

## David Josef Bach Rediscovered

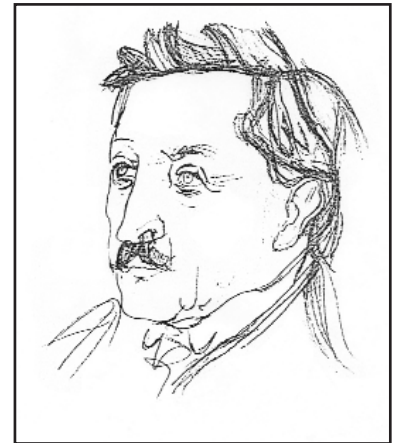
David Josef Bach, who was born into a Jewish family in Lemberg in 1874 and died in London in 1947, was a pivotal figure in the cultural life of Vienna. In 1905 he founded the celebrated Workers Symphony Concerts and in 1919 he was appointed Director of the 'Sozialdemokratische Kunststelle', which enabled him to develop a dynamic programme of artistic events. However, his activities earned him the hostility of right-wing groups, who denounced his programme as a 'Jewish conspiracy' to undermine traditional culture. As a friend of Anton Webern and Arnold Schoenberg, he supported contemporary music, but he also admired more conservative figures like Richard Strauss and Hugo von Hofmannsthal, and his internationalism led him to support artists from beyond Austria's borders like Bela Bartok and Karel Capek. The esteem in which

he was held by contemporaries is reflected in the collection of literary and musical manuscripts and artistic works presented to him on his fiftieth birthday, including Carry Hauser's evocative watercolour, 'The Dreaming Flute-Player' (see illustration).



This collection, which Bach brought with him to Britain, was exhibited for the first time in February-March 2003 at the Austrian Cultural Forum in London. Visitors were able to admire original paintings, manuscripts and musical scores by Alban Berg, Bela Bartok, Oskar Kokoschka, Robert Musil, Arnold Schoenberg, Harry Täuber and Anton Webern. The speech delivered at the opening by the former Deputy Chancellor of Austria, Dr Erhard Busek, suggested that Bach's 'networking' skills in

inter-war Vienna might serve as a model for current attempts to co-ordinate cultural relations on a European scale. The exhibition design by Christa Geiselhofer reminded us of the political context of Bach's career.



*Sketch of David Bach  
by Oskar Kokoschka*

This theme was further explored during the

accompanying symposium on 'Austrian Culture between the Wars', co-ordinated by Professor Edward Timms and Dr Judith Beniston. Ian Menzies (formerly Hans Menzinger) spoke movingly about Viennese socialist culture as the legacy of his childhood, highlighting his experiences in the 'Rote Falken' (left-wing 'boy scouts'). David Bach's position as a pioneer of musical modernism was presented by Christoph Glanz and Julian Johnson, with illustrations at the piano by Jared Armstrong, who initiated the rediscovery of the Bach collection.

A further series of papers explored Bach's cultural politics, including the controversial Theatre and Music Festival which he organized in 1924 (presented by John Warren). The importance of the Social-Democratic *Arbeiter-Zeitung* was highlighted by several speakers, including Wolfgang Maderthaner, Judith Beniston, Deborah Holmes and Robert Pyrah. Michelle Duncan analysed Bach's contributions to the cinema, while Anita Mayer-Hirzberger described the take-over of socialist institutions after 1934 by the Austrian Corporate State, and Charmian Brinson reconstructed Bach's experiences in exile. In the concluding discussion, it was suggested that further research is needed on the relationship between cultural politics and Jewish identity.

It is planned to edit the symposium papers for publication and produce a CD based on the Bach collection. Special thanks are due to its present custodian, Dr Philip Marriott; and to Dr Michael Zimmermann, Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum, for generously producing this event.

## Conferences

### *Nationalist Myths and Modern Media*

22 & 23 October 2003

10, St James Square, London SW1



Cover illustration from *A Teachers' Guide to Holocaust Denial on the Internet* by Rebekah Webb and Chana Moshenska, published by the Centre for German Jewish Studies

In October 2003, the Centre for German Jewish Studies will hold a two-day international conference entitled '**Nationalist Myths and Modern Media**', funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board.

This high calibre conference aims to bring together Friends of the Centre, academics, students, journalists and policy makers to discuss the nationalist myths being created and revived in today's media. Topics will include historical 'revisionism', modern conspiracy theories, antisemitic and racist rhetoric, 'Internet Hate', post-Soviet nationalist discourse and post-unification German nationalism.

Speakers will include David Binder (*New York Times*) and Professor Alfred Grosser (Institut d'Études Politiques) and key representatives from the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia and from other high profile organisations. The programme is being co-ordinated by Dr Stella Rock and Dr Hans Brinks, Research Fellows at the Sussex Centre.

A limited number of reduced price places will be offered to students and Friends of the Centre. Early registration is strongly advised.

For further information please contact:

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<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/cgjs/events.html>.

### *Religious Extremism*

On January 30, a second 'Religion and Extremism' seminar on Christian Fundamentalism, Racism and Antisemitism was held at the University of Sussex Meeting House. The event was funded by a British Academy grant, awarded to Dr Stella Rock and Alexander Verkhovsky, for research on Russian Orthodox antisemitism. The preliminary inter-faith prayer service was led by the Roman Catholic chaplain Father Rob Esdaile, Rabbi David Meyer of the Brighton and Hove New Synagogue, and Father Sergei Hackel of the Moscow Patriarchate. A huge thunderclap greeted the 'Prayer for Peace', marking the beginning of a small blizzard. This inclement weather did not however deter our visitors from London and further afield, and around 30 scholars attended the event.

Speakers explored the inter-related themes of religious nationalism, antisemitism, xenophobia, and politicised Christianity in both mainstream Churches and radical groups. Alexander Verkhovsky analysed the attitudes of Russian Orthodox radicals to Islam in the aftermath of September 11 in a thought-provoking paper entitled 'Who is the Enemy Now?', concluding that 'the Muslim' is unlikely to succeed 'the Jew' as the primary enemy in their dualistic ideology.

Professor Robert Wistrich, Head of the Jerusalem-based Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism, contributed a paper on Roman Catholic antisemitism. Michael Walsh (Heythrop College) spoke about Opus Dei in the context of Spanish national Catholicism, and Dr Hans Brinks explored political Lutheranism and its use by extreme and mainstream German nationalists. Finally, Aaron Winter (University of Sussex) examined the Christian Patriot movement and returned us to the question of 'who is the enemy?'

The 'Religion and Extremism' seminars are intended to offer researchers an opportunity to discuss each other's work and potential collaborative projects, and in this respect, this second seminar proved as productive as the first. The 'Religion & Extremism' email group (established after the first seminar in April 2002) continues to flourish, and a third seminar on neo-paganism is under discussion. Barbara Rosenbaum has also invited Dr Stella Rock to guest-edit a special issue of *Patterns of Prejudice* on 'Religion & Extremism', which will include selected papers from the January seminar.

## Events

### *US Army Chaplain with Sussex DPhil*

A German-born rabbi, who was awarded his doctorate at the Sussex Graduation Ceremony on 23 January 2003, has become an army chaplain in Oklahoma. The 38-year-old Henry Soussan had never been in the armed forces, although he has relatives in Israel for whom military service is compulsory. 'I was hesitant,' he said (in an interview with the Associated Press), 'but it was a challenge. A senior chaplain approached me and told me there was a particular need for Jewish chaplains.'

Henry took the oath of office at Heidelberg, Germany, in May 2001 and went to Fort Jackson for a 12-week Chaplain's Training Course in June. 'It was pretty tough,' he recalls. 'As survival training, the chaplains do the low crawl while soldiers shoot over their heads with machine guns.' In the US Army, Chaplains are non-combatants and do not bear arms. The main objective is to uphold the constitutional right of each soldier to freely exercise his or her religion. The US Army has only about ten active duty Jewish chaplains, who work within a pluralist structure. The majority are Protestant, followed by those of the

Roman Catholic, Jewish and Muslim faiths. As chaplain, Henry has the rank of Captain and is responsible for approximately 300 soldiers in the battalion. If he is out in the field, he will do a Bible study or service of a non-denominational nature. 'My work is with people from many different backgrounds. I try to be as flexible and open as possible,' he explained.

Henry, who is following in his father's footsteps as a rabbi, was born and raised in Freiburg and moved to Heidelberg as an adult, before starting research at Sussex. His project on 'Wissenschaft des Judentums', which was supervised by Professor Timms and the late Professor Julius Carlebach, was supported by the Lucas Scholarship. His wife Amy, three daughters and one son have now joined him in Oklahoma.



*Henry Soussan*

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Holocaust Memorial Day was commemorated on Wednesday 29 January by a programme of events at the University of Sussex entitled *Survivors and Refugees 1933-2003*. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, chaired the opening session, with keynote addresses on 'History and Memory' by Sir David Watson of Brighton University; on 'British Support for Refugee Academics in the 1930's' by Jane McAdoo, President of the Association of University Teachers; and on 'Problems of Exclusion' by Antony Edkins, Head of Falmer High School. For many participants, the highlight was Janina Fischler Martinho's poignant account of her harrowing escape from the Krakow Ghetto, which prompted many questions from the large audience and a lively demand for her book, *Have You Seen My Little Sister?*

The link with the problems of today was made by Professor Abdul Lazard, a refugee from Afghanistan, who gave an overview of current British Asylum Policy backed by an account of his own escape from the Taliban. Looking from another angle at present-day attempts of immigrants to eke out a living in multi-cultural British society, a film entitled *The Lift* was screened, followed by a lively discussion with its Director, Marc Isaacs, chaired by Judy Ironside.

Three simultaneous discussion groups followed. The first focused on Educational Resources and included the *Teachers' Guide to Holocaust Denial on the Internet* by Centre researchers Rebekah Webb and Chana Moshenska; *The Sussex Digital Study Pack*, a collection of the Centre's archive

material and photographs available on the internet, presented by Samira Teuteberg; and a short talk by Holocaust survivor Trude Levi about her new book *Did You Ever Meet Hitler, Miss?* In the second group, Antony Edkins discussed Film as a Teaching Resource in Schools, using *Escape from*

*Sobibor* as his example. The third discussion, chaired by John Jacobs (Sussex) and led by Nic Alderson of the Refugee Council, dealt with Current British Policy towards Asylum Seekers.

The event, which was coordinated by the Centre's Administrative Liaison Officer, Diana Franklin, was generously sponsored by the Association of Jewish Refugees, represented by Ronald Channing. Further support was received from the Association of University Teachers (AUT), the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA), and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE).



*Janina Fischler Martinho*

## Publications and News in Brief

- *'Lasst mich leben': Stationen im Leben des Künstlers Arnold Daghani*, ed. Felix Rieper and Mollie Brandl Bowen (Lüneburg: ZuKlampen Verlag, 2002).
- *Intellectual Migration and Cultural Transformation: Refugees from National Socialism in the English-speaking World*, co-edited by Edward Timms and Jon Hughes (Vienna and New York: Springer Verlag, 2002).
- *Der Kindertransport 1938/9: Rettung und Integration*, ed. Wolfgang Benz, Claudio Curio and Andrea Hammel (Frankfurt: Fischer Taschenbuchverlag, forthcoming July 2003).
- The first Max Kochmann Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Sander L. Gilman on 1 October 2002 at the Wiener Library on 'Multiculturalism, Global Culture, and the Jews.' A plaque in memory of Dr Kochmann was unveiled by his widow, Hilde Kochmann.
- Edward Timms delivered the Rabbi Rosenblum Memorial Lecture on 23 February 2003 at the Brighton & Hove New Synagogue on the theme 'Remembering to Forget'.
- Dr Eric Jacobson, formerly Assistant Director of the Centre, has been appointed Research Fellow at the University's newly created unit for Critical Religious Studies.
- Dr Hans Brinks, author of *Children of the New Fatherland*, has joined our 'Nationalist Myths and Modern Media' project as a Research Fellow.
- At a meeting on 17 March 2003 in London Dr Raphael Gross presented the 'Annual Report of Activities' of the Leo Baeck Institute. In addition to being Director of the London LBI, Dr Gross holds a part-time lectureship at Sussex.

## Kindertransport Workshop

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies, supported by a grant from the British Academy, is undertaking a two-year pilot study entitled 'The Kindertransport Children: Identity, Adaptation and Trauma'. The primary sources are the personal documents and autobiographical narratives produced by Kindertransport children, supplemented by oral history recordings. To encourage cooperation with researchers and others interested in this field, the Centre is hosting a workshop at the University of Sussex on 11-12 June 2003.

Topics for discussion will include Archival and Research Strategy (to be introduced by Ben Barkov, Director of the Wiener Library); the use of a Kindertransport theme in the novel *Austerlitz* by the late W. G. Sebald (to be discussed by Christopher Gregory-Guider); and Relationships between Autobiography and Fiction (presented by Irene Katzenstein-Schmied of the American 'Kinderlink' journal). There will also be an Open Forum during which other members of the Kindertransport generation will have an opportunity to contribute to discussion.

The event will conclude with a reading by Michael Krüger, author of *Himmelfarb*, a novel about German-Jewish relations, which explores the issue of stolen intellectual property, as practised by German academics after their former colleagues had been forced to flee the country. As Managing Director of the Hanser Verlag, Michael Krüger has also been responsible for publishing the work of W. G. Sebald.

The workshop is free of charge to Friends of the Centre. Participants who are not already Friends may join during the workshop. To register, please send your name and address (and any institutional affiliation) to Samira Teuteberg, The Library, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QN Email: s.teuteberg@sussex.ac.uk Tel: 01273 877184

**For further information about the Centre, forthcoming events and joining the Friends please contact:**

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