
Jewish Publication Society of America

REPORT OF THE SIXTY-NINTH YEAR

OFFICERS

(as of September 1, 1957)

President

EDWIN WOLF, 2nd

1st Vice President

CHIEF JUSTICE HORACE STERN

2nd Vice President

SOL SATINSKY

3rd Vice President

DR. JACOB R. MARCUS

Treasurer

MYER FEINSTEIN

Secretary and Executive Secretary

LESSER ZUSSMAN

Chairman, Publication Committee

JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL

Editor

DR. SOLOMON GRAYZEL

Honorary President

J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.

Honorary Vice Presidents

SAMUEL BRONFMAN Montreal
JAMES MARSHALL New York
SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN New York
PHILIP SLOMOVITZ Detroit
MICHAEL A. STAVITSKY Newark
LEWIS L. STRAUSS New York

Trustees

PHILIP W. AMRAM ³	Washington
HARRY W. BAUMGARTEN ²	New York
ROBERT J. BLOCK ¹	Seattle
HERBERT D. COHEN ³	York
SAMUEL H. DAROFF ²	Philadelphia
DR. BENJAMIN FINE ²	New York
JOSEPH FIRST ²	Philadelphia
BERNARD L. FRANKEL ¹	Philadelphia
ABRAHAM L. FREEDMAN ³	Philadelphia
LEO GUZIK ¹	New York
JUDGE BENJAMIN LENCHER ³	Pittsburgh
JUDGE THEODORE LEVIN ³	Detroit
CYRUS LEVINTHAL ¹	Los Angeles
HOWARD S. LEVY ¹	Philadelphia
PHILIP W. LOWN ³	Boston
MRS. MAX L. MARGOLIS ³	Philadelphia
JOSEPH MEYERHOFF ³	Baltimore
AARON RICHE ¹	Los Angeles
FRANK J. RUBENSTEIN ¹	Baltimore
BERNARD G. SEGAL ²	Philadelphia
JEROME J. SHESTACK ³	Philadelphia
LEONARD N. SIMONS ³	Detroit
JUDGE SIMON SOBLOFF ¹	Baltimore
HARRY STARR ²	New York
DEWEY D. STONE ²	Brockton
ROGER W. STRAUS, JR. ²	New York
MORTON H. WILNER ³	Washington
BEN D. ZEVIN ³	Cleveland

Publication Committee

ROBERT D. ABRAHAMS	Philadelphia
DR. MAX ARZT	New York
REV. DR. BERNARD J. BAMBERGER	New York
DR. SALO W. BARON	New York
REV. DR. SAMUEL BELKIN	New York
DR. JOSHUA BLOCH	New York
REV. DR. MORTIMER J. COHEN	Philadelphia
DR. SAMUEL DININ	Los Angeles
DR. AZRIEL EISENBERG	New York
RABBI IRA EISENSTEIN	Chicago
REV. DR. H. W. ETTELSON	Memphis
RABBI OSCAR Z. FASMAN	Chicago
REV. DR. ABRAHAM J. FELDMAN	Hartford
IRVING FINEMAN	Vermont
REV. DR. LOUIS FINKELSTEIN	New York
BERNARD L. FRANKEL	Philadelphia
REV. DR. SOLOMON B. FREEHOF	Pittsburgh
DAVID J. GALTER	Philadelphia
DR. ELI GINZBERG	New York
DR. NAHUM N. GLATZER	Waltham
REV. DR. NELSON GLUECK	Cincinnati
DR. JUDAH I. GOLDIN	New York
REV. DR. ROBERT GORDIS	Rockaway Park, N. Y.
REV. DR. SIMON GREENBERG	New York

¹ Term expires in 1958.² Term expires in 1959.³ Term expires in 1960.

DR. ABRAHAM J. HESCHEL	New York
DR. OSCAR I. JANOWSKY	New York
DR. LOUIS L. KAPLAN	Baltimore
DR. MORDECAI M. KAPLAN	New York
REV. DR. MAX D. KLEIN	Philadelphia
REV. DR. BERTRAM W. KORN	Philadelphia
RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD	New York
DR. A. LEO LEVIN	Philadelphia
REV. DR. FELIX A. LEVY	Chicago
REV. DR. JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN	New York
MARVIN LOWENTHAL	New York
DR. JACOB R. MARCUS	Cincinnati
ALBERT MORDELL	Philadelphia
REV. DR. JULIAN MORGENSTERN	Cincinnati
DR. ABRAHAM A. NEUMAN	Philadelphia
DR. HARRY M. ORLINSKY	Brooklyn
DR. KOPPEL S. PINSON	New York
REV. DR. DAVID DE SOLA POOL	New York
DR. JOSEPH REIDER	Philadelphia
DR. ELLIS RIVKIN	Cincinnati
DR. ABRAM L. SACHAR	Waltham
DR. SAMUEL SANDMEL	Cincinnati
HARRY SCHNEIDERMAN	New York
DR. JUDAH J. SHAPIRO	New York
J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.	Philadelphia
DR. EPHRAIM A. SPEISER	Philadelphia
DR. SHALOM SPIEGEL	New York
HARRY STARR	New York
MAXWELL WHITEMAN	Cincinnati
EDWIN WOLF, 2ND	Philadelphia
DR. HARRY A. WOLFSON	Cambridge

THE SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

THE SIXTY-NINTH annual membership meeting of The Jewish Publication Society of America was held on May 5, 1957, at the Warwick Hotel, 17th and Locust Streets, Philadelphia, Pa., at 3:30 p.m. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, President of the Society, presided, with members and officials in attendance.

Opening remarks were made and greetings extended by the President, after which reports covering the year 1956 were presented.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Myer Feinstein, Treasurer, reported as follows:

This is my fourth report as Treasurer, and I am very pleased to be able to maintain the positive tone of preceding years.

Financially, 1956 was a good year for the Society. (It was good in other directions too, but I'm now reporting on the financial aspects.) The highlight of the year was clearance and termination of the mortgage on our building, and we are no longer

burdened with this obligation. Also, we reduced other external debts, so that our costs for interest payments are substantially lower, and we can now use more of our available funds to publish good books instead of paying off debts.

In 1956, our costs of conducting the Society's program amounted to \$343,474, of which \$214,858 was spent for publishing and royalties, while \$128,616 was spent for other expenses. This compares with total costs of \$322,993 in 1955, of which \$199,189 went for publishing and royalties, with \$123,804 spent for other expenses. Thus, nearly \$16,000 went to meet increased costs of typesetting, paper, printing, binding, and royalties, and nearly \$6,000 was needed to meet rising costs of administration and distribution.

Our income was also increased substantially, with a total of \$341,472. \$88,808 came from dues payments, \$200,902 from sales of Bibles and other books, \$35,840 from donations and allocations (including \$19,249 from the Jacob R. Schiff Fund), and the balance from miscellaneous sources such as royalties, rent, etc. This income came within \$2,000 of expenditures, so that we show a small deficit for the year.

1955 income, by comparison, amounted to a total of \$324,008, of which \$93,475 came from dues payments, \$183,315 from sale of Bibles and other books, \$40,462 from donations and allocations (including \$22,030 from the Jacob R. Schiff Fund), and the balance from miscellaneous sources.

The decrease apparent in dues income when 1956 is compared with 1955 was caused by a change in bookkeeping method and not by a shrinkage in enrollment. We actually enrolled more members in 1956 than in 1955.

In general, the financial picture of the Society is improved. We do owe nearly \$25,000 on internal borrowings from funds, but we hope to repay this in the next few years—now that we are free of external debt. As in past years, we remain troubled by a lack of working capital, but here also we hope that increased income will help correct this situation. Our work is very important to the cultural life of our people, and I am confident that they will not let us down.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Lesser Zussman, Executive Secretary, made an informal report in which he discussed the increased activity on the part of local chapters and committees organized for the purpose of enrolling members and sponsors for the Bible translation. He paid special tribute to Mrs. Pearl Forster, membership representative in the Metropolitan New York region, who has enrolled nearly 200 Bible sponsors during the past eighteen months.

Publication Committee Report

Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Chairman of the Publication Committee, reported as follows:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to greet you and to present this report on behalf of the Publication Committee.

Since our meeting a year ago we sustained the loss of two distinguished members of our Committee, Leo Honor and Ralph Marcus, both comparatively young men, each outstanding in his field of culture and scholarly endeavor.

On the other hand, we were fortunate in being able to add two new members, both of whom, I am confident, will prove most helpful in the development of our work. They are Professor Nahum N. Glatzer, of Brandeis University, and Professor Ellis Rivkin, of the Hebrew Union College at Cincinnati.

At the last annual meeting, my report dwelt upon the difficult problem of continuing the publication program of our Society in such a way as to satisfy both our scholarly members and those interested in popular and belletristic works. I pointed out that the time had come for a comprehensive review of the Society's policies and to adjust its publication to the contemporary conditions and needs of the American

Jewish community. At the meeting of the Publication Committee in New York last October, on motion of Professor Eli Ginzberg, a Survey Committee was appointed consisting of Harry Starr and Doctors Shalom Spiegel, Bertram Korn and Felix Levy, with Professor Ginzberg as Chairman. In a preliminary memorandum prepared by Professor Ginzberg, the following are among numerous questions which his Committee is planning to explore:

What are the implications for the Society of the current interest of commercial publishers in books of Jewish interest?

To what extent is the Society spreading itself over too many fields in its effort to produce scholarly books, fiction, juveniles, and specialty volumes?

Why have there been no recent additions to the Schiff Classics?

Could the Society profitably publish new volumes incorporating selections from its own earlier books grouped around an author such as Schechter or a particular theme such as Medieval Jewry?

We may confidently expect that this subcommittee's findings and recommendations will merit the serious consideration of both our Publication Committee and the Board of Trustees.

In my opinion, the ten volumes we are publishing this year illustrate the general objectives of our Society. Each of our current books represents an aspect of JPS activity which we cannot abandon without denying the very principles on which we have been founded and by which we have achieved a reputation for cultural integrity. I should, however, like to call special attention to the work of Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, the President of Israel, with its dramatic portrayal of those Jewish oriental communities lost to our people, most of which the State of Israel has reclaimed and redeemed. This translation into English of a volume which has made a deep impression on modern Israel should prove a significant contribution to the cultural bond between the Israel and American Jewish communities.

In seeking to publish books of current Jewish interest we must not overlook the paramount need of preserving and transmitting our classics, those literary and scholarly works of the past which reflect the eternal spirit of our people. We realize, of course, that the Society has but scratched the surface in producing only seventeen volumes in our excellent Schiff Library. There are many additional works of the highest order that we should publish in the original Hebrew, with scholarly and readable translations. Unfortunately, however, it is extremely difficult, if not almost impossible, through the process of mere translation, to make some of the literary treasures of our past relevant and meaningful for Jewish readers of the present generation. What is often needed today is not a mere transference from the Hebrew to the English language, but rather a reinterpretation of an ancient classic and its adaptation to modern life and thought.

An example of what I have in mind is the Talmud, that vast compilation of Jewish law and lore which exerted such an overwhelming influence upon our ancestors throughout the centuries. From 1896 to 1904 Michael L. Rodkinson undertook a translation of the Talmud into English. It is not unkind to say that that pioneering and rather primitive effort was of little if any value in helping the American Jew to understand or appreciate the Talmud. The more recent excellent translation, beautifully produced, which bears the imprint of the British firm Soncino, has been better received. But I venture to suggest that even it has not resulted in effecting any substantial improvement in the American Jew's awareness of the nature of the Mishna and the Gemara. More than sixty years ago the Society published two little volumes concerning the Talmud, one by Emanuel Deutsch, in 1895, and the other by Arsène Darmesteter, in 1897. Aside from Henry Malter's edition of *The Tractate Ta'anit* in the Schiff Series, and Max L. Margolis's translation of Hermann L. Strack's *Introduction to the Talmud and Midrash*, the Society has not undertaken to provide the English reader with any books concerning that unique body of literature which has been the accepted authority of the Jewish people for almost two

thousand years. We hope that the Society may find it possible in the near future to produce one or more volumes treating the Talmud somewhat as our popular *Pathways Through the Bible* dealt with our Holy Scriptures.

There are any number of areas which call for similar treatment. Many are the precious Jewish classics which, even if they cannot be preserved intact and in translation, we dare not allow to slip out of the consciousness of our people. To transmit an appreciation of our rich cultural heritage is our primary task, along with the other publishing obligations that naturally fall to us. We require and have the right to ask that the Jews of America extend to us the moral support and the financial aid so essential to make our activities possible.

That the public is becoming increasingly aware of the achievements and potentialities of the Society may happily be seen in the tribute recently paid by the National Jewish Welfare Board in conferring one of its 1957 Awards on our distinguished Editor and Secretary of the Publication Committee, Dr. Solomon Grayzel. We are thankful to him for his dedicated services beyond the call of duty throughout his long and intimate association with us. We are proud of the reference to the Society in the richly deserved citation of award bestowed upon him by the NJWB:

Dr. Solomon Grayzel—educator, author, historian, lecturer and editor, whose entire career has been devoted to advancing the cause of Jewish culture in America. Creative scholar and distinguished author of significant Jewish works, he has been a sustaining cultural force as editor of the Jewish Publication Society of America, as founder, and for six years president, of the Jewish Book Council of America; as co-editor of the *Jewish Book Annual*; and as editor of *In Jewish Bookland*. Guide and mentor to countless Jewish authors whose writings have enriched Jewish literature, he has made an enduring contribution to strengthening and interpreting Jewish cultural life in America.

Dr. Grayzel has ever been true to the ideals of the founders of the JPS.

In reading the just published letters of Louis Marshall, that constant and staunch friend of our Society, I was struck by his reply to Israel Zangwill's offer to dedicate one of his books to him. Under date of August 4, 1920, Mr. Marshall feelingly expressed his gratitude for the compliment:

It is a high honor which I greatly appreciate. I never dreamed that my name would be connected with yours in literary work. It certainly is an indication of the blindness of friendship that you have given this evidence of partiality.

He continued:

I thank you further for your thoughtfulness in enabling me to elect between your book of essays, containing controversial matter, and your translation of Ibn Gabirol.

It is not surprising that Louis Marshall, being Louis Marshall, should have preferred to have his name associated with the classic poetry of the author of the *Kether Malchuth* rather than with the more popular and exciting *Voice of Jerusalem*, also a literary work of the highest order. Is this not a striking indication of how a good and fervent Jew appreciates the true significance of a *Sefer* in the life of our people? It is this traditional attitude of reverence for our cultural and spiritual heritage which the Jewish Publication Society must continue to strive to foster.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Mr. Sol Satinsky, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following report:

The Nominating Committee takes pleasure in presenting this report.

We unanimously recommend the following as officers, honorary officers, and trustees of the Society—the officers and honorary officers for terms of one year, and trustees for terms as indicated.

OFFICERS

EDWIN WOLF, 2ND, *President* (4th term)
 CHIEF JUSTICE HORACE STERN, *1st Vice President* (46th term)
 SOL SATINSKY, *2nd Vice President* (5th term)
 DR. JACOB R. MARCUS, *3rd Vice President* (4th term)
 MYER FEINSTEIN, *Treasurer* (5th term)
 LESSER ZUSSMAN, *Secretary & Executive Secretary* (8th term)
 JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, *Chairman, Publication Committee* (14th term)
 DR. SOLOMON GRAYZEL, *Editor* (19th term)

HONORARY PRESIDENT

J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS

SAMUEL BRONFMAN, Montreal
 LEE M. FRIEDMAN, Boston
 JAMES MARSHALL, New York
 SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN, New York
 PHILIP SLOMOVITZ, Detroit
 MICHAEL A. STAVITSKY, Newark
 LEWIS L. STRAUSS, New York

TRUSTEES

The following trustees have completed their terms of office and are recommended for reelection to three-year terms:

PHILIP W. AMRAM, Washington
 HERBERT D. COHEN, York
 ABRAHAM L. FREEDMAN, Philadelphia
 JUDGE BENJAMIN LENCHER, Pittsburgh
 JUDGE THEODORE LEVIN, Detroit
 PHILIP W. LOWN, Boston
 MRS. MAX L. MARGOLIS, Philadelphia
 JOSEPH MEYERHOFF, Baltimore
 JEROME J. SHESTACK, Philadelphia
 LEONARD N. SIMONS, Detroit
 MORTON H. WILNER, Washington
 BEN D. ZEVIN, Cleveland

For election as trustees for a one-year term, we recommend:

ROBERT J. BLOCK, Seattle
 LEO GUZIK, New York
 JUDGE SIMON SOBELOFF, Baltimore

Respectfully submitted,
 SOL SATINSKY, *Chairman*
 RABBI MORTIMER J. COHEN
 JOSEPH FIRST
 BERNARD L. FRANKEL
 JEROME J. SHESTACK

The report of the Nominating Committee was approved unanimously.

Mr. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, President, submitted his annual report (as printed below).

Dr. E. A. Speiser, Professor of Bible and chairman of the Department of Oriental Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, delivered an address on the subject "New Light on the Eternal Book," which was warmly received and fully discussed through questions from the audience. (The address is being reprinted for distribution to members of the Society.)

The membership meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
LESSER ZUSSMAN, *Secretary*

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 1956

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is the custom of presidents in presenting annual reports to their shareholders, constituents or members to paint the year gone by in glowing, colorful tints, reflecting optimism and pride in accomplishment. If the year has been a good one, promises are glibly given that the coming year will be even better. If the year has been disappointing, the unfortunate lapses are explained away and assurances made that the unforeseen difficulties have been overcome. We Americans only want to read success stories.

I could give such a report this year, because the statistics of our membership growth, our book sales, our Bible sponsorships, our welfare fund support, and that mysterious intangible, goodwill, all show a rising trend. It would be satisfying to point to our officers and trustees, our Publication Committee, and our Bible Translation Committee, to Lesser Zussman, our efficient and imaginative executive secretary, to Dr. Solomon Grayzel, our scholarly editor, and to our loyal staff and say, "Well done, you good and faithful servants." And then, I would smile expectantly to await your applause.

Yes, our membership has risen—a little. But there are still not thousands but hundreds of thousands of Jewish homes in this country which are empty of Jewish culture in the four-square form of books. Over a hundred years ago, Isaac Mayer Wise wrote, "Judaism has to struggle against two adversaries, viz., Ignorance and Prejudice. The Jew who is ignorant of the principles and doctrines of Judaism and its history cannot be a pious Jew." In the past hundred years, American Jewry has done much to eliminate prejudice; can it say that it has done equally well in combating Jewish ignorance of Judaism and Jews?

We consider ourselves to be in the forefront of those institutions which are dedicated to the preservation and strengthening of Judaism through knowledge. It is gratifying to announce to you that our own estimation of ourselves has been seconded by the National Jewish Welfare Board, which this year chose Dr. Grayzel, that quintessence of our corporate being, to receive the Frank L. Weil award for having done the most to promote the cause of Jewish culture. And yet, our purpose is not to receive acclaim, but to publish and disseminate books on Jewish subjects in the English language. Our publication program produces books—good books—books capable of teaching, inspiring, edifying, exciting, diverting, and being read; but neither our Society, its members, nor the American Jewish communities have produced the readers.

However, we may now be planting the seeds which will produce them. Our Bible project has not only captured the imagination of the editors who are working on it, but also that of a large number of individuals who have already agreed to sponsor it. *Genesis*, in its final draft, but probably in its not final state, is finished and will be printed in a proof version for the sponsors, as a kind of report of a work in progress. The hope that this new translation would represent a major contribution of American Jewry to the culture of our times is being realized in the scholarly and creative labors of Dr. Orlinsky and his associates. We once felt that this would be the best and most accurate translation into English ever achieved; we now believe that it will be the best and most accurate translation of the original Hebrew into any language.

This year we went out to Los Angeles to tell the large Jewish community of that growing city the story of the Bible translation and the needs of the Society. Through the warm and understanding leadership of a group of friends, including Cyrus Levintal, Aaron Riche, Philip Seman, and Abraham Goldfeld—to mention but a few—a gratifying number of Bible sponsors was obtained, and a gratifying number of friends for the Society made. We are always surprised—perhaps, we should not be—at the devotion of our old members throughout the country and the interest with which the newly converted embrace our aims and purposes.

In New York and on Long Island, again with the valuable help of Leo Guzik, Rabbis Sandrow, Cahn, and Lipman, Benjamin Fine, Dr. Schwartz, Harry Baumgarten, Charles Bensley, and Solomon Heiferman, we have secured a most gratifying response to our appeal. In Philadelphia, largely through the efforts of our officers and trustees, we have done equally well. I can report to you that of 1,500 sponsors whom we are seeking to enable the six-year project of translation and publication to come to fruition, we have obtained 792. This is an indication that a vision of sufficient importance can become a reality. We feel sure that these sponsors, many of whom had never heard of the Society before, will become our regular supporters.

Another plan in the process of maturation is the "Covenant Books" series, juvenile biographies written and produced in the best popular style of the day, which we are sponsoring together with Farrar, Straus, and Cudahy. Aimed at a young audience, these books should bring life and new blood into our membership list.

I have no intention of apologizing for the books we published last year, nor for those being issued currently. Without commenting on a certain title on American Jewish history which came out over our imprint, I state emphatically that the quality was excellent, the variety pleasing, and the physical appearance consistently at a level never before attained by the Society. I find that most of the complaints about our "dull" books come from people who have not opened them, or from pseudo-scholars whose own work we have chosen not to publish. We suffer from a kind of adverse psychology inherited from the past: if it's JPS, admire it from the outside only. Without prejudice, to single out only two: the Picard stories titled *The Marked One*, had they been hailed by the avant garde press as a great European discovery, would have enjoyed the reception and acclaim of the Italian novellettes of the same period. Bieber's *Heinrich Heine* biographical anthology, so skillfully and sensitively strung together by Moses Hadas, is on a par with any of the many current, extremely popular rediscoveries of romantics of a former age. But it is not easy to find really good books such as these. Our Publication Committee and our editor deserve high commendation.

Publication Program

For 1956:

The first title, published in January, was the new edition of *The Holy Scriptures*, completely reset in a modern and larger format. 4,669 volumes were distributed during the year.

The second title, published in March, was *My Jewish Roots*, by Solomon Simon. 3,700 volumes were printed, of which 2,199 were distributed during the year.

The third title, also published in March, was Volume III of *Memoirs of American Jews*, by Jacob R. Marcus. 4,000 volumes were printed and 2,312 distributed during the year.

In June, we published as our fourth title *The Marked One and Other Stories*, by Jacob Picard. 4,850 volumes were printed and 2,183 distributed during the year.

The fifth title, issued in October, was *Legends of the Bible*, by Louis Ginzberg, co-published with Simon and Schuster. Our edition consisted of 6,000 volumes, of which 3,623 were distributed by the end of the year.

In December, we published our sixth new book—a juvenile titled *The Mystery of the Silver Fish and Other Stories of Adventure*, by Eleazar Freed. 4,000 volumes were printed, of which 1,410 were distributed during the month.

Also in December, we published our seventh book titled *Heinrich Heine; A Biographical Anthology*, by Hugo Bieber and Moses Hadas. 5,000 volumes were printed and 2,543 distributed during the month.

The eighth title published in February 1957, was *The History of the Jews of Philadelphia*, by Edwin Wolf, 2nd and Maxwell Whiteman. 4,000 volumes were printed and 1,674 distributed upon publication.

In March 1957, Volume 58 of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, edited by Morris Fine, was co-published with the American Jewish Committee as the ninth title. Our edition consisted of 3,000 volumes, of which 2,554 were distributed upon publication.

In May 1957, our tenth and final book of the 1956 list was published. Its title was *Hebrew: The Eternal Language*, by William Chomsky. 5,000 volumes were printed, and 2,520 were distributed upon publication.

For 1957:

Our list for 1957 includes ten books in the fields of history, biography, religion and art. Their subject matter is varied and should provide our members with a wide and interesting selection.

The Exiled and the Redeemed, by Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, translated from the Hebrew by Isaac A. Abbady, is interesting because of its contents and also because its author is President of the State of Israel. The book deals with the Jews who have been living off the beaten track of western civilization for the past two thousand years. Those who could be brought back to the mainstream of Jewry are now gathered in Israel. Others, beyond redemption, have been absorbed by their religious and cultural environment.

Louis Marshall: Champion of Liberty, in two volumes, presents a selection of letters and addresses by a great American Jew. The material was edited and selections made by Charles Reznikoff. A biographical introduction was written by Oscar Handlin. Marshall was a lawyer who rose to the top of his profession; an ardent patriot who defended his American ideals at great personal sacrifice; a good Jew who became an outstanding leader of his people. The selected letters and addresses illustrate these manifold activities and the quality of Marshall's mind and spirit. (The manuscript was prepared in cooperation with the Marshall family and the American Jewish Committee, and publication will be subventioned by the Jacob R. Schiff Fund.)

Where Judaism Differed, by Abba Hillel Silver, co-published with The Macmillan Company, is a history of Judaism which goes down to fundamentals and presents the basic spiritual issues involved between Judaism and Christianity.

A Social and Religious History of the Jews, by Salo W. Baron, continues the profound and challenging interpretation of Jewish history which began with the publication of Volumes I and II in 1952. Volumes III, IV, and V, under the general title of "The High Middle Ages," will cover the Medieval period, through the Crusades, from 500 to 1200 C.E. It will be co-published with Columbia University Press.

Prayer, Humility and Compassion, by Samuel H. Dresner, is meant for all those who want religion to play a vital role in their lives. It presents three ways in which God enters the life of man: prayer, in terms of our relation to heaven; humility, in terms of our relation to ourselves; compassion, in terms of our relation to our fellowman.

The Book of Ruth, with woodcuts by Jacob Steinhardt, and Hebrew and English calligraphy by Franzisca Baruch, is a companion volume to *The Book of Jonah* which was published in 1953. Beautifully printed and bound, the book fittingly represents this idyllic Bible story.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, 1958, Volume 59, edited by Morris Fine and Jacob Sloan, and co-published with the American Jewish Committee, will contain the feature and reference material which have given distinction to this annual publication for many years.

Reprints

During the year 1956, we reprinted twelve titles as follows: 61,000 volumes of the Bible, making a total of 699,789 in print; 11,800 volumes of *Pathways Through the Bible*, making a total of 107,550 in print; 6,000 volumes of Grayzel's *A History of the Jews*, making a total of 39,950 in print; 2,000 volumes of *Awakened*, making 6,579 in print; 4,200 volumes of *The Book of Psalms*, making an estimated total (since exact records for the early years are not available) of 25,200 in print; 2,300 volumes of *History of the Jewish People*, by Margolis and Marx, making a total of 38,600 in print; 2,850 sets of *History of the Jews*, by Graetz, making an estimated total (since exact records for the early years are not available) of 62,850 sets in print; 2,000 volumes of *Let Laughter Ring*, making a total of 15,500 in print; 1,000 volumes of *The Last Revolt*, making a total of 5,000 in print; 1,030 volumes of *Man is Not Alone*, making a total (JPS edition) of 7,030 in print; 200 sets of *A Social and Religious History of the Jews*, making a total (JPS edition) of 3,134 sets in print; and 4,000 volumes of *Stories of King David*, making 8,800 volumes in print.

Publication Distribution

The year 1956 sustained the upward trend of the several preceding years. A total of 124,571 volumes were distributed, compared with 114,064 volumes in 1955. Of the total, 39,684 volumes were selected by members; 82,412 volumes sold to members and the trade; and 2,475 volumes distributed free.

Bible sales continue to increase, with total sales of 47,232 volumes in 1956. Of this total, 42,889 were sold directly by the JPS and the balance by trade distributors. In 1955, total sales were 41,271, so that a substantial gain was made.

Pathways Through the Bible was also sold in slightly greater numbers. In 1956, a total of 12,683 volumes were sold as compared with 12,347 in 1955.

Membership Statistics

We are gratified by the fact that our membership continues to increase, and can only hope that this upward trend will be sustained as a reflection of American Jewry's increasing concern with its culture and heritage.

During the year 1956, we enrolled a total of 9,419 members as compared with 8,874 in 1955—a gain of 545. Of the total enrolled, 2,517 were new members and 6,902 renewals. As to classification of membership, 5,162 were enrolled at \$5.00; 3,334 at \$11.25; 411 at \$22.50; and 512 at \$25.00 and over.

Community Welfare Funds

It is good to be able to report that an increasing number of communities now include the Society in their local campaigns. In 1955, we received \$9,575.90 from

sixty-eight communities. This was increased to \$11,160.00 from seventy-six communities in 1956. Not a large gain—but one which maintains the upward trend. Our goal remains inclusion in every welfare fund and federation in the country, and we are working toward that end. In this area, members of the Society who live in communities where we are not included can be very helpful by urging their local welfare fund officials to reconsider our request—since applications have been filed with every community in the U.S. and Canada.

JPS Bookmark

Now in its fourth year, with four issues in 1956, the *JPS Bookmark* is meeting our most optimistic hopes as a means of communication between the Society's administration and its members. As concrete proof of the interest with which this little publication is being read, we can point to the number of sponsors for the Bible translation project who were enrolled through a coupon printed in several issues last year. In all, sixty-six members pledged \$9,850.00 by sending in this coupon. Truly a gratifying and heart-warming demonstration of interest.

Necrology

It is my sad duty to report the loss of four valuable co-workers during the past year. One was a valued trustee, two were devoted members of our Publication Committee, and the fourth was a learned author.

Louis M. Rabinowitz, who died ten days ago, was a member of the Board of Trustees since 1949. He was a distinguished bibliophile and philanthropist.

Leo L. Honor, who died last October, had been a member of the Publication Committee since 1949. He was Professor of Education at the Dropsie College.

Ralph Marcus, who died last December, had also been a member of the Publication Committee since 1949. He was Professor of Oriental Studies at the University of Chicago.

Leon Huhner, who died in February, wrote *The Life of Judah Touro*, published by the Society in 1946. He was long the curator of the American Jewish Historical Society.

May their memories inspire us and be for a blessing.

And finally, some good news. During the year the Jacob R. Schiff Fund granted the JPS \$100,000 for the specific purpose of refurbishing our present building on North 15th Street or acquiring another building better suited to our needs. For some years we have been concerned about the crowded quarters, the lack of space for an editorial reference library, or even space to display our own books properly. Our clerical staff is huddled together desk to desk. I have appointed a committee to study the problem and make recommendations as to the advisability of staying where we are and fixing up the building or of moving elsewhere, and if elsewhere, where. Hopefully, during the course of the coming year, we shall begin work in accordance with the decision.

Institutions never rest at dead center. They progress, or gradually disintegrate. If the Jewish Publication Society, presently known to and joined by a tiny fraction of the American Jewish community, does not expand, it will have proved that there is no demand for it in modern American Jewish life. The lamp of culture does not burn high in many places in the world; is it not a part of the eternal mission of Israel to nurture and brighten the flame?