

## World's Oldest Holocaust Archive Stands Defiant Against Rising Antisemitism

16 February 2009. Leading historian Professor Anthony Julius will speak out against increasing antisemitism and in support of the Wiener Library, the world's oldest Holocaust archive, at a private viewing at the Wallace Collection on 19 February.

The Wiener Library will host the private viewing of 'Treasures of the Black Death', a display of jewellery and artefacts discovered buried under synagogues in Germany following the persecution of Jewish communities blamed for the spread of plague in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Professor Julius, who also served as the defence lawyer for Deborah Lipstadt in her libel trial against David Irving, will comment that the Wiener Library faces its greatest challenge in decades in the shape of the economic recession while Jewish organisations receive increasing numbers of reports of anti-Semitic attacks in the UK.

Professor Julius said: "Anti-Semitism has roots deep in Western European history. Our ignorance of these roots sometimes causes us to misidentify contemporary anti-Semitic positions as harmless expressions of concern. So successful is the work of the Wiener Library, this ignorance has itself become culpable."

The event at the Wallace Collection in Manchester Square will also reunite the Wiener Library with its original home of 19 Manchester Square from when it first arrived in London in the summer of 1939.

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### Notes to Editors

1. The Wiener Library: Formed in 1933 by Dr Alfred Wiener (see below), the Wiener Library is one of the world's leading and most extensive archives on the Holocaust and Nazi era. Currently based in Devonshire Street, the Library's unique collection of over one million items includes published and unpublished works, press cuttings, photographs and eyewitness testimony. The Library continues to acquire major collections, hold lectures and events and provides a vital focal point for researchers, the media, the public and students. The Wiener Library is currently approaching a particularly exciting stage in its development. After 50 years in Devonshire Street, the Library's lease is coming to an end and we are seeking new permanent accommodation in London. The possibility of more space, better storage and improved user facilities will enable the Library to better serve its increasingly varied audience, as well as helping it to continue and develop its existing work in caring for and expanding this rare and important archive.
2. Dr Alfred Wiener, a German Jew working for the Central Association of German Citizens of Jewish Faith, was forced into exile when the Nazi regime came to power in 1933. He fled to Amsterdam where he continued his work collecting material related to the Nazis, and warning people of the dangers of the Nazi regime. In 1939, Wiener moved once again to London where he remained for the rest of his life.

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