



## The Abba Hillel Silver Digital Collection

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**MS-5492: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, Series IV, 1928-1993.**

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Speech, Symbol of the Governors Award to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
undated.

First

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

RARELY HAS THERE BEEN A PERSON WHO HAS ATTAINED SUCH HEIGHTS IN THREE DIFFERENT FIELDS, RELIGION, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION. THIS WINNER OF THE 1960 GOVERNOR'S AWARD HAS FOR 42 YEARS BEEN THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE TEMPLE IN CLEVELAND, THE LARGEST LIBERAL JEWISH CONGREGATION IN THE UNITED STATES. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVELY IDENTIFIED WITH MANY SOCIAL MOVEMENTS. HE WAS AN EARLY CHAMPION OF THE RIGHTS OF ORGANIZED LABOR, AND ONE OF THE FIRST ADVOCATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. HE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL, CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL AND PRESIDENT OF THE ZIONISTS ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA. HE REPRESENTED THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS AND PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. HE DELIVERED THE PRAYER AT PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S INAUGURATION CEREMONIES IN 1953. HE IS AUTHOR OF SEVERAL VOLUMES ON HISTORY AND RELIGION, NOTABLY HIS WORK ON "RELIGION IN A CHANGING WORLD" AND "THE WORLD CRISIS AND JEWISH SURVIVAL." HIS ANALYSIS

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER (CONTINUED)

OF THE JEWISH FAITH "WHERE JUDAISM DIFFERED" HAS BECOME A BEST SELLER. JOHN GUNTHER IN HIS BOOK "INSIDE U.S.A." SPEAKS OF OUR HONORED GUEST AS "THE FIRST CITIZEN OF CLEVELAND." HE IS A GRADUATE OF THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE AND HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS. HE HOLDS MANY HONORARY DEGREES FROM AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. IN 1945 HE RECEIVED THE ANNUAL NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD OF PHI EPSILON RHO; IN 1949 HE RECEIVED THE CARDOZA MEMORIAL AWARD; IN 1952 THE AWARD OF MERIT OF THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES; IN 1953 THE ANNUAL AWARD OF THE ZETA BETA TAU; IN 1957 THE HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS; AND IN 1960 THE HERZL AWARD. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM, ISRAEL AND OF THE TECHNION, ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN HAIFA, ISRAEL. FOR ALL OF THESE AND OTHER GREAT SERVICES TO HUMANITY, WE PRESENT THIS SYMBOL OF THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD TO DOCTOR SILVER.