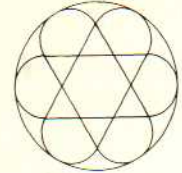




Centre for German-Jewish Studies

NEWSLETTER



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Progress Report

The Turn of the Century

'The intellectual concerns of Habsburg Vienna are ours no longer', observed a reviewer of Stanley Kubrick's recently released film *Eyes Wide Shut*. The film is set in contemporary New York, but the scenario is based on Arthur Schnitzler's *Traumnovelle*, a story about turn-of-the-century Vienna which the reviewer regarded as 'preposterous'. The series of conferences organized by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies has adopted a different approach, taking as its starting-point the career of Theodor Herzl. Our volume on *Theodor Herzl and the Origins of Zionism* explored the enduring

significance of his political vision, while the more recent conference on Karl Kraus served to bring out the prophetic qualities of the critique of the mass media undertaken in *Die Fackel*. The centenary of the first publication of Freud's *Traumdeutung* will provide the focus for our next major conference, to be held at the Tavistock Centre in London on 4-5 December.

One of the assumptions underlying this programme of research is that German-speaking Jews experienced the tensions between secular modernism and cultural memory with a particular intensity. 'Progress' is a concept which Kraus consistently put into scare quotes, while Freud observed

that most of his patients were 'suffering from reminiscences'. This sense of the active force of memory may have specifically Jewish origins, but it forms a component in the culture of the Viennese turn of the century which directly connects it with our own. Freud described himself as a 'godless Jew', but it was the 'Vienna' B'nai B'rith that he chose as the first audience for his theories about the universal significance of dreaming. The Freud centenary will thus appropriately be marked by a lecture at the Leo Baeck Lodge in London on 27 November, as well as the conference at the Tavistock Centre. Further details of these and other forthcoming events are given overleaf.

Karl Kraus Conference

Jews feature prominently in the history of journalism, and the magazine *Die Fackel*, founded in Vienna in 1899 by the satirist Karl Kraus, forms a significant landmark. Kraus became the great critic of journalistic malpractice and political propaganda, and his enduring influence formed the subject of a conference organized by the Centre in London from 7 - 10 September in conjunction with the Austrian Cultural Institute and the Institute of Germanic Studies. The event was attended by scholars from ten different countries.

Kraus is recognized as one of the most subtle of German stylists, and the conference began with the presentation of a comprehensive new dictionary of his metaphorical usage, the *Wörterbuch der Redensarten*, which has been produced by a team of researchers in Vienna under the editorship of Werner Welzig. The six million words of *Die Fackel* have been transposed into electronic format, and this has made it possible to develop more sophisticated modes of analysis, as demonstrated by the leader of the research team, Evelyn Breiteneder.

A series of papers based on historical and archival research analysed the reception of Kraus's work in different countries, from the Czech Republic to the United States. Gilbert Carr (Trinity College Dublin), joint organizer of the conference, delivered a paper on Kraus and the Vienna Burgtheater, while Peter Hawig (Recke) reassessed the satirists's contribution to the revival of Offenbach. Julian Johnson (Sussex) traced his influence on the music of Schoenberg's circle and Alan Janik (Innsbruck) explored parallels with Wittgenstein. George Avery (Swarthmore) reconstructed Kraus's involvement in the German Expressionist periodical *Der Sturm*, while Christian Jäger (Berlin) explored the links with Walter Benjamin. There was also an emphasis on the affinities between Kraus's critique of the press and current theories of the globalizing effects of the media. Silke Hassler (Vienna) demonstrated the connections between his analysis of propaganda during the First World War and techniques of distortion used in recent news coverage on Yugoslavia.

The question of Jewish identity was discussed by Paul Reitter (Berkeley), who took Wagner's essay on 'Jews in Music' as his starting point. Wagner notoriously asserted that Jews were incapable of original creativity and could only imitate the art of others - hence the journalistic facility of Heine. Kraus, too, saw journalistic writing as a symptom of imperfect Jewish assimilation, but his aim was to develop a style that transcended these limitations. Hence the profundity of his reflections on language - a theme taken up in papers by William Dodd (Birmingham), who analysed Kraus's influence on linguistics, and by Edward Timms, who traced the religious resonance of the satirist's writings back to the creation myths of Genesis.

A further highlight was the recital by Michael Rogers of scenes from Kraus's satirical drama *The Last Days of Mankind*, based on his own translations. Among those who attended the conference were representatives of the BBC, the *Times Literary Supplement* and the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*; Pavel Seifter, Czech Ambassador in London; Robert Wistrich, Director designate of the new Austrian Studies Centre in Jerusalem; and Emil Brix, Director of the Austrian Cultural Institute, which generously supported the conference.

Academic Advisory Board Meeting



Original cover design of Die Fackel

The annual meeting of the Academic Advisory Board took place on the eve of the Karl Kraus Conference on 7th September 1999 at the German Historical Institute in London. The Board was saddened to note the death of Lord Beloff who had been a most active and supportive member of the Advisory Board since its inception.

The Annual Report for 1998-99 was presented by the Director of the Centre, Edward Timms, and particular attention was drawn to the management consultant's work that had been carried out with the co-operation of the Centre during the preceding months. The recommendations that have been received are intended to improve the efficiency and productivity of the Centre and will be implemented during the coming academic year.

The Centre's revised Development Strategy was discussed and the Board noted with satisfaction the increased number of staff and projects. It was agreed that stronger links should be forged with other academic organisations, and members of the Board suggested the names of some Centres in Germany with whom links could be established. The Centre was congratulated on the success of the Metternich Conference. The next conference will be 'Intellectual Migration and Cultural Transformation: The Movement of Ideas from German-speaking Europe to the Anglo-Saxon World', to be held at the University of Sussex in September 2000. This will include papers on the innovative achievements of refugees in fields such as Philosophy, Psychology and the History of Art.

After the close of formal business, two of the Centre's Research Fellows, Ulrike Walton-Jordan and David Groiser, presented short reports on work-in-progress which were well received. Ulrike described the methods involved in compiling a computerized catalogue of archival materials, while

David outlined his project on the 'Concept of Judgement' and its links with German-Jewish thinkers.

In addition to members of the Support Group the meeting was attended by Professor Peter Pulzer, Chairman, (Oxford University), Dr Anita Bunyan (Cambridge University), Professor Ritchie Robertson (Oxford University), Professor John Röhl (Sussex University) and Professor Robert Wistrich (Hebrew University).

Belsize Square Synagogue

As a Research Fellow at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies Bea Lewkowicz will be engaged in researching the history of the Belsize Square Synagogue in London between 1939 and 1999. Since the synagogue is one of the institutions founded by and still very much associated with refugees from Nazi Germany, this study will contribute to a better understanding of the refugee experience in Britain within the boundaries of a community. This research sets out to explore the role of religion and community in the process of migration and re-settlement.

After studying History and Social Anthropology at the University of Cologne, Bea completed an M.Phil in Social Anthropology at Cambridge University. Subsequently she worked as Research Fellow at the 'Rethinking Nationalism Seminar' at the Institute for German History at Tel Aviv University. For the last three years she has worked as an interviewer for the 'Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation' and is now completing her PhD at the London School of Economics.

This new project is funded by the Belsize Square Synagogue. It forms an important new development within the Centre's overall strategy of co-operative partnerships with kindred institutions.

Racism on the Internet

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies has recently appointed Stella Rock to work with Brian Hanrahan on the 'Monitoring Racism on the Internet' project. The Project, generously funded by Marks & Spencer, is exploring ways of monitoring the impact of electronic racist propaganda - in particular Holocaust denial material - on students. Plans include a broad survey of the material accessible on the Net, a survey of UK University policies regarding access to this material, and group work with students studying the Holocaust. Since the project's start date in May 1999, Brian has already compiled and assessed a list of over 250 racist sites, while Stella is currently exploring the under-researched material from Eastern Europe - mostly Russian and Ukrainian nationalist and neo-Nazi sites.

The progress of this project is monitored by a Steering Group, whose membership includes Lewis Goodman OBE, a leading member of the London Support Group, and Antony Lerman, Executive Director of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research.

Students or teachers who have encountered racist materials on the Internet are invited to share their experiences with us by e-mail: S.K.Rock@sussex.ac.uk

Recent and Forthcoming Events

German Research Colloquium

The colloquium takes place on Tuesdays at 17.15 in the Arts Building, Room A155, at the University of Sussex and is open to anyone who is interested.

- 2nd November** Antony Lerman (Institute for Jewish Policy Research, London)
'Antisemitism at the end of the 20th century: An Old Prejudice in a New Context'
- 9th November** Dorothea McEwan (London)
'The Holdings of the Warburg Institute as a Mirror of Refugee Experiences in the 1930s'
- 16th November** Artistic Responses to the Holocaust: A Panel Discussion led by the artist Ralph Freeman and the art historian Monica Bohm-Duchen
(Gardner Arts Centre: in conjunction with the Exhibition-see below)
- 23rd November** Monica Lowenberg (Sussex)
'The Educational Experiences of German-Jewish Teenagers in Germany and Britain during the 1930s'
- 30th November** Eva Kolinsky (Wolverhampton)
'Living in Germany: Experiences and Identities of Turks and Jews in Germany, 1945 to the Present'
- 7th December** Alfred Bader (Milwaukee)
'Credit Where Credit is Due: The Discoveries of August Kekule, Archibald Scott Couper and Josef Loschmidt'

Related Events

- 11th November-4th December at the Gardner Arts Centre, University of Sussex:
'Foundations and Fragments', an exhibition of the work of Ralph Freeman
- Saturday 27th November 19.30 at the Leo Baeck (London) Lodge, 11 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3:
a talk by Edward Timms on 'Freud, the B'nai B'rith "Vienna" Lodge and the Interpretation of Dreams'

For further details please contact Diana Franklin on: 0181 381 4721 or email: Diana.Franklin@btinternet.com

Freud: Dreaming, Creativity and Therapy

The Centre is organizing a conference on 'Freud: Dreaming, Creativity and Therapy' to mark the centenary of *Die Traumdeutung*, which will be held at the Tavistock Centre in London from 4 - 5 December 1999. The aim is to promote a dialogue between practising therapists and historians of psychoanalysis in order to undertake a reappraisal of the significance of dream interpretation both for clinical practice and for cultural studies.

Speakers will include Stephen Frosh (Tavistock/Birkbeck) with a paper on 'The Dream and Jewish Memory', Ritchie Robertson (Oxford) on 'Freud and Schopenhauer on Dreams', Morton Schatzman (London) on "Thanks for the Memories": Problem-solving in Dreams' and Laura Marcus (Sussex) on 'Dreaming and Cinematographic Consciousness'.

For further information, please contact the Tavistock Clinic, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA, tel. 0171 447 3829/3715. Friends of the Centre qualify for the concessionary registration fee of £70.



Medallion showing Oedipus solving the riddle of the Sphinx

