

WIENER LIBRARY NEWS

APRIL 2003

NUMBER 42

THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

In 1956, when the first Leo Baeck Institute Year Book was planned, Martin Buber is said to have declared it would be a one-year undertaking. In the event, the Year Book now comprises 47 volumes, with the 48th currently in preparation.

After the Holocaust, there were two main intellectual issues concerning the surviving Jews of Central Europe: how can we understand what happened to the Jews of Europe during the Nazi years and how can we rescue something of the cultural and intellectual heritage of the destroyed Jewish communities?

While the Wiener Library focused on the history of the Holocaust, antisemitism and racism, the Leo Baeck Institute – founded simultaneously in Jerusalem, New York and London – concentrated specifically on the uniquely rich German-speaking tradition which had such a significant influence on the whole of European Jewry in the 19th and early 20th century. From Alsace to Königsberg, from Frankfurt am Main to Hamburg, wherever Jews spoke German, there were Jewish communities, poor and wealthy, with very different historical experiences, which were and are being researched by the Leo Baeck Institute.

When I came to work at the Leo Baeck Institute in London two years ago, I was already aware of the considerable international importance of this institution. Unlike any other, it preserves and studies the fascinating history of German-speaking Jewry from Rahel Varnhagen to Hannah Arendt,

(Continued on page 3)

LEAVE IT TO US...



The outside of our present home, Devonshire Street, London W1.

The Wiener Library embodies one of the great legacies of German-speaking Jewry to the modern world. It is recognised around the world as one of the finest collections documenting the Nazi persecution and murder of the Jews.

In accordance with the foresight and vision of Alfred Wiener and the founding generation of the Library, it also houses outstanding materials on the complex issues of what the Holocaust means in the present day. In our activities we have pioneered work on how the legacy of the Holocaust can illuminate other instances of racially motivated mass murder.

Our readers are aware of the Library's need to raise sufficient funds to move the collection to a new and permanent home. Later this year a high-profile campaign will be launched to

achieve this goal. It is our hope that many people whose lives and families have been touched by the history the Library documents and commemorates will wish to help us perpetuate its work by remembering our cause when they consider making a will.

Legacies are crucial to the survival of charitable causes. The Library does not frequently benefit from bequests, but two significant recent legacies have given an enormous boost to our conservation work, our outreach programme and our ability to make the collections more widely accessible to users.

I believe passionately in the importance of the Library's work. I appeal to anyone thinking of leaving a legacy to give consideration to helping us make our collections and activities available to future generations by leaving a bequest to the Library.

Ben Barkow

EDWARD
FREEDMAN

The Wiener Library is delighted to welcome Edward Freedman as a new member of the Executive Committee and the Fundraising Committee. Edward's work background is quite unusual and will prove invaluable to the Library.

From 1992 to 1997 he worked as managing director of Manchester United Merchandising, increasing its merchandising turnover from just over £1 million to £28 million. After leaving Manchester United, Edward oversaw and consulted on many merchandising success stories, including the Spice Girls – where he broke all known sales records for a pop band's merchandise; AS Roma – where he presided over the opening of a city centre store; and Athletic Club, Bilbao. In addition he has worked as a consultant to clubs in England, Scotland, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy and Brazil.

Edward regularly speaks at conferences, contributes to newspapers and has recently been the subject of a major TV documentary entitled *The Men that Changed Football*. We greatly look forward to Edward's input and expertise, and appreciate his enthusiasm and commitment in joining the two committees during such an important time in our history.

WIENER LIBRARY NEWS

JOINT EDITORS: BEN BARKOW AND
KATHERINE KLINGER

PUBLISHED BY THE INSTITUTE OF
CONTEMPORARY HISTORY AND THE WIENER
LIBRARY LTD (LONDON). REGISTERED WITH
THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS NO 313015
ISSN 123 456 7890 X
THE WIENER LIBRARY
4 DEVONSHIRE STREET
LONDON W1W 5BH
TEL 020 7636 7247
FAX 020 7436 6428
E-MAIL INFO@WIENERLIBRARY.CO.UK
WEBSITE WWW.WIENERLIBRARY.CO.UK

NEW STAFF

During the last month, the Wiener Library has welcomed three new staff members. Karen LaMacchia is the new Acquisitions Librarian, and Michaela Meiser and Birgit Patzelt are the new Retrospective Cataloguers.

Karen is from Syracuse, NY, and has been living and working in Frankfurt am Main for the past three years. In addition to her library degree, Karen has an MA in Modern German History and is happy to have the opportunity to combine both fields of knowledge by working at the Library.

After a break of several months, we have resumed the retrospective cataloguing project with our two new cataloguers. Michaela is from Chemnitz (formally Karl-Marx-Stadt) and her last position was with the Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rome, where she was also cataloguing books onto a computer system. Birgit is from the Stuttgart area, and this is her first position after obtaining a degree in Library Studies from the University of Stuttgart.



From left to right: Birgit Patzelt, Michaela Meiser and Karen LaMacchia.

AND OLD . . .

After nine years of dedicated service to the Library, sadly, David Irwin has left. During this time he saw through many changes in the Cataloguing Department and the Library as a whole, and he is keenly missed by everyone.

When David started in 1994, he was given a typewriter (albeit an electric one), to type numerous catalogue cards per book. Today, all books are catalogued on the computer and subject access is ensured using keywords from an in-house Thesaurus. David was largely responsible for the maintenance of this Thesaurus, which now encompasses over 500 subject terms. In autumn 1998, the retrospective cataloguing project was launched. David was responsible for the smooth running of this undertaking, ensuring a high standard of cataloguing and indexing, as well as making sure that our ambitious targets were met.

Although the Cataloguing Department was always David's main responsibility, he never confined himself to just this one aspect of the Library. David worked in the Reading Room, co-operated closely with volunteers on several projects and, more recently, made sure that the Periodicals Department was properly maintained. It was also largely through his initiative that the Library employs young Austrian and German volunteers.

(Continued on next page)

NADFAS VOLUNTEERS



Each week, a group of specialist volunteers from NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) works at the Library, specialising in conservation work and assisting our conservator, Georgia Vossou.

The group mainly works on the pamphlet collection, preserving material no longer fit for handling. This includes ensuring surfaces are free from dust and dirt, doing basic paper repairs, re-sewing pamphlets and removing metalwork (rusty staples or paperclips) which can attack and damage paper irreparably.

The NADFAS volunteer group is an invaluable asset to the Library. We would like to say a big thank you to Joyce Brown, Ruth Davis, Renate Gallop, Philip Joseph, Ilse Newton and Janet Pyke, for working so hard and for sharing the challenges of the work with our conservator.

Accomplishing so much conservation work in a short period of time and seeing through to the end several projects has only been possible with their help and support.

Over the years David accumulated a vast knowledge of the Library collection. He not only knew what the Library holds, but also where it is stored. Generally, he was the last port of call for any member of staff looking for some little-used item.

David's diligence and attention to detail have been a huge benefit to the Library, but he also has a more poetic side. Since a staff meeting several years ago coincided with National Poetry Day, David often opened staff meetings with a poem. The poems often became one of the most memorable parts of the meeting!

He has left us to join the library of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), of which he is a dedicated member, to oversee a retrospective cataloguing project.



THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

(Continued from first page)

Walter Benjamin to Gershom Scholem, Sigmund Freud to Albert Einstein. Once I had taken up the directorship, I also became fascinated by the people who had, over the last fifty years, put such energy into this work.

The history studied at the LBI and at the Wiener Library is of the greatest importance for our time. So it was with great pleasure that I started, together with Ben Barkow, a series of joint events and activities. These public events have shown us that a large and highly interested public is keen to explore and participate in discussing the questions that are our core concerns. Indeed, we had problems accommodating the large audiences for events such as *Multiculturalism and the Jews* and the book launch of *Before They Perished: Photographs Found in Auschwitz*.

I believe that these important and successful joint ventures are crucial in obtaining the right balance between the intellectual work of the two institutions and the challenge of reaching out to a wider public. My hope is that the newly started research associate programme, the fellowship programme supported by the British Academy, and our ongoing lecture series will help to lay the foundations for a centre of graduate research. This will attract a new generation of scholars to our subject and guarantee the continuation of the work our founders began.

Since the two institutes share not just a common purpose, but face the same problem of securing new permanent accommodation, we will need to collaborate closely to find a suitable new home where we can continue and develop our common work.

Raphael Gross
Director, Leo Baeck Institute

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We are grateful to the following for donations of books, documents and other materials to the Library: Liane Aukin, Irene Bruegel, Peter Collins, Barbara Dorrity, Fred Dunston, Alice Frank, Jüdische Gemeinde Chemnitz, Tim Lalonde, Charles Leigh, Clive Priestley, Michael Smith, Martin Teich Birken.

Our thanks also to those who donated material but are not mentioned above.

The Wiener Library has recently purchased the last two parts of the RKK (Reichskulturkammer) collection. Established in 1933, the RKK enabled Goebbels' propaganda ministry to control virtually all aspects of organised cultural life in Germany and membership was compulsory for all who worked in the arts. The "Lists of non-Aryans" collection contains names of those who were excluded from membership because of their Jewish background. The "Propaganda Ministry" collection contains documentation on staff members, propaganda for the military and copies of catalogues and programmes from cultural exhibitions.

CAN YOU HELP?

The Library is also always on the lookout for pamphlets, leaflets and other materials concerning Holocaust memorials and commemorations. If you attended any of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day events and still have any programmes or other materials, we would be interested in adding these to our archives.

PHOTO FEATURE

IMAGES FROM THE ARCHIVES

1943–2003

The sixtieth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising



Women Ghetto fighters concealing weapons under their coats.



Warsaw Ghetto boundaries.



The Ghetto in flames.



Jewish Ghetto policemen.



Typical Ghetto street scene.



German soldiers advancing during Ghetto uprising.



After the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

“I never lived in the Warsaw Ghetto. I was never even in Warsaw. I was born in Zakopane but only lived there a few months. I grew up in Hamburg. I came of age in Fuhisbuettel, Sachsenhausen, Nordhausen, Auschwitz, Bergen Belsen – and died in all of them.

But I never lived in Warsaw, I never felt the soaring warmth of the people of the Ghetto, never experienced the mounting emotional spectrum of the eve of battle, never tasted the glorious tang of revenge.

Yet I felt I was there. I believe every interned Jew, every persecuted human being, every man, woman and child who has experienced the unspeakable indignities, obscenities and horrors perpetrated by the Nazi herd, was there.”

from I Never Lived in the Warsaw Ghetto by Leo Weissman

“Today the Warsaw Ghetto is no more. There are only the ruins of hundreds of burned and ruined houses. The Jewish section as well as its approaches are empty. The number of Jewish victims has never been counted and will probably never be counted because the bodies of the fighters were burned along with the houses. It is estimated that 6000 Jews died within the iron ring of fire and shell.

... a Jewish fighting organisation led the defence in the Ghetto. Their forces were small, they did not have much ammunition. Nevertheless they fought for four weeks in this tragic struggle.”

from The Black Book of Polish Jewry: An Account of the Martyrdom of Polish Jewry under the Nazi Occupation

WHAT'S ON

ROYAL HOLLOWAY

As part of our on-going work with Royal Holloway, University of London, three one-day workshop seminars are taking place this year at the Library, open to undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and others interested in the topics. The idea of the workshop format is to explore debates arising from specific issues in Holocaust studies.

The three topics to be examined this year are *Recent Holocaust Literature* (28 March), *Theoretical Interpretations of the Holocaust* (30 May) and *Post-Holocaust Philosophy* (3 October). Interest in the seminars is very strong and participation may be booked by contacting the Department of German on 01784 443197. Future workshops will include sessions on *Recently-opened Archives in Eastern Europe and Russia* and *The Holocaust and the Media*.

THE BRIDGE

The Wiener Library will be holding a fortnightly early evening study session in the autumn, looking at post-Shoah Judaism and faith. Aimed specifically at those whose families were directly affected by the Holocaust, it will be led by Rabbi Thomas Salamon of Westminster Synagogue, with other leading rabbis taking part. It will take as its starting point the issue of how it is possible, in light of what happened, to retain faith and belief in Judaism. The course will examine some of the themes and difficulties arising, particularly for those born into a post-Shoah world and often into assimilated families. To register interest, please telephone Katherine Klinger on 020 7636 7247.

EDUCATION AND EVENTS

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2003 AND LECTURES

Capacity audiences attended the Wiener Library's two Holocaust Memorial Day events: on Sunday afternoon 26 January, a panel debate on the *Meaning, Future and Relevance of Holocaust Memorial Day*, and the following evening a book launch of the monumental *Before They Perished: Photographs Found in Auschwitz*. The debate featured Rabbi Jeffrey Newman, a director of the Rabbinical Development Foundation, Dr Mark Levene, Southampton University, and one of the founders of the Frankfurt-based Fritz Bauer Institute, Dr Hanno Loewy.

Each speaker was provocative and challenging and, inevitably, contemporary issues including the impending war with Iraq, the position of Israel, and different attitudes towards commemorating the Holocaust in countries of the European Union were at times passionately voiced. The approach offered at the Wiener Library – a debate rather than a more traditional 'commemorative' event – resulted in almost fifty people being turned away due to lack of space. As one audience member commented, she was tired of official events with a prescribed order and programme, yet wanted something stimulating and respectful of the idea of a national day of commemoration.

The book launch was the best attended event the Wiener Library has ever hosted. The book, co-edited by Kersten Brandt, Hanno Loewy and Krystyna Oleksy, displays some 2,400 private photographs found at the Auschwitz-Birkenau National Museum in 1995, and discovered amongst the possessions of Jews from Bedzin and Sosnowiec in southern Poland. The book seeks to identify the story of the photographs and as many of the people in them as possible. The evening was introduced by the German Ambassador, Thomas Matussek. Arno Lustiger, whose photograph appears in the book, spoke movingly about his experiences and Hanno Loewy detailed the enormous construction work that went into its making. The Austrian ambassador, Dr Alexander Christiani, also attended. The evening was jointly



The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was *Children and the Holocaust*. An example of the Nazi's use of children for propaganda purposes, from a school textbook.

sponsored by the Wiener Library, the German Historical Institute and the Leo Baeck Institute, in collaboration with the Fritz Bauer Institute.

Joint lectures and book launches with the Leo Baeck Institute have been a welcome feature of the lecture series in the past year. Although the Wiener Library has shared premises with the LBI for almost the past five decades, this is the first time the two bodies have organised activities jointly. In total eight lectures formed part of a series beginning in early 2002 and finishing in March 2003. In October, Professor Sander Gilman gave a wide-ranging and scholarly lecture on *Multiculturalism and the Jews*, and the following month Professor Norbert Frei presented a detailed analysis of *The Nazi Elite in Postwar Germany*. In December, Professor Michael Brenner spoke on *The Politics of Jewish Historiography*, and in January Dr Yfaat Weiss lectured on *The Zionist Quest for Nationhood*. The penultimate lecture in the series featured Professor Shulamit Volkov, who spoke on the troubled place of Jews in relation to the Enlightenment, and the final lecture, the Werner Mosse memorial lecture, took place in March, and was given by Professor Jonathan Hess.

TRACES OF LIVES LOST



This summer the Wiener Library, in collaboration with the Goethe Institute, London, will be showing an exhibition of ten photographs by Julia Winckler, entitled *Traces*.

Inspired by the discovery in her great aunt's attic of a leather suitcase and two photographs belonging to a relative, Hugo Hecker, the project focuses on the search for traces of family lives cut short by Nazi persecution. Drawing on visits to Poland and locations the family had lived in for over sixty years, the project deliberately problematises history and memory by exploring and confronting family histories with collective and cultural histories. As a post-war artist Winckler is interested in examining the role of the artist as a mediator and an archivist of history, memory and modes of visual representation.

Traces has most recently been shown at the KZ Gedenkstaette Oberer Kuhberg in Ulm (2002), the Brighton Jewish Film Festival (2002), in Tubingen (2003) and the Maison Heinrich Heine, Paris (2003).

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

THANK-OFFERING TO BRITAIN FELLOWSHIP

The Wiener Library, together with the Leo Baeck Institute and with the support of the British Academy, has established a one-year fellowship for postgraduate research into antisemitism.

The Thank-Offering to Britain Fellowship is named after the fund established by the Association of Jewish Refugees and administered by the British Academy.

Its aim is to make a significant contribution to the historical understanding of the specific character of antisemitic thinking in philosophy, law and other disciplines, during the Nazi era.

The establishment of the fellowship programme which, it is hoped, will continue in successive years, represents a further step in the collaboration between the Wiener Library and the LBI – housemates in Devonshire Street for almost fifty years.

The co-operation established between the two institutes is proving very fruitful and productive. The significance of this, particularly in view of the shared need of both to secure new permanent accommodation, is evident.

It is hoped that our future work together will build on the excellent start we have made and will deepen to make important contributions to the study and commemoration of the destroyed world of European Jewry.

CONFERENCE



MORE THAN A CHANGE OF ADDRESS

SECOND GENERATION CONFERENCE

LONDON 29 JUNE 2003

SECOND GENERATION NETWORK SECOND GENERATION TRUST
THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY AND
WIENER LIBRARY

Since the first UK conference almost a decade ago, there has been considerable research concerning the issues and themes that have impacted on the second generation – the children of Holocaust survivors and refugees.

The conference will be held in central London and will offer a broad range of topics through keynotes and multi-disciplinary workshop presentations. It is aimed at those who have been involved in the area for some time, as well as those who have only recently become aware of their connection to the issues. Themes to be addressed include an overview of second and third generation studies in the past two decades,

the connection between choice of profession and background, and the relevance of contemporary refugee issues.

Keynote speakers include the renowned US writer Lev Raphael and Dina Wardi (tbc).

Workshop topics will include memory and memorialisation, literature, artwork and representation, autobiography, Jewish identity, mixed heritage, dialogue between Jews and Germans, and tracing family history through official records and personal correspondence.

To register for the conference and for further information please contact the Wiener Library, or e-mail: sgc@wienerlibrary.co.uk