A descendant of an old German-Jewish family, which included noted rabbis and scholars, Jacob Henry Schiff (1847-1920), emigrated to America from his native Frankfort in 1865. Almost from the beginning of his life in America, he became successful in the world of international finance, eventually heading the important New York banking house of Kuhn, Loeb and Company. Schiff’s dazzling success in money matters did not blind him to the needs of his fellow Jews. His enormous philanthropic efforts on behalf of persecuted Jews in Russia, both before and immediately following World War I, brought a measure of relief to those unfortunate enough to be living under czarist rule. But Schiff’s concerns for Jews also centered on his chosen and beloved homeland, America. He gave untold amounts of money for the care of newly-arrived immigrants, for the development of rabbinical seminaries, and for the advancement of Jewish scholarship. Wherever a Jewish voice cried out in need, Jacob H. Schiff responded not only with concern but with action.