

WIENER LIBRARY NEWS

MARCH 2006

NUMBER 50

GALA EVENING



Bass baritone Gidon Saks captured during his outstanding performance.

On 17 November 2005 the Library held a gala fundraising concert and buffet dinner at the residences of the Austrian and German Ambassadors.

The double venue was an unexpected bonus. Shortly after the Austrian Ambassador, Dr Gabriele Matzner-Holzer, had graciously offered her residence in support of the Library, and the invitations had been sent out, a fire badly damaged a downstairs room at the residence, making it impossible to hold the planned dinner there. With immense kindness and generosity the German Ambassador, Herr Thomas Mattusek, stepped in to offer his



Harvey Dagul and Isabel Beyer play Czerny's delightful Variations on the March from Donna del Lago.



Gidon Saks and accompanist Guy Dagul enchant their audience.

residence to the Library when he heard of our plight. Thus our guests were able to enjoy twice as much hospitality.

The highlight of the evening's programme was a breathtaking recital by the renowned bass baritone Gidon Saks, ranging from Handel to Schubert and from Richard Strauss to Hans Eisler. Mr Saks was accompanied by Guy Dagul. Mr Dagul's parents, Isabel Beyer and Harvey Dagul, gave a performance of the rarely heard *Variations on the March from Donna del Lago* by Carl Czerny in the interlude.

The audience was addressed by Dr Matzner-Holzer

(continued on page 2)

APPEALS EVENT

SUCCESSFUL GALA EVENING

(continued from page 1)

who welcomed the guests to her home, by Katherine Klinger, the Library's Education and Outreach Co-ordinator, and by Ben Barkow, the Director, who spoke about the Library's mission and collections. Daniel Finkelstein, Comment Editor of *The Times* and the grandson of the Library's founder, Dr Alfred Wiener, made the appeal. Mr Finkelstein's contribution particularly moved the audience.

Having safely negotiated the few steps from the Austrian to the German residence, our guests were served a quite outstanding *Stehbuffet*, prepared by the caterer to the embassies, Gertie Wieser. Library Chairman Anthony Spiro thanked the organisers, particularly the Organising Committee of Ena Green, Marion Lichtig, Carol Silver, Manina Dicks and Edward Freedman, and went on to speak of the Library's fundraising challenges.

The event raised urgently needed funds for the Library, and was a very happy and memorable occasion.

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 1465-5004

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

GALA SCENES



The Austrian Ambassador, Dr Gabriele Matzner-Holzer (right), with Ben Barkow, Library Director and Katherine Klinger, Education and Outreach Co-Ordinator.



*Clockwise, from above left: Library Chairman Anthony Spiro with Kenneth Levy; David Rothenberg and Andrew Kaufman, of the AJR Trust, with Ruth Rothenberg; Anna Kissin and Dmitri Angelopoulos; Daniel Finkelstein, grandson of Dr Alfred Wiener and Comment Editor of *The Times*, making the appeal.*



Our guests enjoy the hospitality of the German Ambassador's residence.

LORD MERLYN-REES

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death, in January, of Lord Merlyn-Rees, the President of the Wiener Library Appeal. Lord Merlyn-Rees succeeded Lord Callaghan when he retired from the Appeal in June 1989.

Lord Merlyn-Rees brought his warmth and humanity to the task of inspiring and leading the Appeal. All who came into contact with him in the course of raising funds for the Library found it to be a memorable and pleasurable experience.

His long presidency saw many fundraising events and even more changes at the Wiener Library. Lord Merlyn-Rees outlasted two Vice-Chairmen of the Appeal Committee, Denzil Jacobs and Anthony Weldon, and two Directors, Professor Walter Laqueur and Professor David Cesarani.

The first great fundraising event under Lord Merlyn-Rees' Presidency was a dinner in October 1992 at the Great Hall of Lincoln's Inn to launch The James Callaghan Fund of the Wiener Library Endowment Appeal. In October 1995 Lord Merlyn-Rees presided over an evening organised by Anthony Weldon, entitled "Jeremy Isaacs and Friends", starring Maureen Lipman, Lesley Garrett, Emma-Jane Murphy and Jack Liebeck.

In October 2001, to celebrate 60 years of the Library, Ute Lemper gave a cabaret performance before an audience including the German Ambassador, Lady Swaythling, Sir Jocelyn Stephens, Shirley Young and Tom Bendhem.

The last fundraising event of Lord



Lord Merlyn-Rees addressing the Wiener Library shortly after agreeing to become the President of its Appeal.

Merlyn-Rees' Presidency was "From Wiener to Vienna", which is described in detail on pages 1 and 2. Planned on a much smaller scale than earlier events, this evening offered guests an unusually personal and intimate setting for a recital and buffet supper.

Taken together with numerous smaller events and initiatives during the years 1990-2005, the Appeal under Lord Merlyn-Rees was able to raise funds which allowed the Library to maintain and build on its long-established reputation as a centre of excellence in documenting and disseminating the vital lessons and warnings which the crimes of the Nazi regime offer our modern age.

All who have ever used or admired the Wiener Library have immediate reason to be grateful to Lord Merlyn-Rees for his work as President of the Appeal, and to mourn his passing.

JACQUELINE GOLDEN

Everyone at the Library was shocked and saddened to learn of the unexpected death of Jacqueline Golden, the wife of the founder and former Vice-Chairman of the Endowment Appeal, Lewis Golden. The name of the Golden family will forever be linked with that of the Wiener Library, not just through the Appeal but also through Jonathan Golden, Lewis and Jacqueline's son, a long-standing servant of the Library's cause, as a founder of the Young Friends of the Wiener Library and more recently, a member of its Board and Executive Committee. The condolences of the Board, staff and volunteers of the Library go to the Golden family for their sad loss.

MEMORIAL

THE LATE ALFRED JACOBY

In our last Newsletter we reported on the acquisition of the archive of the *Centralverein*. As we were in the process of making this remarkable acquisition we were contacted by the Trustees of a Discretionary Fund set up under the will of the late Alfred Jacoby.

Mr Jacoby had been born in 1904 in Elbing, West Prussia, son of a businessman. He studied engineering but interrupted this when the family fortune was lost in the great inflation. He was later able to resume his studies and graduated in 1929. Mr Jacoby fled Germany when Hitler came to power and, as the Nazis extended their empire, he and his wife Ruth planned to leave Europe for Australia. Coming to Britain in pursuit of his visas, Mr Jacoby's visa for Yugoslavia expired and, contrary to promises made to him, was not renewed. Somehow he succeeded in securing permission to remain in the UK and for his wife to join him. Mr Jacoby worked as a manager of a machine tools factory during the War. After the War he established a successful business in machine tools for the manufacture of watches. He retired in 1979 and died at the age of 98.

The Trustees felt that the acquisition of the *Centralverein* archive was a project of which Mr Jacoby would have approved, and made a substantial grant towards this. The archive thus forms a permanent memorial to Mr Jacoby.

We are very grateful to the Trustees of the Discretionary Fund for making this wonderful gift possible.

THIRD

GENERATION

The third generation project, funded by a thoughtful benefactor, has generated great interest from the grandchildren of Holocaust survivors and refugees from Nazi Europe. The project commenced at the beginning of this year and will continue until the end of May. Significantly, it has attracted a wide age range from 11 to 26.

The programme offered to the participants is so structured that over the eight full-day sessions, they are given an opportunity to meet with other young people of a similar background and share experiences. In addition to this, within a safe environment and with the aid of experienced teachers and facilitators, participants not only learn about the historical facts surrounding the Holocaust but gain an understanding of the long-term consequences of the Holocaust. Opportunities to view the unique historical material housed at the Wiener Library and study various texts concerning the topic are also offered, as well as opportunities to meet with educators at the Imperial War Museum Holocaust Wing and Jeanette Rosenberg of the Jewish Genealogical Society.

Sonja Linden, playwright and writer-in-residence for the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, Irene Wise, artist and Fellow in Holocaust Education at the Imperial War Museum and filmmaker Ruti Frensdorff, aim to also enable the group to explore their own roots and identity within a creative framework.

The third generation project, which will initially run for two years, will be organising a second phase of the project starting in

(continued on page 5)

IMAGES FROM THE ARCHIVES

ABSENCE AND LOSS

These photographs are part of *Absence and Loss*, a series created by Marion Davies, who is a member of the Library. In this work she seeks to underline the destructive impact of Nazi power on the daily life and liberty of German Jews and other minorities. The images also highlight the void in post-War Germany that was left by the pre-War emigration of German Jewry and subsequent annihilation of those left behind.



◀ *Moses Mendelssohn (1729-1786)*. Berlin's oldest Jewish cemetery in Große Hamburger Straße was destroyed by the Nazis. Only one freestanding gravestone, marking the approximate burial site of the Enlightenment philosopher, has since been re-erected.

▼ *Political Opposition*. Artist Dieter Appelt commemorates 96 members of the Reichstag, Social Democrats and Communists, who were murdered in Nazi concentration camps.



IN BRIEF

THIRD GENERATION

(continued from page 4)

September 2006. Third generation members interested in committing to six full Sundays from September 2006 to February 2007 should in the first instance contact Monica Lowenberg at the Wiener Library (Lowenberg@WienerLibrary.co.uk). All reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed, and lunch and refreshments provided.

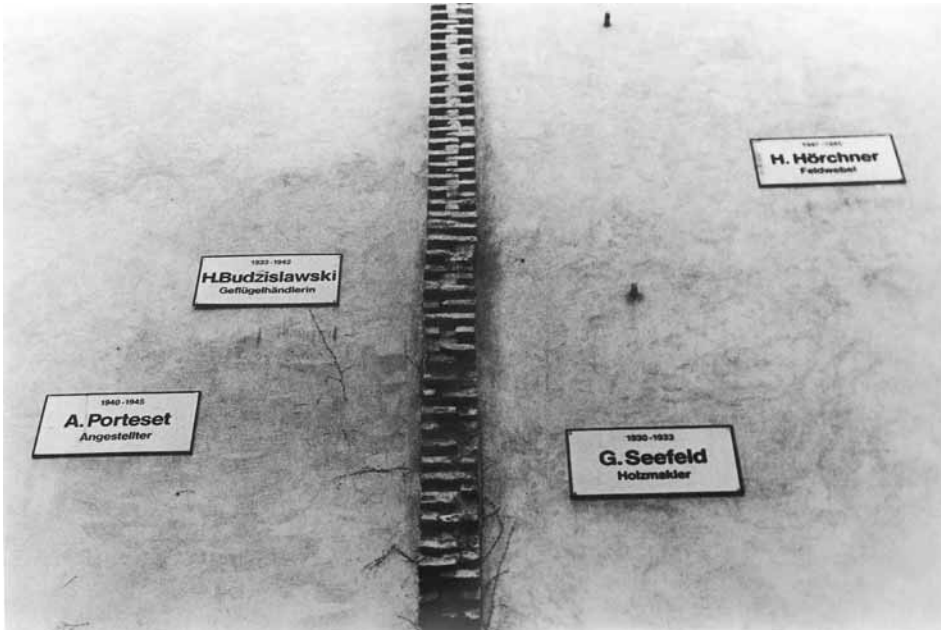
INTERNS

Martin Wimmer left us at the end of January to finish his studies but he has been replaced by two more interns: Sabine Jung and Fabian Fuerste.



Sabine hails from Ellwangen. She has just finished her diploma in Library Studies at the Fachhochschule Hannover. For her final thesis Sabine drafted a thesaurus for the Library of the Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen where she had worked both as an intern and as a member of staff. At the Library she will primarily help our cataloguer with cataloguing and thesaurus maintenance.

Fabian started three weeks after Sabine on 20 February. Originally from Magdeburg, he is studying History and Library Studies at the Humboldt University, Berlin. Fabian will primarily assist Andrea with our periodicals project.



▲ *The Missing House Memorial.* Christian Boltanski discovered that the pre-War residents of this building had all been Jewish. He positioned plaques with their names and professions on the walls, exposed after Allied bombing, to indicate where they had once lived.

◀ *Shalekhet – The Fallen Leaves.* An installation by Menashe Kadishman in Berlin's Jewish Museum of 10,000 screaming, anonymous faces cut from heavy iron plate. Each face represents 600 Jews murdered by the Nazis.
WITH PERMISSION JEWISH MUSEUM BERLIN



▶ "Regina Schrimmer lived here, deported 1942, died in Riga." One of 4,500 brass plate *Stumbling stones* commemorating all Holocaust victims embedded since 1993 by Gunter Demnig in pavements of about 60 German cities, towns and villages.



All images © Marion Davies
www.mariondavies.co.uk

OUT AND ABOUT

The Wiener Library has always enjoyed close relations with the Association of Jewish Refugees – which is natural given the origins and *raison d'être* of the two institutions.

So we decided to try to make the work of the Library even better understood and supported by the members of the AJR through a series of presentations.

Of course the members can help the Library by supporting our events or making financial donations. But it is just as important, if not more so, that they understand our role as the long-term repository of papers, books and other materials documenting their stories. The Wiener Library can be seen as the memory of the AJR, a role it will still fulfil once the work of the AJR in assisting refugees is completed.

Director Ben Barkow, Education and Outreach Co-ordinator Katherine Klinger and Senior Librarian Katharina Hübschmann have been going out and about to speak to AJR groups.

Ben spoke to the Cambridge group in February. Katherine addressed the Southgate group in November and will visit the North London Group in April, while Katharina will speak to the Ilford group in June.

THOMAS MATUSSEK

The German Embassy in London, its Ambassador and staff play a significant role in the life of the Wiener Library. Support from the German government – which is administered through the Embassy – is essential in helping us to fulfil our mission. We have for many years enjoyed unstinting support and good will from our friends in Belgrave Square and so we learned with a touch of sadness that the present Ambassador, Herr Thomas Matussek, is moving to a new posting. Herr Matussek has shown himself to be a true friend to our institution and our cause. We wish him and Mrs Matussek well for their next posting and assure them that a warm welcome will always be awaiting them at the Wiener Library.

LIBRARY PROFILE

HOWARD FALKSOHN, WIENER LIBRARY ARCHIVIST



The youngest son of a former *Kindertransportee* from Berlin, I studied Early Modern and Modern European History and German as a mature student. I went on to train to be an archivist at University College London. After graduation I worked in a number of local authority archives before I was taken on as archivist on the Heritage Lottery Fund project to re-catalogue the Wiener Library Document Collections. I am now working on a permanent, part-time basis.

I manage all aspects of the deposited document collections and the records generated by the Wiener Library itself.

My responsibility is to preserve and make accessible the original papers of the families, individuals and organisations whose lives were affected by the Nazi era. The collections may range in size from one letter to dozens of boxes. Each collection is unique, and as such is treated with equal care. Where possible I try to assist depositors of new material who are unable to understand the contents by employing one of our volunteers to provide English summaries.

Pressing need

As the generation of survivors and refugees is ever decreasing, I am conscious of the need to ensure that as many other collections as possible are brought in-house and not discarded, inadvertently or otherwise.

One of the most interesting aspects of the work has been meeting the depositors, many of whom are the first generation refugees and survivors. Listening to their stories of suffering and endurance, courage and loss is a humbling experience and it reinforces for me the imperative for preserving their valuable document collections.

Greater accessibility

In recent times the accessibility of our collections has greatly improved. In addition to the online database of document descriptions, which is accessed via our website, we are about to become part of the nationwide database, Access To Archives, which should significantly increase our profile, and raise reader figures.

On a personal level, working at the library has been a journey of discovery. I have learnt a lot about the circumstances in which my forbears lived and have uncovered a number of very valuable references to the fate of family members.

So for me being custodian of the archives is no mere academic exercise.

“ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

The title of this article was the theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day, and it seemed a suitable heading for an article on one of our most important and interesting acquisitions of the past year: *The Encyclopedia of the Righteous Among the Nations* published by Yad Vashem. During the Holocaust many people had to make moral choices. A minority became rescuers of those persecuted by the Nazis, despite knowing that this meant putting at risk their own lives as well as the lives of those who were close to them. Many Jews survived due to the extraordinary courage of these people in times of absolute moral collapse.

The Encyclopedia of the Righteous Among the Nations has been compiled to pay tribute and show appreciation to those men and women who acted to make a difference. In addition to the volumes on rescuers in Poland, the Netherlands and France which we already hold, the Library has recently acquired the latest volume, published in 2005, telling the story of the Righteous of Belgium. The encyclopedia gives their names, pictures and details about their rescue activities.

In the years between the summer of 1942 and the liberation in 1944, the Jews found support from the Belgian people. Individuals from all social backgrounds including farmers, priests, police chiefs and mayors, as well as those associated with organisations such as the church and the communist underground, were willing to help. Their activities were aimed at rescue or escape, and even more often at providing shelter. About 44 per cent of the Jews of Belgium perished in the “Final Solution”. However, the majority of the ones who survived did so because of these people. Around 24,000 to 25,000 Jews found hiding places. Amongst them more than 3,000 children were hidden in institutions such as sanatoria or convents, as well as by individual families.



Order out of chaos in the press archives – with the help of our volunteers.



NEW VOLUNTEERS

Since the last Newsletter the Library has gained many new volunteers. Yvonne Bernstein, Kitty Cooper, Judith Fixler, Judith Goldsmith, Sylvia Matus and Vandana van Straatem have all started working for the Library one morning a week. In tandem with the original group of NADFAS volunteers they are preparing our press cuttings for microfilming. Hedy Franks, mother of Executive Committee member Suzanne Franks, has started transcribing Czech wartime pamphlets into English to help us catalogue and index these, and Myra Ecker is helping us with our Hebrew material.

Astrid Homann is helping Howard Falksohn with background research for document collections. Astrid is taking the MA in German-Jewish History, Sussex University, which is taught at the Wiener Library. In addition we have two new, full-time volunteers. Anne Linzbach from Bonn replaced Marta as our *Aktion Sühnezeichen* volunteer. Johannes Wischt from Linz replaced Patrick as our new *Gedenkdienstler*.

SUNDAY 23 APRIL

2-5 PM

Following the success of our Open Day last year we would like to invite all our Friends and supporters to the Library on Sunday 23 April. The afternoon will revolve around family documents and how to sort and preserve them.

Our conservator Georgia Vossou will give a presentation on paper and the ravages of time. Afterwards Georgia will be on hand to advise Friends how best to store and conserve precious documents. There will also be an opportunity to buy acid-free, archival folders and boxes which are best for storing fragile papers.

Archivist Howard Falksohn will tell Friends how document donations are processed at the Wiener Library. Howard will also advise on how to sort family papers and how to find out about relatives who were killed by the Nazis.

We regularly get requests, especially from the second generation, for help with translating letters and documents from German. On this afternoon a gaggle of Librarians will be on hand to help decipher old hand writing and to provide summaries of German papers.



Georgia Vossou working with the light box (a gift from conservation volunteer Philip Joseph) at our last Open Day.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

TEACHING AND RESEARCHING THE POLITICS OF MASS MURDER

22-23 JUNE 2006 – KINGSTON UNIVERSITY, LONDON

The conference will address five main issues:

- Teaching courses about mass murder
- Academic research on mass murder
- Writing about mass murder
- Televising/filming mass murder
- Campaigning and mobilising against mass murder.

Speakers will include Norman Geras, Emeritus Professor at Manchester University; Helen Bamber, Founder of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture; Jacques Semelin, Professor at Sciences Politiques, and Director of the CERI/CNRS; Brian Phillips, Senior Lecturer in Human Rights at Oxford Brookes University and organiser of the annual Human Rights International Film Festival; Andrea Bartoli, Director of the Center for International Conflict Resolution, Columbia University; Brian Brivati, Professor of Contemporary History at Kingston University; Paul Levene, the Uppsala Programme for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden; Robert Gellately, Strassler Professor in Holocaust History at Clark University; Mark Levene, Reader in Comparative History at Southampton University; Marie Fleming, Professor of Political Science, University of Western Ontario, Canada; Marcello Flores, Professor of Comparative History at the University of Siena; Linda Melvern, journalist and writer; Eva Hoffman, author; Gitta Sereny, author; Jean Hatzfeld, author; Laurence Rees, television broadcaster.

The conference is being convened by Kingston University (UK), and organised by Kingston University and the Helen Bamber Centre (UK), the Wiener Library (UK) and Siena University (Italy).

For further details, or to register, please contact Katherine Klinger on Klinger@WienerLibrary.co.uk

LECTURES OF THE WIENER LIBRARY, LEO BAECK INSTITUTE & CENTRE FOR GERMAN-JEWISH STUDIES, SUSSEX UNIVERSITY

15 MARCH 2006

PROFESSOR JEAN-FRANÇOIS BERGIER

SWITZERLAND AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR. EXPERIENCES OF AN HISTORIAN

Jean-François Bergier was Professor of Social and Economic History at the University of Geneva 1963-1969 and has been Professor of History at ETH Zurich since 1969

6 APRIL 2006

BEN BARKOW, DR KLAUS LEIST

TEREZIN: ENDURANCE AND OVERCOMING: THE WRITINGS OF PHILIPP MANES

Ben Barkow is Director of the Wiener Library; Klaus Leist is an Associate of the Wiener Library. They are the editors of *Als ob's ein Leben wär*.

24 MAY 2006

PROFESSOR SAUL DUBOW

APARTHEID, RACE AND ANTISEMITISM: EUROPEAN ANTECEDENTS, LOCAL ADAPTATIONS

Saul Dubow is Professor of History at Sussex University

19 JUNE 2006

PROFESSOR SUSAN NEIMAN

NATURAL AND UNNATURAL EVILS

Susan Neiman is Director of the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, Germany

All lectures will be held at the Wiener Library and begin at 7pm. Admission is free.

Places must be reserved in advance by telephoning / emailing the Leo Baeck Institute on

020 7580 3493 / info@leobaeck.co.uk