Pangrati TT 502
Athens, Greece

Dear Mr. Agourides:

My wife and I had the pleasure of dining with you, the Nissiotis and the Kilpatrick several years ago and I remember a fascinating and lively discussion which I hope we can pick up again.

I plan to be in Greece from June 26 through July 4. My major purpose is to visit Salonica, Mount Athos and the north, but I do plan to spend my first and last days in Athens and I hope that we can meet. Dr. Nissiotis has been kind enough to inform me what I must do to get permission to visit Mount Athos and has mentioned the names of various people who will speed me on my way. Unfortunately, both families will be out of the city during my visit.

I hope that we ~~will~~ have dinner. I look forward to renewing our acquaintanceship.

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

March 20, 1981

Mr. Bruce Lansdale
American Farm School
P.O. Box 140
Salonica, Greece

Dear Mr. Lansdale:

I am writing at the suggestion of Anita and Walter Kilpatrick, good friends with whom we have spent time both in Athens and in Cleveland. I plan to be in Greece from June 26 through July 6. My major purpose is to visit the Salonica area, Mount Athos and the north, a part of the country I have never seen. Since my wife cannot make this trip with me I thought this would be a good time for this particular visit.

Walter indicates that it is sometimes possible to stay at the school. I hope to arrive in Salonica about June 29 or 30 and to rent a car for the week or so that I will be there. I do not want in any way to inconvenience you and am, of course, more than happy to pay all costs involved.

I am a rabbi by profession, as you can see, and a professor of religion on the side. I teach in that department at Case Western Reserve University here in Cleveland. My interests in the area are three-fold: as a medievalist the monasteries are of interest to me; as a rabbi I would like to see what I can of a city which was important in Jewish history; and as an amateur archeologist and long-time lover of the arts, your museums and churches are an irresistible magnet.

I look forward to my visit and to the chance to meet you.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

March 20, 1981

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kilpatrick
142 King Paul Street
Ano Voula, Athens, Greece

Dear Anita and Walter,

Thank you for your long and full letter. I am sorry that my visit will find you so many thousands of miles away. I have written to Bruce Lansdale as you suggested, and hope that I can stay at the school. My plans are to arrive in Athens late on Friday, June 26, and remain in Greece through the fourth of July weekend. Is there anything I can bring over and leave with someone for you?

Adele joins in sending our love.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

March 20, 1981

Mr. N. Nissiotis
Achilles 5
P. Faliron
Athens, Greece

Dear Nikos,

Thank you for your kind note. I am sorry that our paths did not cross but I know what a busy schedule is all about.

I am grateful for the information about securing permission to visit Mount Athos and will contact Mr. Vaphiades upon my arrival in Athens.

I am sure you will have a wonderful summer in Olympia and again, thanks.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp



American Farm School

April 1, 1981.

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver,
The Temple,
University Circle at Silver Park,
Cleveland, OH 44106,
U.S.A.

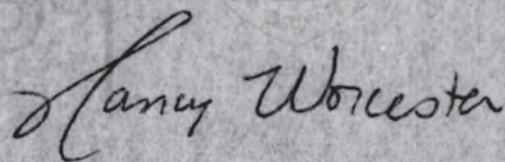
Dear Rabbi Silver,

As Bruce Lansdale is currently out of the country, I am writing on his behalf to acknowledge your recent letter and tell you that it would be a pleasure to have you stay in our guesthouse this summer.

I will reserve a room for you on June 29 and June 30. Should your date of arrival change between now and then, please let me know.

We look forward to having you with us.

Sincerely,



Nancy Worcester
Assistant to the Director

NW/sjc

[1981]

Notes for second trip:

Meeting with Jennifer Niles at Museum. Jennifer was a member of an Australian team led by Alexander Kanbitoglou which worked on the Sotonia Peninsula at a place called Toras. She is writing A.K. Drive there quite beautiful. She recommends the wine of the area, Porte Caras. Could leave Salonica, drive through the Peninsula and the ferry to Athos. From there she suggests I go to Kavala north on the coast and take a boat to Thasos. Particularly beautiful temple, museum, beaches and magnificent marble quarry. Phillipi is within striking distance. In Salonica she recommends restaurant Olympus Maussa.

A day trip out of Salonica to Pella.

In Athens particularly beautiful needlework and textiles at the National Welfare Organization. They use old designs.



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ
ΘΕΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

ΚΑΘΗΓΗΤΗΣ : ΣΑΒΒΑΣ ΑΓΟΥΡΙΔΗΣ
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΥΠΟΛΗ - ΑΝΘ ΙΑΙΣΙΑ

Αθήνα 6 April 1981

Dr. Rev. Silver,

This is to answer your letter of March 23. Unfortunately, on the dates you plan to come by Athens I will be outside the city, myself. I can give you however the address of the Governor of Mount Athos, professor at the University of Salonica and beloved student of mine. His name and address has as follows:

Prof. Dimitri Tsamis
School of Theology
University
Thessaloniki- Greece.

I hope that ~~Mr~~ Mr. Tsamis will do everything possible to make your visit pleasant.

Best wishes to you. We may meet some other time.

Sincerely Yours

S. Agourides
S. Agourides

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

790 MADISON AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 • (212) 734-7166

For Your Information

Office of the Executive Vice President

March 4, 1981

Professor Eliezer Berkowitz
3101 Indian Creek Drive
Miami, Florida 33140

Dear Professor Berkowitz:

I was delighted to learn from our mutual friend Herman Schaalman that you have agreed to address us on Thursday night, June 25 at Wise Auditorium at the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University.

The theme of our convention is "Am Ve-emuna-Le-an?" We are asking you to cover the theological and philosophical dimensions. Your discussant will be Rabbi Daniel Silver of Cleveland, Ohio, who would appreciate a copy of your paper by the end of April. Ordinarily, we would have asked for it by the middle of April, but due to your being in the United States, the letter we wrote to you in Israel was obviously delayed, and we know that Rabbi Silver will understand and accept the briefer time than what he originally wanted.

If you will send the paper to us, we will see that it is forwarded immediately to Rabbi Silver, and that will also give us an opportunity to begin developing information or material for the press.

We hope that you will find the \$300 honorarium suitable.

I have heard many wonderful things about you from many different people, including our mutual friends Herman Schaalman and David Polish, and have read some of your works with great appreciation and delight. I do believe that you are going to add much, not only in terms of intellectual stimulation and substance to our convention, but also in terms of your splendid spirit.

If you have any questions while you are still in the United States, please do not hesitate to call me, and I know that you will be in touch with Rabbi Schaalman also, if need be.

I very much look forward to your response and to meeting you personally, something I have looked forward to for a long time.

My warmest good wishes to you.

Shalom,

cc: Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman

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American Farm School

April 14, 1981.

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver,
The Temple,
University Circle at Silver Park,
Cleveland, OH 44106,
U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

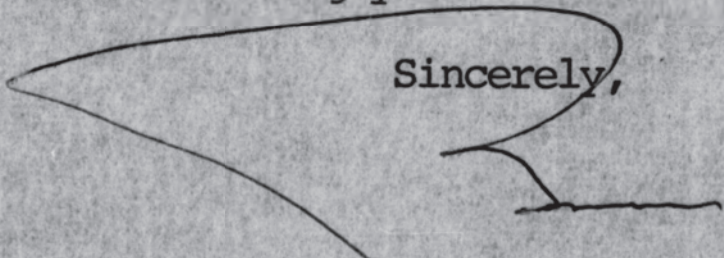
Upon my return from a business trip to Tanzania, I found your letter of March 20, together with Nancy Worcester's reply, awaiting me.

Your forthcoming trip sounds as though it will be a busy and exciting one. We would be delighted to have you visit the School and stay in our guesthouse and Ms. Worcester has reserved a room for you on June 29 and June 30.

We have had a good letter from Anita and Walter and it was great to have their news and to know that they are both well. Please do give them our very best regards.

We look forward to seeing you in June.

Sincerely,


Bruce M. Lansdale
Director

BML/sjc

April 29, 1981

Prof. Dimitri Tsamis
School of Theology
University
Thessaloniki, Greece

Dear Dr. Tsamis:

I had the good fortune of spending some time a few years ago with Dr. Agourdes who has been kind enough to give me your name. When I wrote to him that I was coming to Greece with the expressed intention of spending time in Salonica he suggested that I write to you.

I will be in the area on June 28 through July 4, spending most of the time at the American Farm School. I am a medievalist by training and the Byzantine materials in the area are of particular interest. I hope also to touch base with whatever remains of the Jewish community and to visit Athos. Niki Nissiotis has been kind enough to pave the way in Athens as far as papers are concerned. While in Salonica I would very much like the opportunity to meet with you and to learn more about the rich culture of the area. I hope this is not an imposition. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

April 30, 1981

Mr. Nikos Stavroulakis
Jewish Museum
5 Melidoni St.
Athens 113
Greece

Dear Mr. Stavroulakis:

Doris Brickner was kind enough to give me your name. I plan to visit Greece from June 26 through July 4 following the Rabbinic Conference in Jerusalem. I plan to spend most of my time in and around Salonica. I will be in Athens on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 26, 27 and 28 and would very much like to visit the museum and to spend some time with you. I am particularly interested in finding information about the Jews in the communities in and around Salonica. I hope this is not an imposition.

With many thanks I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp



EBPAIKON
MOYSEION

UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF GREECE

THE JEWISH MUSEUM

President :
I. Noulis Vital

Vice Presidents :
Elias Almosline
Moise Constantinis

Director:
Daniel Hannan - Stavroulakis

6th May 1981

Dear **Ri** Silver,

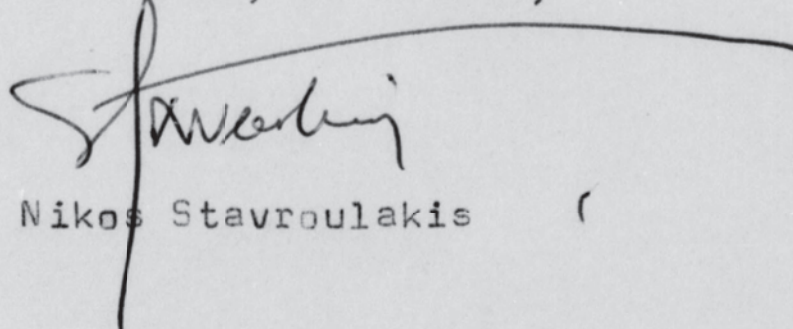
Many thanks for your letter of the 30th April.

The Museum is open during the week on Friday from 10.00 AM until 1:30 PM and on Sundays during the same hours. Should you be in a position to call my home number is 711 861 in Athens. I am usually at home after 6:00 PM and would be happy to meet you.

I will give you what information I can on Salonika - though as you will be going there you will no doubt be able to gain much on your own. The most interesting community remains in that area of Greece are those to be found at Verroia which is located about 80 kms from Salonika. There are only two Jews living there now but the remains of the Jewish Quarter are still to be seen as well as the synagogue. Fortunately I was able to have most of the liturgical art etc. from the synagogue brought down to the Museum some time ago and I can show that to you here. We have a full series of photographic material on most of the other Jewish remains in that part of Greece that I can show you here.

I look forward to meeting you and wish you a pleasant trip to Eretz and a good voyage to us here.

With every best wish,



Nikos Stavroulakis

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