

Wiener Library News

January 2001

Number 36

Support sought for New Building Fund

AT THE RECENT FUND-RAISING EVENING with Ute Lemper the establishment of a new Building Fund was announced. Some readers may already be aware that the Library will need to move to new premises in the coming years, when the lease on 4 Devonshire Street expires.

Re-locating the collections poses a major challenge, both financially and in terms of ensuring that the Library forms alliances and partnerships which will maximise the public benefit and service to scholarship it offers.

The Building Fund has been established with a legacy of £100,000. Over the next years we will need to raise many times this sum. While every effort will be made to attract support from major grant-giving bodies, we look to our community of users and supporters for help.

Under the Getting Britain Giving legislation charitable giving has been made simpler and more effective than ever before.

Please lend your support to the Building Fund.

Should you want to discuss which method of giving is best suited to you please contact Christine Patel who will be delighted to provide information and offer advice.



Ute Lemper and Bruno Lafontaine.

Ute Lemper Sings for Wiener Library

On 19 October the internationally renowned singer Ute Lemper gave a cabaret benefit performance for the Wiener Library Endowment Fund. The event took place at BBC Television Centre and comprised a reception, dinner and Ms Lemper's stage act. Two hundred guests attended, among them the German Ambassador, Dr Hans Friederich von Ploetz and Mrs von Ploetz, The Dowager Lady Swaythling, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Mrs Shirley Young, Mr Tom Bendhem, Mr and Mrs Jonathan Joseph, and Mr Ernest Gelbard.

The evening began with champagne and canapés before the guests took their seats in the sumptuously decorated studio. Following a short address by Ben Barkow, the guests enjoyed superb food and fine wines. Mr Laurence Rees, Creative Director of BBC History and producer of the acclaimed series *The Nazis: A Warning from History* spoke in the most moving terms about the significance of the Wiener Library as a bulwark against those who would re-write history and airbrush away the evidence of mass murder in their quest for political dominance.

The highlight of the evening was, of course, Ute Lemper's performance. Accompanied by Bruno Lafontaine, she stunned the audience with a show that was by turn funny, mordant, ironic, inspirational and moving. The precision of her timing and her mastery of nuance and inflection made an indelible impression on those present.

The organiser of the evening, Mr David Rauch, then presented Ms Lemper with a specially bound book as a memento of the evening. Ms Lemper spoke about the importance of the Library's work and a family connection between herself and the Library which she wished to explore further. Mr Rauch addressed the guests about the

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Ute Lemper sings

Continued from page 1

challenge facing the Library to secure new permanent accommodation and announced a special Building Fund which has been established with a legacy of £100,000.

Mr Ernst Fraenkel, the Library's Chairman then thanked the organisers and rounded the evening off.

Following dessert and coffee the guests were presented with complimentary packs containing a copy of *BBC History Magazine*, featuring a profile of the Library, a copy of the recently published Penguin book, *The Irving judgement*, and a CD featuring many of the songs Ms Lemper had sung. The contents of the packs were donated by BBC Worldwide, Penguin Books and Decca Records respectively and we express our gratitude for this generosity. Palgrave, Macmillan's global academic publishing division, and the Kobler Trust kindly agreed to sponsor the evening in part and their support was greatly appreciated. Mr Anthony Weldon, Vice-Chairman of the Appeal Committee, very kindly arranged for the staff of the Library to take part in the evening.

Wiener Library News

Editor Ben Barkow

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All change at the Wiener Library

A number of important staff changes have taken place at the Library over recent months.

THE DIRECTOR

The Director, Professor David Cesarani, has left to take up a full-time position at the University of Southampton. David joined the Library in 1989 as Director of Studies and Educational Activities. Following Professor Walter Laqueur's retirement he was appointed Director in 1992. David left the Library in 1995 to take up the David Alliance Chair in Modern Jewish Studies at Manchester University. Just one year later he re-joined the Library, the Directorship by this time having become a part-time post linked to the Parkes-Wiener Chair in 20th Century Jewish History at the University of Southampton.

Ben Barkow has been appointed Acting Director. He had been serving as de facto head of the Library since January 2000, when Professor Cesarani took a six-month sabbatical.

THE EDUCATION OFFICER

Dr Jo Reilly, the Library's Education and Outreach Officer, has also left to take up a full-time post at Southampton. Jo joined the Library in 1995 on a one-year contract and later became a part-timer when she took up duties at the University of Southampton. Apart from organising early-evening lectures, seminars, conferences, two series of evening classes and a postgraduate forum, Jo served as Executive Editor of the *Journal of Holocaust Education*. Jo established herself as an effective organiser and made many friends among the users and supporters of the Library. Although she left in September she offered to oversee the Library's autumn outreach programme, a generous act which was much appreciated. Everyone at the Library wishes David and Jo success in their new careers.

THE ACQUISITIONS LIBRARIAN

Mrs Julie Woodland has left the Library to take up an editorial position with a major publishing company. Julie, who joined the Library in 1995, was a linchpin in the running of the library and reader services. She was a tremendously dedicated and hard-working librarian who made a very considerable contribution to the Library by overhauling the process of book ordering and forging important links with sellers of second-hand books. Julie helped the Library to plug many gaps in the collection. Readers often expressed amazement at the speed with which the Library acquired and processed the latest books to make them available, sometimes within days of publication. That this was so was due in large measure to Julie's foresight and efficiency. As she embarks on her new career her old colleagues wish her every success.

THE CATALOGUERS

Julie has been replaced by Katharina (Kat) Hübschmann, who has been working for two years on the Lottery-funded retrospective cataloguing project. Kat has shown considerable commitment to the Library since first doing voluntary work here in 1996 and will dedicate herself to maintaining and raising the Library's high standards.

Our other retrospective cataloguer, Ann McDermott, has left to take up a post at the University of North London. Ann had been with the Library for just over one year and had established herself as a popular member of the team, who quickly absorbed the Library's ethos and made a wonderful contribution.

Kat and Ann will be replaced in January by Sandra Gode and Sandra Stern. Both come to us from Germany.

Ute Lemper visits the Library



On 20 October Ute Lemper paid a visit to the Library to learn more about our work and to view the collections. She was welcomed and shown around by David Rauch and Ben Barkow.

Ms Lemper took special interest in documentation relating to the Jewish community in her hometown of Münster. She also clarified the connection between her family and the Library: her parents-in-law have enjoyed a long-standing and close friendship with Paul and Ruth Klemens, Mrs Klemens being one of Dr Alfred Wiener's daughters.

Ms Lemper expressed shock and

dismay at some of what she saw, particularly present-day publications of the far right in Germany and elsewhere. She displayed a considerable knowledge of the Library's specialist subjects, evidence of thoughtful reading and considerable reflection. She also demonstrated great sensitivity to the manifold issues – moral, political and even emotional – which arise out of the Holocaust.

In all, Ms Lemper spent over two hours at the Library and before leaving asked to be kept informed of our progress. She left us in no doubt that the Library has gained a new and very special friend.

NEW EDUCATION OFFICER APPOINTED

Katherine Klinger has been appointed as the new Education and Outreach Officer. Katherine may well be known to Library members through her work at the Second Generation Trust and a number of joint events organised by the Library and the Trust in recent years. Katherine will be responsible for continuing to develop the Library's higher, secondary and adult education programme, assist with fund-raising, and to widen its outreach work, both nationally and internationally. This will include organising conferences, continuing and broadening collaborative work with other organisations, encouraging wider interest and knowledge concerning the Library archives, deepening understanding of the Holocaust, genocide, racism and the abuse of human rights, and consolidating links with the second generation.

Conserving continues



Work continues on the Library's unique collections of pamphlets thanks to a dedicated nucleus of volunteers from the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS): Janet Pyke, Barbara Marlow, Ilse Newton, René Gallop, Shirley Borne and Corrine Hall (who left us recently for other work).

The pamphlets provide a valuable and extensive historical resource ranging in date from the 19th century to current publications. However, the poor quality materials used in the composition of such ephemeral items make them highly susceptible to damage.

The work of the NADFAS team includes removing metalwork, such as staples, cleaning, sewing, and in some cases carrying out minor repairs to pamphlets. Such work plays a vital role in the long-term preservation of the collections, allowing staff and readers continued access for years to come.

Over the past two years the volunteers have worked systematically through more than 1,500 pamphlets. On behalf of the Library I would like to thank them all for their dedication and hard work, and to welcome a new addition to the team, Joyce Brown.

**Joanna Taplin
Conservator**

Film review

Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the *Kindertransport*

Written and directed by Mark Jonathan Harris and produced by Deborah Oppenheimer, the film tells the story of the *Kindertransport* and its impact on the lives of the children who were saved. Deborah Oppenheimer became interested in the *Kindertransport* after her mother's death when she discovered letters from her grandparents, who perished in the Holocaust, to her mother who was a *Kind*.

The film focuses on 12 of the children who recount their own stories, along with a handful of rescuers, parents and foster parents. There is the shared experience of discrimination in Nazi Germany, separation and coming to terms with new circumstances in a strange country told from the children's point of view. Yet each individual account is unique and comes alive as the *Kinder* speak with a vividness that comes from examining deeply etched memories.

A traditional documentary, the film mixes interviews with newsreel clips, black and white photographs and atmospheric footage, sparingly narrated by Dame Judi Dench. The film is a moving but unsentimental and ultimately uplifting rendering of the *Kindertransport*.

Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport – the Library has in stock both the video and the book by the same title published by Bloomsbury.

Photo feature

Images from the Archives



THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER overlaps with Britain's first Holocaust Memorial Day, and the images from the archives have been chosen to reflect, not the horrors associated with the Holocaust, but aspects of the life before, the life torn out of Europe's heart with such unmatched ferocity.

Irma Neumann, née Traub, who was married to Karel Neumann, with her newborn son Zdenko. The family lived in Czechoslovakia. Only Karel survived, to begin a new life in Britain.



A little girl named Thea, a relative of Siegfried and Grete Lacki. The fate of the family is unknown.



The family of Joseph Jacobs of Bonn. The picture belonged to a British soldier who lived with the family after the First World War. The fate of the family is unknown.



The family of Ludwig Neumann of Essen. Ludwig is standing. His mother is seated, third from left. The family owned two clothing factories. Ludwig was taken to Dachau in October 1938 as part of the 'Aryanisation' of his business interests. The family came to Britain at an unknown date.

To commemorate

Holocaust Memorial Day



Memorial to members of the Jewish community of Dresden who gave their lives in the 1914-18 War. The Memorial was erected in May 1926.



Mother and child on the beach, 1928, from Grete Lacki's album.



Unknown child in August 1933, from the Ludwig Neumann collection.

Short Review

The German trauma

The 20 essays in this book were first published between 1967 and 2000, and updated and bound together by autobiographical reflections last year. They cover events before, during and after the war, and above all portraits. If there is a common theme, it is the encounter with evil – by victims, observers, heroes and perpetrators.

After Gitta Sereny's books about them, especially her stupendous *Into that darkness*, the articles on Stangl and Speer seem to fall a little flat today. Others such as the ones on the Hitler Diaries and the Demjanjuk case present a surprising amount of new, sometimes sinister information. In my view the best is her straightforward factual and competent rebuttal of the Holocaust deniers. In contrast her sympathetic sketch of and friendship with the Swiss Nazi François Genoud, who loved Hitler and still acts for terrorists in the 1990s, leaves me completely baffled.

Most of us would happily embark on wide detours to avoid meeting some of the people Gitta Sereny talks to. Yet her doing so is quite a unique service to history and in spite of such close contact with evil she herself emerges true to who she started out as, the talented girl from a good family, spirited and sincere. Her style is lucid and elegant, which makes this book an easy read despite its traumatic topics.

The German trauma: experiences and reflections 1938–2000. Gitta Sereny. London: Allen Lane/The Penguin Press, 2000.

Reviewed by Klaus Leist

Recent donations

We are very grateful to the following people for donations of books, pamphlets and other documents:

Ms Shoshana Adler, Ms Stella Curzon, Mrs D. Gaebler, Mr Ted Gottfried, The Jewish Museum in Finchley, Ms Marion Koebner, Mr Erik Lindner, Mr Roger Morgan, Mr David Pyke, Dr A. Roche, Mr Steffen Unverfahrt.

Can you help?

The library is keen to acquire copies of the following books which do not seem to be available in any library in England. If you are able to help please contact Kat Hübschmann, our new Acquisitions Librarian.

Adelman, Y.: *Heroes without medals.* NY, 1983.

American Committee OSE 47: *The rehabilitation of Jewish children by the O.S.E.* NY, 1986.

American Jewish Committee: *The Jewish communities of Nazi occupied Europe.* NY, 1982.

Apenszlak, J.: *Armed resistance of the Jews in Poland.* NY, 1944.

Lask, M. (ed.): *The Kalish book.* Tel Aviv, 1968.

Moulis, M.: *To Byl Buchenwald.* Prague, 1957.

Reinhardt, G: *Crime without punishment.* NY, 1952.

Rosen, D: *The forest be my friend.* NY, 1971.

Singer, O: *Destruction of Lodz Jewry.* Tel Aviv, 1950.

Szoszkies, H. J.: *No travellers return: the story of Hitler's greatest crime.* NY, 1945.

Art at the Wiener Housed Memory



Visitors to the Library during November may have noticed four monitors with headphones placed on clear perspex plinths in the entrance hall. This installation marked the culmination of a two-month residency at the Library by London-based artist Uriel Orlow.

Entitled 'Housed Memory', the exhibition took place as part of the Year of the Artist sponsored by the London Arts Board and the London Institute. An outside element of the installation was housed in the Architecture Gallery at the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The residency involved intensive work for Uriel, recording interviews with most members of staff, some volunteers and readers. He also filmed the entire collection in all the various nooks and crannies in the Library, warts and all. Once this task was completed, Uriel edited the material into 17 hours of footage which combined the film of the collection with the soundtrack of the interviews.

The visitor to the exhibition was confronted with a slowly moving procession of books, documents and other material, while listening to an often stimulating series of interviews on the headphones. The resulting experience left visitors with a deeper understanding of the Library's collection and its meaning as a form of representation of the events of the Holocaust itself.

The exhibition was a resounding success and plans are in hand to show it in Germany and Israel. The staff of the library would like to thank Uriel for giving us this opportunity to explore the importance of the collection from an unusual angle.

Colin Clarke

Generation Exodus

The Library's former Director Professor Walter Laqueur, is publishing a book which may be of interest to our readers. Entitled *Generation Exodus: the fate of young Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany*, the volume documents the lives of young Jews who fled to Palestine and the US, the Soviet Union and Great Britain, to make new lives. Professor Laqueur traces the extraordinary contribution made by the Generation Exodus (born roughly between 1914 and 1928) – among whom are luminaries such as Henry Kissinger and Dr Ruth Westheimer, as well as many scholars and writers and even a Hindu guru, a Benedictine abbot and a West African chieftain.

Writing about Laqueur's book, the former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Richard von Weiszäcker, noted that "the sufferings of those who had to emigrate, their incredible challenges to find new roots, their astounding success in many cases and, not least, the never-healing losses to their former homes tells the story to the young generation in our part of the world which it should never forget." The book will be published in March 2001 by Brandeis University Press.

Art and history: A reflection

At the Imperial War Museum in London the permanent Holocaust exhibition continues, its documentary approach in sharp contrast to the artists' view of the Holocaust that could be seen recently at the Royal Academy of Arts' autumn show, 'Apocalypse – Beauty and Horror in Contemporary Art'.

At the Academy, eight horror-filled display cases made up a work by Jake and Dinos Chapman entitled 'Hell'. These formed the core of the exhibition, around which the curators arranged 14 other contemporary works. In 'Hell' thousands of tiny Nazi figures – some multi-limbed mutants – lynched, tortured and impaled one another in multiple scenes of utmost atrocity. The scenes were repulsive and terrible, but the gaze of the viewer was held. Almost against one's will one found a sort of beauty in this intricate assemblage of horror. The Chapman brothers link their art with the ideas of Adorno that art as a vehicle for creating a better world has been exposed as a utopia. Modernity has failed, reaching its nadir in the Holocaust. The artists' rejection of any belief in progress finds expression in post-modern irony. The Chapmans remark: "This is not the Enlightenment, it is the Age of Light Entertainment".

At the Imperial War Museum one finds no post-modern irony, no 'light entertainment'. Historical realities are reconstructed in a documentary fashion using a variety of media: photography, film, documents, sound, text and so on. A conscious decision was taken by the curators to exclude artistic representations, as being irreconcilable with the exhibition's documentary-narrative approach. Emotional impact was to be achieved through a restrained use of authenticated facts. The exhibition spans the period from the rise of National Socialism to the liberation of the camps. By including images of Jewish life in the Weimar Republic the curators wished to restore dignity to people who are unavoidably humiliated by being depicted as victims.

The tensions between the documentary and artistic approaches are most vividly seen by comparing the model of Auschwitz at the Imperial War Museum with 'Hell'. The former allows the viewer to comprehend the sheer scale of the National Socialist machinery of death in Poland. The uniform white colouring disengages the viewer from detail and directs him/her towards the totality, thereby inadvertently reducing the (human) figures to mere objects. At the centre of the model is the arriving train, from which the figures move along their prescribed paths towards immediate or postponed death. In 'Hell' it is quite different. The Chapmans' piece is fragmented into dozens of distinct scenes operating in parallel, preventing the viewer from apprehending a coherent whole. The division into eight display cases underscores this. The viewer can find no protective distance of any sort from the object, while the Auschwitz model negates all sign of human individuality.

Comparing the two different approaches supplies a great deal of food for thought, though neither has much to offer by way of comfort or consolation.

**Thomas
Führhapter**



The catalogue to 'Apocalypse' and a Hungarian transport undergoing selection at Auschwitz in 1944.

Recent events

Autumn talks

The autumn season of lectures were chaired by Dr Jo Reilly.

On 18 October Dr Helmut Bauer presented his documentary film *Für Lohn und Würde*, a record of his work with a group of former slave labourers. The film was screened in German with an English language summary.

On 25 October Professor Mark Roseman, author of the Fraenkel Prize-winning book *The past in hiding*, spoke on 'Hidden Resistance: The League of Socialist Life, a Jewish Girl and the Nazis'. Following a lively discussion, Penguin Books held a reception.

On 9 November the Library in association with the Jewish Socialists Group presented a speaker evening featuring Professor Tony Kushner of Southampton University and Ladislav Balaz of the Europa Roma organisation. The discussions looked at British refugee policy in the 20th century, with particular reference to the Roma people.

On 26 November the Library, in association with the Jewish Museum, Finchley, presented a lecture by Dr Louise London, 'Whitehall and the Jews 1933–1948: British Immigration Policy and the Holocaust'.

Prize winners

The Fraenkel Prize for the year 2000 attracted some outstanding entries and the judges wrestled with very difficult decisions. The Category A Prize, open to all entrants, was shared between Professor Mark Roseman for *The past in hiding* and Dr Alan Kramer and Professor John Horne for *German atrocities in 1914: meanings and memories of war*. The Category B Prize, open to entrants who have not yet published a major work, went to Dr Maureen Healy for her essay *Vienna falling: total war and everyday life 1914–1918*. Dr Jill Stephenson of Edinburgh University has joined the Fraenkel Prize judges. For information about the 2001 Prize please contact the Administrative Secretary at the Library.

Friends Open Day and other dates

FRIENDS OPEN DAY BRING A FRIEND – BECOME A FRIEND

SUNDAY 21 JANUARY 2001
2.00 – 5.00PM

A chance to look behind the scenes and learn more about the cataloguing, conservation and archiving work being sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund. There will also be a chance to hear Elizabeth Welt Trahan, author of *Walking with ghosts*, speak about her experiences as a Jewish child in 1930s Vienna.

Refreshments will be served

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION AND RESEARCH

To mark Britain's first national Holocaust Memorial Day the Wiener Library is holding two special events.

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2001
8.00 – 10.00PM

BY INVITATION ONLY

IN LIVING MEMORY

An opportunity for invited guests, including leading artists, musicians, writers and journalists, to spend an evening in the basement of the oldest Holocaust archive in the world on the first National Holocaust Memorial Day. The first of a series of planned annual Memorial Day events to be held in the subterranean labyrinth of the Wiener Library.

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY 2001

2.00 – 5.00PM

ADMISSION £2 – FREE TO FRIENDS OF
THE WIENER LIBRARY

WHAT DO WE REMEMBER?

PROF. PETER PULZER
All Souls College, Oxford

REFLECTIONS ON HOLOCAUST RESEARCH, PRESENT AND FUTURE

PROF. PETER LONGERICH
Royal Holloway, University of London

Refreshments will be served

SPRING EARLY EVENING LECTURE SERIES

ADMISSION £2 – FREE TO FRIENDS OF
THE WIENER LIBRARY

14 FEBRUARY 2001

(6.30pm)

At the Wiener Library

OUT OF HITLER'S REACH: THE SCATTERGOOD QUAKER HOSTEL FOR EUROPEAN REFUGEES, 1929–1943

DR MICHAEL LUICK-THRAMS
Author and Researcher

21 FEBRUARY 2001

(6.30pm)

At the Wiener Library

BETWEEN DIGNITY AND DESPAIR: JEWISH WOMEN AND FAMILIES IN NAZI GERMANY

WINNER OF THE 1996 FRAENKEL PRIZE
PROFESSOR MARION KAPLAN
Queen's College, City University of
New York

27 FEBRUARY 2001

(6.30pm)

At the Wiener Library

ACKNOWLEDGED DEBTS: GERMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO RECOVERING JEWISH HERITAGE AND MEMORY

DR HERBERT LOEBL
Author and Researcher

7 MARCH 2001

(6.30pm)

At the Wiener Library

SUITCASES AND SANCTUARY: DEVELOPING 19 PRINCELET STREET, LONDON E1 AS A MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION IN LONDON'S 'LOWER EAST SIDE'

SUSIE SYMES
Spitalfields Centre

3 APRIL 2001

(6.30pm)

At the Wiener Library

RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGLO- JEWRY AND THE JEWISH REFUGEES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE 1933–1960

DR ANTHONY GRENVILLE
Author and Researcher
