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

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

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Folder
355b

National Foundation for Jewish Culture, correspondence,
memoranda, and notes, 1974-1977.

April 24, 1975

Mr. Earl Morse, President
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 E. 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Earl:

I recently received a resume of the National Planning Committee For Jewish Education and Culture dated March 15, 1975. One phrase above all struck me: "The representatives of the National Foundation For Jewish Culture presented a divided opinion." It is difficult for me to understand how in a matter of such critical importance our group was not prepared with a consistent policy.

Am I wrong that the emergence of what is called on page 5 "the new agency" is already a fact of life as far as the CJFWF and this committee are concerned? If this is the case I think that the Foundation Executive Committee should at least be forewarned about this loss of autonomy and be able to discuss it at some length. Frankly, I am shocked that things have gone so far without a call by you for a full discussion of this issue. Perhaps a new agency is a desirable thing, but it may not be. It would be a pity if we are coerced into it by our lack of attention to the work of this planning committee.

Are these minutes accurate? Has the National Foundation in fact agreed to the consensus listed on page 4 "that there is a need to design a new body. . ." If this is not the case have we submitted in writing our dissent? If this is the case on what authority did our representatives agree?

[Apr 24, 1975]

You have seen the results of our March Academic Advisory Council meeting. I got whiplashed as far as attendance is concerned. I could only spend a few hours there, but the spirit was excellent.

Hoping this finds you in the best of health I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

cc: Dr. Harry Barron



THE IRVING ENCLAVE
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02154

JUL 14 1975

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 8, 1975

Mr. Daniel Jeremy Silver
National Foundation for
Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017

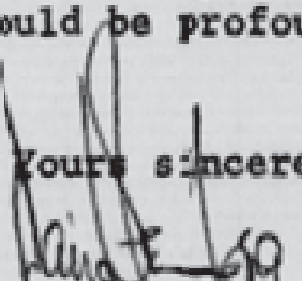
Dear Mr. Silver:

The Brandeis University Press has before it a manuscript by Phyllis Albert entitled "The Jewish Consistory of France: A Study in Social History, 1830-1870." This manuscript, originally submitted as a doctoral dissertation in 1973, was considered by Nahum Glatzer to be a manuscript "of major importance for the study of modern Jewish history and for nineteenth century European social history." Professor Rudy Binion has called it "a monumental scholarly achievement;" and Ben Halpern has described it as "a massive contribution to Jewish social history."

This massive study, even with editorial revisions and some cutting, is too expensive for the University to publish without a subvention. The Brandeis University Press, therefore, is interested in exploring with the National Foundation for Jewish Culture whether some money can be secured to assist in this major scholarly undertaking. The professional estimate of Mr. David Horne, the Editor of the Brandeis University Press and the University Press of New England (Brandeis is part of a consortium of six universities) is that the publication costs will be close to \$12,000. Since the Brandeis University Press operates on a very modest budget, and since it is prohibited by the University from operating at a loss, Dr. Albert's book remains neither accepted nor rejected. The University fully understands that Dr. Albert's scholarly career is affected by our inability to move the manuscript into production, and yet, lacking the funds, we cannot undertake the financial commitment.

Might it be possible for the National Foundation for Jewish Culture to assist the Brandeis University Press? If so, would the Foundation like us to submit either the revised manuscript or the various letters of recommendation which offer professional judgment? Do you have a Publications Committee to whom this inquiry should be addressed? We would be very grateful for any advice or counsel which you could share and for any assistance which might be forthcoming. I know that Dr. Albert would be profoundly grateful for any assistance that might be provided.

Yours sincerely,


David J. Steinberg
Executive Assistant to
the President

DJS/wlt

July 15, 1975

Dr. Harry Barron
The National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

I received a long, completely paranoid letter from Neusner which complains about everyone in the Jewish studies field who has ever said a critical word. In any case, he forgives me but still does not want to come to further meetings of the Foundation and we are again friends - for what it is worth.

I would like to see a big dinner in New York for the announcement of the Federal funding. It might feature a lecture by some scholar, subtle fund-raising for matching funds and the display of the accomplishments of the Foundation. We might consider having it at the Columbia's Faculty Club or one of the university clubs. There ought to be a press conference before it and I would like to see Earl appoint a committee which includes a good public relations man to help organize it.

With all good wishes from house to house I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

490-2280

July 15, 1975

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

Dear Dan:

There are two items on which I would like your opinion:

1. The matter dealt with in the enclosed letter from David J. Steinberg of Brandeis University has been before us earlier this year. Ben Halpern originally brought it to our attention and it was this request that sparked the discussion at the March meeting of the Academic Advisory Council and led to the recommendation for publication awards. Phyllis Albert was a NFJC doctoral dissertation grantee. Do you want to reply to the Steinberg letter? If not, let me know how you think we ought to handle it.

2. Recently, Yosef Yerushalmi phoned me on behalf of one of their 1975 Ph.D. recipients who apparently will not get a teaching position this year and whom Yerushalmi and Twersky would like to see spend the coming year in revising his dissertation for publication. Yerushalmi had heard that we might not be spending all of our grants funds this year and wondered whether we could make a modest grant to this young scholar. He explained that he and Twersky had explored all possible resources at Harvard and could not come up with any funds; that the man is without any income and has unique potential since he is one of the very few people who is exceptionally well versed in Judeo-Arabic. He is an Iraqi Jew and the first of the Kurdish group to have obtained a university education. When he came to Harvard several years ago, he was given a \$1,000 stipend by Teddy Kollek.

I explained to Yerushalmi that the NFJC no longer is making post-doctoral grants but that I would present the matter to the Academic Advisory Council when it met. At our June 26th meeting, I mentioned the matter briefly and Jack Neusner indicated that he knows Mazor, but we got no action from the group. Yesterday, Yerushalmi phoned again, this time to say that the Middle East Center at Harvard has named Mazor as a Research Assistant and will give him space and service -- but no salary. He again asked

COUNCIL OF JEWISH CULTURAL AGENCIES

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National Jewish Welfare Board • Yeshiva University • YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver

- 2 -

July 15, 1975

whether we could find any funds to help out Mazor, suggesting \$5,000. I asked him about approaching Harry Starr for a Littauer grant but he said that this is something that Twersky normally handles and he would ask Twersky to call me.

When Twersky called, he explained that they are in the midst of trying to get some "big money" from the Littauer Foundation and felt that it would not be advisable to approach Starr about this case. He urged, however, that we give special consideration to the matter and felt that Mazor will become a leading scholar in Judeo-Arabic. I could, of course, make no promises but told Yerushalmi and Twersky that we would look into the matter. They both asked particularly that I bring this to your attention.

I am now doing so. What do you suggest?

Cordially,

Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

ek
enc.



NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

Office of the President

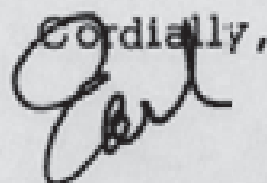
July 21, 1975

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

Dear Daniel:

Following up the action by the Board of Directors at its June meeting with regard to a Negotiating Committee to deal with the CJFWF National Planning Committee for Jewish Education and Culture, I would very much appreciate your serving on this Committee. I have asked Julian Freeman to act as Chairman and am inviting Martha K. Selig to serve as a third member of the Committee. I believe you will agree that this is a strong, independent Committee which can represent the Foundation in any negotiations that may be required. I am asking Harry Barron to keep the members of the Committee informed about developments and I am sure that Julian Freeman will convene the Committee when it appears appropriate.

My warm thanks to you in advance for your anticipated help.

Cordially,


Earl Morse

July 22, 1975

Dr. Harry Barron
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

I think that Brandeis ought to be advised that we could not possibly contribute \$12,000 or anything like that sum towards the publication of the Albert book. You might indicate to them that we have never contributed more than one or two thousand dollars to any individual project. I would leave it without an outright rejection or agreement to participate. Let's see what their answer is. My guess is they are on a fishing expedition and will drop the matter. It could be suggested to Albert to contact the University of Alabama Press which is obviously capable of undertaking such a project without subvention.

On the Mazor matter, I gather he is an Israeli. Would he not be eliminated from our schedule for that reason? Wouldn't the Memorial Foundation be the appropriate vehicle for funding? Why not raise the matter with them and see what the answer is?

I trust this letter finds you in good health. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

July 24, 1975

Mr. Earl Morse, President
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Earl:

I will be happy to serve on the Negotiating Committee
of the Foundation and I hope that we do not have too
much to negotiate.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

September 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver

FROM: Dr. Harry I. Barron

I am sending along a letter and materials from Dennis B. Klein of Rochester. Ordinarily, I would reply in the usual fashion to those who come to us "out of season". In this case, however, since we do have unused grants funds this year and the amount might be minimal, I have delayed replying to him until you have had the chance to consider the matter. What do you think?

I also enclose a copy of a letter from Peter Cole of the University of Illinois who is asking for a small grant to help prepare a volume on Hebrew syntax. It is one of those small items for which we have been given some discretionary latitude. How do you feel about this?

encls.

September 12, 1975

Dr. Harry I. Barron
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

Sorry I could not be with you yesterday but with the Holidays and Jonathan leaving for Cambridge today it has been impossible. On the matters of recent communication:

- 1) I think we ought to reserve the money that was allocated to Gary Rubin and let it collect interest, let him re-submit his application next year and tell him that his work has progressed nicely. The grant will be given at that time.
- 2) On Peter Cole, there is no indication of who he is and why his volume of Hebrew syntax would be important.
- 3) Dennis Klein, this is not a full submission. We have no idea of his talents or background. He is working largely on a cultural history of those who happen to be Jews. There is no indication of his career plans etc. On the basis of the enclosed it ought not to be granted.

Hoping this finds you in good health and with all good wishes from house to house I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

October 1, 1975

Dr. Harry I. Barron
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

+ Report
In response to your letter of September 23 concerning the Advisory Council, the best name on the list would seem to be Klausner since we want some kind of geographical distribution. ~~Flashter~~ of course, would be an addition, but we already have Yerushalmi from Harvard. Alter would be an excellent replacement for Band. Konvitz for Halpern. Or-linsky for Neusner; Gordis for Sarna; and I agree about Sidorcky. Interestingly, his boy is now rooming with Jonathan in Cambridge.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

November 25, 1975

Dr. Harry Barron
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 E. 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

You were missed in Miami. The Annual Meeting went well and had a nice turnout. I was only sorry you weren't there to hear what was said about you. I am sure Abe has given you a full rundown of what transpired, both at our meeting and at the assembly. Most delegates I talked to felt it was the poorest assembly in years and that in the area of merger they were beating a dead horse.

Daniel Eleazar gave a good speech. Martha Selig gave a speech that was poor, boring and long. In terms of future planning we ought to schedule only one person or rigidly limit speakers to ten minutes. The program was simply too long.

My expenses to Miami were \$300.

Adele joins me in wishing you a speedy recovery. Happy Chanukkah.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

Office of the President

December 4, 1975

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

Dear Daniel:

At the Hanukkah Season it has become traditional for the Foundation to appeal to its Board members for a once-a-year personal contribution toward our Fellowship Program to enable young Jewish scholars to complete their doctoral work and qualify for college teaching posts in the field of Jewish Studies.

We are justifiably proud of the Foundation's major role in the development of Jewish Studies in American colleges and universities as well as in the assistance of a significant number of front rank Judaica scholars. But each year, because of insufficient grants funds available to us, we must turn down highly promising applicants who would undoubtedly make a valuable contribution to the field.

It is therefore important that we seek to augment the funds to permit us to increase the number of grants we can make to meritorious young scholars who will be a source of cultural enrichment for American Jewry in the years ahead.

If each Board member would accept the responsibility of giving or obtaining a gift of \$1,000 for this purpose we could substantially raise the current level of our Grants Program and intensify our investment in the people who will provide the intellectual leadership and stimulation of authentic Jewish knowledge for the rising generation.

We shall, of course, deeply appreciate whatever size contribution you are able to make to the Grants Fund, and shall be doubly grateful for your response during the Hanukkah period (and within the current tax year).

Warmest greetings and good wishes.

Cordially,



Earl Morse

January 7, 1976

Dr. Harry Barron
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

Thank you for the Neusner article. I read it, but I confess I did not find it very useful.

I am returning under separate cover the Ramsey and Wilson book. Many thanks. I wonder if The Temple can purchase a set of the photographs of the East Side which I saw in the office.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

(Jan 8, 1976)

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

The attached letter has been sent to George M. Zeltzer, in follow-up of the decision reached at the recent meeting of the "Negotiating Committee." I am sure that Julian Freeman as Chairman of that committee will be glad to have any reactions or suggestions you may have.

Carl

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE
122 EAST 42ND STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 490-2280

COPY

January 8, 1976

Mr. George M. Zeltzer, Chairman
National Planning Committee for Jewish Education and Culture
P. O. Box 425
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Mike:

I have been asked to transmit to you the conclusions of recent discussions by the Foundation's officers and members of the special committee to deal with proposals which may emerge from the CJFNP Planning Committee on Jewish Education and Culture of which you are Chairman. As you will recall, at the Foundation's Annual Meeting in Miami last November the Board decided that we should adopt a more active role in this process.

Accordingly, we have carefully reviewed the entire matter and we have reached a number of conclusions:

1) It is our opinion that the fields of Jewish Culture and Jewish Education, while having certain similar and parallel objectives, in most respects represent distinct and separate strata in their institutional and operational manifestations. In the light, therefore, of the differences in the nature of the organizational relationships, tasks and approaches required for the advancement of each field, there is considerable question whether it is feasible at this time to plan for a single unitary structure combining both fields. It would also appear the overwhelming problems and concerns related to Jewish Education would, in a consolidated organization, tend to dwarf and submerge many of the needs in the field of Jewish Culture.

2) Nevertheless, the Foundation is prepared to participate in the work of your Planning Committee and explore the possibilities for more effective reorganization. We are agreed that from now on the Foundation should have official representation on the Committee, and that these representatives will endeavor to reflect our thinking as well as share with us the developments of your Committee's work.

3) Meanwhile, since we realize that it may be some time before your Planning Committee will be able to complete its tasks, and recognizing the Foundation's responsibility to pursue its own program - not only in connection with its previous activities but also those new

Mr. George M. Zeltzer

areas recommended in the recent Reassessment which you headed - we shall proceed to examine the ways in which the Foundation's primary obligations to the field of Jewish Culture can be achieved more effectively for the benefit of American Jewry. In this we shall also explore with other relevant organizations the possibilities for cooperative planning and shared systematic areas of responsibility in the cultural field. We would be pleased to share with your Planning Committee whatever develops from these efforts.

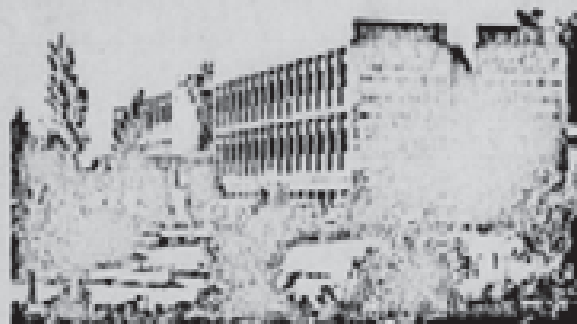
4) We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you at your convenience to discuss these and related matters to help clarify the situation and to see how our plans can mesh with the thoughts you have for the continued work of the CJFWF Planning Committee for Jewish Education and Culture.

Please be assured that the Foundation remains eager to relate itself constructively to your Committee's efforts, and that we shall welcome hearing from you soon.

Cordially,



Earl Morse
President



יד הרב הרצוג - אמ"ת - איחוד מפעלים תורתיים-ספרותיים
"EMET"-RABBI HERZOG WORLD ACADEMY

(Formerly World Academy in Jerusalem)

122 WEST 78TH STREET NEW YORK 23, N.Y. BU 7-1051



נ"ב

January 15, 1976

*orig sent
to Harry
Baron*

RABBI HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN 771
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HON. HERBERT TENZER
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 JACK D. WEILER
 RABBI BEREL WEIN
 JOSEPH S. WOHL

NAT GOLLER
 Executive Director

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

For many years prior to 1974, the "Emet"- Rabbi Herzog World Academy had been receiving a substantial sum annually from the Scholarly Works Fund of the Philadelphia Board of Rabbis. With the establishment of Joint Cultural Appeal of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, this support ended.

The Talmudic Encyclopedia, our major publication, has been universally acclaimed as the greatest Hebrew scholarly work of our generation. This major research project will comprise a minimum of thirty six (36) volumes in Hebrew, and at least a similar number in an English edition. Fourteen volumes have appeared thus far, and we expect the fifteenth to be completed this year. Two of the English edition have also been published. The Talmudic Encyclopedia is the only encyclopedia in the field of Jewish jurisprudence and scientific research. It organizes under subject matter, in alphabetical arrangement, the almost endless material of the Talmud, and collects all the research on the Talmud made during the past 1500 years, from the days of the Second Temple through the middle ages until this day.

In order to help us cover the deficit incurred in the publication of each volume, and in order to continue the publication of the English edition, we had been asking for the support of the various Community Funds throughout the United States and Canada, in addition to the contributions we have been receiving from many rabbis and congregations. We are recognized as a Public Foundation, and may be supported with the sanction of the Internal Revenue Service.

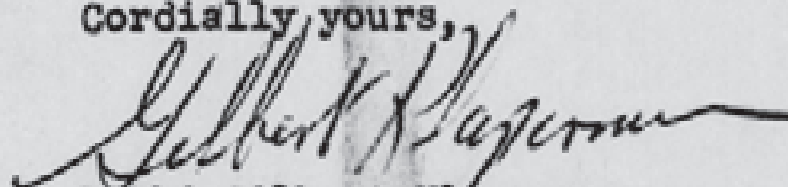
Rabbi Daniel J. Silver(2) January 15, 1976

While we can appreciate the need for support by the many cultural programs in Israel, i.e. the Dance; Opera; Ballet and Symphony, we submit that the dissemination of publications that open the contents of the 'sea' of the Talmud to the public are of no less importance.

Rabbi Goldfarb has suggested that we write to you, to ask your help in interceding with the Council to add our institution to the list of those being supported by them.

With best wishes, I am

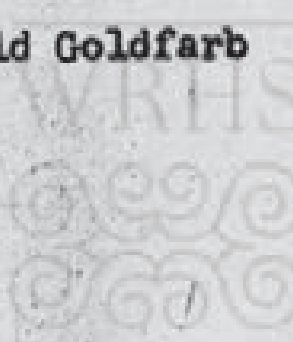
Cordially yours,



Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman
Chairman, Board of Trustees

GK/sp

cc: Rabbi Harold Goldfarb



(2/25/76) תאריך 1752 תרנ"ח' ה' / י"ח אדר א' תשנ"ו : 7305 '3 ת"א

THE CITY COLLEGE
OF
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10031

DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH STUDIES

(212) 621-

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

Dear Dr. Silver: 5/1/75 : 7/67 IN 1752 תרנ"ח' ה' / י"ח אדר א' תשנ"ו

Dr. Bernad Martin telephone me that you graciously offered to intercede for a grant to the Great Yiddish Dictionary Project of the College of the City of New York and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Please accept my sincerest thanks in advance.

For several years in succession we have been applying to the United Jewish Cultural Appeal - without (to my knowledge) even having our application considered by the Trustees. We asked for a grant of \$10,000. to be sent to the National Endowment for the Humanities - which has been offering to match grants up to \$75,000.

Friday 7/67 I'll send you some further literature on the Dictionary.

For the time being permit me, please, to detail also the most salient facts:

1. For 23 years now we have been trying to provide the Jewish people in general and scholars in particular with a comprehensive Yiddish Dictionary - an indispensable key to Jewish Studies.
2. Even the best available dictionaries list some 10% of the total Yiddish vocabulary - ca. 25,000 entries of a quarter of a million! It is a shameful situation!
3. We had planned, (and could have succeeded!) to finish the Project in 20 years - i.e., to produce a volume every 2 years. Jewish Philanthropy unfortunately has been beset all this time by priorities of a more dire human urgency. So - we succeeded in producing a volume in seven years! Volume Four is now at the printers. We have another nine volumes to prepare!
4. But even this pace is now in jeopardy. And speed is of the essence! A dictionary prepared by scholars to whom the language is "living" is incomparably superior to a dictionary of a "dead" language. In the former case the precise meaning of a text is assured by the knowledge of the exact meaning of each word in it; in the latter - the meaning of a word is first established by conjecture from the context.
5. Partly due to rumors that the work on the Dictionary is being abandoned because of the recent death of its editor (Dr. Yudel Mark 7/6) we failed to raise more than 1% of the matching - so a case

[Feb 25, 1976]

THE CITY COLLEGE
OF
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10031

DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH STUDIES

(212) 621-

Dr. Daniel J. Silver - 2

of a self-fulfilling prophecy arose:

7. We actually had to lay off all but three of a staff of 20 and two more are slated to be laid off on May 31, 1976 - unless...

8. Actually, because of the long delay, we decided that we just have to produce a practical, one-volume dictionary, but comprehensive enough to ensure an answer to 99% of queries, even if not containing 99% of the vocabulary - i.e. having ca. 150,000 entries of the highest frequency.

We could produce such a dictionary in less than five years. But we have no funds!

Shouldn't we make available a decent dictionary?

Very sincerely yours,

Nathan Susskind
Nathan Susskind
Director of the Yiddish
Dictionary Project

NS/mr

P. S. Just to indicate the devotion of the Founders of the Dictionary the Editors and Directors of the Project have been working full time without remuneration.

Kindly address your correspondence to me to my home:

82-15 Britton Ave.
Elmhurst, N.Y. 11373
Tel. 212-898-1813

cc: Dr. Bernard Martin

March 8, 1976

Dr. Nathan Susskind
82-15 Britton Ave.
Elmhurst, N. Y. 11373

Dear Dr. Susskind:

I want to thank you for your recent letter. I am discussing the matter with Dr. Barron and others of the National Foundation and I know they will be in touch with you. With all good wishes I remain



Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

C.C. de B. Martin

Dr. Harry Barron

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Curator

WILLIAM W. HALLO
Professor of Assyriology

April 2, 1976

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver, Chairman
Academic Advisory Council
National Foundation for Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Daniel:

Thank you for your letter of March 26th and for the list of awards. I'm sorry I could not be there on the 22nd but it was impossible to take additional time off between the AOS meetings of the preceding week and the celebration of the Centennial of HUC. The latter, by the way, was a memorable occasion with many plaudits also for your father. Sorry you couldn't be there.

I take this opportunity to put in a particularly strong recommendation for Chaim J. Milikowsky. He's a student of Sid Leiman here at Yale and proposes to, at long last, provide a proper edition of Seder Olam Rabbah: A Study of Rabbinic Chronology. I can hardly think of a more useful project from a variety of points of view. It has implications for Biblical Studies, for history and for Rabbinics and Chaim is just the man to handle it. So please assure Harry Barron that if I had been there I would have argued very strongly on his behalf. Any consideration given to this matter will be greatly appreciated. (And perhaps at the same time it will help to correct a certain imbalance I note this year in favor of Columbia, Brandeis, etc.).

With all best wishes,

cordially yours,



WWH/jac

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

April 5, 1976

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

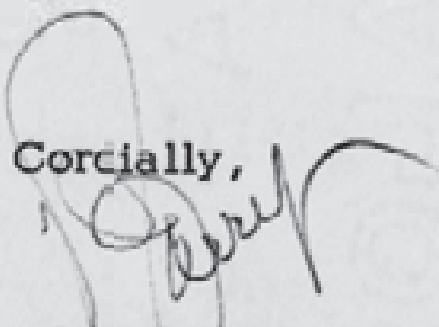
Dear Dan:

As you will see from the enclosed note to Bill
Hallo, I undertook to comment about the Milikowsky
application. Perhaps you will want to drop him a note
when you can.

Have a wonderful trip. I shall look forward to
talking with you when you return.

All the best.

Cordially,


Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

ek
encls.

P.S. I recently asked Sam Klausner for some information
about the Center for Research on the Acts of Man of
which he is the Executive Director. He sent along
a brochure which I have xeroxed and enclose here-
with; also an article of his "Synagogues in Transi-
tion: A Planning Prospectus" which appeared in
Conservative Judaism in 1970.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

April 5, 1976

COPY

Dr. William W. Hallo
Sterling Memorial Library
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut 06520

Dear Bill:

Since Rabbi Silver is not here (and in fact is leaving the country) we took the liberty of opening your letter addressed to him. We are, of course, forwarding it to him in Cleveland. I have noted your comments about Chaim Milikowsky. I should tell you that he is first on our list of "provisionals". Should we have some funds left from the first group of award winners, I think the chances are very good that he will get a grant from us since a number of those in the first group will receive grants from other sources which should leave a balance of funds to be distributed to at least one or two of the provisionals.

We all missed you at the March 22nd meeting but we found your comments very helpful. I hope you are well and I send all good wishes for a happy Pesach.

Cordially,

ek

Harry I. Barron

April 15, 1976

Mr. William W. Hallo
Yale University
Sterling Memorial Library
New Haven, Connecticut 06520

Dear Bill:

Harry Barron forwarded to me your letter of April 2. I was in London for the week guiding a congregational tour of "Jewish" London. It was fun.

True, this year's crop of applications was exceptionally strong. You would have been pleased both at the quality of the submissions and in the manner in which the meeting proceeded. It was the most business-like meeting in a long time.

As Harry indicated, Milikowsky had a strong application and there is a good chance that he will receive a grant. He fell just under the line and whatever is left over will be placed towards a grant in his behalf.

I trust all is well with you and I hope that our paths will cross in the not-too-distant future.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2283

May 10, 1976

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

Dear Dan:

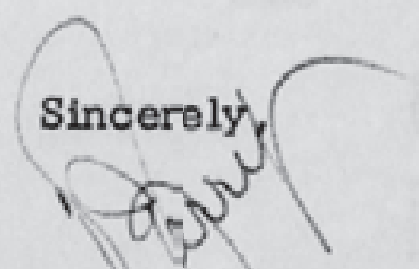
I have noted your comments in regard to Mark Epstein and Marsha Rozenblit. We now have a third awardee who is asking for deferment until next year.

The problem is not a simple one. It does entail a policy question and a matter of precedent. Last year we permitted three people to postpone their NFJC grants until this coming academic year and we earmarked the funds so that they would be available this Fall. When they get in touch with us prior to the new academic year, we shall review the situation to see whether they still qualify. But we didn't require them to submit a new application and to take their chances with the 1976-77 group of applicants.

It would seem to me that once having gone through the selection process and designated for an award, they should not have to undergo the same procedure the following year but should have a different kind of review centering around the progress they made in the intervening year and their need for financial assistance to enable them to complete their dissertation program. I am not averse to using the funds originally assigned to them for apportionment among the top alternates, but I think they should have some claim on the following year's funds if they pass muster otherwise.

Let's do some further thinking about this before we finalize our decision. Meanwhile, I will go ahead with Epstein on the \$1,000 for the summer course and suggest that he resubmit his application for next year.

Sincerely,


Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

ek

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

Office of the President

May 20, 1976

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

Dear Daniel:

At our April Board Meeting it was decided that a special committee be appointed to study the matter of new methods of funding to make possible the broader scope of Foundation programming recommended by the Reassessment Report. Such an exploration will also deal with the feasibility and desirability of creating a corpus as proposed in the enclosed document prepared for Board discussion last month.

I am pleased that Amos Comay of Pittsburgh has agreed to be the Chairman of this Development Committee which I hope can bring in its recommendations early in the Fall.

I would very much like to have you serve on this important committee for I am sure you can be of real help in thinking through the matters with which it will be concerned. Mr. Comay has scheduled the first meeting for Friday, June 11th, 12:30 p.m. (Lunch) in the Louis XVI East Suite of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. I do hope you will make a special effort to attend and that you will let me know on the enclosed reply card.

The future direction and growth of the Foundation will depend in considerable measure on the outcome of this committee's work, and I therefore urge your active participation in its deliberations. My warm thanks in advance for your anticipated assistance.

Kindest regards.

Cordially,



Earl Morse

encs.

[May 20, 1976]

A FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

The following statement is put forward as an introduction to a discussion on the need for establishing new sources of funding to support the American Jewish cultural enterprise.

* * *

Among aspirations and expectations that accompanied the creation of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture in 1959 was an underlying hope that it would serve as the surrogate of the Jewish community in planning for the creative Jewish cultural enterprise. Due to the decisions it had made in its first years, the Foundation was able to address itself in a substantial way to only one area of culture: Jewish scholarship.

In this area, the Foundation has established a creditable record of achievement. Through its grants it has assisted more than 250 scholars prepare for careers in Jewish Studies programs on university campuses, an achievement which has had great impact on what has been described as among the most significant developments on the American Jewish scene. It has been instrumental in coordinating cooperative efforts among major libraries and archival institutions, leading to a series of substantial grants from the federal government and developing into a continuing deliberative activity which promises much potential for growth and achievement.

Scholarship is only one of the areas in the cultural spectrum, and the NFJC has been restricted to this field by the way it is funded, depending as it does on community allocations from the proceeds of local annual campaigns. These allocations are now shared by eight other organizations in the Joint Cultural Appeal in accordance with a formula which will not allow for any substantial growth in NFJC income. And even in the field of scholarship the Foundation has not been able to do that which it felt was required in such areas as publications and research.

There are other vital aspects of creative cultural effort which, if given a modicum of support, could enormously enrich the substance of American Jewish life and help it emerge as one of the outstanding Jewish communities in our history. These areas, which have not received major attention by the organized community, revolve around artistic expression, whether in film, drama, literature, music, dance or the visual arts. It is through these forms that many among the rising generation can find linkage with the Jewish heritage, and through which an American expression may be given to our historic traditions. The Foundation has been the natural address to which those seeking support have turned to help carry out their creative activity. Except for academic grants, these requests have had to be turned aside because funding resources were not available.

If the NFJC is to begin to meet its obligations as the central address for the Jewish cultural enterprise, it must find a way to respond in a positive fashion to the needs that confront the community. To provide this response it is proposed that the Foundation establish a Fund for the Advancement of Jewish Culture which, operating through two divisions - one for scholarship and one for the cultural arts - would seek to stimulate and nurture creative efforts of recognized caliber reflecting the Jewish experience, themes and sources. A corpus of funds will be sought, the income of which will permit a sustained effort to meet the challenge. We believe that there are many in the Jewish community of ample means and possessing sufficient foresight and commitment who would be willing to participate in this effort that would put an indelible stamp of quality and excellence on American Jewish life.

~~NATIONAL~~ FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

June 16, 1976

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

Dear Dan:

I appreciate your coming in for the meeting of the Development Committee last Friday and for your participation. You are undoubtedly right about the amount of wheel-spinning that we shall have to endure until some significant results can be achieved. But it is better to do that than not move at all.

I shall need your help on this and hope that you will work with us in fleshing out the programmatic aspects. I will be in touch with you about this shortly.

Sorry that you had to put up with the inconvenience in getting to the airport. I hope you got back to Cleveland in time for your other commitments.

All the best.

Cordially,

Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

ek
enc.

File for
R11

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

490-2280

July 30, 1976

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

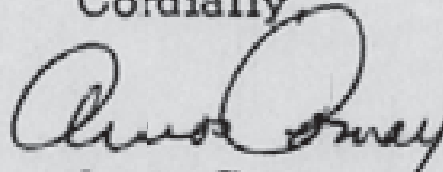
You have, I trust, recently received from me a report on the work and first actions of our Development Committee.

I should now like to invite you to serve on the special sub-committee on Program and Planning which is charged with the key job of exploring and shaping options for an expanded range of activities, particularly in the arts. Its chairman is the very able Sidney Vincent of Cleveland.

The first meeting of this group is scheduled for Monday, August 30th at 12:00 noon, a luncheon session at the Princeton Club in New York, 15 West 43rd St.

I know that your perspectives and participation can be of real help, and I look forward to your working with us on this very exciting project. I shall appreciate your letting me know via the enclosed reply card whether you will be at the meeting on August 30th. Kind regards.

Cordially



Amos Comay
Chairman, Development Committee

enc.

MINUTES

National Foundation for Jewish Culture
Development Commission--Committee on
Program and Planning

August 30, 1976 12:00 noon
Princeton Club, New York City

ATTENDANCE: Sidney Z. Vincent, Chairman; Julian Freeman, Arthur Gelber, Max Jacobs, Nat Kameny, Mrs. Janet Lowenstein, Earl Morse, Julius Schatz, Mrs. Martha Selig, George M. Zeltzer.
Staff: Harry I. Barron, Abraham Atik, David Ebin.
Unable to Attend: Amos Comay, Rabbi D.J. Silver, Lewis Weinstein, A. Walter Socolow, Saul Viener, Paul Vishny, Mrs. L. Strelitz.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

After introducing the members of the Committee, Sidney Z. Vincent, the Chairman, provided some background information regarding its function. He noted that when the Foundation was first created in 1960 the arts were not included as an area of priority concern for the new organization, though it was recognized that it should be taken up at an appropriate time. After a recent reassessment of the Foundation's program, the Board agreed that it would be desirable to expand its activity to include the creative arts. It then authorized the appointment of a Development Commission to explore in greater detail the shape and feasibility of a program in this area. The Development Commission met under the chairmanship of Amos Comay, and at its initial meeting decided to establish two committees, one on Program and Planning, and the other to discuss possible funding sources and strategies, under the chairmanship of George M. Zeltzer. As a preliminary to the discussion, the Chairman suggested that it would be useful if some information were provided on the actual need for a program in the field, and called on Julius Schatz of the American Jewish Congress and the Council on Art in Jewish Life to report on his experience.

NEEDS IN THE ARTS

Mr. Schatz reported that in a typical nine-month period he receives approximately 200 requests for assistance for various creative endeavors. Many of these requests come from young people who are trying to express their Jewish commitment in the contemporary artistic media. However, requests for assistance are not limited to the young, since established artists also seek subvention for various aspects of their work. There is a wide range of need reflected in the various requests ranging from exhibit space for plastic artists to the support of production for theatre groups, to financial assistance for creative individuals to secure the time necessary to work. He pointed out that there is no address to which requests in the arts can be referred, no process which permits for a proper evaluation of activities in this area. He noted that it is particularly the younger generation which needs to express its Jewishness through the medium of the arts, and in the light of the concern of the organized community about maintaining the allegiance of the young, this mode of expression must receive attention.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the various approaches that might be taken in addressing the needs. George Zeltzer noted that while we have been talking about production, we need to pay attention to the consumers. Would there be a market for the efforts of the creative individuals assuming that they were assisted in producing their works? Janet Lowenstein responded that she considered it the function of any program that would

emerge from these discussions to emphasize quality, and to assume that works of quality will find a proper audience. It is the quality of the creative effort rather than the potential audience that needed to be stressed.

Martha K. Selig suggested that any program that is being considered must be thought through carefully, to avoid duplication and to set forth criteria and a structure which will lend themselves to success. She suggested that in its early stages the program be a modest one. Arthur Gelber noted that only "laymen" were present at this meeting and that it is vital to involve those actually working in the creative fields in these discussions. It was pointed out that some creative people have already been interviewed and while at this first meeting basic policies and approaches needed to be discussed by a lay group, there was every intention to involve the creative artists in this process.

In the subsequent discussion a number of areas were reviewed, though not resolved. Included were the questions as to whether the Foundation should support the established artist or the younger undeveloped talent; whether to fund individuals only or also the mechanisms which foster or give a forum for creativity; and whether the program should support the strictly creative effort or include that which might be considered interpretive.

A summary of the informal agreements reached at the meeting included the following:

- a) It would be desirable to obtain as much factual information as possible about what different organizations are doing in the area of the arts, to know what already has been achieved and to avoid needless duplication.
- b) Creative individuals active in the arts should be canvassed regarding their perception of needs and for suggestions regarding programmatic procedures.
- c) Any proposed grants program will not be designed to subvent individuals merely because they are Jewish, but will reflect the Foundation's interest in fostering efforts that reflect or relate to Jewish life.
- d) Priority should be given to the quality of the effort rather than to its potential use by the organized community.

NEXT STEPS

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee should be held October 11, 1976 with ample time to deal thoroughly with the agenda. Prior to that meeting, a subcommittee chaired by Max Jacobs, will closely examine the questions that had been raised regarding the structure and form of a projected program, and undertake the task of interviewing prominent figures in the various arts media to solicit their views of needs and possible programs. It was also agreed that an effort will be made to have a number of these individuals participate in future meetings of the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

[Aug 30, 1976]

INTERVIEWS

Interviews with representatives of the various arts and media will look to ask this range of questions-- by way of gathering deeper understanding of the needs in the respective fields, the talent available, the projects likely to be submitted and the shape of an eventual entry field of applicants:

- * Please identify creative persons in the field whom you feel would welcome an opportunity to give expression to the Jewish component in their work? What are the current opportunities for this at present? To what extent have you been able to -- wished to nor needed to - produce and perform in this way?
- * What are the projects and programs that you feel call for such support? Detail? Any priorities?
- * To what extent were you hindered from Jewish expression in and through the arts in your career - for the lack of a central address and funding body such as is now under consideration? Similarly -- in the experience of your friends and working associates?
- * What would you say has been or is the greatest barrier -- if any -- to the development of works of Jewish expression in your field?
- * If you had the power to grant three fellowships of \$10,000 to \$15,000 each for a year's work and study; to whom would you make the awards this year?
- * What do you feel is a meaningful sum of money to ensure that artists in your field have the "creative time" they need to produce a significant work or project?
- * Would you be willing to serve on a Consultant Panel in your field that would screen applicants once such a program is set up? Whom else would you recommend?
- * What spread if any, do you advise with regard to making awards to proven artists, and to those showing promise?

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

490-2280

MEMORANDUM

September 16, 1976

TO: Rabbi Daniel J. Silver

FROM: Sidney Z. Vincent, Chairman
Committee on Program and Planning - Development Commission

Re: Progress Report

- I On August 30th, the Committee held its first session at the Princeton Club. Discussion of its agenda provided for general agreement on several main issues as well as marking a course to be followed. (See Minutes Attached.)

At the meeting's close, Max Jacobs was delegated to head a work force to gather further data, make in-depth soundings and draw up plans that would provide for sharp definition of a viable arts endowment program, and that would expedite further Committee consideration and decisions.

On September 6th, in a follow-up meeting in Cleveland with Mr. Jacobs -- with Foundation staff in attendance -- we reviewed and outlined the essential tasks, schedules and work required of his force. Additionally, the agenda and date for the next full Committee meeting was taken up.

- II On the basis of the two above-mentioned meetings, the following actions were agreed upon:

A. The Committee will next meet on Monday, October 11th at the Harmonie Club in New York. Following a working lunch, it will sit through the afternoon -- or later if needed -- to permit ample time for presentations, reports, discussion and decision.

B. At that time presentations and reports developed by Mr. Jacobs and his team will be made in three primary areas:

1. * The Opinions of Artists, Performers et al.

Interviews with leading practitioners and spokesmen in the various art fields will be reported on.

Those fields under consideration, within our purview, are these:

Music	Photography
Dance	Film
Theatre	Television
Painting & Sculpture	Broadcasting
Museums & Forums	

[Sept 16, 1976]

- 2 -

Soundings with at least 2 members of each field will have been solicited. (The attached Questionnaire indicates the range of responses being sought.) Working with Mr. Jacobs on this are: Janet Lowenstein, Martha Selig, Julius Schatz, and staff. Regional canvassing is being undertaken by Saul Viener, Richmond; Paul Vishny, Chicago; and myself here in the Cleveland area.

The personal appearance of the artists themselves, it was felt, was not likely or in order at this time. However, it was agreed that the presence of one or two figures, such as a Theo Bikel, who bridge both the arts and the Jewish communal scene, would be helpful and should be sought.

2. * Presentation of Program Models

A series of options as to the mix, focus and range--both short and long -- of a prestigious national endowment program for Jewish expression in-and-through the arts to be offered by the National Foundation, will be made.

The minimum price-tag for such Models-- specifically, the amount of monies needed for disbursement at both start-up and later phases will also be estimated and projected.

3. * Statement of Purpose

This is to spell out the proposed program -- making clear what it is and what it is not. It will look to give simple expression to the Committee's consensus and feelings on such issues as: criteria of eligibility, need for and scope of program selection process in general, projected sources of funding (private), initial targets of service and eventual expansion, relationship with other agencies and bodies, etc.

This statement will serve as a draft for review and refinement by the Committee; thereupon to serve as guide-lines for the Funding Committee, and for possibly wider promulgation and dissemination.

C. Advance drafts of the Statement of Purpose and options as to Program Models will be mailed to all Committee members prior to October 11th -- to provide for proper consideration both prior to and at the meeting.

D. The major business before the Committee on October 11th, -- it is anticipated -- will be to:

Add and assess the findings of the artists and performers who have been interviewed within the overall picture of needs and trends of Art within the American Jewish community ..

Select the best Model for a national program serving the arts.

Fix a minimum price-tag for the start-up of such a program. (e.g. "w" number of awards to "x" number of persons in "y" categories will/should cost "z" amount of dollars.)

[Sept 16, 1976]

- 3 -

Review and pass on the Statement of Purpose.

(The Committee's recommendations on the above items following the October 11th meeting will then be forwarded to the Commission for routing to the Funding Committee as a base for the start of its work.)

- E. Meanwhile, it was agreed, the Committee and staff would begin to bring the work of the Committee and of the Development Commission to the attention of major Jewish leadership -- specifically to the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, to the National Jewish Welfare Board and to the executive directors of the large communities

It was felt that a sharing of this initiative, even at this early date, was proper and desirable and in the best interests of all concerned.

encs.



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U.S.A.

September 28, 1976

Dr. Harry Barron
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 E. 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

It has been a long silence. I understand that some of the staff was in Cleveland to talk to Sid. I would have loved a phone call.

I continue to think that you are walking up a primrose path in the arts field, but. . .

I think that publications awards announcement should be made soon, the date set for submissions - say May 1 - the first award to be announced in September of 1977. We should appoint a three or four man committee to be the Awards Committee, divided equally between the two fields. The announcements should be placed in our HAS Newsletter and circulated through their mailing list.

Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

October 11, 1976

Dr. Harry Barron
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

Sorry I couldn't make the Monday meeting. We are doing some work at the house and I could not leave before the contractors got there.

I am enclosing a copy of the CSR Bulletin, the last few pages of which are devoted to the Scholars Press. Basically, my idea is this:

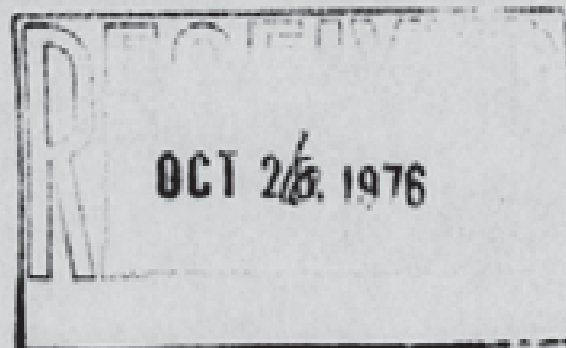
1. That the Foundation work out an agreement with Scholars Press about the publication of a dissertation series.
2. That our Academic Advisory Council be a Board of Editors for that series.
3. That we publicize the series broadly and aid in the dissemination of the published works.

Keep Well.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp



COPY

740 West End Ave. #83A
New York, N.Y. 10025
20 October 1976

Dear Dr. Barron:

Thank you very much for your patience in reviewing my case. In my relations with the Foundation I have experienced nothing but consideration and solicitude. In the past few weeks I have been able to clarify my position, and with your permission I would like to give you some overview of the design of my scholarly training and then discuss my relationship to the Foundation.

As I have described to the Foundation before, my present plans result from a crisis of values I underwent several years ago, as a result of which I took the firm conviction to step beyond my involvement in English, secular literature and to devote myself to Jewish studies. The decision was made in the later stages of my doctoral program in English. In conjunction with Professor Twersky, who advised me at that time, I decided that it made sense to finish the degree in English and ^{then} proceed further. I wrote my dissertation (on George Eliot), and defended it in May, 1975 (it will be published in expanded form by Harvard University Press). During the two years I was working on the thesis—it took about half of my time—I began some advanced studies in Judaica. The year 1973-74 I spent at the Hebrew University studying texts from the rabbinic period, and the year 1974-75 I spent as a special student at Harvard studying medieval works.

At the time I was not entirely certain which period within the range of Hebrew literature I wished to specialize in, and in view of the fact that Prof. Twersky was on leave from his teaching duties during that coming year, I made application and was accepted as a Lady Davis Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Hebrew Literature Department at the Hebrew University. At the beginning of the year in Israel (1975-76) I made a definite decision to enter the field of modern Hebrew literature. The record of my work last year is on a separate sheet.

Although I considered remaining at the Hebrew University for a second year (the Lady Davis Trust had renewed my fellowship), I ultimately decided to return to America. Since my concentration was to be in modern Hebrew literature, there seemed to be little rationale for returning to Harvard; there instruction is given exclusively in medieval, and any work I wished to do in modern would have to be done on my own. Consequently I decided to locate in New York where Professor Dan Miron, perhaps the greatest student of modern Hebrew literature and the man who directed my studies last year in Jerusalem, was teaching. Prof. Miron, as his supporting letter states, has accepted responsibility for supervising my work for this year. My work will divide into two: a) an intensive series of directed readings aimed at reading the major texts of

[Oct 20, 1976]

the Hebrew Haskalah, in the framework of a tutorial with Prof. Miron, and b) readings in Modern Yiddish literature, in the framework of two courses taught by Prof. Miron and of a tutorial in language at the YIVO. In addition to these two major foci, I plan to cover some advanced topics in Hebrew grammar with Prof. David Sperling (Department of Religion, Columbia), to read some twentieth-century Hebrew texts with Dr. Avraham Holtz in the Spring, and to engage in private study of Midrash.

My formal institutional affiliation will be as a post-doctoral fellow of the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies. Columbia, unfortunately, has no procedural provisions for post-doctoral fellows of this sort, although Prof. Michael Herzog, the director of the Center for Israel and Jewish Studies, explored the possibility and was disappointed to discover that there was ^{no} such provision. I shall, however, be spending most of my time at Columbia and its libraries.

I wished to add that these arrangements have been discussed with Prof. Twersky. He wholeheartedly approves of my choice of the modern period, and he additionally endorses my studying with Prof. Miron. He requests that if there is any lingering question about the wisdom and coherence of my program, that he be called at home (617-232-7356) and that he will be happy to discuss the situation. Two years ago, after discussing the nature of my particular needs and qualification, we decided that if certain conditions prevailed that it would be more proper for me to do two or three years of post-doctoral work rather than a second Ph.D. Those conditions are: a) if the concentration I chose in Jewish studies was cognate to my preparation in modern English literature, b) ^{the} work was done under the supervision of certain recognized academic authorities, and c) if I proved myself to be serious and capable by publishing scholarly articles in the field. I feel that my work has fulfilled these conditions. The work I did in English is indisputably necessary to the study of modern Hebrew literature. I have eminent professors with whom I have studied and who are willing to speak on my behalf. And the two, long scholarly articles (one in Hebrew) which I wrote last year and which have already been accepted for publication serve, I believe, as proof of my commitment to the field and my ability to do significant work in it.

In terms of my relationship to the Foundation, as you recall, I was awarded a grant of \$4200 for ~~the year~~ last year (1975-76), which you allowed me to defer until this year because of my tenure last year as a Lady Davis Fellow in Jerusalem. When I informed you in the spring that I was planning to spend another year in Israel, you gave my line in the budget to someone else, as was entirely proper. However, I have returned to New York and am pursuing my Hebrew studies in what I think you will agree is an earnest and productive way, and while the Foundation stands in no obligation to me, I believe that there is a commitment in principle to the support of my work. The plain fact is that I need the money badly; if I were to work to produce the kind of income available from such a tax-free fellowship, it is hard for me to see that there would be much time left

(Oct 20, 1976)

-3-

for productive scholarship or publication of any serious sort. It is an important transitional moment in my training and I hope you will prevent me from faltering at this crucial juncture. I understand that my request presents difficult technical problems and that you would have to finesse the funds from some other line in your budget, but I hope that you will do your utmost on this matter.

I shall call you shortly to find out if there are any question to be clarified, and if it isn't overreaching of me I would want to redisuss the amount of funds requests in light of the overwhelming expenses of living in New York. Please do not hesitate to call Prof. Twersky: he expects to be gotten in touch with if there are problems or questions.

Thank you again for your attention. I am yours

Sincerely,

Alan Mintz
(Dr.) Alan Mintz

Enclosures



NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

October 26, 1976

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

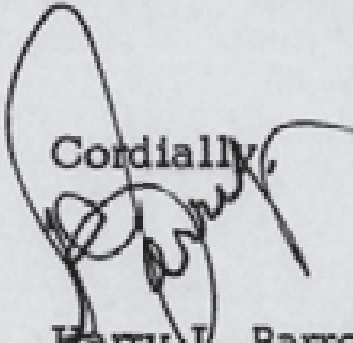
Dear Dan:

I enclose a copy of a letter received today from Alan Mintz to whom we awarded a grant for 1975-76 and which we agreed to defer until 1976-77 since he had received a Lady Davis Fellowship for study at the Hebrew University.

As you will note, there has been some shift in Mintz's field of study albeit it continues to be in the area of Hebrew literature. He evidently has done a good deal of work during the past year. He enclosed a copy of a paper he has written on Mordecai Ze'ev Feierberg and The Reveries of Redemption, a forty page article that has been accepted for Volume 2 of the AJS review, and he also has submitted an article in Hebrew (Leilot: from Romanticism to Symbolism) which is to appear in Knesset, Volume published by Mosad Bialik.

I would like your ok on releasing the funds for the grant to Mintz. We had originally earmarked the money and it is still available. Please let me hear from you on this.

Cordially,


Harry J. Barron
Executive Director

ek
enc.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

490-2280

October 26, 1976

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

Dear Dan:

Today I received the AJS review Volume 1. I presume you have also gotten your copy.

My superficial scanning of the contents leaves me unexcited but not unhappy. It is interesting that nine of the sixteen papers were written by former NFJC grantees.

According to the terms of our grant to the AJS, we expected to evaluate the publication before committing ourselves to further grants. You will remember that we had some question about the publication of an annual rather than a periodical journal, but there is not much we can do about that. I gather that it is the Association's intention to continue to publish one volume a year. This type of format necessarily eschews such features as book reviews that one would expect in a more frequently issued journal.

I have written Charles Berlin reminding him of the understanding that copies of the publication would be made available to members of the Foundation Board. In view of the fact that it is now in the form of a book, there may be something of a problem about their willingness to furnish us with enough copies for our Board. I think we should send along a note to the Board about the publication. Do you want to get up something for this purpose?

Kind regards.

Cordially

Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

ek

October 29, 1976

Dr. Harry Barron
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

I, too, received an AJS Review, volume 1, I guess as part of my membership in AJS. I agree with your general assessment. Perhaps it would be enough to send along to our Board a xerox of the table of contents and of the preface which indicates our contribution. I would let the accompanying note be simply an historical review of our relationships with AJS, sponsorship of regional conferences etc., and a numerical note of the identity of fellowship and donors.

On the Mintz matter, give Twersky a call and get a reading from him. If everything comes up as I think it will, I would release the funds.

What the hell happened at the meeting on funding of the arts? I have not heard a word.

Keep well.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

February 21, 1977

Dr. Harry Barron
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 E. 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

I read the page and a half on publications. It's a ten-minute throw-together which indicates that the office has done no real thinking in this area over the past year. There is no information as to the organization of the Scholar's Press; there is no information as to how the various dissertation series are now being handled; there is no indication who should decide what should be subsidized and why. To say that I am disappointed would be an understatement. One of the reasons we have had this under fire for two years is that you have not taken hold and done the spade work. I will ^{not} bring this vague mishmash up another time and I am abashed at having gotten the approval of the Foundation's Board to a publications program which has not been taken any further. Please do the following:

- 1) Basic research into the Scholar's Press and the various dissertation series, the editors' cost of publication etc.
- 2) Discussions with local academics as to the specific audience for such a dissertation series, suggested committee etc.

I remain unimpressed by the funding of material by senior men in the field except in one area, the publication of a true research tool such as the Yiddish Dictionary. Please see that the above is done before our meeting.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

[Feb 21, 1977]

PUBLICATIONS

At the 1975 meeting of the Academic Advisory Council it was recommended that the National Foundation begin to support a publications program. It was suggested that \$20,000 be allocated to this program to be spent over five years. Initially, the intention was to provide two awards a year for deserving manuscripts, one by an established scholar and one by a younger academic. There were serious reservations about this approach from the beginning, dealing as much with the substance of a program of this nature as with the difficulties of selection and administration. The following are descriptions of alternative programs that might be considered.

Scholarly Publications Program

The objective of this program would be to permit the publication of a limited number of works of excellence through participation in required subsidization. To be considered for this program, a manuscript would already have to had been accepted for publication by a reputable publisher of scholarly materials (e.g. a university press) and to have been submitted for review by the Academic Advisory Council. A sub-committee of the Academic Advisory Council might be established for the screening process.

A number of stipulations might be desirable in administering a program such as the one described. For instance, the Foundation might in no case provide more than a stated proportion of the amount needed for subsidization purposes - one-third or one-half, and no grant should be larger than \$1,500 - \$2,000 (?). The Foundation might also wish to make a claim on royalties.

It should be noted that such a program would be criticized by at least one group, the American Academy for Jewish Research, which feels it already has a program of this nature and that funds for this purpose should be funnelled through them.

[Feb 21, 1977]

- 2 -

Dissertation Series

It has also been suggested that we sponsor a publications series of deserving doctoral dissertations. In this connection, it has been suggested ~~to~~ link-up with organizations such as the Scholar's Press which could publish these works inexpensively. We would need to define the objectives of a program of this nature; are we trying to assist deserving young scholars to advance in their academic careers by allowing them to publish, or are we more concerned with seeing that first rate academic work is published?

Assuming we do define the objectives, ~~the~~ difficulties that need to be taken into account are that selection of these materials would be occurring at a manuscript level, prior to acceptance by any publisher and the screening that implies. This might mean a heavier workload for the Academic Advisory Council. In addition, some feeling has been indicated that scholars have a much greater preference, to the exclusion of any other alternative, for publication by "name" publishers and might not welcome the arrangement.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

March 17, 1977

Rabbi Samuel Z. Fishman
B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Rabbi Fishman:

Thank you for your recent letter setting forth your plans for a new edition of the Catalogue of Jewish Studies in American Colleges and Universities.

We have given careful consideration to the matter and regretfully must advise you that we cannot at this time participate in the funding of this project. Our commitments in other directions preclude the funding of this publication.

I regret our inability to be of help to you at this time. If you have not already done so, you might want to explore the possibility of some assistance from the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds whose Committee on College Youth and Faculty might find it feasible to participate in this venture.

Every good wish.

Sincerely,

Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

dbb

cc: Prof. Marvin Fox

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver ✓

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

March 17, 1977

Dr. Nahum M. Sarna, Treasurer
Association for Jewish Studies
Brandeis University
Waltham, Mass. 02154

Dear Dr. Sarna:

I have your letter of March 9th regarding volume two of the AJSreview.

We shall plan to send you the requested first payment of \$5,000 within the next few weeks. Meanwhile, it would be appreciated if you would furnish us with a statement on your evaluation of the first volume, and some report on the fiscal operation and distribution of volume one. You will recall that one of the conditions of our grant to the Association for this project was for there to be some assessment of the first volume before our commitment for succeeding grants.

Sincerely,

Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

dbb
cc: Marvin Fox /
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

490-2280

March 17, 1977

Dr. Robert Gordis
Jewish Theological Seminary of America
3080 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

Dear Dr. Gordis:

Many thanks for your prompt return of the Summary Rating Sheets on the grants applications which you were good enough to examine.

It is good to know that you are planning to attend the meeting of the Academic Advisory Council on March 28th. I know that your participation will be of genuine benefit. We shall understand if you are a bit late. Incidentally, two other members will be coming in from Cleveland that morning (Dr. Bernard Martin and Dr. Daniel Jeremy Silver). Perhaps you will even be coming on the same plane.

I have noted your suggestion about including a question on the application form regarding education in specifically Jewish institutions. At one time the application form contained such an item which was subsequently dropped in favor of the item on the top of page 2, "Other Relevant Education". Most applicants list their specifically Jewish education in this section.

In response to your question about the confidentiality of the evaluations, the only identification is made among the members of the Academic Advisory Council when they discuss a particular application. This information is not ever disclosed to anyone else.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on March 28th. Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely,

Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

dbb

cc: Dr. Daniel Jeremy Silver ✓

March 30, 1977

Dr. Harry Barron
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

I thought yesterday went exceptionally well. The group of young scholars was a good cross section. With the exception of Orlinsky, they were a much quieter lot. The conversation on the book prospect was appropriate and to the point. I am not at all unhappy with the decision not to proceed.

I know the amount of paper work this meeting entails. Clearly, the procedures we have now adopted are adequate with two exceptions:

- 1) There must be enough pamphlets of the three A's and two A's and one B applications so that everyone at the table can have a set.
- 2) We must make sure that theses prospectus' which are more than ten pages in length are xeroxed and mailed to the three original readers. The alternate proposal that the longer papers be sent back to applicants for resubmission would cause us to lose more time than simply xeroxing a few extra pages.

Abe Atik handled himself well. Please express my thanks to him. As always, my thanks to you for your help.

My expenses to New York were \$220. Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

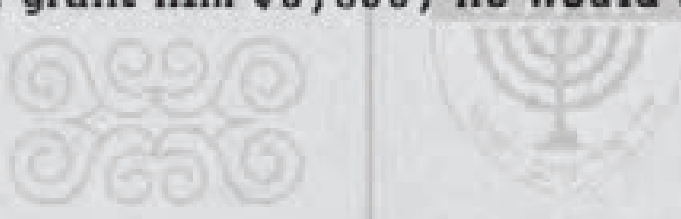
Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

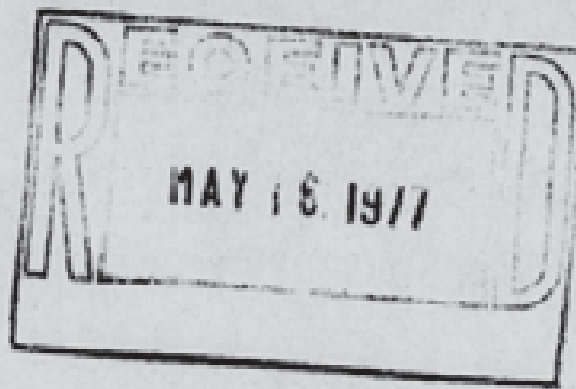
6/22/76

Marc D. Rotstein

I spoke on the phone with Mr. Rotstein to learn about his present status. He has been discussing his situation with Professor Marvin Fox who feels that he ought to give up his teaching assistantship for next year and devote himself entirely to his dissertation (with the exception of his teaching at the Hebrew College). He has discussed the matter of a reduced teaching load with Dr. Grad and the details are to be worked out shortly. He indicated that he has completed about 30 pages of his dissertation which have been approved by Professor Friedlander. Unfortunately, Professor F. will be going back to Israel shortly but arrangements have been made for him to receive through Dr. Fox the new chapters to be written by Mr. R. Professor Brandwein will be returning to Brandeis this Fall but he has not seen any of Mr. Rotstein's material and Dr. Fox has intimated he will be the intermediary with Dr. Brandwein on Mr. R's behalf. Mr. R. stated that he may be facing increased responsibilities toward the end of the coming year because his wife is newly pregnant with the second child. When I explained that it would be impossible for the NFJC to approximate the \$8,000 he had requested in his application, Mr. R. quickly assented and stated that if the Foundation could grant him \$3,500, he would undertake to borrow the rest.



May 12, 1977



Marc D. Rotstein
76 Blomerth Street
Malden, Mass. 02148

National Foundation for
Jewish Culture,
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Dr. Barron,

Less than four months ago, my first progress report was submitted to the foundation. Looking it over prior to composing this second report, I note, with an ironic sense of bemusement, how incorrigibly optimistic I sounded, particularly with respect to the likelihood of completing the entire first draft by the beginning of June. There is nothing comparable to the bracing task of writing as a measure, not only of one's intellectual prowess, but as a lesson in humility and self-estimation. Time has obviously become the predominant factor in all of my calculations; I have, almost unconsciously, began to measure my progress in terms of the number of checks remaining until my National Foundation grant runs out. This has provided both an unexpected impetus, and a cause for distress. For as my work made its inevitable twists and turns, backward and forward, (as shall be elaborated below,) I could not help feeling that I might be disappointing those who have lent me their ongoing support. In the middle of May, I stand ready to complete the second of four projected chapters. Though on the surface this may sound like an indication of moderate progress, a closer look may reveal otherwise.

The first chapter which I had been working on, the details of whose progress were outlined in my January report, was regarded from the outset as the seminal part of the whole. As such, it was considered by both Drs. Friedlander and Brandwein as meriting the most attention; in terms of approach to the original text and the presentation of the thesis. The method which each of the two has adopted toward the evolution of the work presented to them, is another factor

[May 12, 1977]

which I have learned to take into account in gauging the progress of the dissertation. While Dr. Brandwein prefers making detailed comments on each section which he reads, often independently of comments made on previous sections, Dr. Friedlander waits to have an entire chapter before him and to make comments on the whole; in terms of integration of materials, treatment, matters of style, technique and other substantive observations.

Consequently, when I made my comments, in the January report, concerning the immediacy of completing the sixth, and last section of the initial chapter, I did not take into account the fact that considerable amendments (mostly additions,) will be called for by my advisors. Thus, the sixth segment, instead of containing a projected 20 pages, now contains 26, with a proportional increase in the number of pages of notes. Further, to properly support conclusions reached in the last section, substantive changes were also called for in sections three, four and five.

This exchange took the form of meetings held with Dr. Brandwein on January 21, when the original draft of the last section was presented, and again on February 15, nine days after having completed the second version of that section. Dr. Friedlander's reply to section #6 came on January 26. I mailed him a rewritten version on February 8. Work on the second chapter, tentatively titled "Irony in the Structure of a Single Short Story; A Study of Hirbet Hiz'ah", began shortly after my meeting with Dr. Brandwein. The first section of that chapter was completed on March 10, (with a copy mailed to Israel on that date,) and was followed by a meeting with Dr. Brandwein on the 24th. Dr. Friedlander's reply, indicating the need for minor changes, came on the 21st of March. Working at an increased pace, a shorter section was completed two weeks later, on the 28th of March. A discussion on this and earlier sections of my work was held with Dr. Friedlander on two occasions, on April 5 and on the 14th. A meeting during which the same subject was again raised, was held in Dr. Brandwein's home on the 29th of that month.

[May 12, 1977]

An unexpected turn of events allowed me to spend Passover in Israel this past month; an occasion which I shall use to great advantage on behalf of my dissertation. The worsening condition of my wife's mother and her hospitalization, coupled with my in-law's desire to see their new grand-daughter, prompted my father-in-law to sponsor our trip to Israel for a three week period. It was during that time that I had arranged to meet with Dr. Friedlander for lengthy discussions on the progress of my work. While there, I spent a good deal of time at the archives of the G'nazim Institute in Tel-Aviv, making valuable additions to my bibliographic files. I was astonished to discover how many items were unavailable to me in the libraries with which I am associated; (Brandeis and Hebrew College,) among which were stories and articles that may very well compell me to reassess some points which I had taken for granted, and have even included in my written material.

Since the National Foundation fellowship funds are scheduled to run out in June, I was again counting upon a Summer teaching position at Hebrew College. However, curricular exigencies and other considerations have obviated this alternative; consequently depriving me of a significant component of my livelihood. May I add parenthetically, that however unpleasant, be it noted that an Instructor's salary at this college can simply not provide for even the basic needs of a family of four, with but a single provider. For even after five years of teaching, it is still necessary for a person in my position to seek additional sources of income to supplement one's paltry earnings. As an illustration, I may point out that my net earnings for the calendar year 1976, (taking Summer work into account,) were \$800 shy of the \$10,000 figure. Though it may not have been significant, my Summer earnings for the past few years have clearly spelled the difference between 'just making it', and 'barely making ends meet'.

Looking at my situation more optimistically, I must admit that given three months totally free of any academic commitments, is very welcome news

[May 12, 1977]

to someone for whom time is of the essence. It will allow me to push forward my tentative deadline for the completion of the writing process to December. (Calculating progress at the rate of three months per chapter, and barring, of course, any unforeseen delays.) With this in mind, and once again asking your forgiveness for taxing your generosity, I would like to appeal for an extension of my grant for a duration and in a manner which the board deems advisable. I hope that this progress report and the circumstances outlined herein, will satisfy the advisory committee as to the legitimacy of this request, and will hasten a decision on the matter.

May I thank you again for your generosity and encouraging support throughout this past year, and for helping me bring my dissertation all the more closer to its ultimate realization.



I remain sincerely,

Marc D. Rotstein
Marc David Rotstein

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

May 16, 1977

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

Dear Dan:

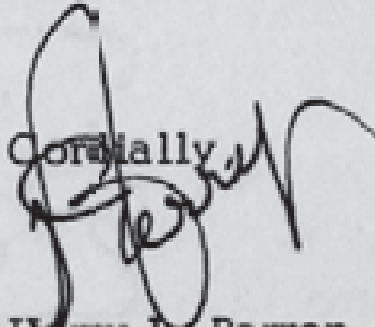
I am enclosing some materials on Marc D. Rotstein who is a current grantee working on his dissertation at Brandeis on The Ironic Sub-Structure in the Short Stories of S. Yizhar.

When Mr. Rotstein submitted his progress report in January, he expressed the hope that he might be able to complete his work by September and wondered whether the NFJC would be willing to extend our grant (\$3,500) for the three months of July, August and September. In my reply to him, I indicated that we could not give him any assurance on this since our meager financial resources were heavily taxed this year. We have now received his May progress report and it is evident that he is having quite a struggle to complete his dissertation in the face of financial pressures.

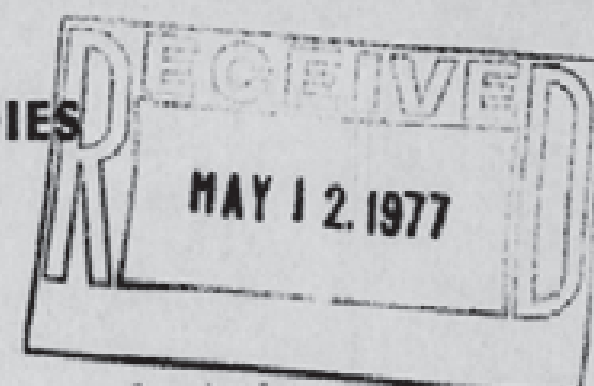
What he is asking for is approximately \$1,000 to carry him over the summer so that he can finish the dissertation. What is your opinion?

ek
encs.

Cordially


Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES



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Marvin Fox
Brandeis University

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Frank Talmage
University of Toronto

Secretary-Treasurer

Nahum M. Sarna
Brandeis University

Editor, AJS Newsletter

Arnold J. Band
University of California
Los Angeles

May 9, 1977

Executive Secretary

Charles Berlin
Harvard University
Widener Library M
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
617-495-2985

Dr. Harry I. Barron
National Foundation for Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd St.
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

I must ask you to forgive ^{me} for the very long delay in replying to your letter of March 17, 1977 to Dr. Nahum M. Sarna. Dr. Sarna turned the letter over to me for reply, since the A.J.S. Review is in my hands. Unfortunately, this has been a very difficult time for me because of the critical illness of my very aged mother, and many of my normal duties have suffered because I have spent so much time travelling back and forth to Chicago. I am sure you will understand and I hope the delay has not caused any unusual difficulty.

Let me try to answer each of the questions which you raise in your letter concerning Volume I of the A.J.S. Review. First, as to the fiscal operation. The cost of producing the volume was \$14,502.40. This does not include the postage and distribution costs which were fully absorbed by the publisher. To offset some of the cost, we increased our dues by \$5.00 so as to help pay for the journal. 900 volumes were distributed automatically to all members of the A.J.S. whose current dues were fully paid. This 900 volume distribution represents an income of \$4500. This \$4500 together with the \$10,000 subsidy which was provided for us through the National Foundation for Jewish Culture covered the entire cost of production. It is expected that there will be additional volumes sold through the publisher to libraries and individuals. At this point, we do not have figures available for such individual sales, but we know that they have been rather small. The Review will be announced in the forthcoming catalogue of Ktav Publishing House and we assume that this will generate some sales. This answers the question you asked concerning both the fiscal operation and the distribution of the volume.

You also asked for an evaluation of the volume. Naturally, you may view my report as that of an interested party, since I am both President of the A.J.S. and a member of the Editorial Board of the A.J.S. Review. Nevertheless, I believe my evaluation is objective, and I should like to add that it represents not only my own personal views but responses that we have received from our membership and from scholars in the field in many places. By any standard, this volume must be judged as a serious contribution to scholarship in our field. It covers a

Dr. Harry I. Barron

May 9, 1977

wide range of subject matter, just as the field itself covers a wide range. It includes studies of biblical themes and moves all the way to aspects of recent American Jewish History. It seems to me that this volume gives a remarkable view of the range and scope of Jewish studies in the contemporary world.

As a matter of policy, we tried in this first volume to make place, in particular, for younger scholars and for people relatively new to the field who had special contributions to make. We take special pride in the fact that we have provided a scholarly forum for these people, and are pleased that the quality of their work satisfies the highest standards of rigorous scholarship. We hope to continue this policy, including younger scholars regularly in our publication, though we shall now have less hesitation about urging Senior scholars to share their work with us. For example, we had decided that members of the Editorial Board should not publish in the first volume in order to prevent the appearance of a house organ. There will be very little in the second volume by members of the Editorial Board. From that point on, however, we shall certainly invite our own Editorial Board to contribute freely to the A.J.S. Review, it being fully understood that their work will undergo the same critical reading and evaluation as that of every other contributor.

If we have any single concern as we evaluate this first volume, it is over the problem of the great diversity of subject matter dealt with in the A.J.S. Review. There are some who would like to see us devote individual volumes to a single topic or a single area of study. There are things to be said in favor of this proposal, but to do so would mean to reduce the interest of that volume from the totality of our membership to that segment which works in the particular field in question. There may be no totally satisfactory solution to this problem. Our Editorial Board will be discussing it very carefully when it next meets in the Fall. I cannot venture now to predict what policy decisions will be taken, but it is my own feeling that the virtues of wide scope and diversity of content outweigh the defects.

All in all, we are very satisfied indeed with our work thus far. Certainly, our intention is to continue to improve the review, to push it toward an even higher standard and to include within its pages the work of the ablest scholars we can publish of whatever age and of whatever intellectual persuasion.

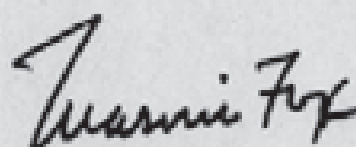
I hope that I have provided you with a sufficient answer to the questions which you raised in your letter. If there is any further information which you would like to have, we would certainly be happy to provide it. It would help us greatly in moving forward in the publication of Volume II, if it were possible for you to forward to us the first payment of \$5000 which you made reference to in your letter. We continue to be profoundly grateful to you and the National Foundation For Jewish Culture for the whole range of help which you have extended to us. Without your help we could not have begun to provide the range and quality of services to the community of Jewish scholars that it has been our privilege to

Dr. Harry I. Barron

May 9, 1977

offer. We are all deeply in your debt, and I hope you will extend our thanks to the Board of the National Foundation and to its officers for the confidence which they have shown in the Association for Jewish Studies and the support they have extended to us.

Sincerely yours,



Marvin Fox
President



MF:em

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

May 12, 1977

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

Dear Dan:

The enclosed letter from Marvin Fox arrived today in response to my note of March 17th to Nahum Sarna, copy of which we sent you at the time. Are you in favor of our now releasing the \$5,000 to the AJS? Are there some comments that you would like to make on Fox's statement regarding the AJS Review? Please let me know at your early opportunity so that I can follow it up.

I have had a couple of calls from Marvin Herzog growing out of a session I had with one of our rejected applicants this year, who as I remember, was turned down largely because there was question on the part of some members of the Academic Advisory Council as to whether he would be able to get the kind of supervision he needs on his dissertation research from the History Department at Columbia. His dissertation project involves a study of the Jewish Community of Navarre, Spain prior to the expulsion at the end of the 15th century. One of his referees was a non-Jew who readily conceded that he is not qualified to judge the applicant's Judaic knowledge.

When I talked with the applicant who wanted to know why he had been rejected, I explained some of this to him. He readily admitted that there is no one at Columbia who could guide him on his dissertation research. Had Zvi Ankori remained, he would have been very helpful. I asked whether he had discussed the possibility of getting an outside person to serve on his dissertation committee and indicated such people as Yerushalmi and Feldman both of whom have worked with Spanish archival materials. He said that he had spoken with Yerushalmi who was rather short with him saying that he had given him more time than he usually gives his own students.

When Marvin Herzog called me about this applicant, he spoke about the concern that he has about the lack of adequate faculty at Columbia in this branch of Jewish Studies and asked whether we would be willing to write a letter to the appropriate Columbia officials expressing our concern about this lack as we perceive it in connection with applicants who apply to us.

[May 12, 1977]

- 2 -

(I recalled that two years ago one of the people we had approved for a Summer Stipend decided to transfer to Harvard from Columbia because there would not be a suitable faculty person to guide him in his field of specialization. He has since spent two additional years at Harvard and is now to receive a Summer Stipend from us to help him with his comprehensive examinations there.)

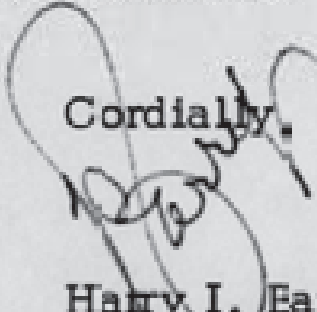
I expressed some question to Herzog about intruding ourselves in such an approach to Columbia but suggested that he should think about the matter further and talk with me again. Today he called to tell me that he thought there might be some movement at Columbia in the next few months and hopes to be able to share some of the details in the near future. He continues to think it would be helpful if we would write but he didn't press me about it today. He is still concerned about the rejected applicant and wondered whether we could help him in some way. I told him that as far as the NFJC is concerned we cannot reverse our earlier decision. I promised to look around for some other resources.

Any comments?

I see that you are not planning to come to the June 15th Board meeting. Is there some special reason that you can share with me? Can you be persuaded to reconsider?

Why don't you call me collect so that we can talk about several of these items and try to take care of them quickly. All the best.

Cordially,


Harry I. Earron
Executive Director

ek
enc.

May 19, 1977

Mr. Harry L. Barron
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 E. 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Harry:

In reply to your various letters: Marc Rotstein, in effect, is asking for an increase in his grant from \$3500 to \$4500. How did we arrive at the figure of \$3500 in the first place? What are your feelings about increasing a grant on the basis of a plea of need? Are we not opening a Pandora's box? Clearly, this man will not finish his thesis in September and his problems will continue. I feel that we ought to take a tough line on such requests, but I would be interested to know how and why we cut his \$8,000 request down to \$3,500.

On a happier note, I find Fox's letter satisfactory and, generally, share his assessment of the first volume. The AJS has acted responsibly and I would now release \$5,000 we promised for the second year. It has been money well spent and by the end of our granting period the JQR will be forgotten and a new and a better journal have emerged. By the way, Fox's letter should be shared with our Board.

On the Herzog matter, it is common practice for a university to hire a outside person to supervise a doctoral candidate when competent guidance is not available within the faculty. My own thesis was completed that way. The University of Chicago paid Solomon Zeitlin to work with me. No university can expect to have experts in all areas where graduates may want to work. It would be inappropriate for us to intrude. What really intrigued me was Yerushalmi's curt dismissal of this man. Is this devoted work in the interests of the advancement of Jewish scholarship, and how much time does he spend with his own men?

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

490-2280

June 3, 1977

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

Dear Dan:

I'm sorry that we missed each other on the phone today. I'd wanted to talk with you in particular about the NFJC Board meeting on June 15th.

I know you advised us some time ago that you would not be able to be here but I am hoping that you might now find it possible to attend after all. As you will see from the materials that have been sent out in advance of the meeting, a major item for consideration and action will be Amos Comay's report and recommendations regarding the creation of a grants program for the arts. I would not want this to go through by default or through inadequate consideration of the pertinent points of view. I would particularly urge you to take part in this discussion.

The Board is also being called on to approve the recommendations of the Academic Advisory Council on the grants awards for 1977-78. It would be good if you could make a presentation on this.

Apropos of the above, I sat in on a session the other day sponsored by the American section of the World Jewish Congress on the future of Jewish Studies in colleges and universities. The major speakers were Marvin Fox and Arthur Hertzberg. More questions were raised than answered but it struck me again - as it has so many times - that the NFJC ought to assert an initiative at this time in having a thoroughgoing examination made of the whole subject of Jewish Studies: where we stand; what are the needs; and what steps should be taken. It certainly has a bearing on our academic program.

The reason I am writing this letter is that I shall be in Washington for a number of days and won't have a chance to talk with you on the phone. When I get back to New York around June 8th I'll give you a ring. Meanwhile, please give some thought to the possibility of your attending the Board meeting on June 15th. Warm regards.

Cordially


Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

dbb

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

December 10, 1976

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

Dear Dan:

When we recently talked about the article you plan to write on the Foundation's grants program, you asked that I furnish you with some of the details that you might not have at hand.

I am not too sure about the kinds of material that you would want but I am enclosing several items that might serve as "starters".

- 1- The list of persons who served on the NFJC Academic Advisory Council from 1968 until 1976. As you will see, there have been 35 persons. The customary term is 3 years although there have been some exceptions. Baron and Wolfson were honorary chairmen and Solomon Zeitlin is now an honorary member. I am sure you know the fields and institutional affiliations of all the individuals in case you want to include them.
- 2- Grants breakdown. This tabulation is on an annual basis with the exception of the period 1961 to 1970 where some of our data for individual years are not readily available. The categories should be clear: "Fellowships" refers to the doctoral dissertation grants; Grants-in-Aid are mostly post-doctoral grants to individuals; "Special Agency" are grants for agency-sponsored projects such as to the Congress for Jewish Culture, The Great Yiddish Dictionary Committee, Conference on Jewish Philosophy, Association for Jewish Studies, etc. "Publications" are for a variety of projects to individuals as well as organizations to make possible actual publications. A partial list of these is attached. In addition, there are such grants as the one to the Association for Jewish Studies for the AJS Review. Summer Stipends began only in 1975-76 so that thus far there have been only 18.

Rabbi D.J. Silver

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- 3- Lists of pre-doctoral grants, grants-in-aid, and summer stipends. There are 2 cumulative lists for the years 1961-1974; a list of pre-doctoral grants for 1975-1977, and a list of the 18 summer stipends.

I hope this will be of some beginning help. Let me know what other kinds of information you would like to have. Best regards.

Cordially,

Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

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encs.

