



ANNUAL REPORTS



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OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The objects of this corporation shall be, to prevent the infraction of the civil and religious rights of Jews, in any part of the world; to render all lawful assistance and to take appropriate remedial action in the event of threatened or actual invasion or restriction of such rights, or of unfavorable discrimination with respect thereto; to secure for Jews equality of economic, social and educational opportunity; to alleviate the consequences of persecution and to afford relief from calamities affecting Jews, wherever they may occur; and to compass these ends to administer any relief fund which shall come into its possession or which may be received by it, in trust or otherwise, for any of the aforesaid objects or for purposes comprehended therein.

—*Extract from the Charter*

THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BY JACOB BLAUSTEIN*
Chairman, Executive Committee

FUTURE historians may well look back on 1948 as a crucial year, if not indeed as a year of decision. Certainly events have moved at an accelerating rate both with respect to world affairs generally and to Jews in particular.

Since Jews are members of the world community the two cannot be dissociated. What affects everyone, naturally affects Jews, too, and as 2,000 years have made tragically plain, only too often affects Jews to a greater degree.

It is only in the last few years, however, that the world has realized that the converse is equally true, that whatever touches the Jew or any other minority group has an immediate reaction upon the concerns of the world. If Nazi persecutions and consequent cataclysm did not prove that point, the headlines of the past 12 months have clinched it. Palestine has competed with Berlin and China for top billing; civil rights at home with taxes and inflation.

The work of the American Jewish Committee (organized to safeguard and further the civil, political, economic and religious rights of Jews wherever they may be over the world) has had to keep pace with the ever increasing complexity of events.

A score of major fronts, all vital to the interests of Jews, now exists where only a bare handful existed a decade ago. What happens in England, in Egypt, in Morocco, in China, in the Argentine and Peru must concern us as much as the latest trends in German anti-Semitism. The admissions policy of a fresh-water college in the Middle West and the denial of decent housing facilities to Negroes on the Eastern seaboard compete in interest with yesterday's manifestation of the Ku Klux Klan's strength in Georgia. The cultural health and spiritual dignity of the Jews themselves demand the closest consideration.

No single item can be lifted out of context and adjudged the most important; that is, the one in which all the attention should be centered to the exclusion of others.

Therefore, the Committee (to fulfill its global responsibility conscientiously) has had to expand its field of operations and enter upon areas which formerly had been touched on only lightly or not at all. Yet such expansion has not led, as some might think, to overextension and spreading thin. It has been accompanied at the same time by a concentration in depth and a grouping of logically related subjects into major categories which can be handled as units with all the resources and skills at our disposal.

Every department of the Committee, every subdivision, works in harmonious coordination with its fellows to bring the maximum effort to bear upon the particular problem in order to achieve the maximum success.

Nor do coordination and teamwork stop at the doors of the Committee. Each group of experts within the Committee and each lay functional committee have special contacts on the outside, other organizations and influential people, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who are brought into the picture and set to work. With

* Mr. Blaustein was elected president of the American Jewish Committee at the 42nd Annual Meeting.

such a total effort, results are often achieved that no single specialized group, no matter how expert, could possibly have obtained.

In the account of stewardship which Judge Proskauer presented to you, he outlined some of the problems and accomplishments of the Committee over the past six years. This Report will be devoted chiefly to an examination of the major objectives that have claimed the attention and energies of the Committee during 1948.

Even within these limits only the highlights can be considered if this Report is not to become a full-length book. For detailed coverage of our manifold activities, the minutes of our Executive and Administrative Committees and our other committees, the files of the *Committee Reporter*, our press releases, our special reports and publications, our mailings to chapter members and to local community relations agencies must be consulted.

Let us turn our attention to some of these major 1948 projects.

Human Rights and Genocide

In the closing days of the United Nations session at Paris last month, the General Assembly adopted two epoch-making documents: the Convention for Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Declaration of Human Rights. Passed in swift succession on December 9 and 10, they marked the end of a long, arduous struggle that began in 1945, a struggle in which the American Jewish Committee played a significant part.

The term "genocide" to denote any deliberate attempt to destroy national, ethnic, racial or religious groups as such, was coined by Dr. Raphael Lemkin, a Polish refugee now on the faculty of Yale Law School. His idea that genocide be made an international crime, punishable by international action, enlisted our interest. As a member, along with an English and a French Jewish organization, of the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, which has consultant status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, we were in a position to press within the United Nations for a genocide convention as well as for other proposals in the field of human rights. For over a year and a half, a staff member of the American Jewish Committee was engaged primarily in promoting the Genocide Convention. Resolutions were drafted and redrafted. Delegates were briefed with factual material and arguments, and slowly but surely a workable convention was hammered out.

At the same time, we embarked upon an extensive publicity campaign utilizing our full staff resources, the manifold channels of public opinion—press, magazines, radio, forums—and the cooperation of appropriate organizations including labor, veterans, church and youth groups.

Widespread support for the outlawing of the horrible crime of mass exterminations developed. And now the world, through its organization, the United Nations, has acted; genocide has been declared to be an international crime and, what is particularly important, is under the jurisdiction of an international tribunal, not just domestic state courts.

An even more important role was played by the American Jewish Committee in the final passage of the Declaration of Human Rights. In this field the Committee was on the job from the very beginning. When the United Nations was first organized at San Francisco in 1945, Judge Proskauer and your Chairman were there on behalf of the Committee as consultants to the American Delegation to plead the cause of human rights.

It was largely through those efforts that the Charter of the United Nations incorporated the provisions making respect for the dignity of the human being and protection for the human rights of each individual, regardless of race, language, religion or sex, a special province of the new-born organization, and provided for the creation of the Commission on Human Rights.

This was a great step forward; but only a step. The general declaration had to be made concrete. For nearly three years we labored with various United Nations bodies, with delegates and public officials, and with the folks back home. Here, again, a broad campaign of public education was initiated, on our own and in conjunction with non-Jewish groups, to make the average American understand the fundamental concepts involved and aware of the necessity for United Nations action.

That action has now been taken. In approving a Universal Declaration of Human Rights, defining the political, social, economic and other rights of the individual, the United Nations has put its full weight squarely behind the rights and freedoms of all human beings everywhere in the world.

In summing up the impact of these accomplishments, a recent statement by your President and your Chairman might be quoted: "The adoption of both the Human Rights Declaration and the Genocide Convention is an historic achievement. For these measures usher in an era of international relations in which the welfare of men supersedes all other considerations—an era of law and justice in human affairs."

There still remains to be adopted a Covenant on Human Rights, an International Bill of Rights itself—and it is expected that this will be forthcoming at the next regular Assembly of the United Nations.

Palestine

Other historic events occurred in the halls of the United Nations during the year. Of special interest to us was the matter of Palestine. A year ago we hailed the decision of the United Nations to partition Palestine as perhaps the most momentous in many years. We thought that the power and prestige of the world organization, in spite of temporary difficulties, would be able to make that decision stick.

But shortly thereafter the situation in Palestine began rapidly to deteriorate. Even while the British remained ostensibly in control, bloody fighting broke out between Arabs and Jews. By the time the mandatory power officially withdrew, the fighting had turned into full-scale warfare. The surrounding Arab states, in open defiance of a decision of the United Nations, gathered their armies and simultaneously invaded those areas which had been formally allotted to the Jews. The Old City of Jerusalem, which under the partition plan was supposed to have been internationalized, was seized by the Arab forces and the great Jewish population of both the old and the new cities placed in desperate danger. Also, violence or threats of violence against Jews occurred in Egypt and other Arab lands.

In the face of these clear and open violations of its decisions, the United Nations, which in the meantime had been making very good progress in other essential functions, did little more, besides arguing and debating, than to send observers and mediators.

The muddled situation was a matter of the deepest concern to the Committee. For one thing, your officers, in conference with members of our government, urged our State Department to use its good offices to secure protection for the Jews in the Near Eastern countries. Further, both alone and in conjunction with other organizations, we continued to support full implementation of the Partition Plan. We also urged our government to grant *de jure* recognition to the Israeli Provisional Government and to repeal its embargo on arms.

Meanwhile, the beleaguered Jews in Palestine, surrounded and invaded by tremendously superior forces, amazed the world by their initial defense and ultimate smashing victories.

An uneasy truce intervened as a result of United Nations action, and an official mission headed by Count Bernadotte entered the Holy Land both to supervise the truce and to seek a permanent solution. The Count's assassination by a small group of terrorists shocked the world and brought immediate expressions of

sorrow and indignation from the Israeli Government, in which the American Jewish Committee concurred.

The course of our own government toward Israel at this time was unclear and evidenced what later proved to be a temporary shift in policy. During the darkest days of the Arab invasion, an invasion that flouted and sought to set aside by force of arms a decision of the United Nations Assembly, neither our government nor the United Nations itself sought to invoke the sanctions which the Charter contemplated in cases of unprovoked aggression. Instead, the U. S. Government Delegate at the United Nations proposed a modification of the original resolution on partition in favor of a trusteeship.

The Committee promptly pointed out that any such modification was unwarranted and unwise and demanded that the partition be adhered to and the full weight of the United Nations' authority be employed to repel the invasion and punish the aggressors.

American policy shifted back when, upon proclamation of the creation of the State of Israel, President Truman immediately accorded *de facto* recognition to it. At the meeting of our Executive Committee on October 17, 1948, after a review of the situation, three resolutions were adopted.

The first requested the American Government to help effectuate partition; to support an adequate territorial settlement that would make possible the immigration, settlement and rehabilitation of a large number of Jews in Israel; and urged speedy action to grant the new State *de jure* recognition, appropriate reinforcement of its economy and active support of its admission to the United Nations.

The other two resolutions were addressed to Israel itself. One expressed the hope that the political structure and practices of the state would be in harmony with the basic tenets of Western democracy. The other urged on its representatives the importance of avoiding any pronouncements from which it might be inferred that the State of Israel regards itself as the spokesman for the Jews of the world or for any Jewish community outside of its own borders.

Your officers were afforded the opportunity of making suggestions to Israeli officials concerning the constitution of the new state, and we are pleased to note that a number of our views have been met in the constitution now proposed.

The entire problem of Palestine occupied a major spot in United Nations deliberations at Paris during the closing months of 1948. The United States stood, and stands, firm for partition. But it cannot be said that any bold or decisive actions were taken by the United Nations.

Eventually a compromise resolution was adopted, setting up a three-nation conciliation commission for Palestine with a frame of reference which excludes both the original Partition Plan and the Bernadotte Plan. The United States, Turkey and France were named on the commission. Consideration of Israel's application for membership in the United Nations, which the United States supported, was denied for the time being by the Security Council.

From the complexity of the events of the past year one indubitable fact emerges: the State of Israel is solidly established and is here to stay. It can also be safely predicted that, in spite of certain twistings and turnings necessitated by world politics, Israel will eventually enter into the community of nations as an equal partner and an example of true democracy. To that end the American Jewish Committee has worked and will continue to work in the future.

To avoid misconceptions, to place the State of Israel in its true light, and to help influence the impact of Israel on American Jewish life, the Committee embarked on a major campaign to enlighten the American people. Four things have been stressed through every medium of mass communication and through the great special groups to which most Americans belong, such as religious, veteran, labor, and youth:

One, that the State of Israel is a democracy similar in background and institutions to the United States;

Two, that Palestinian Jews and Arabs have lived together in the past and can continue to live in peace and harmony in the future once the invading Arab armies are withdrawn;

Three, that the Jews are fighting and dying bravely for the same fundamental rights for which our own revolutionary patriots fought and died, and

Four, that the Jews have immeasurably raised the standard of living in Palestine for both Jews and Arabs, and have made the desert blossom and bring forth fruits.

At the same time, we have been undertaking a continuing survey—through special polls, analyses of newspaper comments and first-hand observations at the local level—of American public opinion regarding Israel and its impact on American Jews. All reports indicate a generally sympathetic and favorable reaction, which was not broken even by the terrific shock of Count Bernadotte's assassination.

It is the intention of the Committee to continue its studies and efforts along these lines and to make plain to the American people—what is a fact—that American Jews, while sympathetic to the State of Israel, are first, last and always American citizens, undivided in their loyalties to the United States of which they are an integral part.

Displaced Persons—Immigration

With the establishment of Israel, the Jews in the displaced persons camps of Europe are beginning to move. Even under the discriminatory terms of the United States Displaced Persons Act, it is estimated that some 15,000 to 20,000 will be admitted to this country. It is also estimated that a somewhat smaller number will go to other countries, but the great majority must look to Israel as a haven. It is on that inescapable fact that the fundamental and realistic position of the American Jewish Committee on Palestine has always been predicated.

An unofficial report from an Israeli spokesman indicates that during 1948 well over 100,000 Jews, of whom a considerable portion are from the DP camps, have already entered its gates and are being absorbed.

It is hoped that the continuation of this movement, together with an anticipated liberalization of the United States DP law by the new Congress (to which further reference will later be made) will essentially empty the camps, within the next year.

Rehabilitation of European Jews—Restitution—Protection of Rights

But there will still remain Jewish communities in Europe whose necessities and future welfare must continue to merit, as they have in the past, the closest attention and assistance of the Committee. While other organizations have devoted themselves to the relief needs of these communities, the Committee has concentrated on a long-range program of rehabilitation and the protection of Jewish rights.

Through our Washington, Paris and London offices we are set to do the things necessary to make living conditions better for Jews remaining overseas, and to make them more self-supporting so that, from an economic standpoint among other things, we may look forward to the day when the overseas relief load on the American Jewish community can, as it must, be substantially reduced. It would be folly, while giving emergency relief, not to do those things designed to bring about more permanent solutions.

We have been particularly interested in effecting restitution to Jews of the property illegally seized from them during the period of Nazi control, and in the return, administration and disposition of Jewish property to which there are no known heirs or claimants.

After intensive efforts, a Jewish Restitution Successor Organization was finally set up by General Lucius D. Clay in the American-held zone of Germany, composed of the major Jewish agencies in the United States, France, Great Britain and Germany concerned with the problem, to which the heirless and unclaimed

property is to be conveyed for administration on behalf of the surviving European Jewish communities. Three members of the American Jewish Committee have been named to the Board of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, one as a Vice-President and another as Treasurer. Efforts for similar arrangements in the other German zones and in Austria are being made.

As regards the internal civic defense of European Jewish communities, we maintain through our Paris and London offices close contact with the community leadership of the countries of Western Europe.

Germany itself remains a sore spot. We consider projects for German re-education to democratic thinking vital not so much for the Jews in Germany—few intend to remain—but for the peace and security of the world at large. On the theory that such projects will be most acceptable if they stem from Germans themselves, we have aided and supported the Lessing Association formed by liberal Germans there to combat anti-Semitism.

Latin America

In Latin America, too, we are extending our working relations with leaders of the Jewish communities, at their request. Our office in Buenos Aires is now functioning. Our objectives are the better integration of the Latin American Jewish communities in their respective countries and the safeguarding of their full civil and political rights.

Domestic Scene

So much for the world scene. If we have stressed it so much, that does not mean that the domestic scene is not equally important. In fact, as Americans, we might consider that what goes on here in the United States is of primary importance. It is here that we live and have our being; the U.S.A. is closest to our hearts and our interests. But, as has been pointed out time and again in these Reports, the two cannot be untangled. What happens in Europe, in Asia, in Latin America, or anywhere else in the world has its repercussions, and almost immediately, on the American scene, and vitally affects us both as American citizens and as Jews. Hitler and World War II proved that for all time.

Nineteen hundred and forty-eight has witnessed some major developments here. And we have largely concentrated our campaigns on the major issues, though never for a moment omitting other issues as they unfold, or skimping on the day-by-day activities believed necessary to lay a solid foundation for neighborly and cooperative living by all the groups that make up this America of ours.

This work, essentially undramatic and long-range, employs every conceivable channel of communication, including television, for bringing our message to the general public and, in terms of their special group interests, to important special segments thereof. Obviously, effects of this program cannot be gauged with precision, but we have every reason to believe that it is doing a job that has to be done.

Civil Rights

By all odds, the broadest specific issue that developed during the year was that of Civil Rights. Originally brought to the fore with telling impact by the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, this became the crucial issue at the Democratic National Convention. The inclusion of strong civil rights planks in that party's platform led to a split in its ranks and the creation of a new national party. The ensuing political campaign was fought to no small extent over this issue, and the result was a clear-cut mandate to President Truman to pursue his program of bringing American practices into closer conformity with American principles.

The American Jewish Committee, of course, took no position on political

candidates or party platforms. However, before, during and since the campaign, it pursued its non-partisan educational task of explaining to the American people the meaning of, and necessity for, a Civil Rights program. Some particulars of what was done in this area will serve to indicate the way in which the Committee handles this type of campaign.

We moved into action immediately on release of the Report of the President's Committee. Or rather, we had not waited for its release, for as indicated in last year's Report, while the President's Committee was still studying the problem, we were asked to and did furnish it, through your Executive Vice-President at its hearing, a suggested program and plan of action. All of our suggestions were embodied in its official Report.

Upon release of the Report, comprising 173 printed pages, all our facilities were utilized to get its contents to the American people in usable, digestible form. A summary for popular consumption was written and 200,000 copies distributed. We sent copies of the full Report to key groups and individuals all over the country. We helped prepare the Public Affairs Committee's pamphlet on the subject. We sent out fact sheets to editors, commentators and publicists generally, and prepared literally hundreds of articles, speeches, plays, cartoons, resolutions, posters, comics, radio scripts, etc., which had a tremendous distribution through both the usual mass outlets and in the veterans', labor, women's, religious, fraternal, cooperative and youth publications and conventions. Turnover Talks for CIO and AFL unions were prepared and sold to them at cost. We worked with radio programs, and in particular with the Mutual Network, to dramatize the Report on the air.

We publicized on a nation-wide basis, through pamphlets and kindred means, the work of Montclair, N. J., in investigating its own backyard in the light of the Civil Rights Report—and through our chapters, through local Jewish Community Relations Councils, Mayors' Unity Committees and similar non-sectarian local groups, we urged that similar surveys be taken in other communities.

We did this, and more. A National Citizens' Council on Civil Rights was formed with Dean Ernest O. Melby of New York University as chairman pro tem to keep "the American heritage of civil rights before the American people as a non-partisan, non-political issue." With an impressive list of sponsors, and with the closest cooperation of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League, this Council has performed yeoman service. So have the Advertising Council of America, the Methodist Board of Foreign Missions and Church Extension, the American Legion, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and a host of other organizations.

But this is not all. Last year, for the first time, we initiated at our Annual Meeting a series of Workshops at which chapter leaders met to discuss how best to bring matters on the Committee's agenda back to their communities for local action, and in turn bring to the attention of the national organization the thinking of those communities on these same matters. In the area of Civil Rights, as well as in other areas, the Workshops developed important recommendations for action on both of these fronts.

Our Legal Department, while of course still keeping a weather eye out for, and dealing with, subversive activities and organized anti-Semitism generally, this year completed a major reorganization directed toward increased emphasis on legal, legislative and social action. Civil Rights naturally took first place. The problem was broken down into four general areas, of prime importance to Jews as well as to other minority groups.

The problem of discrimination in employment was considered the key issue, and the one in which legal action and legislation were most feasible. New York had already pioneered with the Ives-Quinn bill, and New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut followed suit. In four other large states, efforts, which we are vigorously supporting, are under way with reasonable prospects for success to secure passage of similar legislation this year. Where such laws are already in being, the Com-

mittee is on the alert to see that they are properly enforced. It is, of course, also continuing its support of a Federal FEPC bill.

The second area relates to Discrimination in Higher Education. Here again New York led the way with a Fair Educational Practices Act and a bill to establish a State University open to all. In the promotion of these bills, which represent notable progress in a hitherto untouched field, the Committee played an outstanding role. We are now engaged in efforts to ensure their adequate implementation. Similar legislation is expected to follow in other states, while a Federal Education Bill (stemming from the President's Commission on Higher Education) with essential safeguards, is being advocated.

The third area involves the relations of Church and State, particularly in the field of public education. The growing tendency of religious groups to encroach upon the public school system and to invoke state aid in behalf of their own sectarian schools is viewed with considerable concern. It is felt, after almost a century of agreement that both the Constitution and the American spirit have barred any connection between Church and State, that these barriers are now being successfully breached by interested denominational groups. Released time programs, free bus transportation and textbooks, Bible teaching, sectarian hymns, the employment in public schools of teachers clad in the garb of religious orders, and increasing pressure for Federal and State subsidies to parochial schools are all symptomatic of this trend.

In only one phase of this area has the Supreme Court of the United States thus far called a halt—released time. In a momentous decision in the Champaign, Illinois, case, in which the American Jewish Committee was among the organizations intervening as *amicus curiae*, the Court declared that the practice of using public school classrooms for religious instruction was unconstitutional. Whether the prohibition applies to all released time programs, no matter how conducted, will soon be tested through cases being brought in New York and elsewhere. In these cases, too, we, as well as the other Jewish organizations affiliated with the National Community Relations Advisory Council (NCRAC), have a deep concern.

The fourth area of specialized action in behalf of Civil Rights is housing. The use of restrictive covenants to enforce racial and religious discriminations against tenants and would-be purchasers of dwellings has spread to large sections of the country.

Fortunately, a campaign to put a stop to this serious evil has recently come to a successful conclusion. In May, 1948, a case initiated in New York went up on appeal to the United States Supreme Court. The American Jewish Committee prepared the brief *amicus curiae*, and was joined in it by other Jewish organizations. The Court denied the use of the courts for the enforcement of restrictive covenants. This represents a notable advance.

To sum up the situation in Civil Rights: In all of these special areas and in the field of personal freedoms generally—such as security of person, the right to vote, freedom of conscience, and equality of opportunity—the Committee is conducting an all-out campaign. It is a campaign in which every agency and department is coordinated for fullest impact; and in which long-range educational efforts move side by side with instant action—on particular violations, and with the drafting and promotion of legislation to enforce these rights by law. It is an immense field, but one in which it can be said that fruitful progress is being made.

U. S. Displaced Persons Immigration Legislation

Another major activity of the last year was concerned with the United States DP immigration legislation. When first we urged such legislation over two years ago, apathy, not to say hostility, was rife both in the country and in the Congress. Only a vigorous and extensive program of public education made possible the passage of any such legislation at all. But the herculean efforts of the Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons—efforts into whose planning and execution our

members threw themselves whole-heartedly—eventually created a public demand that Congress could not resist.

Unfortunately, the bill adopted in the last-minute rush before adjournment of the Eightieth Congress contained discriminatory features that led it to be denounced—not only by us and other Jewish organizations, but by many Christian and non-sectarian groups, by a large portion of the nation's organs of public opinion, and by leading members of both political parties—as an anti-Semitic measure unworthy to stand on American statute books. The President of the United States, in signing the Act, served notice that he would call at the earliest possible occasion for its modification, and has since done so. We are now bending our utmost efforts to ensure that result. The present composition of Congress augurs well for success.

Basic U. S. Immigration Act

The educational program undertaken in connection with the DP Bill should also aid us to realize our hope that the basic immigration policy of our country will some day be liberalized. The testimony submitted to the Senate Committee last fall by Irving M. Engel, my successor as Chairman of your Executive Committee, was an impressive first step toward that end.

The cardinal feature of the general Immigration Act (which has been in force for a generation) allocates quotas to countries in the Eastern Hemisphere in a way that weighs heavily against prospective immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe. We have always regarded as wrong in principle this "national origins" basis for immigration. It is equally reprehensible in practice, for the favored countries have used nowhere near their theoretical quotas, while the quotas of the disfavored countries are pitifully inadequate.

The Immigration Act is now due to be reconsidered. The time may not yet be ripe for elimination of the national origins provision, but, as we urged in our testimony, at the very least, quotas unused by Western and Northern European nations should be pooled and made available to nations of the small-quota countries. We have reason to hope that this recommendation, which was well received by the staff of the Senate Immigration Committee, will gain the support of Christian and non-sectarian groups.

Cooperation with Non-Sectarian Groups

Not only in connection with immigration matters, but generally, we seek to the fullest extent possible to work with non-Jewish and non-sectarian groups to achieve those objectives which we believe vital.

For example, we have always worked closely and constructively with many church organizations. One area has been of special concern to us—that of the texts and lesson books used in Christian denominational schools. Over a decade ago we instituted a study of the materials employed in the Protestant schools, and discovered much that was harmful and prejudicial to Jews. As a result of that study certain changes were made. But the core of the problem remained.

Accordingly a new study was recently initiated, and we are now undertaking a major campaign, with highly encouraging results—not only to eliminate harmful matter, but to cause the inclusion of positive, favorable material—which will make for a better understanding of Judaism and the Jew and thereby create better relations between Christians and Jews. A similar attempt is being made in connection with Catholic texts. This most important project is already well advanced.

Scientific Approach

Permeating all our activities is what may be called the scientific approach. We test the techniques we are using to determine whether they are effective or not.

Of more fundamental importance than that, we want to know what makes the anti-Semite "tick"; we are interested in discovering the roots of anti-Semitism and the reasons for its persistence for so many centuries. With more exact knowledge we can do a better job of fighting and eliminating the causes. While obviously success is not just around the corner, we have made measurable strides.

You have already heard about the elaborate psychological studies we planned and had carried out which are now ready for publication. These will illuminate some of the dark corners of what has hitherto seemed an impenetrable problem. In addition, carefully devised community polls in Baltimore, Minneapolis, and St. Paul, and similar polls to be taken in other selected communities, are already yielding us, and will increasingly yield, a wealth of material on which to base our campaign of counteracting anti-Semitism.

Relations with Other Jewish Organizations

A word must now be said about our relations with other Jewish organizations. You know our policy to work with other organizations wherever possible within the areas of our respective agreements and without sacrifice of principle. Our relations are, of course, particularly close and cordial with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Representatives of the two organizations work in close harmony in the committees of their Joint Defense Appeal. In addition, the top staffs of both agencies hold periodic meetings for exchange of views and information and for joint program planning. We have also worked loyally since its creation (in which we took a leading role) with the National Community Relations Advisory Council. The NCRAC, as is generally recognized, has had notable success in bringing together and working out common policy among the agencies engaged in community relations work.

In some respects, however, it is felt that its operations could be even more effective; and the American Jewish Committee has been giving close attention to this problem. We ourselves have made certain constructive suggestions; and we are prepared to accept those of others to the extent that the proposals respect our autonomy and the legitimate needs of our total program.

We have also had negotiations with representatives of some of the country's largest Welfare Funds, which last summer formed themselves into a group known as the Large City Budgeting Conference. Our first meeting with them was marked by misunderstandings on both sides. These have now yielded to more sympathetic mutual understanding.

At the outset, we had reason to fear that an attempt might be made to encroach upon our autonomy. Firmly serving notice that any such attempt would be resisted, we at the same time urged the group to meet with our lay members and staff with a view to obtaining a clearer picture of our operations and the rationale underlying them. Their representatives did meet with us last month at our offices, and we understand that the information we imparted was found by them to be highly enlightening.

We believe that this conference did much to clear up certain persistent misconceptions, especially as regards so-called "duplication" between national organizations, although the time available did not permit us to cover the whole of our program nor to answer all of the questions in their minds.

'Commentary' and Library of Jewish Information

Nor has the time available to me here been adequate to do more than touch sketchily on our operations which I have recounted. I cannot touch even sketchily, yet am unwilling not at least to mention, our publication *Commentary*, now firmly entrenched in the esteem of molders of opinion in all sections of the Jewish community, and beyond; and our Library of Jewish Information, whose researches are indispensable to us and to those active in our field generally; and the work of

our Community Service Department, for whose advice and materials there is widespread demand by the workers in the field of community relations throughout the country.

Loyal and Effective Services of Lay Members and Staff

Nor can I begin to do justice to the loyal and effective services of our lay members and staff.

Dr. Slawson and the others of our professional group are doing consecrated and devoted work. They are a loyal, intelligent, hard-working group of fine men and women.

The devotion and skills of the chairmen and members of our national committees provide the keystone of our achievements.

Chapters

And we have reason to be no less proud of our Chapters. Now 35 in number, with an aggregate membership of 14,000, they enable us to extend our philosophy of Jewish life to ever-widening circles, and the programs evolved under their aegis represent an invaluable extension of our activity. To a degree unusual among organizations, the members of the American Jewish Committee *are* the American Jewish Committee.

Conclusion

To sum up, we have had in 1948 many heartening victories and no lasting setbacks for the cause which so vitally concerns us. Throughout, we have aimed and we believe managed to hold to essentials, and to be level-headed even when at times siren voices lured toward the easy if dangerous paths of passion and emotional distortion.

We believe that the results prove that this policy of ours over the years has been correct. It is therefore on a note of optimism and with a determination to persevere in the same spirit of zeal, tempered by statesmanship, that we bid farewell to 1948, and greet 1949.

THE STATEMENT OF VIEWS ¹

We of the American Jewish Committee are associated under the mandate of our Charter, adopted in 1906, to prevent the infraction of the civil and religious rights of Jews in any part of the world and to secure equality of economic, social and educational opportunity.

We join with all Americans, of whatever creed or color, who devote themselves to the continued fight against those who through bigotry and prejudice endeavor to imperil the rights of any group in this land and thus divide our country and undermine the foundations of American liberty.

We join with men of good will everywhere in the effort to obtain for all mankind the essential human rights, as set out in America's basic documents of freedom. We hail the historic Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights and the Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

We call upon our own nation and the nations of the world to protect and enforce these rights by every appropriate means, domestic and international. We urge upon our own and all other countries the adoption of liberal, just and non-discriminatory immigration laws.

United with our brethren of all faiths in the bond of American citizenship, we cherish the ideals and traditions of America and dedicate ourselves to the common effort to develop and enrich its cultural and political life.

We reaffirm our devotion to our religion and pledge ourselves to maintain and perpetuate the vitality of our spiritual heritage, which has constituted and will continue to constitute a basic contribution to the development of civilization and democracy.

We hold the establishment of the State of Israel to be an event of historic significance. We applaud its recognition by our own and other governments. We look forward to Israel's assumption of its full place among the family of nations as a government guaranteeing complete equality to all its inhabitants, without regard to race, creed or national origin, and as an advocate of liberty and peace in the Near East and throughout the world. Citizens of the United States are Americans and citizens of Israel are Israelis; this we affirm with all its implications; and just as our own government speaks only for its citizens, so Israel speaks only for its citizens. Within the framework of American interests, we shall aid in the upbuilding of Israel as a vital spiritual and cultural center and in the development of its capacity to provide a free and dignified life for those who desire to make it their home.

In these critical times, when totalitarian forces and ideas again threaten the liberties of the world, we rededicate ourselves to the struggle for the maintenance and advancement of individual dignity and freedom.

¹ Revised version adopted January 23, 1949.

MICHAEL A. STAVITSKY	Newark
FRANK L. WEIL	New York
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT	Detroit

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HARRY STARR ¹	New York
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DR. SALO W. BARON	New York
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DR. RALPH MARCUS	Chicago
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¹ Term expires in 1950.² Term expires in 1951.³ Term expires in 1952.

REV. DR. JULIAN MORGENSTERN	Cincinnati
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J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.	Philadelphia
DR. SHALOM SPIEGEL	New York
REV. DR. SIDNEY S. TEDESCHÉ	Brooklyn
EDWIN WOLF, 2ND	Philadelphia
DR. HARRY A. WOLFSON	Cambridge

THE SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

The Sixty-first Annual Meeting of The Jewish Publication Society of America was held at the YM & YWHA, Broad and Pine Streets, Philadelphia, on Sunday evening, March 13, 1949, at 6:30 p.m. with a dinner attendance of 250. The meeting was preceded by an all-day joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Publication Committee. Mr. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, a member of the Publication Committee and Board of Trustees, acted as Chairman of the dinner and introduced Rev. Dr. Abraham J. Feldman, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, a member of the Publication Committee, who delivered the Invocation.

Immediately after the dinner, Mr. Wolf introduced the members of the Publication Committee who were present: Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen of Philadelphia, Dr. Abraham J. Feldman of Hartford, Conn., Mr. Bernard Frankel of Philadelphia, Dr. Max Klein of Philadelphia, Dr. Felix Levy of Chicago, Dr. Alexander Marx of New York, Mr. Albert Mordell of Philadelphia, Dr. Abraham A. Neuman of Philadelphia, Dr. Joseph Reider of Philadelphia, and Mr. Harry Schneiderman of New York.

Mr. J. Solis-Cohen, Jr., President, conducted the business section of the Annual Meeting. The reports of the President (pp. 567 ff.) and the Treasurer (pp. 573 ff.), which had been distributed, were accepted as printed. A new Constitution was presented for ratification and adopted (pp. 576 ff.).

Mr. Jacob C. Gutman presented the report for the Nominating Committee.

Report of the Nominating Committee

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 a one-year term, and the trustees for one, two and three years as designated opposite their names.

OFFICERS

- JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, *President*
- JUSTICE HORACE STERN, *1st Vice-President* (38th term)
- EDWIN WOLF, 2ND, *2nd Vice-President*
- SOL SATINSKY, *Treasurer*
- DR. MAURICE JACOBS, *Executive Vice-President and Secretary* (14th term)
- DR. JACOB R. MARCUS, *Chairman, Publication Committee*

HONORARY OFFICERS

J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR., *Honorary President*

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

JACOB BLAUSTEIN, Baltimore
 SAMUEL BRONFMAN, Montreal
 REV. DR. HENRY COHEN, Galveston
 LEE M. FRIEDMAN, Boston
 FRANK GOLDMAN, Lowell
 MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN, New York
 MRS. BARNETT E. KOPELMAN, New York
 JAMES MARSHALL, New York
 DR. A. S. W. ROSENBACH, Philadelphia
 MRS. LOUIS A. ROSETT, New Rochelle
 MURRAY SEASONGOOD, Cincinnati
 MICHAEL A. STAVITSKY, Newark
 FRANK L. WEIL, New York
 MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT, Detroit

TRUSTEES

PHILIP W. AMRAM, Washington (2 years)
 WALTER H. ANNENBERG, Philadelphia (3 years)
 DR. BENJAMIN FINE, New York (1 year)
 BERNARD L. FRANKEL, Philadelphia (3 years)
 DR. M. LEO GITELSON, New York (2 years)
 AL PAUL LEFTON, Philadelphia (2 years)
 HOWARD S. LEVY, Philadelphia (3 years)
 SIDNEY NEUMANN, Philadelphia (3 years)
 FRANK L. NEWBURGER, Philadelphia (1 year)
 EDWARD A. NORMAN, New York (1 year)
 GEN. EUGENE OBERDORFER, Atlanta (2 years)
 LOUIS M. RABINOWITZ, New York (2 years)
 FRANK J. RUBENSTEIN, Baltimore (3 years)
 LOUIS H. SILVER, Chicago (2 years)
 HARRY STARR, New York (1 year)
 DEWEY D. STONE, Brockton (1 year)
 ROGER W. STRAUS, JR., New York (1 year)
 HOWARD A. WOLF, Philadelphia (3 years)

Respectfully submitted,

ABRAM S. BERG
 SAMUEL H. DAROFF
 JACOB C. GUTMAN
 MARC KATZENBERG
 HOWARD A. WOLF

The report of the Nominating Committee was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Wolf then introduced Justice Horace Stern, 1st Vice-President of The Society, who presented engrossed resolutions to the following: the retiring President, Mr. J. Solis-Cohen, Jr.; the retiring Chairman of the Publication Committee, Judge Louis E. Levinthal; Dr. Solomon Grayzel, upon the completion of ten years as Editor of The Society; Mr. David Skaraton, Superintendent of the Press, upon the completion of twenty years of service with the Press; Mr. Howard A. Wolf, in recognition of fifteen years as Treasurer of The Society and to the Executive Vice-President, Dr. Maurice Jacobs.

Judge Louis E. Levinthal, the new President, assumed the Chair and introduced the panel of three speakers, Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, Professor of History at the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati; Dr. Solomon Goldman, of Chicago; and Dr. Cecil Roth of Oxford University, England.

At the conclusion of three splendid addresses, Mr. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, made a plea for the financial support of The Society.

The meeting adjourned at 11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MAURICE JACOBS,
Secretary

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 1948

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THIS IS THE sixteenth and last year in which I shall have the privilege of submitting my annual presidential report. It is difficult for me to realize that so many years have passed since I succeeded the late Simon Miller who so ably filled the presidency for 20 years. Time marches on and I have asked to be relieved of the duties of office, still retaining my interest in the work of The Society. While a great deal has been accomplished since 1933, let it be frankly understood that there is much unfinished business to be completed. Yet I think you conclude with me that we have made substantial progress in producing a splendid Jewish library in English that is available for the scholar, the layman and our children. We have progressed in increasing the number of new books and reprints annually sold and distributed, with a membership roll that has grown from under 3,000 in 1933 to 12,139 in 1948.

1948 Publication Program

I reported to you last year that because of our 60th anniversary, we planned to publish ten titles to be counted as nine book units, the largest program ever attempted by The Society in its history. *Mr. Benjamin's Sword* by Robert D. Abrahams was distributed in the early spring, of which 4,000 were printed and 2,593 were distributed during 1948. This juvenile was very well received. We published an edition of 5,000 of *Book of Books* by Solomon Goldman, a joint publication of The Society and Harper & Brothers. Before the end of the year, our printing of 5,000 copies was exhausted, and we were forced to draw on Harper & Brothers prior to a joint second printing. *The House of Nasi: Duke of Naxos* by Cecil Roth, the first book in our new Gitelson Library had an initial printing of 5,000 copies, of which 2,385 were distributed. *Among the Nations* by Ludwig Lewisohn, published jointly with Farrar, Straus & Company, received an enthusiastic response from our members and our printing of 6,000 copies was exhausted before the end of the year, 1,000 having been purchased by the Hillel Foundations. *Prince of the Ghetto* by Maurice Samuel, which we published jointly with Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. was praised far and wide. Our first printing was 11,000 copies of which 4,000 were for an edition bearing the joint imprint of The Society and the Hillel Foundations. We distributed 4,360 copies to our members. *Pilgrims in a New Land* by Lee M. Friedman, the companion volume to *Jewish Pioneers and Patriots*, came off press late in the year with a printing of 6,000 copies for The Society and 2,000 copies for our trade publisher, Farrar, Straus & Company. 3,093 copies were distributed. This was a second book in the Gitelson library and has been well received. *Boot Camp*, Dr. Henry J. Berkowitz' companion volume to *The Fire Eater* was printed in an edition of 4,000

copies and 2,404 copies distributed. We have been more than gratified by our members' and customers' reactions to this book.

Three additional books of the 1948 program could not be completed during the calendar year 1948, but as this report is being given should be in the hands of our members. There are still many factors which work against the completion of a program during the year it is planned. Volume 50 of the *Year Book* is finally on press and will appear later than ever before. We are only the publishers of the *Year Book* and the delay resulted from the material not being in final form by the Editors until after January 1, 1949. However, we feel quite certain that the value of Volume 50 will more than offset its delay in publication. *The Purim Anthology* by Philip Goodman, the third volume in our Holiday Series, is on press and will be distributed by the Holiday. This will be a fitting companion to our Hanukkah and Sabbath books, and will be a basic book for many years to come. The final book *To Dwell in Safety* by Mark Wischnitzer is the story of Jewish immigration. It is on press and will probably be distributed during the month of March. It is very gratifying to see the number of our books which are recommended by the Book-of-the-Month Club and specially mentioned in their magazine. It is an indication that The Society is on the right track.

Reprints

During 1948 we continued to reprint those books for which there is a demand, and this program included 33 titles and over 98,000 copies of which 25,000 were the *Bible*. Due to The Society's financial position and the present condition of the book market the reprint program for 1949 has been temporarily and reluctantly curtailed. The books reprinted during 1948 were:

Title	No. of Copies
<i>Germany's Stepchildren</i>	2,000
<i>The Fire Eater</i>	3,000
<i>Yearbook, Vol. 49</i>	2,200
Grayzel— <i>A History of the Jews</i>	9,750
<i>Dreamers of the Ghetto</i>	3,000
<i>Blessed is the Match</i>	1,450
<i>Pilgrims to Palestine</i>	2,000
<i>Theodore Herzl</i>	1,650
<i>Jewish Pioneers and Patriots</i>	2,000
<i>Rashi</i>	2,000
<i>Philo</i>	2,000
<i>Selected Essays of Ahad Ha'Am</i>	2,000
<i>Life of People in Biblical Times</i>	2,000
<i>Story of Bible Translations</i>	2,000
<i>Hebrew Scriptures in the Making</i>	2,000
<i>Post-Biblical Hebrew Literature, Vol. 2</i>	2,000
<i>Memoirs of My People</i>	2,085
<i>Solomon Schechter</i>	2,000
<i>Commentary on Deuteronomy</i>	2,000
<i>Stars and Sand</i>	2,000
<i>Outlines of Jewish History</i>	2,000
<i>History of Jewish Medieval Philosophy</i>	2,000
<i>Kasriel the Watchman</i>	2,000
<i>In Assyrian Tents</i>	2,000
<i>Commentary on Numbers</i>	2,000
<i>Messiah Idea</i>	2,000
<i>Nightingale's Song</i>	2,000
<i>Yiddish Tales</i>	3,000
<i>The Jewish Community—3 Volume Set</i>	2,000

Title	No. of Copies
<i>The Jews in Spain</i> —2 Volume Set	2,000
<i>Hebrew Ethical Wills</i> —2 Volume Set	2,000
<i>Messilat Yesharim</i>	2,000
<i>Bible</i>	25,000

Publication Distribution

The sale of books declined during the year, in common with the general trend around the country. We have re-studied our methods of wholesale distribution and find that The Society will be better off financially by distributing its books directly to book dealers all over the world rather than through designated agents. The extra income accruing to The Society from this direct dealing will help the operation of The Society, in black instead of in red for 1949. In 1948 the sale of our books declined but there was an increase in the number of books which were distributed on membership. The total number of books distributed during the year was 124,500 of which 61,973 were distributed on membership, the largest ever in our history, and 55,755 on sale. The *Bible*, Graetz's *History of the Jews*, *Pathways Through the Bible*, and Grayzel's *History of the Jews* continue to be our best sellers.

Jewish Book Month and Religious Book Week

Jewish Book Month has become a regular part of our Jewish calendar. We are very proud of the part we have played in fostering the promotion of this splendid festival. Our Editor, Dr. Solomon Grayzel, continues to serve as President of the Jewish Book Council which is sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board. Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen, a member of our Publication Committee, continued as the Editor of *In Jewish Bookland* which has grown in size and influence, and our Executive Vice-President remained as a member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of their Publication Committee, and in the spring of 1948, received a citation from the Book Council for his services. The Jewish Publication Society wholeheartedly endorses Jewish Book Month and congratulates the National Jewish Welfare Board on its foresight in sponsoring Jewish Book Month and other worthwhile cultural projects. During the celebration of Religious Book Week, attention is called to the best books of all religions. Among our books mentioned were: *Blessed is the Match* by Marie Syrkin; *Book of Books* by Solomon Goldman; *House of Nasi: Doña Gracia* by Cecil Roth; *Prince of the Ghetto* by Maurice Samuel; *A History of the Jews* by Dr. Solomon Grayzel; and *Pathways Through the Bible* by Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen. Our Society has again been honored in the selection of such a long list of our books.

The financial report of The Society for 1948 was again discouraging. I call your attention to the printed report of our Treasurer, Mr. Lester Hano, who has completed his third year as Treasurer of The Society. Due to the press of new business activities, Mr. Hano has requested to be relieved of his duties and on behalf of the Board of Trustees I want to thank him sincerely for his work for The Society.

An analysis of the Treasurer's report shows The Society has had the largest loss in recent years which was due to a number of causes,—an increase in the 1948 publishing program from six books in 1947 to ten books in 1948; unforeseen rise in costs of publication; and decreased sales made the publishing business in America a very difficult year for all. With inadequate working capital, capital funds tied up in inventory, stock and plant, your Society had to increase its bank loans and indebtedness and was unable to take the same cash discounts as in previous years. Your Officers and Trustees have carefully reviewed our 1949 program and have budgeted the affairs of The Society so that we definitely expect to operate in the black.

By adding a mailing fee of 25c per book, we will be netting an additional \$10,000. Incidentally, this mailing charge is the common practice with all book clubs. By

carefully budgeting the cost of new books and eliminating the number of reprints in proportion to our needs, the budget for 1949 will definitely be balanced, and we hope to return some of the money borrowed to carry on in 1948.

To help solve The Society's financial problem, a campaign has been started with the ultimate hope of raising \$150,000.00 which will make it possible for us to pay all of our bills, lift the mortgage on our building, provide the wherewithal for our Hebrew-English Bible, and give The Society a sufficient amount of working capital to operate in a businesslike manner. I had hoped that this fund would be completed during my administration, but circumstances have prevented the launching of the campaign on the scale we anticipated. This Society has not made a public appeal for funds in 35 years. We have asked less from the American Jewish Community than any other organization, and I feel that we have given more in return for what we have received. This capital sum will make it possible for The Society to work freely, to plan intelligently, and to rightfully take its place among the cultural Jewish organizations in America.

Public Relations

We are indeed indebted to the Anglo-Jewish Press, the Yiddish Press and the Hebrew Press for their cooperation in spreading the story of The Society from coast to coast and for reviewing our books as they were issued. Handicapped by the lack of an advertising budget since we put all our funds into books, we must depend upon our newspaper and magazine friends to keep our name before the public and I desire to express again my appreciation for the publicity The Society's activities and our books have received.

Membership Statistics

At the end of the year, we had a total of 12,139 members as against 11,882 members at the end of 1947. 7,752 were Annual members, 3,764 were Library members, 271 were Contributing members, 322 were Patron members, and the balance were in miscellaneous brackets. 6 new Life memberships were added during the year making a total in the Life Membership Fund of \$18,000. 4,252 new members were secured in 1948 and 7,887 old members renewed. Each year our membership list is growing, and it is most gratifying that more and more of our members are moving up to the higher brackets. The lower price membership barely carries itself, and we are hoping that more and more of our members will gradually move up to the \$10.00 or higher membership status.

Many of the book clubs of America suffered severe membership losses last year. We did not. We worked harder than ever before on new members, sent out more prospect letters than ever before with the result that instead of having less members at the end of the year, we had more members.

1949 Program

For 1949, we have planned a very interesting and slightly different program. For the first time in our history, the majority of the books will be co-published with other publishers. The books selected for the year are: *Trial and Error*, the autobiography of Chaim Weizmann, the first President of Israel, which will be published in a two volume edition which was arranged with Harper & Brothers, the trade publisher. A set of four books *Judaism and the Jews*, edited by Dr. Louis Finkelstein, the President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, will provide us with basic books on our people written by contemporaneous authors. This set of close to 2,000 pages will also be co-published with Harper & Brothers. The second of Dr. Goldman's books on the Bible, the Book of *Genesis*, will be co-published with Harper. *As a Mighty Stream*, a series of essays by Dr. Julian Morgenstern, President-Emeritus of the Hebrew Union College, will be our eighth publication, and Volume 51 of the *American Jewish Year Book* will be our ninth

and final publication of the year. The co-publishing of the major part of this program with a single publisher has reduced our costs for the coming year and has made it possible for us to give more to our members without involving The Society in further large deficits.

The Press

At our Annual Meeting in 1947, I read a paper on the Hebrew Press which reviewed the excellent work it had done since its founding in 1920. We are very proud of the part which the Press has played in making it possible for scholars and scholarly institutions to prepare their researches economically and artistically. The Press completed the largest business in its history when we billed \$163,383.00 worth of work in 1948, of which \$145,569.00 were for customers and \$17,814.00 for The Society. At the beginning of 1949, we had enough work on hand to keep our entire staff busy for the entire year, and when we can move our Press into our own building, its facilities can be expanded still more.

During the year 1948, we filled the following contracts at the Press:

Four issues of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*; four issues of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*; two issues of the *Westminster Theological Journal*; Volume VII of the *Jewish Book Annual*; *Year Book 58* for the Central Conference of American Rabbis; *New Year Prayer Book* and *Day of Atonement Prayer Book* for the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation; *Studies in Daniel* by H. L. Ginsberg for the Jewish Theological Seminary Of America; the *Year Book* and several pamphlets for the National Interfraternity Conference; *Hebrew Union College Annual XXI*; *Proceedings XVII* of the American Academy for Jewish Research; a reprinting of the all-Hebrew *Daily and Sabbath Prayer Book* for the Union of Sephardic Congregations; two parts of the American Jewish Historical Society *Publications XXXVIII*: Kisch's *Jewry Law in Medieval Germany* for the American Academy for Jewish Research; several reprints of the *Harishon* pamphlets for the United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education; a reprint of Scharfstein's *Hebrew Self-Taught* for the Zionist Organization of America; Balaban's *Mini Kedem* for the Histadruth Ivriyth of Philadelphia; Kaufmann Kohler's *A Living Faith* for the Hebrew Union College; Tabak's *Yisrael b'Artzo* and other work for the Bloch Publishing Company; *Proceedings XI* of the Rabbinical Assembly of America; a monograph for the *Journal of Biblical Literature*; a reprint of *Sippuri I & II* for Gratz College; a Hanukkah pamphlet plus the composition on an additional book for the Board of Jewish Education in Baltimore; *Our Prayer Book* by Mordecai Soloff; a reprint of *Reshith Binah* by Sidney Fish; Efos' volume of Hayyim Nahman Bialik's *Selected Poems* for the Histadruth Ivriyth of America; Kerr's *Portuguese-Hebrew Grammar*; *Proceedings of the Educational Conference* for the Rabbinical Assembly of America; a reprint of *Elements of Hebrew I* for the Jewish Education Committee of New York; the composition on Goldman's *Book of Books* for Harper & Brothers; a reprint of the *New Year Prayer Book* for the Union of Sephardic Congregations; the composition for four Hebrew text books for the United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education and a Hebrew booklet by Frishberg for the Mizrahi National Education Committee; plus a long list of miscellaneous smaller contracts.

It is most gratifying to realize that the Hebrew-English Bible is about to be started after having been talked about since 1892, that The Society has its own typesetting facilities which will make it possible to set this sacred book in its own plant.

The past and the future are of equal interest with the present. The Publication Society has had many changes since I became President in 1933. I can now confess those were gloomy days. The Board met in a third rate building where our offices and shipping room jointly had about a 1,000 sq. ft. of space. To the directors were assigned names of those resigning from The Society, to endeavor to get them to remain. Our program was three books a year, cheaply printed, poor

format and unattractive bindings that caused the famous remark to be made that our books were "red from cover to cover."

The Press was a 2 x 4 organization with five employees. I had to accept the condition of The Society, either to be liquidated or a challenge of rebuilding The Society as a positive force in American Jewry, and I accepted the latter. Our business has increased over five-fold during that period. We have become the outstanding Jewish publication organization of the world. We own our own building, subject to a good mortgage. We own a typesetting plant worth over a quarter of a million dollars. The assets of The Society are carried on the books at almost next to nothing, having a going value of a substantial figure. These results were not achieved by your President but by a group of devoted and loyal workers of the Publication Committee and the Board of Trustees and staff members to whom a debt of gratitude is owed for their cooperation. Some have passed on to the Academy on High: Dr. Cyrus Adler, Dr. Solomon Solis-Cohen, Mr. Simon Miller and Dr. Isaac Husik, who was Editor when I assumed the Presidency of The Society. Their places were taken by others who carried the torch of Jewish literature with the same devoted spirit that did their predecessors.

Judge Louis E. Levinthal has completed ten years as Chairman of the Publication Committee, Dr. Solomon Grayzel a decade as the Editor of The Society. It is during this period The Society made its greatest strides, enlarged the scope of its publishing program, presented its books with a modern attractive format. To these men may I express my personal appreciation of their efforts on behalf of The Society.

Maurice Jacobs, our Executive Vice-President, worked under the most trying circumstances during 1948. In addition to running the office, supervising new membership promotions, manufacturing books at the Press, he operated a very sizeable business with insufficient capital. With the patience of Job he carried on and I want to express to him and our staff the appreciation of the entire Board of Trustees, and my own, for their loyal and capable services.

The growth of the Press attests to the abilities of David Skaraton, the Press Superintendent. I know that when the Press moves to its own building Mr. Skaraton and his staff will be able to do even more work.

Our field staff, headed by Mrs. Pearl Foster Roseman and Sidney Marcus continue to bring in new members.

No man can relinquish the leadership of an organization without passing on to his successor some plan for The Society's future growth. What we have done in the past is but a small part of what we can do in the future. Our membership should be five times what it is today. Our total business can be developed until it reaches the million dollar figure. Our Press can grow larger and larger. We need more and more basic books originally written for The Society or translated from those languages which are no longer in common use. Some of the projects I hoped would be completed during my administration are still in the making; the Hebrew-English Bible; unabridged Graetz's; the American Jewish Community series; the revision of our special translation of the Bible; etc. Our immediate needs are for funds to insure our continued existence. The necessary alterations must be made in our building to provide for the immediate transfer of the Press to its own quarters. The Society should be free and clear of all its debts. Sufficient money should be on hand for all of the Zangwill books. We need more Dr. M. Leo Gitelsons, who came to the aid of The Society during this past year and provided a working capital fund from which The Society could finance some of its publications. We need the infiltration of new blood into our Board and Publication Committee, to relieve some of those who have worked for many years and to bring in a fresh point of view and a new enthusiasm. While other Jewish publications and other Jewish book distributing agencies have risen in recent years The Jewish Publication Society is still the outstanding publisher of Jewish books in America. It is my hope that what we have done during these past 16 years and before that period will serve as a pattern for what can be done tomorrow. Books

can be published, but that is only half of the problem. Books must also be read. The Jewish Publication Society has done and is doing its share. It should be possible for us to expand our facilities and respond to every call which comes to us.

As I retire from this great office with which you have honored me, I offer you my sincere thanks for the privilege you have given me to serve the call of Jewish culture through The Jewish Publication Society. To few men is granted the privilege which I have had.

I voice my gratitude to Dr. Jacobs, our staff, and my other colleagues in this organization. From them I ask their continued self-sacrificing dedication to The Publication Society under their new leader.

Respectfully submitted,

J. SOLIS-COHEN, Jr., *President*

TREASURER'S REPORT

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET

<i>Assets</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 1948</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 1947</i>
Cash	\$ 1,680.82	\$ 3,289.45
Accounts receivable	42,320.39	44,515.66
Inventories	118,220.33	94,202.18
Loan to Classics Fund	5,818.24	4,859.78
Building	57,405.86	57,405.86
Plates, Copyrights, Plant and Equipment	2.00	2.00
Prepaid Publication Costs	6,855.12	5,365.34
Prepaid Insurance	4,485.70	2,502.14
Due from Employees	984.33	859.03
	<u>\$237,772.79</u>	<u>\$213,001.44</u>
 <i>Liabilities</i> 		
Notes Payable to Bank	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 24,653.00
Notes Payable to Others	27,261.08	—
Loans Payable to Funds	62,873.05	57,920.49
Accounts Payable	60,745.69	34,040.01
Customers' Credit Balances	2,179.53	9,216.96
Accrued Expenses	862.98	3,279.99
Mortgage Payable	28,000.00	31,500.00
Reserve for Hebrew-English Bible	15,000.00	15,000.00
Reserve for Uncompleted Contracts	27,853.72	20,594.53
Reserve for New Equipment	3,493.55	9,860.31
Surplus	—	6,936.15
Deficit	(23,496.81)	—
	<u>\$237,772.79</u>	<u>\$213,001.44</u>

() Denotes red figure.

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Principal and accumulated income of Funds	—	\$ 71,969.33
Invested as follows:		
Cash	\$ 2,163.06	
Inventory of Loeb Fund Publications	4,174.79	
Inventory of Classics Fund Publications	8,576.67	
Loans to The Society	62,873.05	
	<u>\$ 77,787.57</u>	
Less, Loan by The Society to the Classics Fund ..	5,818.24	<u>\$ 71,969.33</u>

COMBINED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

	<i>Year Ended</i>	
	<i>Dec. 31, 1948</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 1947</i>
Income:		
Dues	\$ 91,013.27	\$ 86,760.12
Contributions from Welfare Funds	—	2,286.90
Donations	748.41	1,805.73
Sixtieth Anniversary Fund	2,000.00	—
Sales, Hebrew Press	145,569.06	112,838.93
Sales, Jewish Publication Society	91,744.30	131,160.95
Interest	1,596.96	1,264.17
Miscellaneous	3,345.35	3,447.19
	<u>\$336,017.35</u>	<u>\$339,563.99</u>
Expenses and Publication Costs	366,450.31	350,655.35
Loss to Surplus	<u>\$ 30,432.96</u>	<u>\$ 11,091.36</u>
Contributions by Funds for publications	—	<u>\$ 2,503.36</u>
Sales proceeds of fund publications credited to funds:		
Classics Fund	\$ 857.59	\$ 2,378.08
Loeb Fund	—	2,528.00
	<u>\$ 857.59</u>	<u>\$ 4,906.08</u>

Respectfully submitted,

LESTER HANO, *Treasurer*

In Memoriam

Since we met at our last Annual Meeting, The Jewish Publication Society of America suffered the loss by death of one of its distinguished authors and two members of its "Official Family":

DR. HENRY BERKOWITZ, the author of *The Fire-Eater* and *Boot Camp*, who died on March 1, 1949.

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE, Honorary Vice-President of The Society since March 31, 1946, who died on April 19, 1949.

DR. DAVID PHILIPSON, a member of our Publication Committee since June 10, 1897, a member of our Jewish Classics Committee from May 7, 1916, a member of the Board of Editors of our Bible translation, and the author of our *Old European Jewries* and *Letters of Rebecca Gratz*, who died on June 29, 1949.

The Jewish Publication Society of America deeply mourns the loss of this outstanding Jewish author and these two members of our "Official Family" who have contributed their writings and labors to our Society and have thus enriched the cultural life of American Jewry. It cherishes their memories. In grateful recognition of their part in the fellowship of Jewish authors and members of the "Official Family" of our Society, it has been

RESOLVED that The Jewish Publication Society of America extends to the families of this departed author and departed members of our "Official Family" its heartfelt sympathy; that these Resolutions be spread on the Minutes of The Jewish Publication Society; and that they be published in Volume 51 of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK.

LOUIS E. LEVINthal, *President*

MAURICE JACOBS, *Secretary*

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Members

SECTION 1. Any person or organization paying the annual dues fixed by the Board of Trustees for any class of membership shall be a member of The Society.

SECTION 2. The Board of Trustees may classify members and prescribe the benefits and dues pertaining to each class of membership.

ARTICLE II

Meetings of Members

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the members of The Society for the election of officers and trustees and the transaction of such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Board of Trustees may designate.

SECTION 2. Special meetings of the members of The Society may be held at any time at the call of the President or by a vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees, or upon the written request of fifty members of The Society, setting forth the purpose or purposes of such meeting.

SECTION 3. All meetings of the members of The Society shall be held at such place and at such time as the Board of Trustees may designate.

SECTION 4. Notice of all meetings of members shall be sent by mail to each member at his address appearing on the books of The Society. Notice of the annual meeting of members shall be mailed at least twenty days prior to the date of such meeting, and notice of any special meeting of the members setting forth the purpose or purposes for which such meeting shall be called, shall be mailed at least ten days prior to the date of such meeting.

SECTION 5. At any meeting of the members of The Society twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If there be no quorum the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is secured.

ARTICLE III

Board of Trustees and Officers

SECTION 1. The affairs, administration and property of The Society shall be in the charge, management and control of a Board of Trustees which shall consist of eighteen trustees together with the elective officers provided for in Section 7 of Article III of these By-Laws. The trustees and said elective officers, all of whom shall be members of The Society, shall be elected by the members at the annual meeting of members.

SECTION 2. The trustees elected by the members shall serve for terms of three years each; provided however, that the eighteen trustees first elected pursuant to these By-Laws shall be divided into three groups of six trustees each; the term of office of the respective groups shall be fixed to expire at the end of the first, second and third years from the date of their election.

SECTION 3. Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at such times as the Board of Trustees shall designate. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held whenever called by the President, and he shall call a special meeting of the Board of Trustees upon the written request of five of its members, setting forth the purpose or purposes of such meeting.

SECTION 4. Ten members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 5. Written notice of all meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be given

to each member of the Board at least five days prior thereto. The notice of any special meeting shall set forth the purpose or purposes for which such meeting shall have been called.

SECTION 6. Any vacancy in the Board of Trustees (whether among the trustees or the officers) shall be filled by the Board of Trustees until the next annual meeting of the members.

SECTION 7. The officers of The Society shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the Publication Committee, and such other officers as the Board of Trustees may from time to time deem necessary.

SECTION 8. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of members and shall serve for the term of one year and until their respective successors shall have been elected.

SECTION 9. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members; of the Board of Trustees, and of the Executive Committee. He shall sign, together with the Secretary, all documents, contracts, and papers necessary for the conduct of the business of The Society, and perform all other duties usually pertaining to the office of President.

SECTION 10. The Vice-Presidents shall in order of their seniority, during the absence or disability of the President, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of President, have the same duties and powers as the President.

SECTION 11. The Secretary shall have the usual duties and powers pertaining to the office of Secretary. He shall attend and keep minutes of meetings of the members and of the Board of Trustees and record all such minutes in books to be kept for that purpose. He shall give all notices required by law or these By-Laws.

SECTION 12. The Treasurer shall have the custody of and shall administer all funds and investments of The Society. He shall keep proper books of account and perform all other duties usually pertaining to the office of Treasurer.

SECTION 13. The Chairman of the Publication Committee shall preside at all meetings of the Publication Committee. He shall appoint, and be ex-officio a member of, all sub-committees of the Publication Committee.

SECTION 14. The funds of The Society shall be placed in such depositories as the Board of Trustees designates and checks for the withdrawal of such funds shall be signed by such persons as are designated by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE IV

Committees

SECTION 1. The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Publication Committee to serve for one year. The Publication Committee shall include the Chairman of the Publication Committee and at least four other members of the Board of Trustees. It shall be the duty of the Publication Committee to read manuscripts and make recommendations for the publication thereof to the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 2. The Board of Trustees shall appoint an Executive Committee which shall have the power to act for the Board of Trustees between meetings of the Board of Trustees. The Executive Committee shall consist of those members of the Board of Trustees who are members of the Publication Committee together with the officers of The Society.

SECTION 3. The President shall appoint from the members of The Society all other standing or special committees with such rights and powers as the Board of Trustees may from time to time determine. The Chairmen of all such committees shall be members of the Board of Trustees, but otherwise membership shall not be limited to members of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE V

Fiscal Year

SECTION 1. The fiscal year of The Society shall begin on January 1st of each year.

ARTICLE VI

Nominations and Elections

SECTION 1. At least thirty days before the annual meeting of members the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of not less than five members. The Nominating Committee by a majority vote of all its members shall nominate candidates for trustees and officers to be elected at the annual meeting and shall submit its report of such nominations at such annual meeting.

SECTION 2. Fifty members of The Society may, independently of the Nominating Committee, also nominate candidates who have consented to have their names placed in nomination. Such nominations shall be given to the Secretary in writing accompanied by the written consent of the candidates, at least twenty days before the annual meeting.

SECTION 3. The election of trustees and officers at the annual meeting shall be only from among the candidates so nominated.

SECTION 4. Election of trustees and officers shall be by ballot unless otherwise determined at the meeting at which the election is held.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

SECTION 1. These By-Laws may be amended by the vote of a majority of the entire Board of Trustees at any regular or special meeting. Any amendments so adopted shall be submitted for ratification at the next annual meeting of members. Such ratification shall require the vote of at least two-thirds of those members present at such annual meeting.