

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF
ALBERT'S SILVER JUBILEE IN 1923,
CELEBRATING HIS 25 YEARS OF TEACHING
[with translations by Judith N. Levi]**

I. 1923 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Städtliche Nachrichten

Mayen 28. März [1923]

[Silbernes Amstjubiläum] Am Ostersonntag den 1. April kann der Lehrer an der israelitischen Schule hierselbst, Herr Levi, auf eine 25jährige Amtstätigkeit zurückblicken. Er war zuerst als Lehrer in Nieheim i. W. [Westfalen?], dem Begräbnisorte Friedrich Wilhelm Webers, des Dichters von "Dreizehnlinden", tätig und wirkt jetzt seit 13 Jahren in Mayen. Er hat es verstanden, sich auch in hiesiger Stadt die Verehrung [reverence] und Liebe der ihm anvertrauten Jugend sowie die Wertschätzung derer Eltern und die Achtung nicht nur der jüdischen Gemeinde, sondern auch aller seiner Mitbürger zu erwerben. Mögen dem Herrn Jubilar, der auch im Dienste der Synagoge sich viele Verdienste erworben hat, noch viele Jahre segensreicher Wirksamkeit beschieden sein!

Town reports

Mayen March 28 [1923]

[Silver Anniversary] On Easter Sunday, April 1, the teacher of the local Israelite school, Herr Levi, can look back on 25 years of professional activity. He was active first as a teacher in Nieheim i. W. [in Westphalia], the burial site of Friedrich Wilhelm Weber, the poet who wrote "Thirteen Linden Trees," and has been working in Mayen for 13 years. He knew how to earn for himself in this town the reverence and love of the youth who are entrusted to him as well as the esteem of all of his fellow citizens. May many more years of blessed activity be given to this man celebrating his [silver] anniversary, who has also earned for himself many merits in service to the synagogue.

II. CONGRATULATORY LETTER FROM A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

[The original handwritten note, written in *Sütterlinschrift*, has been donated to the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. It was transliterated for Judith Levi in August 2010 by Henry Schüftan, a native of Germany born in 1914.]

Mayen, den 1. April 1923

Sehr geehrter Herr Kollege Levi:

Da ich am vorigen Donnerstag von der Grippe befallen wurde, die mich zwei Tage aufs Krankenbett warf und mich jetzt noch an das Zimmer fesselt, bin ich zu meinem großen Bedauern verhindert, Ihnen, Ihrer werten Frau Gemahlin und Ihrer ganzen Familie persönlich meine herzlichsten Glückwünsche zu Ihrem heutigen Silbernen Amtsjubiläum darzubringen. Ich übermittle sie Ihnen hiermit schriftlich und zwar aufs tiefsten Herzen.

Ihrer Verdienste für die Herausbildung der Ihnen anvertrauten Jugend und den Gottesdienst und Ihre ganze Gemeinde wird ein Berufenerer [*sic*] als ich zu würdigen wissen. Doch sind Sie selber (?) nicht nur im Kreise der Kollegen, sondern auch in der ganzen Bürgerschaft bekannt und verdienen volles Lob, das Ihnen heute im reichen Masse gezollt wird.

Ihr von keinem Schatten getrübt es allzeit freundschaftliches Verhältnis zum Kreise unseres Kollegiums beweist ebenfalls Ihren ehrenwerten Character.

Nicht unerwähnt will ich Ihre hohen Verdienste um das deutsche schwergeprüfte Vaterland während und nach der Kriegszeit lassen, die auch durch eine Ordensverleihung ausgezeichnet worden sind, der Sie sich mit noch einem anderen unserer Herren Kollegen auf den Schlachtfeldern, auf denen Sie bis zu dem bitteren Ende tapfer und brav aushielten, das Eiserne Kreuz erworben haben.

Möge Gott, der Lenker der Menschenschicksale, Ihnen eine stete volle Gesundheit und die Kraft verleihen, noch eine lange Reihe von Jahren in Ihrem edlen Berufe segensreich zu wirken zum Wohle der Jugend, Ihrer Gemeinde, der Stadt Mayen, des preußischen und deutschen Vaterlandes und nicht zuletzt zu Ihrem eigenem Besten und dem Ihrer Familie!

Mögen Sie auch mir weiterhin Ihre Freundschaft bewahren, sowie auch die meinige zu Ihnen unveränderlich bleiben wird!

Ich schließe mit den herzlichsten Grüßen für Sie und Ihre werte Frau Gemahlin sowie Ihrer ganze Familie, auch im Namen unserer Kinder, die sich ebenfalls meinen Glückwünschen anschließen.

Ihr Joseph Hilger, Rektor A.D.
[A.D. = außer Dienst]

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Mayen, April 1, 1923

To my dear colleague Mr. Levi:

Since I became afflicted with the flu last Thursday, which kept me in my sickbed for two days and still has me confined to my room, I was prevented to my great regret from personally bringing to you, to your worthy/gracious [*? werte*] wife, and to your whole family my very best wishes on the [professional] Silver Jubilee you are celebrating today [i.e., 25 years as an elementary schoolteacher in Jewish schools]. I offer those wishes to you herewith in writing, and indeed from the depths of my heart.

An appointee [*? Berufenerer*] like me will know how to appreciate your service toward the development of the young people entrusted to you, as well as for the religious services [conducted by Albert in the Mayen synagogue] and for your entire congregation. Indeed you yourself are known not only in the circle of our colleagues, but also in the

entire citizenry, and you have earned the high praise that today is being offered in abundant measure.

I also don't want to omit your great service to the sorely tested German Fatherland during and after the war years, which has also been acknowledged by the conferring of an award, the Iron Cross, which you -- together with another of our colleagues -- earned on the battlefields, on which you persevered courageously to the bitter end.

May God, the pilot of human destiny, grant you continuous good health and the strength to function beneficially [*segensreich*] in your noble profession for many more years for the benefit of the young people, your community, the town of Mayen, the Prussian and German Fatherland, and last but not least, for your own benefit and that of your family!

May you also continue to extend your friendship to me, just as mine for you will remain immutable!

I close with warmest wishes for you and your worthy wife as well as your entire family, also in the name of our children, who join me in extending these wishes.

Yours,
Joseph Hilger
Principal (retired)

III. CONGRATULATORY LETTER FROM MAYEN'S MAYOR

[[Translation by Judith N. Levi, with help from Sybille Hettenbach-Ebel, as of 2-27-06]

[Stationery shows: The Mayor of the Town of Mayen, 31 March 1923]

Dear Mr. Levi!

I learned from the newspaper that on April 1st of this year you will be able to look back on 25 years of activity in school service. The town, represented by its President of the School Deputation, to whose common welfare you have contributed such faithful service, does not wish to fall short in coming along to offer you [its] acknowledgment and heartiest good wishes. Today you will recognizing with astonishment how 25 long, long years have rushed by into the big, broad sea of the past. And so [some] cheerful thoughts may arise in you. The teacher who has pursued his quiet and unhurried path, step by step, year by year, in a German Empire that has unfortunately been sorely tested may look back on the path with satisfaction. He is very worthy in his profession. The mission of a school is to educate [its pupils] in civilization and culture, in piety and love of the Fatherland. Each of these words should embody praise for you, who have carried out your difficult charge -- not for [the sake of] ambition and fame and gold -- [but] quietly, actively, and faithfully. And so I know, my very dear teacher, that your energies will be devoted to your ideal profession in the future as well. To work tirelessly for the welfare of the younger generation, as a faithful servant of the state, without making any fuss -- those are the attributes of your profession, which you may also consider to be your own. I know that the rank/status of teacher is completely equal to *dem Nährstand* [perhaps

translatable as: other helping professions]. And thus we esteem and honor it. May you, my very dear Teacher, seek and find your reward in the love of the young. You may be certain of the confidence and esteem of your President [possibly referring to the president of the board of education, or the equivalent], and may you find its expression on your anniversary today in the written presentation of my heartfelt best wishes.

Stay hale and hearty for many years to come, a courageous and energetic part of our community. May God continue to bless your work.

I.V.

Dietzler [?]