

REPORT
OF THE
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR
OF
THE JEWISH PUBLICATION
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
1945



THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

(as of March 31, 1946)

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¹ Term expires in 1947.² Term expires in 1948.³ Term expires in 1949.

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THE FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Fifty-eighth Annual Meeting of The Jewish Publication Society of America was held at the Dropsie College, Philadelphia, on Sunday evening, March 31, 1946.

The President, Mr. J. Solis-Cohen, Jr., called the meeting to order at 8:30 P.M. He welcomed the members to the meeting and stated that, due to restrictions on travel during the war, this was the first Annual Meeting of The Society in a number of years. He informed the audience that the Publication Committee and the Board of Trustees had held an all-day meeting.

The President appointed Messrs. Howard S. Levy, Edwin Wolf 2nd and Al Paul Lefton as the Nominating Committee.

The President called on the Treasurer, Mr. Howard A. Wolf, to give his report.

Mr. Wolf noted that copies of the Treasurer's report had been distributed. He stated that he was retiring after fifteen years as Treasurer. He felt that the Treasurer's work had been that of scorekeeper—that Mr. Solis-Cohen and Mr. Jacobs wrote the reports—and that it had been very nice working with such a team. He wished the officers continued success and said he would always retain his interest in The Jewish Publication Society.

The Treasurer's report was adopted and ordered printed in the current *Year Book* (see pages 682-683).

The President read his annual report, which was accepted and ordered printed in the current *Year Book* (see pages 645-653).

The President then asked the Executive Vice-President to give his report, which was accepted and ordered printed in the current *Year Book* (see pages 654-671).

The President called on Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

Dr. Cohen read a resolution in memory of Felix N. Gerson which was adopted and ordered printed in the current *Year Book* (see page 687).

Dr. Cohen then presented resolutions in honor of Mr. Howard A. Wolf's completion of fifteen years as Treasurer of The Society and Mr. Maurice Jacobs' completion of ten years of service. These resolutions were unanimously adopted and ordered printed in the current *Year Book* (see pages 684-686).

The President called on Mr. Frank J. Rubenstein to report for the Nominating Committee. The following report was unanimously adopted:

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Constitution calls for fifteen *Honorary Vice-Presidents*. We recommend the re-election of the following:

SAMUEL BRONFMAN, Montreal
 REV. DR. HENRY COHEN, Galveston
 HON. ABRAM I. ELKUS, New York
 JAMES MARSHALL, New York
 HENRY MONSKY, Omaha
 HON. MURRAY SEASONGOOD, Cincinnati

We recommend the election of the following as *Honorary Vice-Presidents* by virtue of their positions as heads of their respective organizations:

MARK EISNER, President of the American Association
 for Jewish Education
 JUDGE JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER, President of the American
 Jewish Committee
 DR. A. S. W. ROSENBAACH, President of the American
 Jewish Historical Society
 FRANK L. WEIL, President of the National Jewish Wel-
 fare Board
 DR. STEPHEN S. WISE, President of the American Jew-
 ish Congress
 MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN, President of Hadassah
 MRS. HUGO HARTMANN, President of the National Fed-
 eration of Temple Sisterhoods

MRS. BARNETT E. KOPELMAN, President of the Women's
League of the United Synagogue
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT, President of the National Council
of Jewish Women

The terms of all *Trustees* expired during the war, but were continued during the emergency.

We recommend the re-election of the following *Trustees* for the term expiring 1947:

LIONEL FRIEDMANN, Philadelphia
REV. DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN, Chicago
REV. DR. LOUIS L. MANN, Chicago

We recommend the election of the following *Trustees* for a one-year term expiring in 1947:

WALTER H. ANNENBERG, Philadelphia
LEE M. FRIEDMAN, Boston
LESTER HANO, Philadelphia

We recommend the re-election of the following *Trustees* for the term expiring 1948:

PHILIP W. AMRAM, Washington
FRED M. BUTZEL, Detroit
BERNARD L. FRANKEL, Philadelphia
AL PAUL LEFTON, Philadelphia
WILLIAM S. LOUCHHEIM, Los Angeles
EDWARD A. NORMAN, New York
FRANK J. RUBENSTEIN, Baltimore

We recommend the re-election of the following *Trustees* for the term expiring 1949:

J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR., Philadelphia
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, Philadelphia
HOWARD S. LEVY, Philadelphia
REV. DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Cleveland
HON. HORACE STERN, Philadelphia
EDWIN WOLF, 2ND, Philadelphia
HOWARD A. WOLF, Philadelphia

We recommend the re-election of all the members of the *Publication Committee*, and the election of the following:

DR. ALEXANDER M. DUSHKIN, New York
DR. ISRAEL EFROS, New York
REV. DR. ABRAHAM J. FELDMAN, Hartford
MARVIN LOWENTHAL, New York
SH. NIGER (S. CHARNEY), New York

The Nominating Committee respectfully asks that this meeting draft Mr. J. SOLIS-COHEN, Jr., for his fourteenth term as *President*.

The Nominating Committee is honored in presenting the name of Justice HORACE STERN for re-election to his thirty-fifth term as *Vice-President*.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD S. LEVY
EDWIN WOLF, 2ND
AL PAUL LEFTON

The President, on behalf of his colleagues, thanked the members for the confidence they had placed in the officers and members of the Board of Trustees and Publication Committee.

The President presented Dr. Felix A. Levy, a member of the Publication Committee since 1939, who gave an address on the subject of "The Jewish Book in Palestine."

The President expressed the appreciation of the entire audience to Dr. Levy for his fine interpretation of the cultural work in Palestine and, by acclamation, it was voted to print Dr. Levy's address in the current *Year Book* (see pages 672-680).

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MAURICE JACOBS
Secretary

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees, called immediately after the Annual Meeting, the following officers were unanimously elected by the Board for the year 1946:

Treasurer: MR. LESTER HANO, to replace Mr. Howard A. Wolf, who requested that he be permitted to step aside after having completed fifteen years as Treasurer.

Executive Vice-President and Secretary: MR. MAURICE JACOBS (eleventh term).

Editor: DR. SOLOMON GRAYZEL (eighth term).

Respectfully submitted,

MAURICE JACOBS
Secretary

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 1945

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Our annual meeting which was a war casualty is now resumed for the first time since 1941. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I present my report on the activities of The Jewish Publication Society covering its 58th year, and my "Bar Mitzvah," or 13th, report as your President.

There is another anniversary that we are commemorating tonight, the completion of ten years' of service of our Executive Vice-President, Maurice Jacobs. We all feel that the remarkable growth and sound financial condition of the Society are in a large measure due to his wise and enthusiastic efforts. The Board has therefore invited Mr. Jacobs to summarize the work of the Society for this decade. Hence, I merely will review briefly the current items that transpired during the year 1945.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL FAMILY: It was my privilege to welcome during 1945 the following additional members of the Publication Committee:

Dr. Judah I. Goldin, of Champaign, Illinois

Dr. Simon Halkin, of New York City

Dr. Isaac Rabinowitz, of Philadelphia and Washington

Judge Harry A. Hollzer was elected to the Board of Trustees last April but, unfortunately, was called to The Publication Society on High on January 15th, 1946.

NECROLOGY: In 1945, The Society was saddened by the loss of several members of the "official family." On February 13th, 1945, Miss Henrietta Szold, one-time Editor and Secretary of the Publication Committee, and an Honorary Vice-President of The Society at the time of her death, passed away. Resolutions on her passing were published as part of Volume 47 of *The Year Book*, as well as an excellent biographical sketch.

Mr. Simon Miller, my predecessor, who was your President for 20 years and who served in an official capacity with The Society almost from its very beginning, was called to his reward. Resolutions on his death were printed in Volume 47 of *The Year Book*, and a tribute to Mr. Miller was a feature of *The Year Book*.

Mr. Isaac W. Bernheim, an Honorary Vice-President of The Society, died on April 1st, 1945, and resolutions on his death were also printed in Volume 47 of *The Year Book*.

We have been saddened by two additional deaths since the publication of *The Year Book*: Mr. Felix N. Gerson, a member of the Publication Committee since 1902, who died on December 13th, 1945, and Judge Harry A. Hollzer, who was elected to the Board of Trustees last April, and who died January 15th, 1946. With your approval the resolutions to be adopted will be printed in Volume 48 of *The Year Book*.

PENSION PLAN: It is with a great deal of pride that I can report to you that on August 25th, 1945, our Pension and Insurance Plan was put into effect for all employees who had been with The Society five years or more. In this Plan, The Society has made provision for the past service of employees, assuming the full cost of this, while the costs of future service are being equally divided between the employees and The Society.

Retirement will be at the age of 65 and most of the pensions will be at the rate of 35 per cent of the monthly salary. The Plan also carries with it an insurance policy of \$1,000.00 for each \$10.00 of monthly pension. At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Frank J. Rubenstein, a member of our Board, for his work in bringing the Pension Plan to fruition. Not alone did Mr. Rubenstein devote a great deal of his time to developing this Plan, but he very generously gave The Society \$1,400.00 as a gift. This is a very forward move and I know that our staff is deeply appreciative of The Society's action.

TREASURER'S REPORT: May I direct your attention to the Treasurer's condensed report, printed copies of which have been distributed? Under Mr. Howard A. Wolf's able guidance for the past 15 years, The Society has handled its finances in a most business-like manner. We owe Mr. Wolf

a vote of thanks for his 15 years of devoted service to the cause of Jewish literature.

Incidentally, may I add that Justice Horacé Stern, our Vice-President, has completed 34 years of service as Vice-President of The Society and that the Nominating Committee has told me in confidence that it has recommended his election for a 35th term?

FEDERATION SUBVENTIONS: During 1945 we have had a slight increase in sums allocated to us by federations and welfare funds on the *quid pro quo* basis we instituted when we made our first appeals to federations. Because of the demand for large sums for overseas relief and for Palestine building, your Society has hesitated to make an intensive drive for federation allocations throughout the country. Our appeal has been a modest one, primarily so that Jewish communities throughout America will know of The Society's work and become cognizant of the necessity of including another cultural organization in their program. I am sure you will all agree that it is to the credit of The Jewish Publication Society that it can finance itself on its dues, its book sales, and the sales of the Press, and that it is one Jewish communal organization in America which combines the efficient business management with the community service of a philanthropic organization. For each \$10.00 allocated to us by a federation, we insist that the federation or welfare fund select six books to be distributed to libraries or individuals in their respective cities. In fact many of our books have through this plan been placed in non-sectarian libraries.

PUBLICITY: No organization in Jewish life has received fairer treatment from the Anglo-Jewish and Yiddish press than has our organization. Graciously the columns of the Jewish papers in America have carried reviews of our books, editorials on the work of The Society and interesting news items. We, in turn, have been generous in our distribution of free books for review purposes.

JEWISH BOOK WEEK AND RELIGIOUS BOOK WEEK: More and more these two Book Weeks are becoming factors in the promotion of the reading of good books, and your Society is taking an important part in this work. Our Editor, Dr.

Solomon Grayzel, is serving as President of the Jewish Book Council of America, which is sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Your Executive Vice-President serves as a member of the Executive Committee. We feel quite proud of what we have done in helping to stimulate the growth of the Jewish Book Council, and we are partly responsible for the transition from the old Jewish Book Week celebration to the new highly organized Jewish Book Month and Jewish Book Week.

The National Conference of Christians and Jews, the sponsors of Religious Book Week, continued to select a large number of The Society's books in their annual selection of 40 Jewish book titles, and no other single Jewish publisher has as many books on the approved list as does The Society.

PUBLICATION DISTRIBUTION: The best test of the efficacy of our work is how well we are carrying out The Society's slogan of "Jewish Books in Every Jewish Home." The records show that each year we are increasing the number of books which are going out on membership and through sales. Each year we study new methods of distribution, discarding those that we find are not profitable and keeping those which make it easier for The Society to place its books in homes, on library shelves, and made available for easy purchase in all types of book stores. The plan we started a year ago to have our distribution overseas handled by an export agency has been very satisfactory, and The Society has been relieved of the burden of shipping, billing, and collection in foreign lands. Our experience with a national distributor who has access to the book sections of department stores and to larger book shops is proving satisfactory and this business has grown during 1945. Wherever possible, we try to have joint publications of our popular books with recognized general publishers. And these methods all contributed to an increased number of books distributed.

During 1945 we distributed 112,780 books, of which 39,370 were on membership and the balance on sales. Our Bible sales continue to grow each year and such standard books as Graetz's *History of the Jews*, the Marx-Margolis *A History of the Jewish People*, and others are what might be termed "good bread-and-butter publications."

REPRINTS: It has often been said that the successful publisher is one who has the longest list of titles which need printing periodically. Each year, our list of reprints has increased, and last year The Society reprinted 39 books as follows:

	<i>Copies</i>	
<i>The Holy Scriptures</i>	12,750	— 19th printing
<i>The Holy Scriptures</i> (small size)	11,500	— 2nd printing
<i>Abridged Bible</i>	3,000	
Margolis-Marx, <i>A History of the Jewish People</i>	7,000	
Graetz's <i>History of the Jews</i>	1,500	
<i>A Century of Jewish Life</i>	3,000	— 2nd printing
<i>Menasseh ben Israel</i>	4,000	— 2nd printing
Strack's <i>Introduction to the Talmud and Midrash</i>	4,000	— 2nd printing
<i>Ma'aseh Book</i> , 2 volumes	4,000	sets 2nd printing
<i>Candles in the Night</i>	2,000	— 3rd printing
<i>David the Giant Killer</i>	1,000	— 4th printing
<i>Hanukkah</i>	1,000	— 3rd printing
<i>Harvest in the Desert</i>	3,500	— 4th printing
<i>Theodore Herzl</i>	3,400	— 4th printing
<i>I Have Considered the Days</i>	1,000	— 2nd printing
<i>Jewish Contributions to Civilization</i>	1,500	
<i>The Jewish Community</i> , 3 volumes	1,000	sets 2nd printing
<i>Jewish Pioneers and Patriots</i>	1,250	— 3rd printing
<i>Let Laughter Ring</i>	1,000	— 4th printing
<i>Outlines of Jewish History</i>	1,000	
<i>Stars and Sand</i>	1,250	— 3rd printing
<i>Studies in Judaism</i> , Vol. I	2,000	
<i>Studies in Judaism</i> , Vol. II	1,500	
<i>Studies in Judaism</i> , Vol. III	3,000	— 2nd printing
<i>Selected Poems of Moses Ibn Ezra</i>	4,400	— 2nd printing
<i>Sabbath</i>	2,000	— 2nd printing
<i>Yiddish Tales</i>	2,000	— 4th printing
<i>Josephus</i>	1,000	
<i>Dreamers of the Ghetto</i>	1,000	
<i>The Fire Eater</i>	2,000	— 3rd printing
<i>Rashi</i>	1,000	
<i>Students, Scholars and Saints</i>	1,000	

As soon as paper becomes freer, we hope to increase the size of our reprint editions so that economies will be effected and the problems of manufacture reduced.

During the past year, arrangements were made with Rinehart & Company for the future joint publication of two excellent titles by Leo. W. Schwarz, *A Golden Treasury* and *The Jewish Caravan*. These two titles will make excellent additions to our section of belles-lettres and all of Leo W. Schwarz's publications will be under the joint imprint of The Society and a trade publisher.

All of the plates of the works of the late Israel Zangwill are now owned by The Society and, as soon as publication will be possible, these old favorites will be made available to our members in reprint editions at \$1.25 per copy, or as half-books under the membership plan.

1945 PUBLICATION PROGRAM: The past year was the most difficult year for the production of books and, of the seven books planned for publication in 1945, only two were actually delivered to members during the calendar year; but we are rapidly catching up on the completion of this program. At this date, four of the books have been distributed, a fifth is in the bindery, and the other two will be completed within the next four or six weeks. We are promising ourselves and our members that the 1946 program must be completed in 1946, and hereafter books sent to members on specified dates.

The first book of the 1945 list was *The Nightingale's Song*, by Dorothy Alosin, a juvenile novelette of 306 pages, of which 4,000 copies were printed. This was followed by *The Year Book*, Volume 47, containing 790 pages, of which 4,300 copies were printed. *The Son of the Lost Son*, by Soma Morgenstern, was the third book of the year and one which is destined, I believe, to make publishing history for our Society. This book of 272 pages had a first run of 12,000 copies, of which 5,100 copies were purchased for a trade edition by Rinehart & Company. Most of their edition was sold prior to publication date and as this report is being given, Rinehart is preparing a second run of a minimum of 5,000 more copies. This book is the first volume of a trilogy. The second volume is in the hands of our Editor, and, if found satisfactory, can

be published as one of our 1947 publications. *The Aleph-Bet Story Book*, by Deborah Pessin, a beautiful juvenile of 176 pages, will become an excellent companion for *What the Moon Brought* and *The Breakfast of the Birds*. The first edition of 7,200 copies should be exhausted by the end of this calendar year. *Rembrandt, the Jews and the Bible*, by Franz Landsberger, a book of 190 pages, is in the bindery, and distribution will start in about two weeks. Of the 5,000 copies printed for the first edition, we have an advance order of 1,500 copies from a wholesaler and the chances are that a second edition will have to go on press as soon as paper will be available. *Pathways Through the Bible*, by Mortimer J. Cohen, has been delayed awaiting completion of the illustrations in two colors and a five-color frontispiece. The first edition of 10,000 copies should be entirely exhausted and we hope that this book will be adopted as a standard textbook in most Jewish religious schools throughout the country. The final book, Cecil Roth's *History of the Jews of Italy*, a book of approximately 600 pages, will have 5,000 copies in the first edition.

PUBLICATION PLANS FOR 1946: For 1946, we are again planning seven volumes, which we feel will interest all of our members. The seven books are:

The Spirit Returneth, by Selma Stern
The River Jordan, by Nelson Glueck
The American Jewish Year Book, Volume 48
Through the Ages, by Solomon Grayzel
Jacob's Dream, by Richard Beer-Hofmann
Judah Touro, A Biography, by Leon Huhner
Little New Angel, by Sadie Rose Weilerstein

The River Jordan has already been printed and is being bound. The type for *Judah Touro* has been completely set up. We are setting the type for *The Spirit Returneth* and *Jacob's Dream*. The artist for *Little New Angel* has already been engaged and is making her preliminary sketches. Some copy of *The Year Book* has already been received and one-quarter of Dr. Grayzel's book has been put into our hands for typesetting. We have started out with a determination to complete the 1946 program on time and we are refusing

contracts at the Press in order to expedite the completion of our own books.

THE PRESS: Each year the Press is becoming a very important part of The Society's work. More and more scholarly organizations are calling on us to do their publishing, and where we cannot take on additional work, we guide them in their publication program. We carried on during the war period under severe handicaps, with only nine full-time men and one part-time man, and the men at the Press showed their loyalty to The Society by working 60 to 70 hours per week in order to help us complete our contracts. Two men have returned from war service and two additional men are in training—making it a little easier for us to carry on.

During the year 1945, the Press completed the following contracts:

Four issues of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*; four issues of *The Jewish Quarterly Review*; two issues of the *Westminster Theological Journal*; Volume 4 of the *Jewish Book Annual*; Sabbath Prayer Book for the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation; *Harishon*, I, II, III, IV, for the Joint Commission on Jewish Education; *Songsters and Elements of Hebrew*, Volumes 1 and 2, for the Jewish Education Committee of New York; Dr. Solomon L. Skoss's Arabic Dictionary, Vol. II, for the Yale University Press; Hebrew voweled composition for Rabbi M. M. Kasher's *Torah Shelemah*; Dr. Julius H. Greenstone's *Jewish Feasts and Fasts*; Dr. William Chomsky's *Jewish Festivals and Holidays* and Dr. Israel Efros's *Anahnu ha-Dor* for the Histadruth Ivrit of America; Dr. Julian Morgenstern's *The Ark, The Ephod and "The Tent of Meeting"*; Carlson's *Beginner's Hebrew Grammar* for the Central Baptist Theological Seminary.

JEWISH WELFARE BOARD WORK: The National Jewish Welfare Board was again The Society's largest customer, and in 1945 we delivered to them 241,700 copies of their regular Prayer Book, 111,400 copies of the Haggadah, 216,827 copies of the High Holy Days Prayer Book.

APPRECIATION: This report would not be complete, without expressing my own appreciation for the assistance and cooperation of the officers, the Chairman and members of

the Publication Committee, the Board members and our entire staff.

We have had regular and frequent meetings during these war years. There have been many special committees working on individual problems—the Junior Bible, a Hebrew-English Bible, revision of Graetz, and other projects.

Judge Levinthal as Chairman of the Publication Committee has skillfully and judiciously guided these projects. Many manuscripts have been carefully read by volunteer readers. Authors have been encouraged. We have had closer cooperation in our activities with other Jewish organizations as well as general publishers. Much of this work has been initiated and carried out by Mr. Jacobs, who has also directed the Press, secured new contracts, and spoken about our activities before many audiences both in and outside of Philadelphia. His enthusiasm is contagious and the growth of The Society outstanding. Dr. Grayzel's editorial duties have so expanded as to take his full time, and many letters of appreciation of his efforts from our actual as well as prospective authors indicate the good will for The Society that he has created. Mr. Skaraton, the superintendent of the Press, has carried on during the war with a depleted staff in a most admirable manner.

To all of these men, as well as our field workers, the men at the press, our office staff, may I again express the appreciation of the Board for their efforts and cooperation. We have worked in crowded quarters under difficulties which I hope will be lessened in 1946.

After you have heard Mr. Jacobs' report I know that all here will agree with me that The Publication Society is doing its share to carry out the ideals and ideas of its founders and is a vital factor in the development and encouragement of Jewish literature and culture in America.

Respectfully submitted,

J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.

President

March 31, 1946

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr. President, Members of the "Official Family," and Friends of The Jewish Publication Society of America:

Five years ago, our President extended to me the privilege of making the Annual Report for the year, plus a review of my first five years as an executive of The Society. Much water has gone over the dam since 1941. The greatest war in history has been fought. Your Society has gone through these war years with the greatest activity in its history and has come out of this strenuous period stronger in every way and better prepared to carry on its responsibility to the cause of Jewish literature. America is now the largest, the freest and the wealthiest Jewish community the world has ever seen, and, with the exception of the Jewish community in Palestine, we in America must now assume the full responsibility for carrying the torch of Jewish culture and Jewish literature.

Let us look at the record of the past ten years and, based on our accomplishments, let us jointly plan a program for tomorrow which will add to the prestige The Society has earned during the past fifty-eight years.

Necrology

During the past ten years, The Society has lost twenty of those who had contributed so much to The Society's early years. With reverence, we mention their names:

- Judge Simon W. Rosendale, who presided at the founding meeting in 1888 (1937)
- Frank I. Schechter (1937)
- Felix M. Warburg (1937)
- S. W. Jacobs (1938)
- A. Leo Weil (1938)
- Judge William M. Lewis (1939)
- Dr. Isaac Husik (1939)
- Dr. Israel Davidson (1939)
- Dr. Cyrus Adler (1940)

Hart Blumenthal (1941)
 Rev. Dr. Joseph Stolz (1941)
 Samuel C. Lamport (1941)
 Dr. Jacob Z. Lauterbach (1942)
 Louis E. Kirstein (1942)
 Judge Julian W. Mack (1943)
 Henrietta Szold (1945)
 Isaac W. Bernheim (1944)
 Simon Miller (1945)
 Felix N. Gerson (1945)
 Judge Harry A. Hollzer (1946)

Additions to the "Official Family"

In the past ten years, the following have been added as Honorary Vice-Presidents:

Samuel Bronfman (1940)
 James Marshall (1940)
 Henry Monsky (1940)

The following were added as members of the Board of Trustees:

Fred M. Butzel (1938)
 Edward A. Norman (1940)
 Al Paul Lefton (1941)
 Judge Harry A. Hollzer (1945)

Publication Committee

The Publication Committee is now the largest, and, I might dare to say, the best Publication Committee in the history of The Society. It consists of forty members, twenty-four of those now serving having been added in the past ten years:

Rev. Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen (1937)
 Rev. Dr. William H. Fineshriber (1937)
 Dr. Abram L. Sachar (1937)
 Edwin Wolf, 2nd (1937)
 Dr. Abraham A. Neuman (1937)
 Rev. Dr. Louis Finkelstein (1939)
 Rev. Dr. Felix A. Levy (1939)

Dr. Jacob R. Marcus (1939)
 Mr. Albert Mordell (1939)
 Dr. Shalom Spiegel (1939)
 Dr. Harry A. Wolfson (1939)
 Rev. Dr. Bernard J. Bamberger (1940)
 Rev. Dr. Julian B. Feibelman (1940)
 Rev. Dr. David de Sola Pool (1940)
 Mr. Harry Schneiderman (1940)
 Dr. Salo W. Baron (1941)
 Rev. Dr. Samuel Belkin (1941)
 Dr. Joshua Bloch (1941)
 Dr. Louis L. Kaplan (1941)
 Rev. Dr. Joshua L. Liebman (1944)
 Rev. Dr. Solomon B. Freehof (1944)
 Dr. Judah I. Goldin (1945)
 Dr. Simon Halkin (1945)
 Dr. Isaac Rabinowitz (1945)

Judge Louis E. Levinthal was elected to the chairmanship of the Publication Committee in 1939, succeeding Mr. J. Solis-Cohen, Jr., who had served as Acting Chairman from 1934 to 1939.

Volume of Business

I am sure you will be interested in seeing the progress The Society has made in its income. The following figures speak for themselves. I am starting with the year 1935, the year before I was asked to join The Society:

Year	Dues	Donations	Book Sales	Press Sales	Welfare Funds	Miscellaneous	From Funds	Total
1935	\$19,795	\$ 570	\$14,725	\$ 24,717	—	\$ 612	—	\$60,419
1936	23,593	229	19,224	22,296	—	612	\$ 5,249	71,203
1937	29,924	923	22,560	24,099	—	581	2,500	80,587
1938	37,264	337	22,672	24,713	—	499	12,706	98,191
1939	36,838	449	22,455	32,723	—	208	—	92,673
1940	37,027	601	28,993	38,997	—	1,178	—	106,796
1941	37,039	931	30,960	60,605	—	1,772	—	131,307
1942	39,823	297	29,149	87,203	\$1,483	1,642	—	159,597
1943	56,069	393	43,748	154,039	2,222	4,163	—	260,634
1944	61,918	285	75,683	148,302	2,891	7,154	—	296,233
1945	71,487	2,686	83,278	131,537	3,281	5,597	—	297,866

Total for ten years. \$1,595,087

Summary: The total income in 1935 was \$60,419 and it has grown from this figure to \$297,866 almost five times as much business as we did ten years ago. The figures of the Press of the past few years reflect "war work" which is almost completed, but we hope to maintain and increase our total business with peace-time Press contracts, an enlarged membership and large sales of our books.

We are now the largest publishers of Jewish books in English in the world.

Membership

On January 1, 1936, The Society had 2,900 members, most of whom paid \$5.00 per year, for which they received (during good years) three books, but some years, when finances were "tight," two books, one of which was the *Year Book*. Regardless of the amount of dues paid, no member received more than three books and, consequently, there was no inducement for most members to pay more than \$5.00.

At the end of 1945, The Society had a total membership of 9,775, divided as follows: 6,228 paid \$5.00 per year, 3,280 paid \$10.00 per year, 240 paid \$20.00 per year, and the balance paid \$50.00 or \$100.00. We also had four new Life Members in 1945, making a total of fifty-five Life Members. For every two members who now pay \$5.00 per year, we have one member who pays \$10.00 or more. In 1938, we decided to give \$10.00 members and those in the higher brackets six books per year, and the results speak for themselves. Better books, better in content and format, a larger list from which to select and more books for the higher-priced members have been the answer. During 1945, we added 3,378 new members. This is the largest number of new members in any year during my administration. However, the total increase in membership during the year was only 963, due to the purging of our lists of many members who had not paid dues for the past two years. Most of these members had been enrolled by one paid field agent who is no longer connected with The Society. It has been demonstrated quite conclusively to us that high-pressure member-

ship campaigns are not practical. Granted that we receive many new enrollments, but based on our experience, seventy-five per cent of these memberships become one-year memberships, and either cancel or are removed from the lists after two years of non-payment of dues. We feel that the turnover in members will be much less from now on, since most of our members are being enrolled on a different basis. We have only one full-time representative in the field and two part-time representatives. Their work is not high-pressure work and their members remain with The Society. The members who join through the full-page advertisements in *The New Palestine* and B'nai B'rith's *National Jewish Monthly* are continuing their membership, as these members chose to join by virtue of the value of The Jewish Publication Society membership plan. These members, plus the members enrolled through the recommendations of our present members, now form the backbone of The Society's membership list. Only the lack of sufficient help and the scarcity of paper prevent us from entering a mail campaign for more members. We feel that we now know the techniques of enrolling members and it should be a simple matter in the very near future to add 5,000 or more new members each year until The Society reaches an enrollment of many additional thousands. We are very grateful to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies which has acted as our agents in securing many new members in South Africa. When funds are unrestricted, we are optimistic that the number of our members in all English-speaking countries, as well as in other countries, will multiply many times.

Fund Accounts

I know that our Treasurer is very proud of what has happened to the Fund Accounts during the past ten years. Every fund has been carefully watched and its investments guarded. Each fund contains the full amount of money in cash or investments that it should have. The Eisenman Fund of \$2,500.00, added recently, is being kept available to be used for some publication. The Freudenthal Fund is being kept intact and the income used to defray books sent to Denver, Colorado. The Gitterman Fund has already

helped pay the cost of two books—*The Jews of Germany* and *The Jew in the Literature of England*—and has \$3,200.00 still available to be used to help subsidize books approved by the family of the donors. The Hofheimer Fund of \$503.75 and the Levy Fund of \$2,100.80 are kept intact and the income used for general purposes. The Life Membership Fund has been reconstituted and for every Life Membership on our records, \$250.00 has been set aside, the principle to be kept intact and the income to be used to defray the cost of books sent to Life Members. This fund of \$14,500.00 did not appear on our records ten years ago. The original gift of \$10,000.00 for the Loeb Fund has paid for the publication of *Saadia Gaon: His Life and Works*, the three volumes of *The Jewish Community*, the two volumes of *The Jews in Spain*, and the two volumes of *The Pharisees*. By the end of 1946 this fund will have repaid its loan to The Society, will have its principal intact, and will own the plates and inventory of the above eight books. This is a perfect example of what a small fund of \$10,000.00 can do to help The Society's program and perpetuate a good name. The Marshall Fund of \$10,000.00 was used to pay the cost of the *Zangwill Omnibus Book*, but by careful management, we have been able to repay to the fund the entire amount used, and this fund again has \$10,816.00 available for use at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. The Scherman Fund, given to us recently by Mr. Harry Scherman, in memory of his mother, Mrs. Katherine Scherman, one of our first employees, now contains \$10,582.00, which, with Mr. Scherman's approval, has been earmarked to be used for the resetting of Graetz's *History of the Jews*.

Mr. Sidney Neumann, of Philadelphia, in memory of his parents, has made The Society a gift of \$4,000.00, which is being used to help finance the publication of *Pathways Through the Bible*.

During the past year, Mr. Frank J. Rubenstein, a member of our Board of Trustees, made a gift of \$1,400.00 to The Society to be used for general purposes.

The Schiff Classics Fund, which was \$50,000.00 originally, has paid for the publishing of seventeen volumes in this series. At the present time, the fund has an overdraft of \$2,396.00, but, within a year or two, this overdraft can be

liquidated from funds accumulated by the sales of Classics books, so that publication can again start in this important series. At the request of our beloved Dr. Solomon Solis-Cohen, the Classics Committee has been reconstituted and will resume activity.

Besides the above, we have set aside reserves of \$22,000.00 for new machinery for the Press, and \$15,000.00 to start the Hebrew-English Bible project. A reserve has also been set up to repay in books to the Hebrew Sunday School Society the amount advanced to pay for our Abridged Bible.

Mr. Howard A. Wolf deserves credit for his very able financial direction.

Publications

I was most fortunate when I came to The Society that younger members of the Publication Committee and the Board of Trustees had been urging a new type of book, and the first of these new books was Marvin Lowenthal's *The Jews of Germany*, which not alone has gone into six printings, but started our present vogue of having, when possible, a trade publisher who simultaneously prints an edition for the general market. This first trade edition, reminiscent of the days when the Macmillan Company issued Zangwill's *Children of the Ghetto*, was printed with Longmans, Green and Company. It was followed the same year with a trade edition of Isaac Goldberg's *Major Noah*, with Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., as trade publisher.

1936 was a full year of publications because, for the first time in several years, we issued three books, plus a volume in the Classics Series, the *Mesillat Yesharim*. We also started a reprint program of putting back into stock those titles which had permanent value and which could be sold, and eight of the older books were restored to the active list that year. This was the beginning of our reprint series, uniformly bound and retailing in the dollar bracket, a most successful program.

In 1937, we stepped the program up to six books. One of these was Volume VII of *The Legends of the Jews*, the index

volume, the completion of which had been discouraged, but in the opinion of the new administration absolutely necessary to complete this great work. The best proof of the pudding is in the eating, and I can report to you that Volume VII is being reprinted this year. Because of this index volume, *The Legends of the Jews* is really usable and the sales have increased manifold. 1937 also saw the publication of the Edwin Wolf Prize Novel. Twenty-five hundred dollars had been given by the Wolf family in memory of their father, Edwin Wolf, the second President of The Society. The winner of this novel contest, in which 150 manuscripts had been submitted, was Beatrice Bisno's *Tomorrow's Bread*, a trade edition of which was published by Liveright. We have not had a prize novel contest since. That year, we also started our Holiday Series and issued *Hanukkah: The Feast of Lights*. We also resumed the publication of the *Bible Commentaries*, the first of which, *Micah*, by Max L. Margolis, had appeared in 1908. The Commentary on *Deuteronomy*, by Joseph Reider, was printed in 1937. Six older books were reprinted.

In 1938, as part of our Golden Jubilee celebration, we dared to print eight books. As a special book for our members, we published what we called the *Zangwill Omnibus Book*, a book of 1,600 pages, containing the immortal *Children of the Ghetto*, *Grandchildren of the Ghetto*, *Ghetto Comedies* and *Ghetto Tragedies*. We recreated such an interest in Zangwill that the whole edition of 10,000 books was sold out in short order. The two volumes of *The Pharisees* were printed under the Loeb Fund, which, until that time, had printed only one book, *Saadia Gaon*. A biography of *Solomon Schechter* was published in 1938, with a British edition by the Cambridge University Press. Eight older titles were reprinted. It is interesting to note that in 1938, we sold 46,000 books, 10,000 of which were Bibles, and in our annual report, we expressed the hope that eventually The Society would distribute 100,000 books a year. Our distribution record will speak for itself.

In 1939, we printed six new books and reprinted fourteen old books.

In 1940, we had a trade edition of *Candles in the Night* with Farrar & Rinehart, the beginning of an excellent arrangement

with this firm. Six new books were printed and eighteen reprinted.

In 1941, seven new books were printed and eleven reprinted. The children's book issued that year, *What the Moon Brought*, has developed into the fastest selling Jewish children's book on the market. This book is already in its fourth edition and paper has been ordered for its fifth edition. The fourth printing in January was for 8,000 copies, which will not last one year.

In 1942, we printed eight new books and reprinted twelve. Ludwig Lewisohn's *Renegade* was published jointly with the Dial Press, and Lee M. Friedman's *Jewish Pioneers and Patriots* jointly with the Macmillan Company. We distributed 55,736 books that year, already a step towards the 100,000.

In 1943, we printed six new books, three of which deserve special mention. One of them, Leo W. Schwarz's *Memoirs of My People*, was a joint publication with Farrar & Rinehart. I think it is opportune to mention that we have just added Leo W. Schwarz's two additional volumes, *The Jewish Caravan* and *A Golden Treasury of Jewish Literature* to our list by arranging with Farrar & Rinehart to act as co-publishers, thus making Schwarz's three excellent books part of our program. Ismar Elbogen's *A Century of Jewish Life* was planned to bring Graetz up-to-date, and is being reprinted this year for the third time. *Sabbath: The Day of Delight*, the second book in the Holiday Series, is being reprinted this year for the third time. We distributed 107,000 books in 1943.

In 1944, we published seven new books and twenty-two reprints. One hundred ten thousand, six hundred seventy-three (110,673) books were distributed. It was in this year that we started our joint publishing arrangement with the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, with Maurice Samuel's *Harvest in the Desert* as the first of these books. A trade edition of this book was published simultaneously by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. The fourth printing of this book, making a total of 28,000 copies, will be off press within a few weeks.

In 1945, we printed seven new books and reprinted thirty-nine, with a greater distribution than the previous year. Soma Morgenstern's *The Son of the Lost Son* has a trade

edition with Rinehart & Company. The Bible is being reprinted every year, with the distribution well over 20,000 copies each year against 5,000 ten years ago. Graetz is being printed over and over again, and the Marx and Margolis *A History of the Jewish People* is on the reprint program every spring.

We are now selling more books to members and others than we are distributing to members on the membership basis, showing a fine healthy demand for our publications.

We now have more titles in print than at any time in our history, with sixty-eight new titles in the past ten years, most of which have been reprinted with regularity.

During the past ten years, we have distributed over 750,000 copies of our books.

Publication Program

<i>Year</i>	<i>New Books</i>	<i>Reprints</i>
1935	3	0
1936	4	8
1937	6	6
1938	8	8
1939	6	14
1940	6	18
1941	7	11
1942	8	12
1943	6	24
1944	7	22
1945	7	39
	65	162

War Work

In World War I, we prepared a small Prayer Book for the Jewish Welfare Board, of which 200,000 copies were distributed. At the opening of World War II, 48,000 copies were printed for the National Jewish Welfare Board while they were preparing a new enlarged Prayer Book. During World War II, we printed 1,392,025 copies of this new

Prayer Book, 620,302 copies of a High Holy Days Prayer Book, 248,400 copies of the J.W.B. Haggadah, and 11,550 copies of a French-Hebrew Prayer Book which was used by the Jews in the French army in North Africa.

During 1946, we are to deliver to the Jewish Welfare Board the balance of 119,698 Prayer Books still on contract, making a total printing of this new Prayer Book of 1,511,723.

During World War I, we printed 172,000 copies of *Readings from The Holy Scriptures* and 105,110 copies were ordered at the beginning of World War II, prior to the preparation of a new volume. Unfortunately, we were not prepared to undertake the production of this volume, both for the Government or for the Welfare Board, but free use was given to them for the use of our translation.

The total printings of Prayer Books and Haggadahs for the National Jewish Welfare Board in World War II reached the astonishing figure of 2,545,085, with the J.W.B. a satisfied customer on service and price.

Besides this work, we were also subcontractors on government work in setting books in Russian, Bulgarian, Greek, Croatian, Serbian, German and other languages. We feel that the Society made its contribution in the war effort, all of this done with twenty per cent of our Press staff in service.

Hebrew Press

The Press has developed into the finest foreign-language press in the country. At the beginning of 1936, we had a staff of six people, with two keyboards and two casting machines. We now have a staff of fifteen, eight keyboards and five casting machines. From an assortment of two faces of Hebrew type and one face of English type, we now have the largest selection of Hebrew monotype faces in the world and five excellent modern English faces, plus Russian and Greek. We are now able to keyboard in Russian and in Greek and are working with the Lanston Monotype Company on keyboarding Arabic. The expansion of the Press has been done from the Press's own funds and we have set aside a reserve of \$22,000.00 for future expansion. We have

started to train new men and hope to continue this informal school of ours as long as desirable men come to our attention.

The Press of The Society now is equipped to set type in all of the Latin languages, all of the Cyrillic languages (Russian, Bulgarian, etc.), Greek, Syriac, Arabic, Babylonian, Judeo-Arabic and Yiddish.

Among the regular customers of our Press are: *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, *The Journal of Biblical Literature*, *The Westminster Theological Journal*, The Hebrew Union College, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, The American Academy for Jewish Research, The Jewish Education Committee of New York, Yale University Press, Harvard University Press, Johns Hopkins University Press, The United Synagogue of America, Union of Sephardic Congregations, The College of Jewish Studies in Chicago, the Baltimore Hebrew College and the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

The first contract in Russian was to set the type for the Old and New Testaments, a \$15,000.00 contract which we are completing to the excellent satisfaction of the American Bible Society. We have already set several textbooks in Russian and see a steady volume of Russian work, easily handled by our capable staff of craftsmen.

Federation Subventions

We have been approaching federations and welfare funds in a most modest manner and asking them to allocate sums to our Society, for which we, in turn, working on a *quid pro quo* basis, send the welfare fund or federation six books for each \$10.00 allocated. These books, in turn, find their way into communal, university and city libraries. The amount of money we receive from this source is not as important as the fact that we help make fund-raising organizations cognizant of the fact that there is a Jewish Publication Society, that it is owned by the Jews of America, and that it deserves their recognition.

Golden Jubilee

In 1938, we celebrated our Golden Jubilee in a most modest manner. There was a historical meeting at Dropsie College in the afternoon, at which Dr. David Philipson presided,

and papers were presented by Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen, Dr. Solomon Solis-Cohen, Dr. Solomon Grayzel, Dr. Isaac Husik and Mr. Simon Miller.

At the evening dinner at the Y.M.H.A., at which Mr. Morris Wolf acted as toastmaster, the speakers were Dr. Solomon Solis-Cohen, Dr. Cyrus Adler, Mr. Felix N. Gerson, who read an original poem, and Professor Max Lerner as the guest speaker. Present at this dinner were the six who were present at the initial meeting in 1888: Dr. Cyrus Adler, Dr. Solomon Solis-Cohen, Mr. Simon Miller, Dr. Ludwig Loeb, Mr. Felix N. Gerson and Dr. David Philipson. Of these six, only three remain with us: Dr. Solomon Solis-Cohen, Dr. Ludwig Loeb and Dr. David Philipson.

It is not too early to start thinking ahead of a celebration to commemorate our sixtieth anniversary in 1948, at which time it might be wise to inaugurate an Endowment Fund campaign for capital funds. We ought to publish a special booklet commemorating the event, including the papers delivered in 1938 and the congratulatory messages received from friends all over the world.

Jewish Book Week and Religious Book Week

In his yearly reports, our President has commented in full on our participation in the celebration of Jewish Book Week and Religious Book Week and on the part we have played in stimulating this activity. Both of these Weeks are now part of our regular calendar. Dr. Grayzel has made an excellent record as President of the Jewish Book Council of America, which is under the auspices of the National Jewish Welfare Board. No publisher of Jewish books has consistently had as many books selected for emphasis during Religious Book Week as has our Society. We ought to be proud of our record and accept it as demonstrating the care with which our Publication Committee chooses its manuscripts.

Public Relations

We have endeavored during the past ten years to cultivate the friendship of the Jewish press of America, Anglo-Jewish, Yiddish and Hebrew. We have enlarged our list of review

books and the record of cooperation by the Jewish press is most gratifying. Without their help, the progress of this Society would not have been as rapid. I know that you join with me in saying "thank you" to Jewish journalism for a task well done.

Personnel

Ten years ago, we occupied two small rooms in a dirty loft building uptown and had an office staff consisting of a part-time executive, a part-time editor, a part-time shipper, two full-time girls and one on part-time, plus a young man breaking in on promotion work. Nine years ago we moved to what we thought would be adequate quarters, in a central-city building. The staff has grown to seventeen full-time employees, plus the fifteen at the Press.

Post-War Plans

This is the record of the past. What can we do to continue the same healthy growth and build our Society to the point where it will do approximately a million dollars' worth of business a year? This is not a figure just taken out of the air. It can be done, provided we are willing to expand our publication program, develop the Press, and promote our work in line with modern methods.

We ought to print at least twelve new books a year and become a real Jewish Book-of-the-Month Club. The manuscripts can be found. Our Editor handles a hundred and fifty manuscripts a year now, and if the Board makes its decision to increase our publication program, we can find the additional manuscripts, either through the subventioning of authors to do the work or through other methods.

Many of our plans are still incomplete. The Holiday Series should be carried to completion, and we already have authors working on books for Purim and Pesah. The American Jewish Historical Series should be started. The Movement Series ought to be completed. The Biographical Series deserves further expansion. The field of juveniles is a wonderful field for sales promotion. I hope that in the very near future we will authorize the republication of our old children's books in a new format instead of the style of

forty and fifty years ago. Our reprint series ought to be jacketed and made more attractive. The Hebrew-English Bible must be published as soon as practical as this will be an excellent source of sales for The Society. We ought to explore the possibility of entering the textbook field, the most fertile and profitable field in Jewish publishing. Our Graetz's *History of the Jews* ought to be revised and re-published. One is not inclined to promote a set of books published from plates fifty years old, and those plates not in very good condition. We might even be bold enough to think of the publication of a *Schass* under the editorship of the most capable scholars of America. We have the manpower, and the financing is not impossible. As soon as paper is available, we ought to reprint the old Zangwill books, the plates for which recently became our property. Zangwill is still a name to conjure with, as evidenced by the sale of 10,000 copies of the *Zangwill Omnibus Book*. Wherever possible, we ought to make other worth-while Jewish books available in reprint form for our members through the purchase of publishing rights or plates. Paper-bound pocket-books, to retail at 25 cents, ought to fit into our program. We know how to manufacture these books and they can be published and marketed at the 25-cent price when we can be assured of an initial distribution of 100,000 copies of each title. These books are almost a "must" for mass Jewish education.

The field of translations from the Hebrew and Yiddish is still untouched and the best of this literature should be republished in English.

The Press ought to be enlarged, particularly with the addition of linotypes, so that we can do The Society's own books on linotype and take on unvoiced Hebrew work, which we cannot handle now because of the differential in price. Our field for expansion of the Press is almost unlimited.

Contact should be made with every English-speaking country, perhaps through a personal visit, establishing contacts for memberships and sales, which cannot be done except in a personal manner. The work we are doing with a book wholesaler and an exporter ought to be continued and expanded so that The Society's books will be available both here and abroad in every store which calls itself a good book

store. "Jewish Books in Every Jewish Home" can be supplemented by "Jewish books on sale at every good book shop."

The work we have been doing with the Jewish Chautauqua Society, with the Zionist Organization of America, with Hillel and Hadassah, and with other organizations ought to be continued and expanded so that large quantities of our books can be sold or distributed through these organizations to their members at moderate prices. We must take the lead in all such enterprises.

Of course, the crying need now is for a building of our own, and I am hoping that our President will be able to make a dramatic announcement about that this evening.

The personnel must be expanded so that the expected increased volume of business will be handled properly. We need a promotion manager, a production manager, and an increased staff in all departments.

The possibilities of working with the Jewish community of South America need exploration, and it is very possible that arrangements can be made to help establish a Jewish Publication Society of Latin America or that we can arrange for printings in Spanish and Portuguese for our South American brethren. Discussions are already under way with two national Jewish organizations and we hope to have something definite to present to our Board of Trustees within the very near future.

As I look through the old minutes of The Society, I find that each year there has been agitation for The Society to print a magazine or some sort of literary pamphlet. If we can send our members periodically something like the Book-of-the-Month Club *News* or the Literary Guild *Wings*, it will help to retain the interest of the members in the work of The Society as well as increase their purchases of The Society's books.

Appreciation and Thanks

No one person is responsible for the success of The Society during the past ten years. Ours has been a very happy organization—the officers, the Board of Trustees, the Publication Committee, the staff at the office, the staff at the

Press, and the executives. It has been more than an organization; it has been a family of co-workers.

Mr. Solis-Cohen has been a most understanding President. I owe him personal thanks for the invitation he extended to me ten years ago to join the staff of The Society. It has been the greatest experience in my life and it was he who first broached the idea to me and showed me the possibility of service to the Jewish community. For thirteen years he has guided the destinies of this organization. We have learned to plan together, to work together and to share the joys and the sorrows of a year's accomplishments. I do hope that Mr. Solis-Cohen will be drafted by the Nominating Committee and will continue to serve The Society for many years to come. He has ably carried on the tradition of his predecessors, of blessed memory, Morris Newburger, Edwin Wolf and Simon Miller.

No executive could have a finer relation with his chief fiscal officer than I have had with our Treasurer, Mr. Howard A. Wolf, during my ten-year incumbency with The Society. He has been a counselor, an encourager and a real friend. His careful and conservative management of The Society's finances is reflected in our excellent current position.

Judge Louis E. Levinthal, the Chairman of our Publication Committee for the past five years, has been a worthy successor to Judge Mayer Sulzberger and Dr. Cyrus Adler and has carried on their work with distinction. Dr. Grayzel and I are most grateful to the "official family" for having elected such an outstanding person to the position of Chairman of the Publication Committee. We owe him much. Mr. Bernard L. Frankel has served us well as volunteer legal counsel. The entire Board of Trustees and Publication Committee have been most cooperative. No assignments which we asked of them were too great. Over 1,500 manuscripts have been read in the past ten years by these volunteer readers who made it possible for The Society to select its excellent program of books.

Dr. Solomon Grayzel, who assumed a full-time position as Editor last year, has lived up to all of our expectations. He has carried on ably in the tradition of Miss Henrietta Szold, Dr. Benzion Halper and Dr. Isaac Husik. It is a

privilege and an education to be associated with him and to call him a co-worker.

The staff at the office, headed by Miss Leonore R. Wohlfeld, has been as loyal and as cooperative as any executive could hope for. Considering the over-crowded conditions under which they work, I am amazed at the volume of work produced. I would like to single out two members of the office staff who have been with us during my entire incumbency: Mr. Leon Frey, who handles our shipping department so efficiently, and Miss Ray Barnett, who handles new members with great devotion.

I have often said that without Mr. David Skaraton as my right arm, I could not manage the work of the Press. My lack of knowledge of the intricacies of typesetting is balanced by his wide knowledge and experience. He has helped build the Press Division of The Society of which we are so proud and which has brought us encomiums from far and wide. The oldest members of The Jewish Publication Society staff are those who are at the Press, and I mention with appreciation Messrs. Weitzel, Rodman, Babitsky, Horowitz, Van Os and Eisman, who, with Mr. Skaraton, were at the Press when I came ten years ago and around whom we have built our enlarged organization. Their loyalty is gratifying.

Mrs. Pearl Foster Roseman returned to our field staff early in my administration and has done outstanding work in New York.

The past ten years have been the happiest in my life. The sense of satisfaction of doing a worth-while task and of being a servant of my people means a great deal, and I am deeply appreciative of the opportunities and privileges given to me to serve The Jewish Publication Society of America.

Respectfully submitted,

MAURICE JACOBS

Executive Vice-President

THE JEWISH BOOK IN PALESTINE

Address by

Dr. FELIX A. LEVY*

When I was invited, just ten days ago, to deliver this address, I did not know what the nature of this particular occasion was going to be. I happened to be in the East at the time, and Mr. Jacobs reached me at Providence and asked me to speak to you. I should otherwise have prepared a written paper, but I am sure you will be relieved to hear me informally. I will therefore give you what the French call a *causerie*.

I do not know particularly what prompted me to choose the subject, "The Jewish Book in Palestine," but it happens to be a theme in which I am very much interested. I feel that every one of us, especially the members of The Jewish Publication Society, ought to have some knowledge of what is going on in Palestine's literary world at the present moment. If we have suddenly been stimulated to the production of a great number of volumes and look forward with some anticipation to increasing our output and to encouraging Jewish readers and authors in English, you can understand that the same attitude and psychology are present in Palestine. You have there a Jewish population of half a million or more. They have been there for a quarter of a century—not of course in that number, for the population has increased since the Balfour Declaration was promulgated. From the very beginning, Palestine had to provide some kind of medium, a common language, which was to be the vernacular for its people and the instrument for their instruction. Everything that had to do with literature had, of course, to be expressed either orally or in print in the

* Delivered at the Annual Meeting of The Jewish Publication Society of America, Sunday, March 31, 1946.

language of our ancestors. Not that Palestine has suddenly caused Hebrew to be reborn (Hebrew was reborn a century or two ago), but Palestine fostered it and brought it to a high degree of plasticity.

Since the Jews stepped out of the mediaeval ghetto, there has been a renaissance of the Jewish spirit that has expressed itself in diverse ways. First, religiously, the Hasidic movement stirred the soul of the Jews of Eastern Europe and left its imprint on the literature and even the religion of the Jew of Western Europe. Then Reform Judaism arose, making Jewish life stronger, Jewish idealism more firm, more tenable in the world in which the Jew lives. (I feel that the two movements, Hasidism and Reform, are connected.) In the broader field of general culture or in the narrower field of Jewish culture, you had the rebirth of the Hebrew language or, rather, its rebirth in the *Haskalah* movement and what is called *Wissenschaft des Judentums*, the science of Judaism. On the other hand, the revival of the nationalist spirit of the Jew was brought about because of certain political currents of thought and situations in Jewish life, so that when Herzl appeared you had the Zionist movement. This renaissance of the Jewish spirit, this rekindling of the something that had lain dormant for centuries, found an opportunity in modern Palestine for an outlet and the Hebrew book in Palestine is the result. Actually this renaissance began some two centuries ago—if I had time I would discuss it—but the Hebrew language has grown even in my lifetime. I want to talk on a number of phases of this more limited subject.

In Palestine they are publishing a book a day—mind you, a book a day!—over 300 or 350 volumes a year, for a population of little over half a million. You cannot match that anywhere in the world. Even during the War, even at the present time, when paper is so scarce, some of the products that come out of the Palestinian presses are magnificent. Though their external format is poor, the binding and paper poor—handicaps that we ourselves face in this country—Palestine has been doing a tremendous job.

There are any number of publishing houses in Palestine. Some are of recent growth, or recent origin. For example, there is the Kook Foundation, in honor of the rabbi who

left such a deep impression upon Palestine. I do not remember the exact total of books—around 100—that have been published by this diligent press. Some of its products are of tremendous value, largely of interest to the rabbi, the scholar, as anything done in honor of Rabbi Kook would be. Talmud, Midrash, Haggadah, Kabbalah—all these subjects have found their way into print and a veritable library has been produced by that one foundation alone.

Then the labor movement, the *Histadruth*, which as you know is strong, has produced a number of volumes. These books reflect the political and the economic points of view of their writers, with a variety of thought largely socialistic in character.

The Hebrew University has done remarkable work, perhaps the most remarkable in modern times, not only in the field of Judaism but in all the disciplines that a university teaches or represents through its faculty. In that realm, the *opera* that have come from the University and from its scholars represent a signal achievement.

I think that the present age, in which we live, is not only the most prolific period in all our history in the production of books—due not simply to the facility with which books can be produced—but is a reflection of the spirit of Israel. When you take stock of what has occurred in the general field of letters, in culture, among the Jews at the present time, there is nothing for which we have to apologize; there is a great deal of which we can be proud. There is pride in what the German Jews did—this is not the time to talk of what the Germans did for the *Wissenschaft des Judentums*—but Palestine at the present time has already surpassed German-Jewish achievements during the nineteenth century.

A number of periodicals, almost a dozen, come out of Palestine. I do not refer to the newspapers or even to the weekly journals. I am thinking of scientific journals—not only in the physical sciences, but in the field of the “humanities”; for example, *Tarbiz*, *Kirjath Sepher*, *Zion*, *Ba'ayot*, a new journal of which only four or five numbers have appeared thus far, which deals with problems of the Jewish religion, of Jewish adjustment. A new journal of philosophy, of which the first number appeared a month or two ago, has just seen

the light of day. A new journal of folklore is going to be published in Palestine. They are up to date. There is no phase of Jewish life in which they do not have interest. Besides, the study of Jewish bibliography has been stimulated in Palestine—Abraham Yaari and others have made large contributions to this subject.

The Schocken Institute of Poetry—their books are beautiful to look at—has published a whole series of volumes that have recovered for us the great poets of the mediaeval period and, in addition, has printed essays and all sorts of articles and papers on what these men did and what they tried to say. There is nothing that they have left undone in Palestine by way of contributions to general Jewish culture.

Literature itself, the history of Hebrew literature has finally been written by a Palestinian, Joseph Klausner. It is not complete, although it is in four or five volumes. This again is the first time that such an attempt has been made in Hebrew. Klausner's has a number of features which other histories have not. You know him best for his life of Jesus and his life of Paul, but I do not think that these compare to his account of Hebrew literature. He is one of the foremost living authorities on the Hebrew language. He has written a grammar. He serves on the Committee of the language. They have a committee, like that of the Spanish Academy, that actually tells you what words to use, that discovers new terms when these are necessary, that tells what idioms are proper, and thus provides a guide for the growing and expanding language. Its publications are accessible to anyone who wants to know what it is doing. Any student of the language must of course consult the publications of this particular group. Not that they are always correct—they sometimes make mistakes too.

Now to come down to the specific with respect to books in Palestine. My own field is the rabbinic field; the history of Judaism from biblical times, the problems and thought and everything else that pertains to that discipline. Let us begin with archaeology, which has become a very important subject: At the present time we are issuing a book by Nelson Glueck on *The River Jordan*. Jews have done magnificent work in the field of archaeology. Dr. Sukenik and

Professor Mayer found an old wall which they identified as the Third Wall of Jerusalem. Jews have recovered, discovered, the old Synagogue and likewise have dug up, Sukenik particularly, the Synagogue at Beth Alpha, from which we learned a number of things about the ancient Synagogue. These synagogues were not bare of ornament, as the Jews interpreted the law not to make any pictures or images more liberally than the Jews of the Middle Ages. The floors have beautiful figures and the walls are painted. Their use of ornamentation is interesting. Sometimes pictures were also used on the Ark. The Ras Shamra and the Lachish texts have been deciphered very largely by Jewish scholars, men like Torczyner and others. Benjamin Maisler and his colleagues have dug down to pre-history at Bet Shearim and have rewritten for us Early Palestinian history and even geography. We know more about our ancestors than we ever did, thanks to the work of the Palestinian scholars, chiefly under the auspices of the Hebrew University.

There is a distinct trend in Jewish archaeology and in the allied fields. Those of you who have a knowledge of the Bible know that a number of opinions were more or less accepted, largely by Gentiles—I should say entirely by Gentiles, and largely by Jews. Among them was the late date of the Jewish religion. Other ideas were that the Jews were not original—that they were always peddlers—and that everything came from Egypt or Babylon; that the Jewish religion was taken from one or another of the peoples among whom we lived. If we had fine Proverbs, they had Imhotep. If the Jews taught monotheism, they had monotheism in Egypt even before the Jews were a people, because Ikhnoton penned a hymn to his sun-god. If we had prophets, their source is to be found in Mesopotamia. Our ancestors were not even original in their creation of the Bible. Such scholars had no scientific basis for their breaking up of the Bible into the present divisions. It was a product of their imagination, edited by the use of paste and scissors. Our whole effort in writing Scripture was said to have been to garble texts and to interweave sentences and paragraphs. That was what I was taught when I went to school. Now, it is the work of men like Cassuto and Yehezkiel Kaufmann which has completely changed that conception and has given the death

blow to all of these ideas: the theories of the lateness of everything in Judaism; the theory that a nation knows nothing about its childhood except infantile myths. Archaeology has confirmed the Bible. From the time that we were consciously Israelites, from the time that we went into Egypt, our records are unchallenged, due to the work of these Jewish scholars. The Germans tried to prove the superiority of Christianity, and therefore asserted that Judaism arose simply in order to produce the daughter religion, and since anything that grows, grows from small beginnings Christianity is an exalted Judaism. I have not time to discuss the subject of our beginnings. Yet, monotheism came to Israel full grown, as Buber and others who have gone to Palestine have shown. Similarly in the matter of Hebrew prophecy, we have to take our own (Jewish) idea of the prophet if we want to understand what prophetic Judaism is, and, instead of making prophecy contrast with Torah, we shall then see that these two features of Jewish religious life are but the obverse and reverse of the same coin. Yehezkiel Kaufmann has done a magnificent job in this field in his epoch-making *Goleh v' Nehar*, "Exile and Stranger." It will compel us to revise a great many of our previous judgments and some of our prejudices.

In the realm of philosophy they are beginning to wake up in Palestine. Professor Bergmann shows that he knows the field—particularly the German-Austrian philosophy. Leon Roth's forte lies in another branch—in mediaeval philosophy, in Spinoza. He has done a number of translations. The Palestinians cannot read the English and German texts and require translations of philosophical texts. They have done an excellent series of translations into Hebrew.

It is not only directly Jewish subjects that occupy the scholars there. They have contributed a number of things in the field of Arabic. Again I can only mention the very important studies. They have made Arabic an important department. They intend to make critical editions of texts. Meyer is an authority on Islamic art; Goitein knows Islam most thoroughly; and both men have published works in their field. The definitive edition, cut short by the death of Dr. Schloessinger, of *Baldahuri*, a famous Arabic classic,

is a magnificent job which perhaps will do more to bring us the respect and the esteem of the Arabs than all our politicians can do. Ignaz Goldziher, a Hungarian Jew, was the greatest living Arabic scholar. The Arabs had more respect for his knowledge of Arabic than they did for that of their own *imams*.

There are little books on almost every subject—the political development, the history of Palestine—dozens of titles, of 100–200 pages in Hebrew and for the most part magnificently done. I just received an introduction to the Bible in Hebrew, intended particularly for young people—it makes difficult things very simple. The author accepts the Bible as it is but he does a fine job of a literary introduction. I have another on biblical style. And may I say that it is this feeling for the Hebrew language, this recovery of the spirit of the language, that has made their contributions, particularly in the field of Bible, so outstanding. They have a feeling for Hebrew that nobody who does not live the language can get. When you read Cassuto, you get the fine distinctions, the slight shades of meaning that these men obtain from it—they live and breathe it—then you understand what the recovery of the language has meant, not only for Jewish culture in general but for the better understanding of so many things over the meaning of which we have quarreled for many years. I wish that they would take our quarreling groups, turn things inside out and make them think in Hebrew—this quarreling, for example, whether we are a religion or a nation.

There is another man by the name of Gershom (Gerhard) Scholem, whom you ought to know. He has written in English too, a book entitled *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*. He has reared a number of disciples who are following in his footsteps. He has uncovered manuscripts and he has given us the story of Mysticism, and of some of the great leaders in Mysticism, in a way in which we never dreamed it could be done. Despite some personal idiosyncrasies, his work is exceedingly sympathetic and he seems to be able to read the very soul of Mysticism and clear up the historic as well as the philosophic secrets of the Kabbalah.

Then history! I said today in the course of some remarks at the Board meeting that there were certain periods in Jew-

ish history, beginning in early times down to modern times, which were almost blank. Some of the pre-Israelitish periods had a number of lacunae, the Greek period was unsatisfactory, the gaonic period we knew little about, nor did we know much about the Jews in Egypt during certain periods of Roman domination. The *Genizah* was the first find that helped us understand some dark spots in Jewish history. But here you have men who have done even better in shedding illumination on these blank spaces in the pages of Jewish history than have any of their predecessors. Tscherikower, in his history of *The Jews in Egypt in the Hellenistic-Roman Age in the Light of the Papyri*, has done a magnificent job. Fritz Baer is perhaps the greatest living historian, and his work on Spanish history is already classic. He has done a lot of his work in Palestine. He has recently written a book on the history of the Jews in Christian Spain which our Society will publish in translation or in some revised form. Benjamin Lewin has done more for the gaonic period than any man living. Doctor Lewin has even corrected Professor Ginzberg's work. Walter Fischel has done the first complete history of the Jews of Persia. From Zion also came the story of the Jews in Turkey. The history of the Samaritans is now being done by a Jew who lives among them, collecting their legends, putting them down for us. A history of Hebrew coinage also has been done beautifully.

I want to say a word about general literature. That has not been neglected. There is a new poetry movement there as well as here. Most people know the names of Tchernichovsky and Bialik. Bialik more especially than any single individual gave Hebrew poetry the strongest impulse. Cohen, Schneur and others have written exquisite verse. Do not always accept the report that the Jews of Palestine lack religious spirit. There are two hundred synagogues in Tel-Aviv alone, and some of the colonies have synagogues. This religious reawakening is reflected in the poetry, because the language and its spirit have entered these people—you cannot think in Hebrew without becoming religious. They are beginning to yearn for the very things that always distinguished the Jews, namely, religion. You find yearnings, dissatisfaction with old forms, attempts to create something new, something vital and modern at the same time.

Take the novels. Sholem Asch could have learned a great deal if he had gone to Kabak, who wrote a novel about Jesus in which he treats the psychology of the subject without making some of the bows to Christianity that Sholem Asch does. I received, for example, an anthology, two volumes of prose and poetry to introduce the newer writers to the general Palestinian public. The most remarkable thing about the books was that the fifty or sixty authors from whom selections are given all were East European Jews—Poles, Russians or Lithuanians. You may draw whatever conclusions you want to from this fact. Perhaps West Europeans or Americans have gotten too far away from Hebrew to know how to use it. The Yemenites are being saved—not only the people but their literature. Hazaz has written largely on the Yemenite in the novels that he writes. Occasionally novels appear in serial form. I ought not to close without mentioning Keneset Bialik, a foundation named after the great bard. Translations of Homer's *Odyssey* and other classics are being made in Palestine—all these are necessary for the general culture.

The future of the Jew in Palestine is exceedingly hopeful. It will create a finer man because he will think, not only in his own language, but in his own spiritual idiom, which is of tremendous importance. In view of what has already been accomplished, we can almost begin to see the first rays of light dawn in Palestine that will shoot their beams to various corners of the world. The light is again coming from the east and from Zion will go forth Torah and the word of the Lord will again go forth from Jerusalem.

MEMBERSHIP AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1946

	Life	Sustaining	Friend	Patron	Library	Annual
Alabama.....	3		2	2	36	53
Arizona.....				2	9	20
California.....	2			4	144	278
Colorado.....					14	49
Connecticut.....					48	161
Delaware.....				1	8	32
District of Columbia.....					32	112
Florida.....	2	1	1	1	25	69
Georgia.....					28	47
Illinois.....	1			3	183	470
Indiana.....				2	29	55
Iowa.....				1	9	42
Kentucky.....					5	32
Louisiana.....	1				13	27
Maine.....					19	34
Maryland.....				14	115	235
Massachusetts.....	2	2	1	18	152	483
Michigan.....	1		1		69	193
Minnesota.....		1			24	71
Missouri.....					33	106
Nebraska.....			1		13	39
New Jersey.....	2	1		10	273	497
New York.....	13	6	27	264	2,485	3,516
North Carolina.....				1	10	23
Ohio.....	4		1	1	127	265
Oklahoma.....					11	15
Oregon.....					6	17
Pennsylvania.....	19	3	5	24	502	1,192
Rhode Island.....				2	11	45
South Carolina.....					10	31
Tennessee.....					11	26
Texas.....		1		2	50	80
Virginia.....		1	1	1	23	87
Washington.....					6	29
West Virginia.....			1	1	8	8
Wisconsin.....				1	17	47
Other States & Territories.....					24 ¹	54 ²
Argentina.....				1	4	25
Australia & New Zealand.....					8	19
Canada.....	2			1	94	230
Great Britain.....	4			3	125	121
Palestine.....					3	17
South Africa.....	1	1			222	91
Other Countries.....					10 ³	18 ⁴
	57	17	41	360	5,047	9,061

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.....14,583

¹ Arkansas 1, Kansas 2, Mississippi 6, Montana 1, Nevada 5, New Mexico 2, Utah 1, Vermont 5, Puerto Rico 1.

² Arkansas 4, Kansas 9, Mississippi 11, Montana 2, Nevada 4, New Mexico 1, North Dakota 4, South Dakota 1, Utah 6, Vermont 9, Wyoming 3.

³ Brazil 3, Mexico 4, P. I. 1, Turkey 1, Venezuela 1.

⁴ Brazil 2, B. W. I. 2, Mexico 7, Panama 1, P. I. 2, Portugal 1, Turkey 1, Venezuela 1, South Sea 1.

TREASURER'S REPORT

COMPARATIVE COMBINED BALANCE SHEETS

<i>Assets</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 1945</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 1944</i>
Cash.....	\$ 10,901.57	\$ 7,948.02
Accounts Receivable.....	19,626.56	21,859.21
Inventories.....	82,432.44	58,579.21
Loans to Funds.....	2,352.00	5,314.03
Plates, Copyrights, Plant and Equipment.....	2.00	2.00
Prepaid Publication Costs.....	1,606.00	5,030.51
Prepaid Insurance.....	1,936.33	2,242.66
Due from Employees (Pension Fund)...	2,397.23	
	<u>\$121,254.13</u>	<u>\$100,975.64</u>
 <i>Liabilities</i>		
Loans Payable to Funds.....	\$ 18,845.19	\$ 19,437.91
Accounts Payable.....	9,419.46	15,248.31
Customers' Deposits.....	2,112.08	2,002.92
Accrued Expenses.....	3,036.87	2,687.82
Insurance Premiums Payable.....	952.84	1,497.32
Reserves for Uncompleted Contracts....	22,087.81	13,885.83
Reserve for New Equipment.....	22,000.00	18,000.00
Reserve for Hebrew-English Bible.....	15,000.00	
Surplus.....	27,799.88	28,215.53
	<u>\$121,254.13</u>	<u>\$100,975.64</u>

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	<i>Dec. 31, 1945</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 1944</i>
Principal and accumulated income of Funds invested as follows:.....		\$ 51,378.87
Cash.....	\$ 678.46	
Investments, at cost.....	27,611.72	
Inventory of Loeb Fund Publications.....	6,595.50	
Loans to the Society.....	18,845.19	
	<u>\$ 53,730.87</u>	
Less, Loans from the Society.....	<u>2,352.00</u>	<u>51,378.87</u>

CONDENSED COMPARATIVE COMBINED
PROFIT AND LOSS

	<i>Year Ended</i>	
	<i>Dec. 31, 1945</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 1944</i>
Income		
Dues.....	\$ 71,487.13	\$ 61,918.07
Contributions from Welfare Funds ...	3,281.25	2,890.50
Donations.....	2,685.83	284.92
Sales, Hebrew Press.....	131,536.63	148,301.55
Sales, Jewish Publication Society.....	83,278.32	75,682.81
Interest.....	782.61	512.23
Miscellaneous.....	4,814.83	6,641.57
	<u>\$297,866.60</u>	<u>\$296,231.65</u>
Expenses, publication costs and reserves.....	297,636.58	295,797.96
Profit to Surplus.....	<u>\$ 230.02</u>	<u>\$ 433.69</u>

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD A. WOLF
Treasurer

A Decade of Devoted Service

This Annual Meeting of The Jewish Publication Society of America cannot pass without appreciative recognition of the devoted services of Mr. Maurice Jacobs, our Executive Vice-President. Ten years ago, Mr. Jacobs joined The Society in the capacity of Secretary. He was later advanced to the newly created office of Executive Vice-President because of his assumption of increased responsibilities and in tribute to his capable management of the affairs of The Society.

During the decade Mr. Jacobs served The Society, he has won the confidence, the admiration and the affection of all who have worked with him. His inexhaustible energy, his success in the wider distribution of The Society's publications, his interest in the advancement of general Jewish causes and his participation in Jewish communal activities have helped to broaden the community's acquaintance with the work of The Society.

He has been a constant source of encouragement to Jewish authors. He has helped to design the format and appearance of The Society's books. He has initiated and fostered the circulation, within popular price range, of the older books of The Society, especially those that have become classics of modern Jewish literature.

He has succeeded in increasing the membership of The Society many times over what it was when he first entered

office. He has devised the selective system by which a member is enabled to choose from six books each year those he desires to possess. He has increased the usefulness of The Society through association with national organizations interested in Jewish education and culture.

During the critical years of World War II, he extended the facilities of the Hebrew Press, an integral part of our Society, to the Jewish Welfare Board, and printed Bibles, Prayer Books and Haggadahs for those who served in the Armed Forces of our country, thus enabling The Society to contribute its share to the moral and spiritual well-being of Jewish men and women all over the world.

In view of these and his other outstanding achievements during his ten years with The Society, the officers of The Jewish Publication Society of America, its Board of Trustees, and the members of the Publication Committee have

RESOLVED to felicitate Mr. Maurice Jacobs on this tenth anniversary of his devoted services to our Society, express our grateful appreciation of his tireless efforts to advance its purposes, and voice the hope that the years ahead will bring him happiness and personal satisfaction in his accomplishments for The Society and for the cultural life of the American Jewish community.

J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.
President

March 31, 1946
Adar Sheni 28, 5706

A Faithful Friend

This year, Mr. Howard A. Wolf completes a decade and a half of faithful service to The Jewish Publication Society of America. These fifteen years, so fraught with human destiny and Jewish fate, have seen The Society greatly expand its influence in the English-reading Jewries of the world.

During this time, Mr. Wolf has been a zealous friend and servant of The Society. Quiet in manner and conscientious in his duties, he has attended meetings regularly and has faithfully fulfilled his important tasks as Treasurer of The Society. His helpful counsel has aided its financial stability and strengthened its soundness.

Mr. Wolf has made many admirers for himself among his fellow workers, and has won numerous friends for The Society. It is fitting and proper that we should recognize his faithful labors for the advancement, through our Society, of Jewish literary and cultural activities in American Israel.

We, officers of The Jewish Publication Society of America, members of its Board of Trustees, and members of the Publication Committee, have

RESOLVED, that we give public expression of our gratitude to Mr. Howard A. Wolf for his endeavors on behalf of The Society, and convey to him our appreciation of his generous services as Treasurer of The Society during the years of his association with us.

J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.

President

March 31, 1946

Adar Sheni 28, 5706

In Memoriam

FELIX N. GERSON

It has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom to take from our midst Felix N. Gerson who served on the Publication Committee of The Jewish Publication Society of America since 1902. During his years of service to our Society, he gave us wise counsel in the realm of Jewish literature, and helped to enrich the cultural and intellectual life of the Jewish community.

For many years he devoted his talents to the editorship of *The Jewish Exponent* of Philadelphia, making it one of the outstanding Anglo-Jewish weeklies in the United States. He translated into English some of the noteworthy volumes issued by The Society, among them the *History of the Jews in Regensburg and Augsburg*, *The Ship of Hope*, and *Rembrandt, the Jews and the Bible*.

In his death, The Society has lost a loyal friend, and the Jewish community an exemplary Jew and a gentleman of universal culture. His memory will long abide with us as an incentive and an inspiration.

The officers of The Jewish Publication Society of America, its Board of Trustees, and the members of the Publication Committee deeply mourn his loss, and in this spirit have

RESOLVED that The Jewish Publication Society of America extend to the family of Felix N. Gerson its heartfelt sympathy, and instruct that these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of The Society, and that they be published in Volume 48 of *The American Jewish Year Book*.

J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.

President

March 31, 1946

Adar Sheni 28, 5706

CHARTER

The terms of the charter are as follows:

The name of the corporation is **THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA.**

The said Corporation is formed for the support of a benevolent educational undertaking, namely, for the publication and dissemination of literary, scientific, and religious works, giving instruction in the principles of the Jewish religion and in Jewish history and literature.

The business of said corporation is to be transacted in the city and county of Philadelphia.

The corporation is to exist perpetually.

There is no capital stock, and there are no shares of stock.

The corporation is to be managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of fifteen members, and by the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and such other officers as may from time to time be necessary.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Membership

SECTION I.—The Society shall be composed of Annual Members, Library Members, Patrons, Friends, Sustaining Members, and Life Members. Any person of the Jewish faith may become a Member by paying annually the sum of five dollars (\$5), or a Library Member by the annual payment of ten dollars (\$10), or a patron by the annual payment of twenty dollars (\$20), or a Friend by the annual payment of fifty dollars (\$50), or a Sustaining Member by the annual payment of one hundred dollars (\$100), or a Life Member by one payment of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250).

SEC. II.—Any Jewish Society may become a Member by the annual payment of ten dollars (\$10).

SEC. III.—Any person may become a Subscriber by the annual payment of five dollars (\$5), which entitles him or her to all the publications of The Society to which members are entitled.

ARTICLE II

Meetings

SECTION I.—The annual meeting of The Society shall be held in the month of March, the day of such meeting to be fixed by the Directors at their meeting in the previous January.

SEC. II.—Special meetings may be held at any time at the call of the President, or by a vote of a majority of the Board of Directors, or at the written request of fifty members of The Society.

ARTICLE III

Officers and Their Duties

SECTION I.—There shall be twenty-one Directors, to be elected by The Society by ballot.

At the annual meeting to be held in May, 1908, there shall be elected eleven directors, seven to serve for one year,

two to serve for two years, and two to serve for three years; and at every subsequent annual meeting, seven directors shall be elected for three years.

SEC. II.—Out of the said twenty-one, The Society shall annually elect a President, Vice-President, and Second Vice-President, who shall hold their offices for one year.

SEC. III.—The Society shall also elect fifteen Honorary Vice-Presidents, in the same manner and for the same terms of office as the Directors are chosen.

SEC. IV.—The Board of Directors shall elect a Treasurer, a Secretary, and such other officers as they may from time to time find necessary or expedient for the transaction of The Society's business.

SEC. V.—The Board of Directors shall appoint its own committees, including a Publication Committee, which Committee may consist in whole or in part of members of the Board.

The Publication Committee shall serve for one year.

ARTICLE IV

Quorum

SECTION I.—Forty members of The Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE V

Vacancies

SECTION I.—The Board of Directors shall have power to fill all vacancies for unexpired terms.

ARTICLE VI

Benefits

SECTION I.—Every member of The Society shall receive a copy of each of its publications approved by the Board of Directors for distribution among the members.

ARTICLE VII

Free Distribution

SECTION I.—The Board of Directors is authorized to distribute copies of The Society's publications among such

institutions as may be deemed proper, and wherever such distribution may be deemed productive of good for the cause of Israel.

ARTICLE VIII

Auxiliaries

SECTION I.—Other associations for a similar object may be made auxiliary to this Society, by such names and in such manner as may be directed by the Board of Directors, and shall have the privilege of representation at meetings. Agencies for the sale and distribution of The Society's publications shall be established by the Board of Directors in different sections of the country. The Society shall have the right to establish branches.

ARTICLE IX

Finances

SECTION I.—Moneys received for life memberships, and donations and bequests for such purpose, together with such other moneys as the Board of Directors may deem proper, shall constitute a permanent fund, but the interest of such fund may be used for the purposes of The Society.

ARTICLE X

Amendments

These By-Laws may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of those entitled to vote at any meeting of The Society; *provided* that thirty days' notice be given by the Board of Directors, by publication, to the members of The Society.