

The Jewish Publication Society of America

REPORT OF NINETY-FIRST YEAR

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(Elected June 3, 1979)

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REPORT OF THE 91ST JPS ANNUAL MEETING

The 91st annual meeting of the Society was held on Sunday, June 3, 1979, at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Presiding was Edward B. Shils, president of the Society.

Bernard G. Segal, chairman, presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Five new trustees were elected to the JPS Board: James O. Freedman, Philadelphia, dean of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, former associate provost of the University, and author of *Crisis and Legitimacy: The Administrative Process and the American Government*; Rela Geffen Monson, Philadelphia, associate professor of Sociology at Gratz College, field coordinator of the Netsky Institute, and coordinator of Formal Education Programs for the Ramah Camps; Louis Henkin, New York, Harlan Fiske Stone Professor of Constitutional Law at Columbia University, president of the United States Institute of Human Rights, and contributor to JPS' *Essays On Human Rights: Contemporary Issues and Jewish Perspectives*; Richard Maass, White Plains, NY, president of the American Jewish Committee, bibliophile, and past president of the Manuscript Society; and Jerry Wagner, Bloomfield, CT, judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut, director of the World Council of Synagogues, and president of the Hartford Jewish Community Center.

Returning to the Board are the following former trustees: Mitchell E. Panzer, Philadelphia, an attorney, member of the Board of the Federation of Jewish Agencies, and honorary president of Gratz College; and Harry

Starr, New York, president and treasurer of the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, president of the American Association of Jewish Education, and member of the Board of Overseers Visiting Committees at the Middle East Center, Near Eastern Languages and Literature Department, and Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

The following trustees were re-elected for an additional 3-year term: Arlin M. Adams, Philadelphia; Harold Cramer, Philadelphia; Edward E. Elson, Atlanta; J.E. Goldman, Stamford; Irwin T. Holtzman, Detroit; Jack Lapin, Houston; Martin Meyerson, Philadelphia; Robert S. Rifkind, New York; Harry Silver, Baltimore; and Marvin Wachman, Philadelphia.

All JPS officers were reelected.

Following the reports of the treasurer, president, and Nominating Committee chairman, Jerome J. Shestack, honorary president, described an exhibition of JPS books at the Jewish National and University Library, Hebrew University in Jerusalem in May 1979. Maier Deshell, editor, then introduced Professor Yosef Yerushalmi, chairman of the Publication Committee, who read a paper entitled "The Holocaust and the Historians" by Lucy S. Dawidowicz, our scheduled speaker. Mrs. Dawidowicz was unable to attend because of the death of her husband.

From the Annual Report of JPS President Edward B. Shils

On this 91st anniversary of the founding of the Society, I note with pride that since 1888 we have published the finest Jewish books in the English language and distributed some eight million copies of these books all over the world. Our publishing program has steadily accelerated over the years: the records of 1928 show that JPS published six books that year, whereas last year, in 1978, we published 19 books.

The most significant work published in 1978 was the new translation of *The Prophets—Nevi'im*, the second volume of *The Holy Scriptures*. We are grateful that this volume is now available to the Jewish community, and express our thanks to our fine committee of translators—H. L. Ginsburg, Harry Orlinsky, Bernard Bamberger, Harry Freedman, and Solomon Grayzel.

The new JPS translation of the entire Bible will soon be available, as the translation of the third and final volume, *The Writings-Kethubim*, is nearing completion.

I am pleased to report that the Board of Trustees has voted to issue a Hebrew/English edition of the *Torah* and *Haftoroth*, utilizing the new JPS

English translation. Many synagogues have requested the dual-language volume, and work on that edition is currently in progress.

Furthermore, we have commissioned scholars to provide the commentary on the Torah. Nahum Sarna, of Brandeis University, is chairman of the committee and is providing the commentary to Genesis.

JPS is honored that Professor Salo W. Baron has received the Gerrard and Ella Berman National Jewish Book Award for Jewish History for his cumulative contribution to Jewish historic research and thought. Professor Baron has been a member of our Publication Committee since 1941, and we have been privileged to participate in the publication of several of his works, including the monumental 16-volume *A Social and Religious History of the Jews*.

At the Philadelphia Book Show, three JPS titles for 1978 were awarded first prizes for design. *The Prophets, A Book of Hebrew Letters* by Mark Podwal, and *Behold a Great Image: The Contemporary Jewish Experience in Photographs*, edited by Sharon Strassfeld and Arthur Kurzweil, were the winners. Congratulations to JPS editor Maier Deshell and his staff, to designers Ismar David and Adrienne Onderdonk Dudden, and to the JPS Publication Committee, headed by Yosef Yerushalmi. Congratulations also to Professor Yerushalmi on his appointment to the first Jacob E. Saffra Professorship of Jewish History and Sephardic Civilization at Harvard University.

The Society is grateful for a bequest of \$377,000 from the estate of Abraham M. Wolfman of Los Angeles. The funds may be used at the discretion of the Society to publish in English, literature concerning the Jews and Judaism, as well as English translations of the Jewish classics. Mr. Wolfman had deep religious beliefs, and a love of books. We are thankful to him for giving us the means to publish books of Judaica that will honor his name.

Last year at the annual meeting, A. Leo Levin announced the establishment of a JPS Community Trust Program to accept gifts large and small, and to distribute books to community organizations that need them but do not have the means for their purchase. During the year, we received requests from Hillel libraries, and I am able to report that books have been sent to a number of these institutions. We hope that we will be able to fill additional needs in the near future.

During the past year, JPS participated in several events involving Israel. We sponsored a ten-day cultural tour of Israel, where our members had the opportunity to tour the country and to meet our prominent Israeli authors

and poets. We displayed our books at the Jerusalem Book Fair, where many Israelis, as well as American visitors, became members of JPS.

Finally, in honor of our 90th anniversary, an exhibit of our books is on display at the Jewish National and University Library at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This exhibit represents a fine compliment to JPS, as we are the first publisher ever to be given space for an exhibit in that institution.

JPS Treasurer's Report for 1978

It has been said that the past is prologue to the future.

The Jewish Publication Society of America is now in its 91st year. Nearly 8 million volumes, divided among some 800 titles, have been published and distributed around the world, mainly in the U.S., with a growing reader audience in Israel.

Revenue to the Society in 1978 from sales and membership amounted to \$889,716, as compared to \$986,679 in 1977.

During this period, expenses amounted to \$1,237,443, as compared to \$1,145,291. Income from donations, welfare funds, and investments was \$183,408, compared to \$121,500.

Thus, expenses over income amounted to \$164,319. However, the increase in expenses includes the costs of the large printing of the new translation of the Prophets which was completed in the latter half of the year, as well as all expenditures incurred in preparation for the 20 new books which are now being readied for printing and will be out in the very near future. Income from the sale of these books will accrue to the Society in the next years.

We are honored to report a generous bequest of \$377,317, which was received from the Abraham Wolfman Trust of California. These funds have been placed in our investment account, which is conservatively invested. This money was bequeathed to JPS to help carry out our stated goal of nearly a century—to provide significantly worthwhile and informative books of Jewish content in the English language, so that the Jewish religion, history, literature and culture will be understood and read and known. If it is true, as previously stated, that the past is prologue to the future, then we at JPS—with the help of brilliant leadership, a dedicated board of directors from across the nation, and an interested membership—indeed look forward to a fulfilling and challenging future.

JPS Publications

In 1978 JPS published the following new volumes:

<i>Title and Author</i>	<i>Printed</i>
DEFENSES OF THE IMAGINATION: Jewish Writers and Modern Historical Crisis by Robert Alter	4,000
WOLFSON OF HARVARD: Portrait of a Scholar by Leo W. Schwarz	5,000
THE RISE AND FALL OF THE JUDAEAN STATE, Volume III by Solomon Zeitlin	5,000
THE PROPHETS: NEVI'IM, A new translation of the Holy Scriptures according to the traditional Hebrew text	50,000
BEHOLD A GREAT IMAGE: The Contemporary Jewish Experience in Photographs Edited by Sharon Strassfeld and Arthur Kurzweil	5,000
STRANGERS WITHIN THE GATE CITY: The Jews of Atlanta 1845-1915 by Steven Hertzberg	3,000
A BOOK OF HEBREW LETTERS by Mark Podwal	6,000
DONA GRACIA OF THE HOUSE OF NASI by Cecil Roth (Paperback reprint)	2,000
A HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN CHRISTIAN SPAIN by Yitzhak Baer, Volumes I and II (Paperback reprint)	2,000
THE JEWS IN THE RENAISSANCE by Cecil Roth (Paperback reprint)	2,000
TREATISE TA'ANIT OF THE BABYLONIAN TALMUD Translated and edited by Henry Malter (Paperback reprint)	2,000
SAMUEL USQUE'S CONSOLATION FOR THE TRIBULATIONS OF ISRAEL Translated by Martin A. Cohen (Paperback reprint)	2,000
TULLY FILMUS: SELECTED DRAWINGS (Paperback reprint)	2,000
CHELMAXIOMS: The Maxims/Axioms/Maxioms of Chelm by Allen Mandelbaum (A joint publication with David R. Godine)	1,500
AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK- Volume 78 Edited by Morris Fine and Milton Himmelfarb Martha Jelenko, Executive Editor (Co-published with the American Jewish Committee)	3,000
THE HARVEST by Meyer Levin (Co-published with Simon & Schuster)	2,000
LETTERS OF JEWS THROUGH THE AGES Edited by Franz Kobler (Co-published with Hebrew Publishing Co.)	1,500
WANDERINGS: CHAIM POTOK'S HISTORY OF THE JEWS by Chaim Potok (Co-published with Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.)	2,000
LIVING WITH THE BIBLE by Moshe Dayan (Co-published with William Morrow & Co.)	2,500

1978 Reprints

During 1978, JPS reprinted the following books:

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (29,000); K'TONTON ON AN ISLAND IN THE SEA by Sadie Rose Weilerstein (2,000); JEWISH WORSHIP edited by Abraham E. Millgram (2,000); LETTERS TO AN AMERICAN JEWISH FRIEND by Hillel Halkin (3,000); LEGENDS OF THE JEWS—Volume VII by Louis Ginzberg (1,500); THE FIVE MEGILLOTH AND THE BOOK OF JONAH (3,000); PESIKTA DE-RAB KAHANA translated by William G. Braude and Israel J. Kapstein (1,000); THE IMAGE OF THE JEW IN AMERICAN LITERATURE by Louis Harap (2,000); LEGENDS OF THE BIBLE by Louis Ginzberg (3,000); THE SECOND JEWISH CATALOG compiled and edited by Sharon and Michael Strassfeld (15,000); THE JEWISH CATALOG compiled and edited by Richard Siegel, Michael and Sharon Strassfeld (15,000); THE TORAH (15,000); HEBREW: THE ETERNAL LANGUAGE by William Chomsky (2,000); JEWISH COOKING AROUND THE WORLD by Hanna Goodman (2,000).