

## *To Our Readers...*

Over the past half century, *American Jewish Archives* earned its reputation as a distinguished scholarly journal on the history of the American Jewish experience. The man most responsible for this remarkable achievement is none other than the journal's venerated founder and long-standing editor, Jacob Rader Marcus. With the help of several extremely talented and devoted associates, specifically Selma Taeubler, Bertram W. Korn, Stanley F. Chyet and, most recently, Abraham J. Peck, Dr. Marcus transformed his biannual "bulletin" into one of two major journals devoted to the entire length and breadth of the American Jewish experience. Today, *American Jewish Archives* remains a valuable resource for the study and preservation of American Jewish history.

In the inaugural issue of *American Jewish Archives*, Dr. Marcus set forth a brief rationale for having the American Jewish Archives publish its own journal:

In order to inform the interested public and co-workers in the field of American history of our progress and activities, we will publish a semi-annual bulletin: including lists of our more important accessions and, in each issue, at least one article of scientific caliber.

The mission that Dr. Marcus outlined one-half century ago still endures. His vision will remain our lodestar; his academic standards will be our touchstone. With this commitment and in this spirit, we pause at this particular juncture to note the changing of the editorial guard and, consequently, the beginning of a new chapter in the history of this journal.

We are pleased to make note of several new developments that are intended to betoken the advent of some new editorial initiatives: first, our readers will note that the name of the journal has been amended slightly but significantly. This change has been made in order to make a clear distinction between the name of our institution and its journal. This serial will henceforth be known as *The American Jewish Archives Journal*.

Second, we are proud to announce the establishment of the Academic Advisory and Editorial Board. The members of this board will provide the journal's editors with counsel relative to the journal's academic content. Together with the journal's editors, the board members will evaluate articles being considered for publication. The board will also advise the editors in matters concerning the journal's publication policies.

Third, *The American Jewish Archives Journal* will once again re-dedicate itself to its long-standing interest in publishing annotated documentary source material. In the present volume, for instance, we are featuring the publication of two annotated translations of significant German and Hebrew documents. Simultaneously, the journal will continue to fulfill its original mandate by informing "the interested public and co-workers in the field of American history of our progress and activities" and by publishing scholarly articles and book reviews that we expect will be of interest to our readers.

We are also introducing, with this edition of our journal, a new cover design and layout style. It is our hope that this new graphic format will make this journal's noteworthy content ever more accessible to our loyal readers.

The aforementioned modifications notwithstanding, the journal's core purpose remains unchanged. The agenda that Dr. Marcus delineated fifty years ago will remain this journal's primary *raison d'être*:

We seek to ascertain the facts as they actually are; and we desire to promote the study of materials that will further a knowledge of the American Jew, not only for the purpose of understanding this present period in the millennial history of the Jewish people, but also so that we may grasp the ethos of Americanism and thus make another contribution to the history of humanity.

G. P. Z.  
*Cincinnati, Ohio*  
*July 1999*