



ACCEPTANCE OF THE TORAH

With every great civilizing force, there follows a reverence, a remembrance of things past. Antiques, relics, heirlooms are treasured and passed from hand to hand, valued far beyond their intrinsic worth. In them we realize that we are but guardians for what others have made and loved.

Within this framework, and writing for the congregation, I accept this historic Scroll, which came from Moravska Ostrava, Czechoslovakia. Torn by a merciless invader in 1939 from its accustomed place in the Temple, its very survival has an element of mystery about it. The Germans destroyed everything else; why not this little piece of wood and paper? No one will ever know the workings of their evil minds. All we do know is that a number of Scrolls survived the holocaust, were catalogued and refurbished by the Westminster Synagogue of London.

Dedicated December 1, 1967 in the New Reform Temple by Rabbi Stuart E. Davis of Kansas City, Missouri and by Rabbi Jacob Rothschild of Atlanta, Georgia, this Scroll, this Torah, can give to the congregation an element of history, a feeling of continuity with Jewish life and religion, a revival of hope that not all human effort can be destroyed.

We accept this Scroll with all our mind and heart and spirit.

Paul Uhlmann, Jr.
President
December 1, 1967