The Jewish Publication Society of America

REPORT OF NINETY-THIRD YEAR

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(Elected June 14, 1981)

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The 93rd annual meeting of the Jewish Publication Society of America, held in Philadelphia on June 14, 1981, at the University City Holiday Inn, elected Dr. Muriel Mallin Berman president.

Dr. Berman, who served as a vice-president and treasurer of the Society, has been active in business, the arts, educational activities, and in community affairs. Vice-chairman and vice-president of Hess's, Inc., she is also an underwriting member of Lloyd's of London. Dr. Berman is a national board member of Hadassah and is chairman of the Hadassah-Israel Art Show. A member of numerous museums and art organizations, she is involved with the “Art in the U.S. Embassies” program. She resides in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and is chairman of the board of Lehigh County Community College.

Dr. Berman served as a U.S. state department delegate to the UN International Women's Year Conference. She holds several gubernatorial appointments, serving as commissioner on the Pennsylvania Commission for Women and the Pennsylvania Commission for the Humanities, and as a director of the State Board of Education for State Colleges and Universities.

Bernard G. Segal, chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave the report of that committee, and the following officers and trustees were elected:

Vice-presidents: Stuart E. Eizenstat, a Washington attorney, head of the domestic policy staff under President Carter; Norma F. Furst, Philadelphia, dean of student affairs at Temple University and president of the B'nai B'rith International Hillel Commission; Norman Oler, professor of mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Robert S. Rifkind of New York, attorney and member of the board of governors of the American Jewish Committee; and Charles Weiner, judge of the U.S. district court for the eastern district of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Robert P. Frankel, a Philadelphia attorney, was reelected treasurer, and Marlene F. Lachman, an attorney with the Pennsylvania State Liquor Control Board, was elected secretary. Robert P. Abrams, of Philadelphia, former vice-president of JPS, former president and executive consultant of Williams, Brown and Earle, and president of the Philadelphia and Montgomery County March of Dimes, was elected chairman of the executive committee.

The following trustees were reelected: Muriel M. Berman, Allentown; Edward J. Bloustein, New Brunswick; Stuart E. Eizenstat, Washington; Max Frankel, New York; Roberta Levy, Minneapolis; and Alan H. Molod, Stanley I. Sheerr, Charles R. Weiner, and Gerald I. Wolpe, all of Philadelphia.

Jack Cummings, of Montreal, chairman of the board of Tel Aviv University, was newly elected as a member of the JPS board of trustees.

Bernard I. Levinson was reelected executive vice-president and Maier Deshell was reelected editor.

Chaim Potok read a tribute to the memory of Solomon Grayzel, and Yosef Yerushalmi described the activities of the Publication Committee. Following the reports of the president and treasurer, Maier Deshell introduced Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, who addressed the Society on “Mordecai M. Kaplan: In Celebration of His Hundredth Birthday.”

From the Annual Report of JPS President Edward B. Shils

At the 1956 Annual Meeting twenty-five years ago, our president, Edwin Wolf 2nd, said: “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."

Seventy-five years ago we needed $50,000 to commence a new translation of the Bible. We found a donor in Jacob Schiff and were able to print *The Holy Scriptures.*

Twenty-five years ago the president asked for funds for a new translation of the Bible. Many small contributions were received from the community and we published *The Torah* and *The Prophets.*

This year I am happy to announce the completion of the Bible translation with the publication of *The Writings: Kethubim* this fall.

While we are on a sounder footing than we were 75, 50, or even 25 years ago, as we approach our hundredth anniversary, we must prepare for the future so that we may continue to serve the Jewish community.

In order to be able to continue to publish important works of Judaica, some of which are large and expensive, we will have to increase our endowment fund and seek contributions from the community. I would propose that we seek for this purpose $1,000,000.

Bible—With the publication of *The Writings: Kethubim* this fall, we must prepare a new one-volume edition of *The Holy Scriptures* so that the Jewish community will finally have available a new translation of the entire Bible.

In addition, we will need a new Hebrew/English edition of the entire Bible, a Hebrew/English edition of *The Torah and Haftorah,* as well as a new Pulpit Bible.

This will require the sum of $250,000.

Our Bible Commentary program is well under way, and we look forward to the completion by our scholars of the first two books in the next few months.

This important project, we estimate, will require $500,000.

The time is near for the start of the research on the hundredth anniversary of the JPS, which we will celebrate in 1988—seven years from now.

For this I propose the raising of the sum of $100,000.

As the subtitle of *The Third Jewish Catalog,* which we published last year, is "Creating Community," it seems appropriate at this time to discuss the role of JPS and its relation to the Jewish community.
JPS provides books for:

1. Individual members for their own reading, as well as for gifts that are given to others on particular occasions such as bar/bat mitzvahs, graduations, anniversaries, etc.

2. Libraries in the synagogue, university, and community.

3. Classrooms—Our Bibles, and many of our other books, are used in Hebrew and Sunday schools, in college and university courses, particularly in the Judaic Studies departments, and at the rabbinical schools for the education of our future leaders and scholars.

JPS is part of the Jewish community and willingly participates with other organizations. We believe in cooperating with others, as this creates a stronger bond among our people. A few recent examples of books that we published jointly are:


Israel—In addition to opening a new office in Jerusalem, we exhibited our books at the Jerusalem Book Fair, and we held a reception for many of our authors who live in Israel. Two forthcoming books by Israeli authors are *Spain, the Jews, and Franco* by Haim Avni, a professor at the Hebrew University, and a children’s book, *In the Shade of the Chestnut Tree*, by Benjamin Tene. This book was awarded the Ze’ev Prize for juvenile literature.

Russia—We will show our solidarity with our Russian brethren by exhibiting JPS books again at the Moscow Book Fair this September.

Awards—During the past year, we were gratified to learn that Salo W. Baron, the author of *A Social and Religious History of the Jews*, which we published jointly with Columbia University Press, received the Kenneth B. Smilen Present Tense Award in history.

Sadie Rose Weilerstein, the author of the K’tonton books, was honored by the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the first K’tonton story, and the Association of Jewish Libraries is awarding her the Sydney Taylor Award.

At the Philadelphia Book Show *The Best of K’tonton* was awarded first prize in the juvenile division for design, printing, and binding.
In 1980 we had 15,356 members and distributed 181,385 books—both figures represent increases over the previous year.

We published fifteen books—four of them were children's books, and the reviews we have received have been highly complimentary.

I would like to thank the members of the Board of Trustees, the officers and the staff of the Society for their assistance and cooperation during my three terms as president.

Fifty years ago in 1931 Dr. Judah L. Magnes, chancellor of the recently-founded Hebrew University, addressed our Society and told our members about the beginnings and the growth of their library. He concluded his remarks with the words, "We are there on the hill, and we look out over the whole Jewish world, East and West. It is the lighthouse which the ships passing can see. The Jewish community is breaking up in many of its ancient centers, and there is wandering and passing despair. The lighthouse gives some of them hope as they wander from shore to shore, over all the seas of the globe, but that lighthouse should give all of us hope and encouragement, even though we be centered in fixed, stable communities, for though our bodies may not be tossing on the deep, our spirits are storm-tossed, and we do not know our compass. It is these books that will let us see through their windows into the past in order that we may look with enlightenment and with open eyes into the long vista of the future."

JPS Treasurer's Report for 1980

Revenues from book sales and membership increased 16.2 per cent during 1980, whereas expenditures increased only 9.7 per cent. Thus we were able to reduce our operating deficit 27 per cent compared with the year before.

Income from book sales and memberships was $1,012,614, as compared to $871,455 in 1979, and expenditures were $1,287,103, as against $1,172,355. Income from donations and investments totalled $183,259, a four per cent increase over the previous year.

Our expenses exceeded our income by $91,230, which is a reduction of $33,861 from the 1979 deficit. Fortunately, these negative figures were offset by a bequest of $93,737, which we received from Howard Spencer Levy and for which we are most grateful.

During the past year we were obliged to raise our membership dues in an effort to keep up with inflation. Our special purpose funds are prudently invested, with guidance from our investment adviser.
Your continued support is making it possible for us, within our financial capacity, to publish significant books on important Jewish subjects, and we look to the future with confidence.

**JPS Publications**

In 1980 JPS published the following new volumes:

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<tr>
<th>Title and Author</th>
<th>Printed</th>
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<tr>
<td>NICANOR’S GATE</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Eric A. Kimmel</td>
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<tr>
<td>HONI AND HIS MAGIC CIRCLE</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Phillis Gershator</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, Volume 80</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edited by Milton Himmelfarb and David Singer</td>
<td>(Co-published with the American Jewish Committee)</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE JEWS OF YUGOSLAVIA: A Quest for Community</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<td>by Harriet Pass Freidenreich</td>
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<tr>
<td>A SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF THE JEWS, Volume XVII</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Salo W. Baron</td>
<td>(Joint publication with Columbia University Press)</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE JEW: Essays from Martin Buber’s Journal “Der Jude,” 1916–1928</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edited by Arthur A. Cohen</td>
<td>(Co-published with the University of Alabama Press)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A FAMILY PASSOVER</td>
<td>7,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Anne, Jonathan &amp; Norma Rosen</td>
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<tr>
<td>COME UNDER THE WINGS: A Midrash on Ruth</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Grace Goldin (Paperback reprint)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MANDARINS, JEWS, AND MISSIONARIES: The Jewish Experience in the Chinese Empire</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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<td>by Michael Pollak</td>
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<tr>
<td>VOICES OF WISDOM: Jewish Ideals and Ethics for Everyday Living</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Francine Klagsbrun</td>
<td>(Co-published with Pantheon Books)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RABAD OF POSQUIERES: A Twelfth-Century Talmudist</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Isadore Twersky (Paperback reprint)</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE BOOK OF JOB</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<td>A New Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROADS TO EXTINCTION: Essays on the Holocaust</td>
<td>4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Philip Friedman</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE BEST OF K'TONTON</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Sadie Rose Weilerstein</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>THE THIRD JEWISH CATALOG: Creating Community</td>
<td>25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compiled and edited by Sharon and Michael Strassfeld</td>
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1980 Reprints

During 1980 JPS reprinted the following books:

THE PURIM ANTHOLOGY edited by Philip Goodman (2,000); PSALMS (3,000); THE ALEPH-BET STORY BOOK by Deborah Pessin (2,000); JEWISH WORSHIP by Abraham E. Millgram (2,000); THE ROSH HASHANAH ANTHOLOGY edited by Philip Goodman (2,000); LEGENDS OF THE JEWS—Volumes I and II by Louis Ginzberg (1,500); THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (28,000); THE JEWISH CATALOG compiled and edited by Richard Siegel, Michael and Sharon Strassfeld (15,000); THE SECOND JEWISH CATALOG compiled and edited by Michael and Sharon Strassfeld (15,000); BLESSED IS THE MATCH by Marie Syrkin (2,000); JOSEPH KARO by R.J. Zwi Werblowsky (2,000); A BOOK OF HEBREW LETTERS by Mark Podwal (2,000); THE TORAH (10,000); COMMUNITY AND POLITY by Daniel J. Elazar-paperback reprint (1,500); LEGENDS OF JERUSALEM by Zev Vilnay (2,000); THE RISE AND FALL OF THE JUDAEAN STATE-Volume II by Solomon Zeitlin (1,000); TEN AND A KID by Sadie Rose Weilerstein (2,000); ALBERT EINSTEIN by William Wise (1,000).