

October 29, 1964

Min. Y. Raphael, M.K.
Deputy Minister of Health
Government of Israel
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Minister Raphael:

As I had promised you last week, I am sending you herewith a list of approximately ten (10) works which, in addition to the two (2) Leviticus volumes by Hoffmann, should constitute the newest additions to the "Jakob Michael Library."

1. Bacher's "Tradition and Tradenten..." (#12 on your list), which we believe will prove most helpful to young Talmudic scholars in discovering the background of the various personalities mentioned in the Talmud.
2. Berliner, "Gesammelte Schriften" -- a work which will be helpful to any student of Judaism (#13 on your list)
3. Benamozegh's "Israel et l'humanite" (#29) and:
4. Benamozegh's "Morale Juive et Morale Chretienne" (#30); two works which are important expositions of Judaism's superior morality and humaneness, and a defense against its detractors.
5. Gudemann's "Geschichte der Erziehungs-wesens..." (#39) -- an extremely important volume which ought to be readily available in complete Hebrew translation.
6. Horovitz's "Frankfurter Rabbiner" (#47), a most valuable historical work, enshrining the honored Rabbinate of Frankfurt, and which should be available in Hebrew.
7. H.J. Michael's "Ore ha-Hayyim," the original (Hebrew) of which is quite rare, and ought to be reprinted as a signal contribution to Jewish historiography.
8. I suggest a collection of various articles by Joseph Wohlgemuth which appeared 1912-1930 in his "Jeschurun." Rabbi Jung will be willing to suggest which articles ought to be prepared for translation and publication.
9. D. Z. Hoffmann's "Mer Schmu'el" (not on your list) -- a biography of the great Amora which is both scholarly and appealing to the general informed reader.
10. Jakobovitz's "Jewish Medical Ethics" (#51) has made a very good impression upon the Jewish medical community in the U.S.A. and ought to be disseminated in Hebrew in Israel.

I would like to point out that Mr. Michael's major interest is not in the kind of work which appeals only to a narrow and exclusive group of professional scholars and has no wider circulation. He is primarily concerned to include, in the Library, those works which have proven of value both to the scholarly world and to the general, well-informed reading public, and which, in addition, serve to encourage them in their Jewish commitment and loyalty. I am certain that, although an occasional book that belongs in the former category may be acceptable, there are many more that fall within the second group which

deserve wider dissemination in Israel.

Furthermore, I would respectfully urge you to reconsider some of the volumes you have proposed for publication by Mosad Harav Kook. Not all of them are free from anti-religious bias, and it might be as inappropriate for Mosad Harav Kook as for the Jakob Michael Library to give them further currency by translating and publishing them. As examples, please refer, among others, to No. 38 of your proposed list. I am sure such titles were included by accident or oversight.

Amongst original Hebrew volumes, I might recommend a manuscript available in the Jewish Theological Seminary:

127 (113) זכרון מורי, חיי חסידים

Perhaps 100 off-set copies of this clearly written manuscript could be prepared. This is a valuable explanation of the commentary of Nachmanides on the Pentateuch, and will be of wide interest. However, before proceeding on this, please inform Mr. Michael of the cost, and whether the off-set will be done here or in Israel.

Sincerely,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

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CC: Dr. Goldschmidt
Mr. Michael