

Lectures in London

This new lecture series, jointly organized by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, Leo Baeck Institute and Wiener Library, was launched in September 2004 with a memorable presentation by Dr Hans Keilson, the distinguished psychiatrist. Recalling his formative experiences in Germany and the Netherlands between the wars, Keilson summarized his research about childhood traumatization, and he delighted the audience by reciting one of his evocative poems. The eleven lectures, held at the Wiener Library, all attracted large audiences, confirming that there are many people who recognize the continuing relevance of German-Jewish Studies. The most popular was the lecture by Professor John Röhl (Sussex), who spoke about 'The Kaiser and the Jews'. His biographical approach highlighted the role of the aristocracy not only in German politics before 1918, but as one of the strands connecting the Third Reich with the Imperial past.

The lectures illustrated the wide range of approaches adopted by leading historians, from Professor Richard J. Evans (Cambridge), who spoke on 'Coercion and Consent in Nazi Germany', stressing grass-root support for the Hitler regime, to Dr Jael Geiss's 'Reflections on Revenge for the Destruction of European Jewry', which showed that Jews living in Germany in the aftermath of the war expressed little desire for revenge. This (she suggested) may be related to the religious teachings of Judaism, which also formed the subject of the Hilde and Max Kochmann Memorial Lecture, delivered by Professor Edward Timms (Sussex), 'Origins and

Angels: Karl Kraus's Religious Ideas as Interpreted by Gershom Scholem and Walter Benjamin'. Kraus was a double renegade, rejecting both Church and Synagogue, but sensitive readers were aware of the religious dimension of his writings, especially the element identified by Scholem as the 'messianic movement of language'. For Scholem, there was a parallel between Kraus's conception of 'canonical' German writing and Talmudic traditions of religious commentary, while Benjamin saw the satirist's preoccupation with the sphere of law as a quest not simply for justice, but for the Judaic ideal of 'righteousness'.

Sussex as a leading European university

A recent survey published by the *Times Higher Education Supplement* placed Sussex in the top ten British universities (ninth) and the top twenty in Europe (seventeenth). Teaching and research in the Humanities attracted special praise, and we are pleased to think that the work of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies has made a significant contribution to these outcomes. The range of courses taught by staff associated with the Centre is described on page three of this Newsletter, while a list of publications can be found on page four. The quality of the Centre's leadership is reflected in the promotion of the Director, Dr Raphael Gross, to a Readership in the University History Department; and by the award of an OBE to the Founder of the Centre, Professor Edward Timms, for services to scholarship.

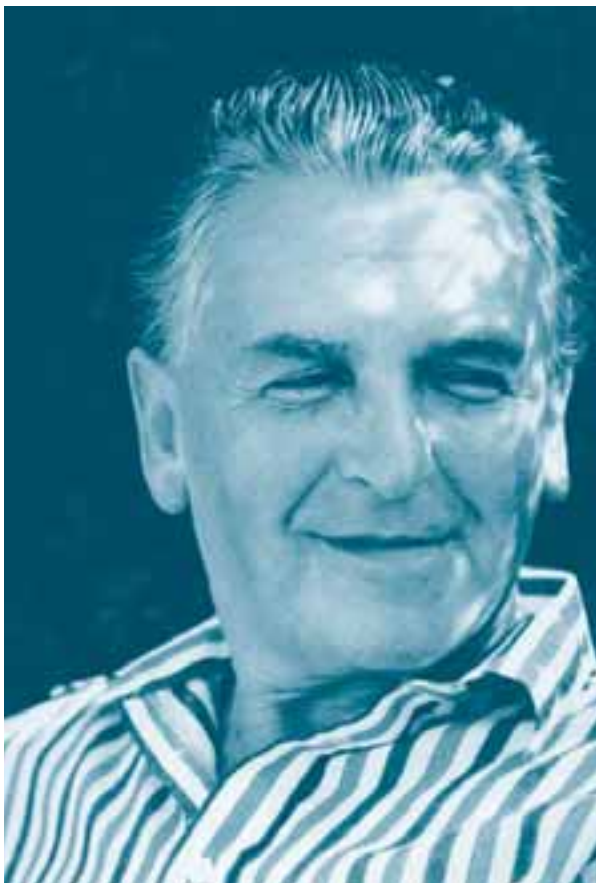
Commenting on the circumstances of the award, Professor Timms pointed out that the Centre's success has resulted from a creative partnership

between academic staff and supporters from outside the university, including the London-based support group that meets regularly at the Belsize Square synagogue, chaired by Peter Straus. Current activities at the Centre include work of national importance like the project to create a database of British Archival Resources relating to German-speaking Refugees of the period 1933-1950, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The aim is to compile a globally accessible electronic catalogue listing not only institutional archives, but also collections of family papers that may be of value for future research. This project has

involved visits as far afield as Aberdeen (to view the Karl König Archive) and the Isle of Man (the Manx National Heritage Library), while the Pritchard Papers at the University of East Anglia have proved a rewarding source of information about the work of refugee designers, including Marcel Breuer, whose Isokon Long Chair, designed in 1936, is illustrated below.



Richard Grunberger (1924-2005) – a tribute



Richard Grunberger

Shortly after the founding of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in 1994, two of its researchers were invited to attend the annual reunion of *Young Austria* at a hotel in Bognor Regis. Although the members of *Young Austria*, a radical refugee organization established in London around 1940, were no longer as youthful as they used to be, the star of the event was Richard Grunberger, who, with his wife Liesl – regaled us with songs from the Vienna of his youth. The following autumn Richard and Liesl were invited to Sussex, where they gave a joint presentation on ‘Gallows Humour and Musical Persiflage as a Response to National Socialism’.

It was not long before *AJR Information* (now *AJR Journal*), which Richard Grunberger edited from 1988 until his death, became a focus for researchers interested in the experiences of the refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe. In June 2001, to mark the sixtieth anniversary of its publication, the Centre organized a seminar at the Institute of Germanic Studies in Bloomsbury, attended by members of the refugee generation and

historians in the field of exile studies. Grunberger listened with amused scepticism as a series of speakers, including Sir Claus Moser (now Lord Moser), Professor John Grenville, Dr Anthony Grenville and Dr Jon Hughes stressed the journal’s importance as a source for historical research.

Under Grunberger’s editorship, ably assisted by Ronald Channing and other colleagues, *AJR Journal* became one of the liveliest British special-interest publications, appealing to readers well beyond the refugee community. In his editorials Grunberger was able to draw on the traditions of the feuilleton, a style of writing initiated by Heinrich Heine and celebrated for combining culture with politics and bringing a variety of themes together in disconcerting combinations. His provocative arguments echoed the style of Karl Kraus, the Viennese satirist he described as a ‘one-man tribunal sitting in judgement on manifestations of the *Zeitgeist*’ (*AJR Information*, September 1987). Grunberger’s journalism represented a late flowering of that same tradition.

Vienna between the wars – the forgotten city?

From 5 – 7 April 2005 an interdisciplinary conference on *Vienna Between the Wars* took place at St Peter’s College, Oxford, organised by John Warren (Oxford Brookes) and Lisa Silverman (Research Fellow at the Sussex Centre). The conference, sponsored by the Austrian Cultural Forum, explored the contrasts between the cultural achievements of Vienna and the political tensions that undermined the First Austrian Republic. Main sessions were devoted to *Cultural Parameters* (chaired by Edward Timms), *Race and Nation* (chaired by Peter Pulzer), *Theatre Tensions* (chaired by W. E. Yates), *Austria and the Successor States* (chaired by R. J. W. Evans), and *1934 and Beyond* (chaired by John Warren). Guests from Vienna included Monika Faber of the Albertina, who gave a presentation on Viennese photography, and Andrea Amort, who spoke on modern dance.

The designer Carl Auböck, gave an illustrated lecture on architecture and applied art, focusing on what he described as the ‘lost utopia’ of early twentieth-century Vienna. The innovations discussed by other speakers included the educational reforms of the Social Democrats, the philosophy of the Vienna Circle, and the competing theatrical projects associated with Max Reinhardt (analysed by Lisa Silverman), Max Mell (by Judith Beniston) and Friedrich Schreyvogel (by Robert Pyrah). Despite these impressive achievements, leading Austrian authors, including Mell and

Schreyvogel, turned out to have right-wing sympathies that prepared the ground for the disasters of the 1930s: the authoritarian Dollfuss regime, the crushing of Red Vienna, and Nazi take-over of Austria. For Britain, as other speakers confirmed, these events had positive consequences, since Austrian refugees made such a creative contribution to British public life. Even those interned remained culturally active, as Richard Dove demonstrated through his presentation on ‘What a Life’, the internment review with music by Hans Gàl.

Teaching programmes

Faculty members affiliated to the Centre have been involved with a wide range of undergraduate courses relating to German-Jewish studies and cognate fields of cultural and political history.

Raphael Gross is responsible for a third-year course on 'European Fascisms', which focuses on Nazi Germany, the Holocaust and European antisemitism.

In the German section of the modern language programme, **Uffa Jensen** taught the course 'German-Jewish Culture and Politics – From the Enlightenment to the Holocaust', which provides an overview of German-Jewish history, including the controversial career of Heinrich Heine. In the recently revised curriculum of the History department, a similar overview has been introduced under the title '1938: Kristallnacht', which will also be taught by Uffa Jensen.

Chana Moshenska teaches courses on the Holocaust in both the History and the English department: 'Time and Place, 1942: the Holocaust' (2nd year History) and 'Holocaust Representation and Cultural Memory' (2nd year

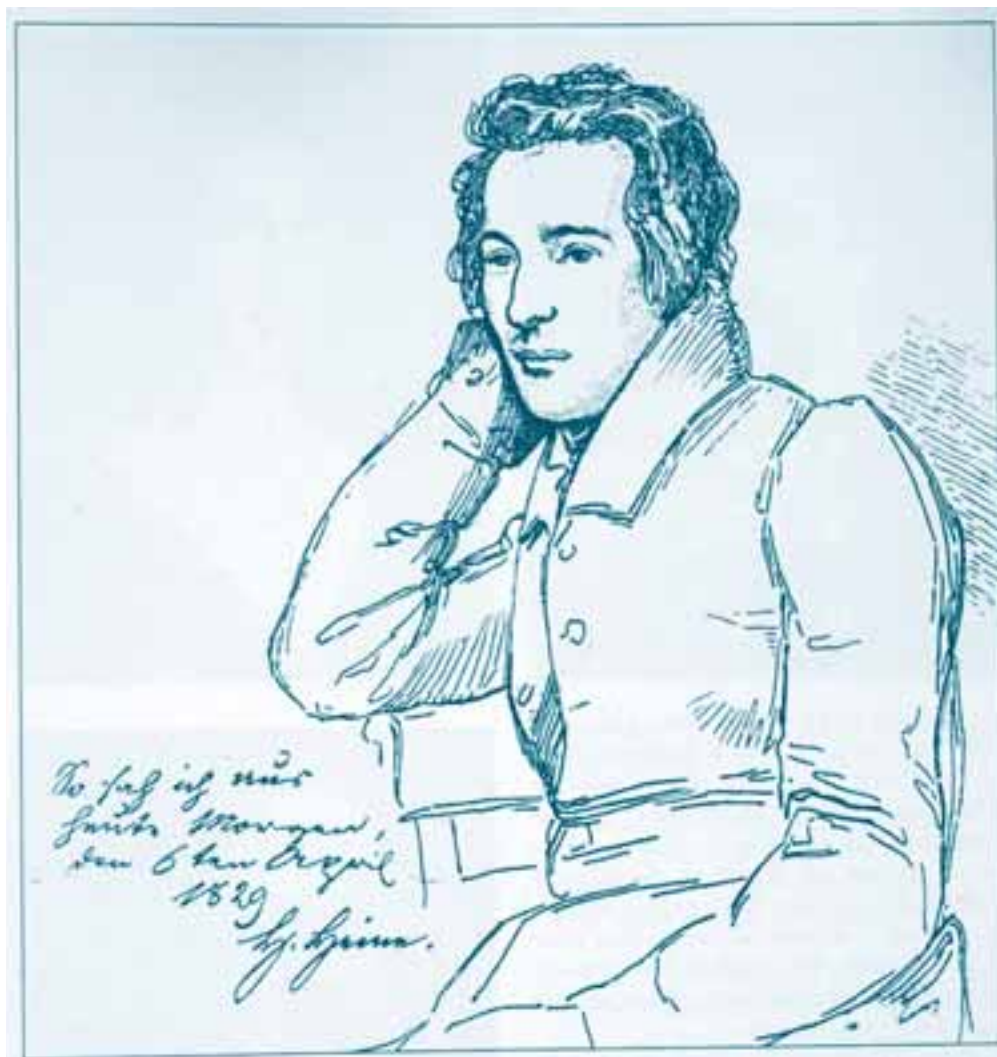
English). She also teaches Cultural Studies programmes: 'Diaspora Cultures' (1st year) and 'Autobiography and the Construction of Identity' (2nd year). From September 2005, Chana will teach two new 3rd year courses entitled 'Sites of Memory' and 'Gender and Violence'. From September 2005 she will combine her work at the Centre with a part-time lectureship in the Anthropology department.

Andrea Hammel, who contributes to the course on 'Autobiography and Identity', teaches a Final Year German Language course including contextual and translation studies. She also contributes to two cultural studies courses: 'Studying Culture' and 'Representations of Culture'.

The Centre has developed a new MA in 'Modern European Jewish History, Culture and Thought', which is currently taught at the Leo Baeck Institute in London.

Raphael Gross taught the core course entitled 'Jews, Power and Intellectual History', assisted by **Professor Sander Gilman**, an expert on Jewish cultural history. This course covers 'Jewish Thought' from Moses Mendelssohn to Hannah Arendt and is proving most popular. During the spring term 2005, **Lisa Silverman** co-taught the seminar on 'Modern European Jewish Literature' with Professor Gilman. The aim was to trace the Jewish experience in modern Europe by surveying a range of literature in English translation, focussing on authors like Jurek Becker, Sholem Aleichem, Arthur Schnitzler, Franz Kafka, Joseph Roth, Veza Canetti, Paul Celan, Italo Svevo, Primo Levi, Georges Perec, Israel Zangwill and Amy Levy. Issues covered included theoretical questions such as what makes a Jewish writer 'Jewish', and whether this description has changed over time or across national borders. This course concluded with a memorable visit from the novelist **Gabriel Josipovici**, who recently retired after a distinguished career as Professor of English at Sussex.

A further element in the MA programme is the core course on 'Jewish History and Culture', taught by **Uffa Jensen**, which serves as an introduction to fundamental developments within Jewish history over the past 250 years. Additionally, MA students can choose from the optional courses 'Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust', currently taught by **Ben Barkow**, Director of the Wiener Library; and 'Jews in the Sciences and the Humanities', taught by **Ulrich Charpa** and **Ute Deichmann**, both research professors at the Leo Baeck Institute.



'This is how I looked this morning, 6 April 1829': Heinrich Heine, lithograph by Franz Theodor Kugler

Project-based publications

Readers with an interest in the Kindertransport will find a mine of information in the Fall 2004 number of *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, guest-edited by Wolfgang Benz, Claudia Curio and Andrea Hammel. Articles based on the research seminars held at Sussex and at the Technical University in Berlin include accounts of the Selection Strategies of Relief Organizations (by Claudia Curio), of the Role of British Women in the Rescue Operation (by Sybil Oldfield), and of the importance of keepsakes, such as Bracelet, Hand Towel or Pocket Watch, which the Kinder brought with them (by Mona Körte). Autobiographical Texts by Child Refugees form the subject of a further article by Andrea Hammel, while Susan Kleinman and Chana Moshenska discuss Class as a Factor in the Social Adaptation of Kinder. This publication marks the conclusion of the Centre's Kindertransport project, funded by a grant from the British Academy.

The Kindertransport also features prominently in *Welcome to Britain?*, an activity pack for primary schools developed by Chana Moshenska, Mike Levy and Vicky Barker, with the generous support of the ANNE FRANK-Fonds. Co-operating with education departments in Cambridge and in Brighton, Chana piloted the pack with large groups of 9 – 11 year olds, and the resulting fully designed and resourced lesson plans have been enthusiastically welcomed by teachers. Although the pack covers successive waves of migration to Britain, from the Huguenots to the most recent asylum seekers, the main focus is on the experiences of the child refugees of the 1930s. Learning activities encourage pupils to relate to the lives of children from other cultures, and the pack also provides teachers with materials on current refugee issues which can be copied and distributed to children and parents alike.

A new German book on Arnold Daghani, based on the collection at the University of Sussex, is due to be published by zuKlappen Verlag, Lüneburg. The book, entitled *Verfolgt Gezeichnet: Der Maler Arnold Daghani* (which loosely translates as 'Persecuted Marked: The Artist Arnold Daghani'), is co-authored by Deborah Schultz and Helmut Braun, a historian based in Cologne. Deborah's research has been supported by grants from the Ian Karten Trust and the Leverhulme Trust. This book will accompany the further stages of the Daghani exhibition as it tours Germany, Austria and Romania during the next two years. It will contain eighty images by Daghani and essays that contextualise his career in relation to the culture of his native Bukovina and the sufferings endured in a Nazi slave labour camp in Ukraine.

News in brief

Katharina Leinius, a 20-year-old German-Finnish student, worked as a volunteer at the Centre for a year from September 2004 as part of a scheme organised by Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP), a German organisation founded in 1958 to confront the era of National Socialism in German history.

Lisa Silverman's research on German-Jewish women photographers has increasingly attracted international attention, and in April 2005 she was invited to present the results of her research on the photographer Lotte Jacobi (1896-1990) at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio and at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. In September 2005 she will take up an appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor of German and Religious Studies at Whitman College.

A further major publication is in the pipeline entitled *Nationalist Myths and Modern Media*, based on the project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and edited by Jan Herman Brinks, Stella Rock and Edward Timms. This book, to be published by I B Tauris, explores a series of fundamental questions. Must patriotic pride inevitably develop into nationalistic aggression? And what is the relationship between mainstream politics and increasingly vocal far-right groups in Britain and the United States, Germany and Russia? The papers collected in this book address these questions from a variety of angles, tackling topics ranging from Holocaust Denial to the War on Terror, from the 'martyrdom' of Rudolf Hess to the 'sanctity' of Rasputin.

Further publications

Andrea Hammel, 'The Destabilisation of Personal Histories: Rewriting and Translating Autobiographical Texts by German-Jewish Survivors' in *Comparative Critical Studies*, Vol.1, No. 3, 2004

Raphael Gross, *Carl Schmitt und die Juden: Eine deutsche Rechtslehre*, 2nd edition, with a new afterword by the author (suhrkamp taschenbuch wissenschaft, 2005).

Uffa Jensen, *Gebildete Doppelgänger. Bürgerliche Juden und Protestanten im 19. Jahrhundert* (Educated Doppelgänger. Bourgeois Jews and Protestants in the 19th century), published by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, May 2005

Margarete Kohlenbach and Raymond Geuss (eds), *The Early Frankfurt School and Religion* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2005)

Stephen Nicholls, *Some Jewish Soldiers and Officers: A Personal Dedication*, with a postscript by Arno Surminski (Burgess Hill, December 2004)

Edward Timms, *Karl Kraus – Apocalyptic Satirist: The Post-War Crisis and the Rise of the Swastika* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2005)

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