

**PUBLICATIONS OF THE
AMERICAN
JEWISH HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, NO.8**

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Publications of the American Jewish historical society, No.8 by Various

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PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY
1900

OBJECTS.

The object of this Society is to collect and publish material bearing upon the history of our country. It is known that Jews in Spain and Portugal participated in some degree in the voyages which led to the discovery of America, and that there were Jews from Holland, Great Britain, Jamaica and other countries among the earliest settlers of several of the colonies. There were also a number of Jews in the Continental army, and others contributed liberally to defray the expenses of the Revolutionary war. Since the foundation of our government a number of Jews have held important public positions. The genealogy of these men and the record of their achievements will, when gathered together, be of value and interest to the historian and perchance contribute materially to the history of our country.

The objects for which this Society was organized are not sectarian but American. The co-operation of students of history and of all persons who have an interest in the work of this Society is cordially invited.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The sixth annual meeting of the Society was held in New York, at the Assembly Rooms of the Temple Emanuel, December 29-30, 1897. A large number of persons was in attendance at the various sessions.

The presence of the venerable Judge Daly, the pioneer worker in the history of the settlement of Jews in America, being noticed by the President, he was escorted to the platform and made a few remarks indicative of his interest in the Society's work.

The meeting for the transaction of business was held on the afternoon of Wednesday, December 29, 1897.

The President delivered his annual address, and the Secretary presented a report, stating that the work of the Society exhibited satisfactory progress during the year, and a gratifying increase of interest has been shown, both on the part of its membership, as well as by scholars in various parts of the world not connected with the Society.

Valuable original documents have been brought to our attention by the Rev. Joseph M. Corcos of Curaçao; Dr. S. Schechter of Cambridge, England, and our Vice-President, Mr. Mendes Cohen.

There are at present 215 members, consisting of 6 honorary members, 12 corresponding members, 3 life members, and 194 ordinary members. The Society has lost by death, during the year, Mr. Louis Schnabel of New York, Mr. Jacob Sulzberger of Philadelphia, and Rev. Dr. S. Morais of Philadelphia.

One publication, number 6 of the series, containing the papers read at the last annual meeting, held at Baltimore,

was published. The amount of material on hand for publication is considerably in excess of the funds available for that purpose, and it is extremely desirable that a special publication fund be provided.

Mr. William Jones Salomon has donated to the Society \$100 for the purpose of enabling the Society to distribute its publications free to College and University Libraries in this country. A distribution under this fund is now proceeding.

Mr. Simon W. Rosendale reported to the Society upon the question of incorporation, and it was voted that the Society be incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia.

The following officers were elected: President, Honorable Oscar S. Straus; Vice-Presidents, Honorable Simon W. Rosendale, Mendes Cohen, Esq., and Professor Charles Gross; Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Cyrus Adler; Recording Secretary, Dr. Herbert Friedenwald; Treasurer, Professor Richard Gottheil.

Additional members of the Executive Council are: Dr. B. Felsenthal, Professor Morris Jastrow, Jr., Honorable Mayer Sulzberger, N. Taylor Phillips, Honorable Simon Wolf, Dr. J. H. Hollander, Max J. Kohler, John Samuel, and Dr. David Philipson.

On December 30, 1897, the Council presented to the Society an amendment to the Constitution increasing the number of Vice-Presidents from 3 to 4. This was unanimously carried; and, on motion of Dr. Adler, Professor Herbert B. Adams was elected the fourth Vice-President.

On Wednesday evening, December 29, the members attended a reception tendered to the Society by the Honorable and Mrs. Oscar S. Straus.

The following papers were presented at the meeting:

I. *Biographical Sketch of Commodore Uriah P. Levy*, by Honorable Simon Wolf, Washington, D. C.

II. *Phases in the History of Religious Liberty in America, with Special Reference to the Jews*, by Max J. Kohler, Esq., New York.

III. *Jacob Philadelphia—Mystic and Physicist*, by Mr. Julius F. Sachse, Philadelphia.

IV. *Site of the First Shearith Israel Synagogue in New York, with Maps and Drawings*, by Mr. Albion Morris Dyer.

V. *Lewis Gomez, a Colonial Jew; and his Descendants*, by N. Taylor Phillips, LL. B., New York.

VI. *Documents Relating to the First Congregation in North America*, by Rev. Dr. H. Pereira Mendes, New York.

VII. *Notes on Jacob Henry and the Gratz Family*, by Honorable Mayer Sulzberger, Philadelphia. (Presented by Dr. Adler.)

VIII. *New York Jews in the Struggle for American Independence*, by Leon Hühner, Esq., New York.

IX. *A Youthful Philanthropic Hero*, by Rev. A. H. Nieto, New York.

X. *Some Early American Zionist Projects*, by Max J. Kohler, Esq., New York.

Not read at the meeting:

XI. *Jewish Pioneers of the Ohio Valley*, by Rev. Dr. David Philipson of Cincinnati.

XII. *Documents from Curaçao*, by Rev. J. M. Corcos, Curaçao.

XIII. *A Brave Frontiersman*, by Rev. Henry Cohen, Galveston, Texas.

XIV. *Ezra Stiles and the Jews of Newport*, by Rev. W. Willner, Meridian, Miss.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The seventh annual meeting of the Society was held in Philadelphia, at Witherspoon Hall, on December 26, 1898, 70 persons being in attendance. In the absence of the President, the Honorable Simon W. Rosendale presided. A letter was presented from the Honorable Oscar S. Straus resigning the office of President of the Society, in view of his absence from the country as United States Minister to Turkey. In presenting this letter, Mr. Rosendale remarked upon the great services rendered to the Society by Mr. Straus, and expressed his confidence that in his new field of usefulness he would so distinguish himself in our country's service that his career would furnish ample and valuable material for the future historian. It was unanimously resolved that the Secretary prepare an appropriate expression of the appreciation of the Society for the labors of Mr. Straus in its behalf.

The Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Cyrus Adler, reported that the Society numbered 216 members, consisting of 6 honorary, 12 corresponding, 4 life and 194 regular members. During the year, the Society had lost by death one member, Isidor Bush, and a generous friend, Lazarus Straus.

The Recording Secretary, Dr. Herbert Friedenwald, reported that the Society was incorporated as directed, in the District of Columbia, on December 19, 1898, Simon Wolf, Cyrus Adler and Herbert Friedenwald being the incorporators. He also reported by direction of the Council, the fact that Dr. Hollander had been requested to collect details respecting the names, ranks and services of Jews who served in the Army and Navy during the Spanish-

American War; that on motion of Mr. Samuel, a resolution was adopted, to issue a circular addressed to the Hebrew burial grounds throughout the United States, asking them to have the records of burials and location of graves kept in careful order by a competent person, by reason of their historical and genealogical importance; that on motion of Dr. Adler it was resolved to collect inscriptions in Jewish burial grounds in America prior to 1850, supplementing this list from the permanent records.

The Treasurer, Dr. Gottheil, presented the following report :

Richard Gottheil, Treasurer, in account with the American Jewish Historical Society, October 1, 1898.

Dr.	Cr.
To Bal. Knic. Trust Co.	Printing Publications,
Oct. 1, 1897 \$724.34	No. 6 \$397.51
Dues from Members . . . 800.00	Miscell. Printing and
Back Dues 95.00	Stationery 48.51
Two Life Memberships . . . 200.00	Clerical Services 54.12
W. Salomon, Esq 100.00	Copying of MSS 60.00
Brentano's (Sale of	Insurance 16.80
Publications) 28.00	Janitorial Services 4.90
Interest, K. T. C. (to	
Dec. 3, 1897) 3.86	<hr/>
Interest, K. T. C. (to	\$581.84
June 30, 1898) 6.34	
Interest, A. S. B. (Jan.	
1898) 16.43	
Interest, A. S. B. (July	
1898) 21.10	
Total Receipts \$1995.07	
Total Expenditure 581.84	
Balance \$1413.23	

STATEMENT OF THE ASSETS OF THE SOCIETY.

Balance in K. T. Company	\$1047.93
Deposited in Albany Sav. Bank (Int.)	37.53
“ “ “ “	300.00
Cash in hands of Treasurer	27.77
Former Deposit in Albany Sav. Bank	805.47
Present Deposit in Albany Sav. Bank	1143.00