

skill and imagination, he was also a devoted and informed lover of music and art. He was a critical scholar deeply appreciative of America, a true citizen of the world, and a remarkable human being.

Merle Curti

BERTRAM WALLACE KORN

Bertram Wallace Korn, rabbi, navy chaplain, and historian, was born to Manuel and Blanche (Bergman) Korn in Philadelphia on October 6, 1918. His early education was in the public schools of Philadelphia. He later attended the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University, and in 1939 graduated with an A.B. and honors from the University of Cincinnati. Following rabbinical studies at Cincinnati's Hebrew Union College, he was ordained in 1943, and from 1943 to 1944 was rabbi at the Government Street Temple in Mobile, Alabama. From 1944 to 1946 he served as a navy chaplain in China. He remained in the chaplain corps through the rest of his life, attaining the rank of rear admiral (the first rabbi to do so) in 1975. From 1946 to 1949 Korn continued his work toward a doctorate in Hebrew Letters at Hebrew Union (awarded in 1949) and spent the year 1948-49 as an assistant professor there.

Korn returned to Philadelphia in 1949 to become senior rabbi at the synagogue in which he grew up, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Philadelphia's Elkins Park suburb.

Korn's work as a historian paralleled his career at Keneseth Israel. His interests centered on Jewish-American history with special emphases on the history of Jews in the antebellum South and on southern Jewish printers, publishers, and booksellers. Among his prolific output of books, articles, and research notes were *American Jewry and the Civil War* (1951), *Jewish Roots in America* (1953), *Eventful Years and Experi-*

ences: Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Jewish History (1954), *The American Reaction to the Mortara Case, 1858-1859* (1957), *Benjamin Levy: New Orleans Printer and Publisher* (1961), *Jews and Negro Slavery in the Old South* (1962), *The Early Jews of New Orleans* (1969), and *The Jews of Mobile, Alabama, 1763-1841* (1970). Korn's history of New Orleans Jews received a merit award from the American Association for State and Local History in 1970.

Korn initiated a long correspondence with the American Antiquarian Society in 1955 when he inquired about some Boston newspapers. Later he wrote Clarence S. Brigham and Clifford K. Shipton numerous questions about southern Jewish printers and their imprints, answers to which were eventually incorporated into his Benjamin Levy book. In acknowledging Korn's gift to AAS of the Levy book, Shipton remarked, 'For years we have been trying to get American scholars to do just this kind of work for key printers; now we shall have your little book to show them as the perfect example.' For Korn, the study of Levy as well as two other southern Jewish printers, Benjamin Gomez and Naphtali Judah, demonstrated the high degree to which Jewish booksellers and publishers participated in general American intellectual and cultural life in the nineteenth century.

Election to AAS came at the October meeting in 1965. The event, which Korn 'equated . . . with the recognition accorded by an honorary degree,' pleased him greatly. Already he had generously given AAS copies of the books he wrote, duplicates from his own library shelves, and other publications, especially hard-to-get histories of local Jewish congregations. After election, Korn increased his material support of the Society and became actively involved in its affairs. He was elected to the Council in 1968 and served on it until 1975. He was especially helpful in the Philadelphia area during the Society's major development fund drive in 1969-70. He also chaired the nominating committee in 1972.

A heart attack, suffered in New Orleans, killed Bertram Korn on December 11, 1979. He is survived by his wife, the former Rita (Packman) Dogole, whom he married on February 9, 1971, and by his children from a former marriage, Judith Carole and Bertram Wallace, Jr. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

John B. Hench

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