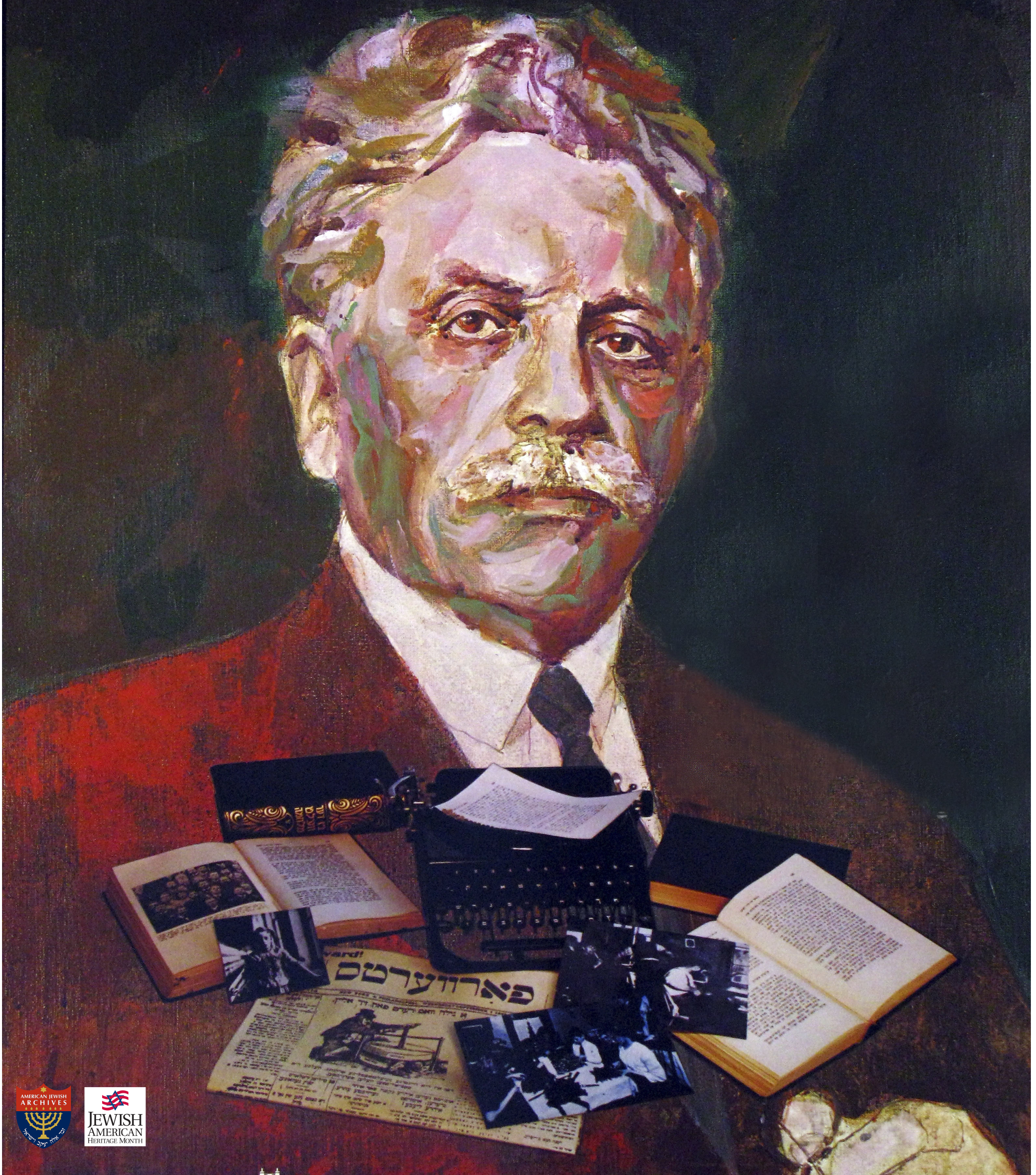


אַבְרָהָם קאַהאַן

אַב. קאַהאַן



ABRAHAM CAHAN (1860-1951) came to America in 1882 from Vilna, Lithuania. A committed socialist on his arrival in the United States, Cahan immediately became involved in the country's Jewish Socialist movement. But Cahan's concerns went beyond the political realm. He was more concerned with the thousands of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe who daily were crowding into New York's Lower East Side. Through his Yiddish-language newspaper, the *Forverts* (*Forward*), which he edited for nearly fifty years, Cahan "forged the most effective political and educational

tool for America's Yiddish-speaking world." His goal was Americanization of the Jewish immigrant and his brand of socialism included respect for Judaism and a deep love for America. Cahan was also the first author to introduce the Lower East Side of the American reading public through his English-language novels *Yekl* and *The Rise of David Levinsky*. During his long life Cahan observed the American Jewish community emerge from anxiety and uncertainty onto the threshold of a Golden Age. His influence on that development was substantial.