ANNUAL REPORTS
American Jewish Committee

OFFICERS *

President
IRVING M. ENGEL

Chairman, Executive Board
SIMON H. RIFKIND

Chairman, Administrative Board
RALPH E. SAMUEL

Executive Vice-President
JOHN S. LAWSON

Honorary Presidents
JACOB BLAUSTEIN
JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER

Honorary Vice-Presidents
HERBERT H. LEHMAN
SAMUEL D. LEIDESDORF
HORACE STERN

Chairman, National Advisory Council
FRED LAZARUS, JR.

Vice-Presidents

JAMES H. BECKER  MILTON W. KING
MAX H. BLOCK  SOL SATINSKY
LOUIS CAPLAN  MRS. CAROLINE K. SIMON
HERBERT B. EHRMANN  JESSE H. STEINHART
WALTER S. HILBORN  ALAN M. STROOCK

Secretary
JULIUS S. LOEWENTHAL

Treasurer
MAURICE GLINERT

Associate Treasurer
ARTHUR D. LEIDESDORF


505
OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The objects of this corporation shall be, to prevent the infrac-
tion 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 adminis-
ter any relief fund which shall come into its possession or which
may be received by it, in trust or otherwise, for any of the afore-
said objects or for purposes comprehended therein.

—Extract from the Charter
REVIEW AND FORECAST—AJC IN ’55 AND ’56

BY RALPH E. SAMUEL
Chairman, AJC Administrative Board

Each year at this time, we of AJC stand on a hilltop, which is our Annual Meeting, to trace the landmarks passed and the new horizons perceived so that we may check our course and determine our future direction.

I will not attempt, this afternoon, to present a full catalogue of all our many activities, interesting and impressive as they are. Instead, I shall limit myself to selected projects—still covering a wide range—which are most pertinent to the tasks ahead, and with which I, as your Administrative Board chairman, have had occasion to become personally familiar.

Since this annual review, when reprinted in the Report of the Annual Meeting and the American Jewish Year Book, has come to be regarded as the more or less official record of the Committee's activities, I ask your leave to extend my remarks in their published version. For this purpose, I shall draw on certain staff reports for essential details. While we all know that every board chairman counts heavily on this form of staff assistance, I nevertheless wish to enter a modest disclaimer to the omniscience which the final version of this report may imply.

Since social and political trends do not align themselves with the calendar, it is difficult to characterize any given year precisely. Yet I might capsulize 1955 by saying that it was a year which found AJC trying to fend off disastrous situations abroad and furthering significant long-range measures at home. These efforts on the domestic scene, designed to guard the security of Jews by strengthening democracy and human understanding, were pursued at the same time that we continued our counter-action program against overt anti-Semitism.

Anti-Semitic Agitation

In spite of the fact that—partly as a result of our own efforts—overt anti-Semitism is being contained, and is becoming understood by a growing number of Americans as evidence either of maladjustment or insecurity, hate peddlers still find a market for their attacks on Jews. In the past year, they continued to infiltrate right-wing political groups and to insinuate anti-Semitism into public debate on such issues as the Salk polio vaccine and fluoridation of the water supply.

Moreover, 1955 saw the rise of two new and threatening developments that required—and will continue to require—our attention.

First, Arab propagandists, including diplomatic representatives, openly attacked the loyalty of American Jews in an effort to undermine and to weaken the friendship of Americans for Israel. They endeavored to exploit the religious concern of many Americans for the Arab refugees and for the protection of Holy Places by interlarding their literature and public pronouncements on these subjects with heavy-handed references to the “dual loyalty” of American Jews and to the influence of the alleged “Jewish vote.” One can imagine how eagerly professional anti-Semites are taking up these charges.

Second, in some areas of the South where school desegregation problems are generating conflict anti-Negro demagogues have joined forces with professional anti-
Semites, indeed have distributed anti-Semitic literature extensively and in other ways have given these discredited rabble rousers new outlets for their anti-Jewish canards.

We are alert to these threats, however. Like the forest ranger up in his tower, like the firemen at the station house—instantly prepared to swing into action when fire breaks out—we, too, are not only watchful, but thoroughly prepared should anti-Semitism flare up on the domestic scene as it did to such a worrisome extent in the 1930's.

### Long-Range Programs

But we have not been content merely to stay on the alert waiting for bigots to attack. We have continued and extended our long-range activities to destroy the seeds from which anti-Jewish prejudice germinates. Here I would mention four important areas of our program.

First, I should like to report on what we have been able to accomplish in the improvement of Christian religious teaching materials. Two decades ago, AJC helped to initiate at Drew University a survey of Protestant educational materials designed ultimately to eliminate unfavorable references to Jews. During the past few years, this work has been continued on a larger scale and with broader inter-group emphasis at the Yale Divinity School, where it is now receiving foundation financial support. The initial report of the study was made to Protestant educators in 1955. We are confident that its effect will be to aid in replacing old big-otries, encrusted hates, and outworn fears with fresh understanding and mutual respect.

In 1955, this significant work was advanced by the launching, at St. Louis University, of a study of references to other groups in Catholic materials. At Southern Methodist University, a pilot regional study of Protestant materials used in the Southwest has gotten under way. It is hoped that these efforts will be paralleled by studies of Jewish religious educational materials. To this end, we have engaged in discussions with officials of the Dropsie College of Hebrew and Cognate Learning in Philadelphia.

A second long-range area in which we are working is public education. We are concerned with the soundness of our public schools on two counts: First, our educational standards are perhaps the greatest influence on the quality of American democracy; second, we see the schools as an all-important sphere for developing the understanding of others and the respect for differences which are fundamental to national unity. A decade ago, the concept of human relations in public education was fairly novel; today, we find basic human relations goals set forth as key objectives of our educational system in the report of the recent White House Conference on Education.

We were closely concerned with this national educational meeting of educators and civic leaders. As you know, for the past three years we have participated in the Round Table of National Organizations on the Public Schools, which meets semi-annually at Arden House, and are represented on its steering committee. The Arden House group was consulted in the planning of the White House Conference. Many of our chapters—Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Oakland, San Francisco, to name but a few—were represented at the state conferences on education which preceded the national meeting. Dr. John Slawson and Max Birnbaum of our staff, who officially represented AJC, chaired discussion tables at the conference, and a number of our members served on the official delegations from their states.

The clarification of school problems and the increased public interest in these problems which resulted from the White House Conference and the various statewide meetings will pay handsome dividends in keeping our schools attuned to the demands of our growing nation and our expanding democracy.

Social discrimination is a third field where AJC has initiated long-range activity. The Executive Board's decision last May to explore program potentials in this field
was based on the premise that even when overt anti-Semitism is unfashionable, bigotry is perpetuated by social discrimination.

We are not concerned merely with the embarrassment that occasionally results from the restrictive policies of isolated clubs or resorts. What concerns us is the very concept that individuals may be accepted or rejected—in any sphere—on the basis of group affiliation. As long as this prejudicial concept is recognized in social groupings, its influence will be felt in other key areas of our daily life—where we live, where our children learn and play and in the professional and commercial areas in which our children may seek their careers. I trust that our discussions—this morning and on Sunday afternoon—will enable us to move forward significantly in developing an appropriate program to counter this "velvet glove" form of rejection, which tacitly sets the pattern for other types of discrimination.

As an indication of the hopeful prospects for our efforts in this direction, let me indicate briefly the progress made in recent years in overcoming the discriminatory admissions policies of college fraternities. Largely as a result of undergraduate insistence, the number of major national fraternities with restrictive membership clauses in their constitutions has been reduced from twenty-five to seven. While this reform in policy has not always been put into practice, the results are still heartening. Since 1950, progress in this area has been slowed, but it now appears to be making renewed headway—due in large measure to the salutary effect of the studies and educational efforts of the National Committee on Fraternities in Education. AJC played a helpful role in the founding of this independent organization of educators and civic leaders.

Closely linked to progress in overcoming social discrimination is the increased concern of Jews with self-understanding. It is in this area that AJC is making the fourth of the long-range contributions I mentioned.

Our intensive study of Jewish attitudes in an eastern city we call "Riverton" is yielding new objective insights into the way Jews regard their role in American life, their Christian neighbors and the State of Israel.

This important sociological study has brought out the fact that while American Jews are strongly rooted in this country, they are dedicated to perpetuating their identity and the identity of their children as Jews. While they have a warm regard for Israel, they do not desire to settle there. Finally, the study made it crystal-clear that many are more comfortable with Jews than with Gentiles and fear that Gentiles regard them unfavorably. Significantly—and this is encouraging—teen-agers are less troubled in this regard than their parents.

The study also brought to light a number of disconcerting factors. For example, it would appear that concern with the survival of the Jewish community has, in some instances, resulted in unfortunate self-segregating tendencies. I should mention, too, that some of the stereotyped views of Gentiles held by many respondents suggest that in addition to their creditable self-esteem Jews may also, on occasion, exhibit a measure of less admirable chauvinism.

The National Advisory Council of the AJC, under Fred Lazarus, Jr., carefully reviewed the Riverton Study and made recommendations which were considered by the Executive Board in October. We are now making plans for confirming studies to test whether all our findings in Riverton apply to other localities.

The Riverton Study presents a challenge to AJC for this reason: Other sociological studies indicate that the public is more receptive now than in many years to Jews integrating fully into the total community life—without any sacrifice of their cultural heritage. For example, in our most recent national poll, just concluded, almost nine out of every ten non-Jews indicated that they would have no objection to a Jewish family moving next door to them. This contrasts with the seven out of ten who responded favorably as recently as 1950.

But the achievement of equal rights depends on the attitudes of Jews as well as Christians. And it would be tragic irony indeed if the actions and attitudes of Jews, based on a misconception of their environment, were to impede progress toward their full participation in every aspect of American life.
Next to be mentioned is a problem that has immediate as well as long-range implications—religion in our public schools. In the past year, we published our *Statement of Views on Religion in Public Education*, which sought practical ways to safeguard the principle of separation of church and state without needlessly engendering friction between religious groups.

While we seek the harmonious solution of differences as to the role of religion in the public schools, basic principles cannot be compromised. And here I would like to quote one of America's outstanding authorities on Christianity, Paul Hutchinson, former editor of the *Christian Century*, who, writing in *Life* magazine recently, said:

For (the year) 1400 . . . membership in the church and in the state was regarded as two aspects of the same thing—which was one reason for brutal treatment of the Jews . . . . But the United States, from its infancy as a nation, returned to the conception of the Christian church as it was before Constantine, when men joined of their own free will and supported it of their own voluntary desires, and the Church, in consequence, was a free institution. Judged by what followed, the American adoption of the principle of church and state separation has been a godsend for the churches, Protestant, Roman Catholic and of every sort.

And to these words of Mr. Hutchinson we can add that the separation of church and state is certainly a godsend which Jews must be prepared to preserve.

To this end, our chapters have been most vigilant and active. For example, both our chapters and the Jewish Community Council gave widespread distribution to our *Statement of Views* in an effort to help counter attempts to introduce released time in a Cleveland suburb. Our Miami chapter publicly and successfully opposed, with other groups, a plan to introduce school credits for outside religious instruction. Our West Coast chapters participated in successful efforts to block proposed programs for Bible reading in public school classrooms. In New York, our chapter played a prominent role in resisting further encroachments of religion into the schools in the guise of teaching "moral and spiritual values."

In these endeavors, both locally and nationally, we have often worked cooperatively with religious groups of other faiths. At other times, we have been in opposition. Happily, there is an established reservoir—to which we have made a significant contribution—of good will and understanding, so that divergent views can be discussed without rancor, whether or not we can reach an accommodation of the varying positions. To continually improve this atmosphere of mutual respect and to foster inter-religious cooperation for worthy social goals is the objective of our program in the inter-religious field.

Let me cite one example of our work in this area to illustrate additional facets of this cooperation. You know we were invited to present testimony on the status of religious freedom before Senator Hennings' Subcommittee on Constitutional Liberties of the Senate Judiciary Committee. While the purpose of this committee's exploration—to strengthen religious freedom—was laudatory, we felt that the political setting of open hearings would breed divisiveness and impede the search for solutions to many problems. Along with Catholic and Protestant spokesmen, we discussed these views with the Hennings Committee, which agreed with the wisdom of foregoing open hearings.

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Our efforts to defend and enhance American freedom bring us to grips with a number of problems. Let me touch quickly on two areas where progress may be noted—civil liberties and civil rights—and one where the lack of progress has been most discouraging—our national immigration policy.

The climate of civil liberties has changed hearteningly in the past year. Increasingly, our countrymen are regaining the perspective which enables them to distinguish between heresy, which is permissible, and conspiracy, which is not. This
improvement reflects a complex of factors. Not the least among these was the influence of individuals and organizations which courageously insisted on speaking out when more timid voices were intimidated into silence. We may be proud that AJC’s voice during this time was not muted. Of our many efforts on this front, I will mention but a few important contributions.

Abraham J. Harris, then chairman of our Washington, D.C., chapter, testified on our behalf before the Senate Subcommittee on Reorganization, to urge the establishment of a bipartisan commission on government security. The resolution under consideration, also supported by many other groups, was subsequently enacted, and the commission has been appointed. On the invitation of the Hennings Committee, Irving M. Engel submitted our views on the protection of the freedoms of religion, speech, and press.

In 1954, as you know, we published the study, *American Security and Freedom*, which proposed many reforms to harmonize the maintenance of both liberty and national security. During the past year, we have seen certain of these recommendations achieved—in the form of stricter codes for Congressional investigation committees and in new safeguards in loyalty procedures.

AJC also helped bring together an informal coalition of national organizations, many of which are not normally interested in civil liberties. Through these groups, we helped launch educational programs reaching their vast membership and, through them, the rest of the American people. Our endeavors at the local level are typified by the work of our Los Angeles and Kansas City chapters in initiating coalitions of civic groups to promote educational activities in defense of civil liberties. In Miami, our area director served as chief resource person for an award-winning, “Know Your Constitution” TV program. In Los Angeles, we played a leading role in planning a civil liberties workshop for the Jewish Community Council.

For a heartening picture of civil rights gains, I refer you to AJC’s annually published brochure, *The People Take the Lead*, which documents the continuing pattern of reform throughout the country. The United States Information Service has placed copies in all its libraries around the world and is reprinting 5,000 for distribution in England to combat Communist-inspired anti-American propaganda.

To help show Americans how they can work in their communities to extend equal opportunity and defend civil liberties, we prepared and published, *You . . . Your Town . . . Your World . . . and Human Rights*, a handbook for community leaders. In advance of publication, we gained the co-sponsorship of a dozen additional organizations—such as the American Friends Service Committee, the Foreign Policy Association, the United Church Women, and the Women’s Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church. This combined sponsorship not only assured the brochure a wide readership, but gave it the weight of greater authority. Moreover, it also proved that under combined auspices, educational materials can be made self-supporting.

Again, to illustrate our efforts to advance and defend liberty on the local scene as well as nationally, let me pinpoint a few community activities. In Chicago, two of our distinguished members, Ely M. Aaron and Henry L. Kohn, were appointed by the mayor to the Community Welfare Committee, which is studying the circumstances responsible for the widely publicized racial disorders at the Trumbull Park Housing Project. Our Chicago chapter also played an outstanding role in connection with a campaign to discourage hospitals from discriminating on the basis of race or color in the admission of patients. Our Seattle chapter successfully opposed the adoption of a State Board Against Discrimination ruling which would have permitted employers to question applicants as to the religious holidays they observe. And members of our Washington, D.C., chapter are prominent in a campaign to remove the word “white” from the by-laws of the local bar association.

The thread linking many of the foregoing activities—those concerned with the public schools, civil liberties, civil rights—is the desire to buttress the forces of democracy which make for the acceptance of difference. These forces are the surest
guardian of the rights of every group and individual. That same reason prompts our interest in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and our membership in the United States National Commission for UNESCO. When UNESCO was under attack by the American Legion during the past year, we engaged, along with many other organizations, in educational efforts to give Americans a truer picture of what that international organization stood for. Further, at the biennial National Conference of the U. S. National Commission, AJC prepared the background paper for a workshop on "The Science of Human Relations and Its Practices." Dr. Slawson, a member of the Commission’s Executive Committee, chaired the session.

In the field of immigration, our efforts to help bring about the elimination of racist concepts in our laws met frustration. Along with other Jewish organizations, we participated in testimony before the Immigration Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee—at the subcommittee’s invitation. And we continued our educational activities in this area. We helped establish interagency organizations to bring the immigration problem before the American people. Also, we are about to publish The Fence—a booklet which explains as simply as possible the need to revise the McCarran-Walter Act. It will appear under the sponsorship of twelve national organizations; 60,000 copies have been ordered already.

The administration of the Refugee Relief Act has also caused us concern. With a number of other organizations, we protested the dismissal of Edward Corsi as Assistant Administrator for the Refugee Relief Program, and also voiced our dissatisfaction with the small number of refugees being admitted. Since that time, an improvement has been noted in the program, but it is obvious that nowhere near the authorized number of people will have been admitted to this country by the time the law’s expiration date is reached. Yes, the immigration situation, I am sorry to say, remains a major item on our list of unfinished business.

Use of Mass Media

In pursuit of our many educational goals we place great reliance on the mass media—magazines, film, radio, and television. Here are a few examples of our use of these channels of communication:

In April, we produced our first dramatic TV show—commemorating the 300th anniversary of the first Passover celebration in America. That month we also produced a series of four weekly half-hour radio shows on such aspects of our work as fraternity bias, equal housing opportunities, public education, and human rights. All of these shows were carried on coast-to-coast hook-ups, the time having been contributed by major networks. They were seen and heard by many millions of Americans. The networks’ contribution of air time and production costs was valued at more than a hundred thousand dollars. Even though AJC’s expenditure—for scripts and talent—was meager by comparison, these programs exhausted our radio production budget for the year, and we were unable to accept the offer of four additional radio programs because of our inability to meet our small share of the costs.

The radio series has been recorded and is now available in an album; a number of communities are arranging for rebroadcasts on local stations. Recently, one of the major networks invited us to submit a plan for a series of panel programs, to be presented by us, on human relations subjects. We are hopeful that these programs will be on the air in 1956.

During the past year, you probably saw outstanding articles on Judaism and the role of Jews in America—historically and today—in Life, Look, and Reader’s Digest. AJC assisted the authors by suggesting themes and helping with research. Our role in the development of these and other articles illustrates the acceptance of AJC by America’s major magazines as an accurate source of ideas and material in areas of our interest.

We are producing a new human relations film for young people, The Princess in
the Tower. In the past year, we succeeded in gaining the co-sponsorship of the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches, thereby assuring a wide circulation among church groups. You might be interested in some box-office reports of other AJC films. One of our feature film excerpts, Charley Martin—American, shown at the Annual Meeting two years ago, is being seen by 4,000 to 6,000 San Francisco high school students each month. The Los Angeles Board of Education reports that Make Way for Youth, which has been a "hit" since we produced it eight years ago, was shown 682 times to a total of 68,000 children in the 1954–55 school year.

These are the reports on just two films from two communities. In the field of motion pictures, as with radio and TV, we are confronted with virtually limitless opportunities for effective work of the type described. But our limited financial resources prevent our fuller use of these opportunities.

I would conclude my coverage of the domestic scene by saying a word or two about the Tercentenary observance, which, as you know, ended last June. Many of us think that it was a project not only exciting, but thoroughly significant and helpful to group relations. AJC, as you know, played an all-important part in bringing the Tercentenary into being, so it is surely appropriate that I tell you what I think the commemoration accomplished.

First, I think the Tercentenary observance gave the Gentile a far more accurate image of the American Jew. And, equally important—perhaps more important—it gave the American Jew a sense of his stature, a measurement of his security, and a feeling of unshakable confidence. Psychologically, it did him a great deal of good to learn that he and his forebears have been in this land for three centuries and have participated in every phase of American life.

Overseas Activities

My report of activities in overseas areas will be scarcely more than an itemization of some of the problems that have commanded our attention and resources. As in the past, major items of our program abroad will be covered in part by the Presidential Address, and partly at one or more plenary sessions.

As you know, AJC, together with the Alliance Israélite Universelle and the Anglo-Jewish Association, sponsored in London last June what we may well call the Conference of Hope. Its purpose was to help Jews in the New World join forces with those of the Old to recreate a rich, meaningful Jewish life in Europe today. Attended by more than 100 delegates, representing seventeen communities and organizations in Western Europe and North Africa, the conference succeeded in laying the groundwork for such a program. AJC now faces the task of helping to mobilize American communal resources for what may be termed a spiritual lend-lease program. From Irving M. Engel, who represented us at the conference along with more than a dozen other AJC members, you will hear more about this historic meeting and its meaning for the future.

Missing from the London Conference were Jews from the Iron Curtain countries. For a time, we had hoped that Russia's increased "amiability," generated as a prelude to the Summit Conference in July, might make it opportune for us to contact Soviet officials to seek alleviation of oppressive restrictions on Jews. But the Geneva Spirit faded so quickly that we may question whether it ever had real substance. At our Executive Board meeting in October we proposed a six-point challenge of Russia's adherence to the Geneva Spirit by asking for concrete acts to demonstrate "genuine change of heart" toward civil rights. No change has been noted—other than an ominous recurrence in the Soviet press of attacks on Jews. We must not falter in the task of continuing to expose to the world the chasm between Soviet propaganda claims of befriending racial and religious minorities and Russia's actual oppressive practices.

I come now to North Africa, where we have been faced with a procession of critical problems throughout the year. The principles for solution first enunciated by AJC—following an on-the-spot survey late in 1954 by Irving M. Engel, Jacob
Blaustein, and John Slawson—are now widely accepted here and abroad, although these principles, you will recall, were originally subject to considerable attack.

We seek conditions that will give the Jews of Morocco freedom of decision—freedom to remain under circumstances guaranteeing equality, security, and dignity, or freedom to emigrate and to take their property, if emigration is their choice. AJC and UJA are in basic agreement on the validity of these goals.

The situation in Morocco is still in doubt. One cannot say with certainty that the security of Jews is assured if they remain. Nor can one say that fleeing the country is the single answer to their problem. While French authority is withdrawing far more rapidly than had been anticipated, the moderate Arab nationalists who presently govern in Tunisia and Morocco have assured AJC that they will endeavor to wipe out ancient discriminations against Jews and give them full equality.

The Middle East

The Arab-Israel crisis is a subject which, to me, represents far and away our greatest problem and at the same time our greatest opportunity for usefulness.

The past year witnessed a steady deterioration of the situation in the Middle East. Repeated Arab provocations were followed by highly publicized retaliatory raids—against Egypt in Gaza, and against Syria near the Sea of Galilee. The Johnston water plan, which we support because of its potential for raising the region's living standard, could not come to fruition. There has been no progress in solving the vast problem of the Arab refugees.

And, of course, Communist penetration of the Arab world—in the form of arms shipments to Egypt and offers of economic aid—has increased the threat of war and has transformed the Middle East into a critical cold-war battleground.

These and related problems, affecting all Americans, Gentile and Jew alike, have been constantly on the agenda of your Administrative Board. President Engel has discussed these difficulties with the Secretary of State in Washington, and a number of us, on the "dawn patrol," have had breakfast meetings with Prime Minister Sharett, Ambassador Eban, and other Israel spokesmen.

This entire Middle East question, including its American impact, will be examined at the Sunday morning session. Our President, Irving M. Engel, will undoubtedly assess its significance at tomorrow night's Annual Dinner. Therefore, I will not go into it further, other than to express this entirely personal point of view.

If peace could be restored fully to the Middle East, the entire region could achieve a degree of prosperity which would dwarf any gains through conquest and make up for any loss through compromise. Through mutual economic cooperation, Middle East nations could give their people an adequate standard of living and overcome dependence on foreign subsidy. Israel offers a nearby market for the perishable produce of Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, for cotton from Egypt, for meat from Iraq. The products of Israel's factories could do much to raise living standards in neighboring countries. Projects such as exploiting the mineral wealth of the Dead Sea, harnessing the waters of the Jordan, reclaiming desert waste land, all require Arab-Jewish cooperation to be fully effective. Each of these projects would contribute immeasurably to the prosperity of the Middle East.

Some may see this proposal, with old enemies working as partners in a joint venture, as visionary. Let me remind you, it has happened successfully in Europe, where the European Coal and Steel Community is thriving. If France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands could bury the bitterness engendered through many decades, surely a similar solution is possible in the Middle East.

Of course, one must not be starry-eyed about this; economic cooperation in the Middle East is not going to come into being today or tomorrow. But I think we should steadily and effectively publicize this concept. It may well be a vital path of long-term significance.
In other phases of the problem, too, I am convinced, AJC can be helpful. It is because I believe this so deeply that I feel the Committee should exert itself to the fullest to be of service in the Middle East. We are a non-Zionist organization. We have a long record of usefulness and objectivity, a record well known to the State Department and other branches of our Government. Can we do less than make the effort?

In Latin America, we have continued to respond to calls from leaders of the Jewish community there who want assistance in strengthening their communal and cultural life and in opposing anti-Semitic activities. In Argentina, where the political maelstrom stirred up by the ousting of Peron threatened to harm relations between Catholics and Jews, AJC's representative was instrumental in clearing the air and gaining assurances from highest church officials that the Catholic movement of Argentina "would never be permitted to become anti-Semitic."

During the past year we continued to work within the United Nations for the world-wide furtherance of human rights. As you know, the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations (CCJO), to which we belong, has official consultative status with the United Nations. Of particular importance to our work in the international sphere was the U. N. Conference of Nongovernmental Organizations on Discrimination, held in Geneva in April. We were helpful in the shaping of the agenda for that meeting. We also prepared a document on our techniques for opposing prejudice and discrimination, which was used as the basis for one of the working papers of the conference.

AJC's Growth

To give the full picture of AJC requires reporting not only on our concerns and accomplishments, but also on our health as an institution. As AJC approaches the half-century mark, it is gaining in vigor. Let me cite a few indications of this strength:

First, the growth of national program committees—which, reconstituted on a nation-wide basis, are meeting here today.

Second, the increased participation of our members in national and local programs—although there is still a great need for more women to become active.

Third, establishment of the National Advisory Council, which gives us a "senate" of senior statesmen for guidance on key problems.

Fourth, the increased service we are able to render to chapters and communities. This has been made possible by the opening of new area offices and by designating distinguished leaders in each area to stimulate and coordinate activities of chapters within the area.

Fifth, and perhaps most important, the support of dedicated members, who give AJC their experience, talents, and time; and the continued movement of young men and women into posts of chapter leadership and national responsibility.

I conclude by putting on the record what the American Jewish Committee has meant for me during the two decades that I have been connected with it—for I do go all the way back to 1935.

I think of the AJC as a prudent, useful, understanding organization. I consider it thoroughly experienced, well aware of effective techniques, and courageous in the application of its skills.

I count it a statesmanlike organization—trustworthy and responsible. I have no recollection of the Committee ever reacting hastily or imprudently or ever issuing thoughtless or irresponsible statements. In brief, it is my kind of organization, and I think it commands the respect and the confidence of all thoughtful Americans who know what it stands for, how thoroughly it can be trusted, and how useful is its combination of wisdom and skill.
Jewish Publication Society of America

REPORT OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH YEAR

OFFICERS

(as of July 1, 1956)

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
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
JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Trustees

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

Publication Committee

ROBERT D. ABRAHAMS ................................................. Philadelphia
REV. DR. BERNARD J. BAMBERGER .................................. New York
DR. SALO W. BARON ................................................ New York
REV. DR. SAMUEL BELSKIN ......................................... 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 .................................... Philadelphia
REV. DR. LOUIS FINKELSTEIN ..................................... Hartford
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
REV. DR. SIMON GREENBERG ....................................... New York
DR. ABRAHAM J. HESCHEL .......................................... New York
DR. LEO L. HONOR .................................................. Philadelphia
DR. OSCAR I. JANOWSKY ............................................ New York
DR. LOUIS L. KAPLAN ................................................ Baltimore

1 Term expires in 1957.  
2 Term expires in 1958.  
3 Term expires in 1959.
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
Dr. Ralph Marcus .......................................................... Chicago
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
J. Solis-Cohen, Jr. ....................................................... Philadelphia
Dr. Ephraim A. Speiser ................................................ Philadelphia
Dr. Shalom Spiegel ....................................................... New York
Harry Starr ................................................................. New York
Edwin Wolf, 2nd ............................................................ Philadelphia
Dr. Harry A. Wolfson ..................................................... Cambridge

THE SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

The sixty-eighth annual meeting of The Jewish Publication Society of America was held on April 22, 1956, at the Drake Hotel, 15th and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, Pa., in connection with a dinner commencing at seven o'clock in the evening. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, President of the Society, served as chairman, and Chief Justice Horace Stern, Vice-President of the Society, served as toastmaster.

Dr. Jacob R. Marcus of Cincinnati delivered the invocation.

Report of the Publication Committee

Dr. Solomon Grayzel, Editor of the Society, read the report of the Publication Committee for Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Chairman, who was attending the World Zionist Congress in Israel. He reported as follows:

It is with sincere regret that I find it will not be possible for me to attend the annual meeting of the Jewish Publication Society. When the meeting is held in Philadelphia on April 22nd, I shall, please God, be in Jerusalem. As this will be the first time in more than a quarter century that I shall not have the privilege of participating in our annual gatherings, may I take this means of conveying my cordial greetings and of submitting my report as Chairman of the Publication Committee to the members and friends of our Society.
During the past year, the Board of Trustees added to the members of the Committee two gentlemen who measure up in every respect to the scholarly reputation and cultural interests of the rest of the Committee. They are Dr. Samuel Dinin, Director of Jewish Education in Los Angeles and member of the Faculty of the University of Judaism, and Professor Oscar Janowsky, of the City College of New York.

On the whole the Publication Committee has functioned as usual during the course of the past year. I reported at our last annual meeting that fewer manuscripts have been submitted to us, despite the fact that so many more books of Jewish interest are being published, not only by our Society but by commercial publishers as well. Although a total of about sixty manuscripts reached the Editor's office, hardly more than a dozen were worthy of transmission to the members of the Committee for reading and advice. All this is evidence of the fact that men of real literary ability and scholarly knowledge encounter less difficulty than previously in finding a publisher for their work. This is a development we should welcome with genuine satisfaction.

Fortunately, however, there are distinguished authors and scholars who value highly the imprint of the JPS on the title pages of their works, and who therefore submit their manuscripts to us in preference to prominent commercial publishing houses that would be proud to publish them. Our policy of co-publication with commercial publishers has generally proved to be mutually advantageous to our authors and to the members of our Society.

I think we are justified in continuing to publish a balanced list of books, not all of them scholarly in character, not all of them popular in their appeal. No important scholarly work should be rejected by us, even if only a minority of our membership may find it of interest. There is more than a little truth in this observation by Henry Brooks Adams: "The difference is slight to the influence of an author, whether he be read by five hundred readers or by five hundred thousand readers; if he can select the five hundred, he reaches the five hundred thousand." Our Society's membership, though quantitatively far from what it should be, does unquestionably include the intellectual and cultural aristocracy of the American Jewish community. An author of a truly valuable and important volume of scholarly merit, published by our Society and read by the rabbis, the teachers and the cultured and educated laymen who are among our members, will ultimately reach and influence the rank and file of American Jewry.

A special effort should be made by our Committee to initiate the publication of valuable scholarly works which would probably not be undertaken unless we encourage, or even commission authors to write them. Furthermore, we should strive to expedite the Committee's decisions concerning manuscripts when submitted. For both purposes it is respectfully recommended that a representative and active subcommittee of the Publication Committee be empowered to consider scholarly projects and manuscripts, in much the same way as our Subcommittee on American History and Biography has been operating so effectively since the Society received the Jacob R. Schiff Fund. All recommendations of the subcommittee will, of course, be subject to the approval of our entire Committee.

We must also consider the more popular needs of our membership. One area in which the Society has been quite weak, except for the brilliant works of Israel Zangwill, is that of fiction. Fortunately, many novels of Jewish interest have seen the light of day recently. Some may legitimately question whether there ought to be specifically Jewish works of fiction. In view of the fact that the Jew in the United States plays his role as an integral member of the wider community, works of fiction which are illustrative of American Jewish life can be made specifically Jewish only by narrowing the area of the characters' activity and thus making the story to some extent unreal. Nevertheless, there unquestionably are certain types of novels or belles-lettres which we have published and should continue to publish. These are such books as *Awakened*, by Margaret Abrams, which we published in 1955; and such translations as Solomon Simon's *My Jewish Roots* and
Jacob Picard's *The Marked One*, which are on our list for 1956. (I have had the pleasure of reading *My Jewish Roots* while on this delightful voyage to Israel on the SS Zion, and I was extremely proud to pass the book to a fellow passenger, Professor Alexander Dushkin, of the Hebrew University, who found it as charming as I did.) I believe we shall do well to concentrate on similar translations from the Yiddish, Hebrew or German in the field of fiction.

There is a strong likelihood that our juvenile program will be increased and intensified in the future. During the first half of the life of the Jewish Publication Society, it was practically the only Jewish publisher producing juvenile literature. The field has grown tremendously since then and there is a bright prospect that we shall re-enter it vigorously in the years to come.

In closing, I wish to thank all my co-workers on the Committee, for their dedicated service on behalf of the Society. They deserve the gratitude of the American Jewish community as a whole. And as our Committee completes the sixty-eighth year and commences the sixty-ninth of continuous activity, permit me to salute you and to admonish myself as well, with the traditional exhortation: *Chazak, Chazak, Ve'Nischazek!* Be strong, be strong, and let us strengthen one another!

**Treasurer's Report**

Myer Feinstein, Treasurer of the Society, reported as follows:

Last year, at this time, I reported to the annual meeting that the year 1954 had shown a substantial increase in the Society's income from the distribution of books and Bibles and that our financial position had been improved. It is my pleasure to make a similar report for the year 1955.

In 1954, total income amounted to $282,725.00. For 1955, the total was increased to $324,008.00. Expenditures showed a corresponding increase. In 1954, these amounted to $280,033.00. In 1955, the total was $322,993.00. The difference between 1955 income and expenditure amounted to $1,015.00, which amount was transferred to the surplus account.

Our total income of $324,008.00 consisted of $40,462.00 from allocations and contributions, $88,268.00 from sales of Bibles, $95,047.00 from sales of other books, $93,475.00 from membership dues, and $5,756.00 from miscellaneous sources. Total expenditures of $322,993.00 consisted of $199,189.00 for costs of book and Bible production, and $123,804.00 for costs of distribution and administration.

May I point out that the Society derived 87.5 per cent of its 1955 income from membership dues and the sale of books and Bibles. This is an unusually high proportion for a communal organization to earn by its own efforts. However, the remaining 12.5 per cent received as contributions and allocations is the vital factor which keeps the Society alive. Without it, we could not sustain our contribution to the cultural life of American Jewry. As this portion of our income increases, particularly through inclusion in the campaigns of additional communities, we shall be able to do even more by completing many important projects which have been deferred because of a lack of funds.

The Society continues to be troubled by a lack of working capital, but our credit is good and we hope that coming years will permit us to improve this situation. In recent months, we paid off our bank loan. Also, during early 1956, we made the final payment on our mortgage, so that our only borrowings at the moment are from various funds which were depleted during the past decade. These must be repaid, and I am hopeful that we shall be able to do so within the next few years.

**Executive Secretary's Report**

Lesser Zussman, Executive Secretary of the Society, reported as follows:

At this season of the year, I am reminded of the host who asked his guests at the Seder whether they had come for the Haggadah or the knaidlach. By the same
token, we can ask ourselves whether we are here tonight to celebrate sixty-eight years of important history, or the achievements of the year 1955.

Actually, an alert organization must constantly review the past, analyze the present, and evaluate the future. Since "epilogue is prologue" and since the Jewish Publication Society is now performing a service which is quite different from that rendered in its earlier days, it is obvious that we have changed with the times. Instead of being concerned with providing good literature in the new language of the immigrant, we are today concerned with providing a link in the chain which anchors the American Jew to his religion.

Today, with such intense competition for leisure-time activity, it is not enough for the Society to merely publish good books. We must also promote and merchandise our books in competition with less important distractions. This means that an ever increasing proportion of our available funds must go into promotional activities and improvements in the physical appearance of our books. The editorial quality of our publications has always been high and will never be compromised, so that the difficult problem is that of making this high quality as attractive and widely known as possible, then getting it into the hands of readers.

It is my privilege to travel across the country and meet many cultured persons who are interested in Jewish books. I meet rabbis who tell me what they want for their congregants; teachers who tell me what they want for their students; book-sellers who tell me what people want to give as gifts. Rarely do I meet the gem who tells me what he wants for himself. Here is the basic problem with which every member can help. Talk to your friends about the Society's books. Stimulate them to read good books of Jewish interest. Encourage everyone to become a member of the Society and support our efforts.

As you have already heard and will hear further, 1955 was a year of achievement and a year of promise. Let us hope that future years will continue to show a sustained improvement in the Society's contribution to the cultural life of American Jewry.

In closing, may I express sincere thanks to the officers and members of the Board and Publication Committee for their many considerations, and to the members of our staff for their devotion and interest. Finally, may I express the hope that we all meet again at our seventieth Anniversary dinner in a world at peace.

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 terms of one year, and trustees for terms as indicated.

OFFICERS

EDWIN WOLF, 2nd, President (3rd term)
CHIEF JUSTICE HORACE STERN, 1st Vice President (45th term)
SOL SATINSKY, 2nd Vice President (4th term)
DR. JACOB R. MARCUS, 3rd Vice President (3rd term)
MYER FEINSTEIN, Treasurer (4th term)
LESSER ZUSSMAN, Secretary & Executive Secretary (7th term)
JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, Chairman, Publication Committee (15th term)
DR. SOLOMON GRAYZEL, Editor (18th 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 re-election to three-year terms:

HARRY W. BAUMGARTEN, New York
SAMUEL H. DAROFF, Philadelphia
BENJAMIN FINE, New York
JOSEPH FIRST, Philadelphia
BERNARD G. SEGAL, Philadelphia
HARRY STARR, New York
DEWEY D. STONE, Boston
ROGER W. STRAUS, JR., New York

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

HERBERT D. COHEN, York
ABRAHAM L. FREEDMAN, Philadelphia
JEROME J. SHESTACK, Philadelphia
LEONARD N. SIMONS, Detroit
BEN D. ZEVIN, Cleveland

Respectfully submitted,
JOSEPH FIRST, Chairman
ROBERT D. ABRAHAMS
BERNARD L. FRANKEL
SOL SATINSKY
HARRY STARR

The report of the Nominating Committee was approved unanimously.

Mr. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, President, submitted his annual report (as printed on pp. 523-28).

Mrs. Harry K. Cohen, co-chairman of the Women’s Committee, led an impressive ceremony during which the Society burned the mortgage previously held on its building.

Mr. Maxwell Whiteman, assistant to the Director of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, read an interesting paper on “Isaac Leeser—the Moulder of American Jewish Life” in honor of Leeser’s 150th birthday anniversary.

The membership meeting was adjourned at ten o'clock in the evening.

Respectfully submitted,
LESSER ZUSSMAN, Secretary
THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR THE YEAR 1955

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

This is the sixty-eighth annual meeting of the Jewish Publication Society. We are one of the oldest national Jewish organizations still in existence. We have behind us a rich and varied corporate career, a career which has seen the rise, the change, and the unfolding of modern American Jewish life. Like a man arrived at the full development of his maturity, we have knowledge gained through suffering and confidence based upon success. And, as we face the problems, challenges, and disappointments of today, we can bring to them a recollection of past difficulties overcome, of projects planned and realized, of ideals both unfulfilled and attained.

The most critical difficulty of the past five or six years, a financial one, has been overcome. Symbolically, we shall burn a mortgage tonight. But not only have we paid off the mortgage on our building on North Fifteenth Street, but we have, in the past year, paid off a bank loan which carried us through some very trying weeks and months and years. For the first time in our more recent history we are free of external debt.

This present sound financial position enables us to devote our energies to something more imaginative and more creative than scrimping to meet bills. As announced at our last meeting, we have begun the most dramatic religio-cultural project of our generation, a new translation of the Bible from the original Hebrew into English. The editorial committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Harry Orlinsky has been working hard, and it promises to have Genesis completed for us by the fall. Thereafter the speed of the project should increase, for our editors have now evolved rules for their scholarly battles; their skirmishes have become more orderly; there is much less word-shed.

The few who have so far seen the results of these men’s labors are excited by the number of corrections they have been able to make, by the clarity with which formerly difficult and obscure passages and phrases have been reworded, and by their preservation of the resonant rhythm of what we were all brought up to cherish as a biblical style. In his recently republished essay “On First Reading Genesis,” Edmund Wilson speaks at length of the difficulties of capturing the rhythm, the emphasis, and the humor of the Bible in any language other than Hebrew. And, with a deal of fatherly pride, I should like to give one example of the kind of small but important improvement which will be found in our new translation. In the original there are a great number of plays upon words. The word Eve is a play upon hawah meaning life; there was not much that could be done about that beyond a footnote. But, after Eve had given birth to Cain, she said—in our older version—“I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord”; and this too involves word-play, for the Hebrew word translated as “gotten” is kanah, you see, Cain-kanah. When I was reading over the suggested new translation, I felt that some English word might be found to retain the wordplay, but I could not think of one, and, thinking out loud in the presence of my daughter, I got a quick suggestion. “Why not ‘gain’; Cain-gain.” I am pleased to be able to say that when this was passed on to the learned scholars, they were delighted. My daughter Ellen will have made a contribution to a great work. This is only one word, to be sure, and there are countless instances where Dr. Orlinsky and his colleagues have made changes which are closer to the Hebrew in feeling, more accurate renderings of the literal meaning of the original, and more easily understandable at the same time to the modern reader. The new translation will not only meet the needs of the
layman who finds Shakespearean English sometimes unintelligible, but it will be at the same time the most scholarly translation ever made in English.

This is quite a job, and it will take a long time and cost a great deal of money before the completed Bible rolls off the press. We estimate that it will cost upwards of $150,000, but we feel it is not only the obligation of our generation, but the pride of our generation, to see that it is done. Our 1917 translation was made possible largely through the generosity of one man, Jacob H. Schiff; we believe that our new translation should be made possible by the American Jewish community on a broader basis. Consequently, we are seeking pledges from a thousand individuals throughout the country to contribute twenty-five dollars a year for six years, so that it can be said that the new JPS translation was given to the world by the largest Jewish community in the world.

We went out to Detroit to explain our project and ask that great community for its help. We sought one hundred Bible pledges. Through the dedicated and enthusiastic leadership of Mr. Leonard N. Simons and Philip Slomovitz, we have already received one hundred and twenty-seven pledges. From New York, in a very brief time, we have received fifty-five more. In the coming year we shall extend the effort to other cities and are sure that they will not fail us. There is no single project that should stir the hearts of the People of the Book more deeply than a new Jewish version of that Book.

Now let us look at our accomplishments during 1955 and plans for 1956.

Publication Program

For 1955:
The first title, published in January, was Jewish Ceremonial Art, edited by Stephen S. Kayser. A total of 6,003 volumes were printed, of which 5,933 were distributed during the year.
The second title, published in May, was The Third Pillar, by Soma Morgenstern, co-published with Farrar, Straus, and Cudahy. Our printing was 2,945 volumes, of which 2,054 were distributed during the year.
The third title, published in June, was Memoirs of American Jews, Volume I, by Jacob R. Marcus. Of the 3,880 volumes printed, 2,332 were distributed during the year.
The third title, published in August as the fourth title of the year, was printed in 3,954 volumes, of which 2,191 were distributed during the year.
The fifth title, published in October, was Synagogue Architecture in the United States, by Rachel Wischnitzer. 3,500 volumes were printed, of which 1,784 were distributed before the end of the year. (This book received a high award in the 1956 Philadelphia Book Show.)
The sixth title, published in December, was Stories of King Solomon, by Lillian S. Freehof. 5,000 volumes were printed, of which 2,243 were distributed during the month.
The seventh title, published in January, 1956, was God in Search of Man: A Philosophy of Judaism, by Abraham J. Heschel, co-published with Farrar, Straus and Cudahy. Our printing was 5,680 volumes, of which 3,006 were distributed upon publication.
The eighth title, published in February, 1956, was the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, 1956 (Vol. 57), edited by Morris Fine, co-published with the American Jewish Committee. Our printing was 3,250 volumes, of which 2,239 were distributed upon publication.
The ninth title, published in July, 1956, was Three Years in America, in two volumes, by Benjamin II, with an introduction by Oscar Handlin. 2,000 sets were printed, of which 970 sets were distributed upon publication.

For 1956:
Our list for the current year is varied and in it all our members should find books that they will want to have and to read. Most unusual modesty prevents me
from dilating at length on at least one of the book treasures which the JPS is offering its members in the coming months. You will notice that an innovation has been introduced; for the first time in its history the President of the Society will make his debut as one of the Society's authors. Whether this is a good innovation we shall let critical reviews and sales decide. At any rate, Max Whiteman did a first-class piece of work, and if any of you felt you have already read The History of the Jews of Philadelphia, do not be misled by a briefer, imperfect work by two fellows named Wolf and Whiteman which appeared in the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent.

Of the ten titles scheduled for publication, two are in the field of Americana and will be subventioned by the Jacob R. Schiff Fund for addition to the Jacob R. Schiff Library of Jewish Contributions to American Democracy.

The two titles in the field of Americana are the following:

Memoirs of American Jews, Volume III, by Jacob R. Marcus, which completes the set of autobiographical statements by Jewish men and women who lived during the middle period of American Jewish history.

The History of the Jews of Philadelphia, from Colonial Times to the Age of Jackson, by Edwin Wolf, 2nd, in collaboration with Maxwell Whiteman, presents a vast mass of historical material—new and old—in a flowing narrative which combines human touches with sound history.

In addition, the following eight titles covering many areas of interest are scheduled for publication during 1956:

The Holy Scriptures According to the Masoretic Text in a new edition including the same text as the 1917 translation, but in a new and more attractive format with larger type and beautiful binding. New material includes notes to indicate the haftarot.

Legends of the Bible, by Louis Ginzberg, will include in a single volume the text, somewhat reduced, of the first four volumes of Legends of the Jews, which ranks as the most distinguished work of Jewish scholarship thus far published in the United States. Simon and Schuster will cooperate with the Society in publishing this important title.

Hebrew: The Eternal Language, by William Chomsky, will present a non-technical study of the Hebrew language as it has developed through a recorded history of almost four thousand years of continuous use.

My Jewish Roots, by Solomon Simon, is a personal narrative of the author's childhood in a little town in Lithuania during the first decade of this century.

The Marked One and Other Stories, by Jacob Picard, contains twelve short stories which describe the folklore and traditions of the Jews who lived in the small towns and villages of Germany during the last centuries. Edited with an introduction by Ludwig Lewisohn.

The Silver Fish and Other Stories of Adventure, by Eleazar Freed, will interest eleven and twelve-year-old children. The exciting stories penetrate the surface of recorded events in the Jewish past and present.

The American Jewish Year Book, 1957 (Vol. 58), edited by Morris Fine 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 1955, we reprinted ten titles as follows: 57,789 volumes of the Bible, making a total of 638,789 in print; 10,250 volumes of Pathways Through the Bible, by Mortimer J. Cohen, making a total of 95,750 in print; 2,000 volumes of Hanukkah: The Feast of Lights, by Emily Solis-Cohen, Jr., making a total of 9,500 in print; 4,200 volumes of A History of the Jews, by Solomon Grayzel, making a total of 33,950 in print; 555 volumes of Judaism and Modern Man, by Will Her-
berg, making a total of 4,296 in print; 1,600 volumes of *Legends of the Jews, Volume V*, by Louis Ginzberg, making a total of 19,600 in print; 2,000 volumes of *Sabbath: The Day of Delight*, by Abraham E. Millgram, making a total of 12,800 in print; and 4,400 volumes of *What the Moon Brought*, by Sadie R. Weilerstein, making a total of 28,100 in print.

**Publication Distribution**

The year 1955 showed a very encouraging increase in the distribution of Bibles and other books. The total amounted to 114,064 volumes, of which 37,805 were selected by members; 72,873 were sold to members and the trade; and 3,386 were distributed as free books. This compares with a total of 95,316 volumes in 1954, of which 35,134 were selected by members, 56,881 sold, and 3,301 distributed free.

Bible sales showed a substantial increase, with 41,271 sold in 1955, compared with 35,421 in 1954 and 26,430 in 1953. *Pathways Through the Bible* also showed a fine increase, with 12,347 sold in 1955, compared with 10,788 in 1954 and 9,606 in 1953.

**Membership Statistics**

Our membership in 1955 showed a significant increase for the first time in several years. We enrolled a total of 8,874, as compared with 8,386 in 1954. Of the total enrolled, 1,809 were new members and 7,065 were renewals. As to classification of membership, 4,829 were enrolled at $5.00; 3,119 at $11.25; 455 at $22.50; and 471 at $25.00 and over.

It is our hope that this breakthrough of the former static condition of the Society's membership enrollment will continue, and that our membership will grow in numbers and strength.

**JPS Bookmark**

The *JPS Bookmark* is now in its third year, with four issues in 1955. In this short period, it has become established as a valuable membership service and has been commented upon very favorably in letters received from members and libraries. We shall welcome further comment and constructive criticism from readers of the *Bookmark* in the hope that we can continue to improve this valuable publication. At this point, I should like to extend our appreciation to Mr. Milton Roseman for his services in helping edit and expedite production of the *Bookmark*.

**Community Welfare Funds**

The Society is still a long way from achieving its goal of inclusion in every welfare fund and federation in the United States and Canada, but encouraging progress was made in 1955. We are now included in sixty-eight communities which allocated $9,575.90, as compared with fifty-three communities which allocated $8,521.50 in 1954. We are continuing our efforts in the remaining communities, and hope that every member will constitute himself "a committee of one" for the purpose of encouraging his local welfare fund or federation to include the Society in its campaign.

**Necrology**

It is my sad duty to report the tragic loss of a number of our valuable co-workers during the past year. Two members of our Publication Committee, both men of
outstanding literary and scholarly attainments, passed on to their eternal reward. Mr. Samuel Charney, who wrote under the pen name of Sh. Niger, served as a member of the Publication Committee for a decade. His death is a grievous blow to the world of Jewish letters.

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Schulman joined the Committee in 1905. Moreover, between 1908 and 1916, he was an active member of the Bible Translation Committee. His loyalty to our Society was always exemplary. Even in his extreme old age, he read manuscripts for us and attended meetings of our Committee held in New York.

Ludwig Lewisohn, gifted author, translator, and critic, although not a member of our Committee, was a constant supporter and ardent champion of the Society. He was ever ready to cooperate with us, and he never failed to urge American Jewry to join our ranks.

Dr. Mark Wischnitzer, author of our volume To Dwell in Safety, which is an authoritative presentation of Jewish migration during the past century, departed this life several months ago.

Sidney Neumann was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1947 to his death in 1956. A generous friend of many philanthropic institutions, he was also interested in Jewish culture. He subventioned the publication of Pathways Through the Bible and remembered the Society in his will.

Zichronom Librachah. The memory of each of these true friends of the Jewish Publication Society shall inspire us, their survivors, to give increased devotion to the cause they so nobly served.

I looked back to the annual report fifty years ago to see how our present situation might appear from that perspective. The Jewish population of the United States then was not quite a million and a half. There were 4,657 members of the JPS. In 1905 the Society published four books, one merely a pamphlet. My grandfather, then President, announced that the translation of the Bible was under way and should shortly be finished. He appealed for $50,000 to publish it. Parenthetically, he continued to promise the publication of the Bible, and ask for the money to do it with, every year as long as he was President, and his successor’s reports carried the same refrain. May I be spared such heartbreaking repetitiveness.

But I found particularly disturbing the report of a Committee, headed by Mr. David Werner Amram, which noted nothing remarkable in the past year, except the loss of 773 members. “This shows,” the Committee commented in a spirit of gloom, “that the Society is essentially unpopular, and in the nature of things must remain so until a broader interest in Jewish literature is established.” “Our Society,” the report continued, “is not a corporation for profit. It has always given its constituents what it thought they ought to have, and not what they wanted, if, indeed, it may be said that they ever want anything in the line of goods we purvey.”

Perhaps we should echo that statement, but I rather believe it is not true today. I believe that we are publishing what our members want; at least, that is our purpose. All of our books, by their varied nature, will not please all our members all of the time, but some of them should please all of them most of the time. Our greatest handicap is not that people would not read our books if they bought them, but that the builders of apartment houses in the cities and ranch houses in suburbia have kept prices down by not providing any space for books, and hence people do not buy books because they have no place to put them. My father has suggested that we ought to go into the furniture business: first sell bookcases, and then books to fill them.

I do not think we have to be practical to that extent, but membership, not so much in terms of dollars, as in terms of people who read Jewish books, is still our main problem. Jews throughout the country seem to be more sympathetic to our aims and our accomplishments—everybody loves us—but the number who join the Society is pitifully small. Our attitude cannot be that of fifty years ago: Publish good books and solace yourselves with your own righteousness. We shall continue to
publish good books, and shall try to educate the Jews of this country to want to read them. It is an uphill fight, but it is really what we were founded for, and it must be our main purpose.

I want to close this report with what strikes me as one of the most obvious differences between American Jewry and any other Jewry in the history of our people. The Publication Society just issued a wonderfully warm account of a Jewish childhood in a village near the Minsk swamps, of the kind of life which is no more. There a little boy, crippled as a child, lived with his shoemaker father, his baker mother, and seven siblings. Since he could move but with difficulty, everything fed his terrors. The whistlings of a shunting freight engine at dawn, an engine which he had never seen, was to him the devil, and he feared it. When the fear became so overwhelming, he whimpered and his mother came to reassure him. "Ours is a Jewish home," she told him, "with mezuzahs on the doors and a full shelf of sacred books." How many Jewish homes, giving equal security to children—not perhaps from the devil, but from the terrors of an atomic age—are there in this country?

Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN WOLF, 2nd, President