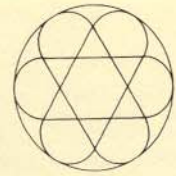




**University of Sussex
at Brighton
Centre for German-Jewish Studies**



NEWSLETTER

Editor: Ladislaus Löb

No 2

May 1996

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Since the publication of the first Newsletter in November 1995, the Centre has seen several significant developments. Work has started on the extension to the University Library which will house the German-Jewish Archive and Research Centre. The Centre has received two substantial donations which will be used to fund a Research Fellowship and a Research Scholarship in German-Jewish Studies. An international Herzl conference organised by the Centre jointly with the

Austrian Institute and the Institute of Germanic Studies, London, was held in April 1996. In parallel with these activities the Centre has continued to teach a wide range of undergraduate courses, to supervise postgraduate research and to run a weekly colloquium open to members of the University and others. We look forward to increasing expansion and international activity and would like to thank all our supporters for their help and encouragement.

GERMAN-JEWISH ARCHIVE AND RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX LIBRARY

A German-Jewish Archive and Research Centre is being set up in the University Library extension, which is due to be completed in summer 1998, work having started in March 1996. It will provide facilities for research into two core topics and a variety of associated subjects.

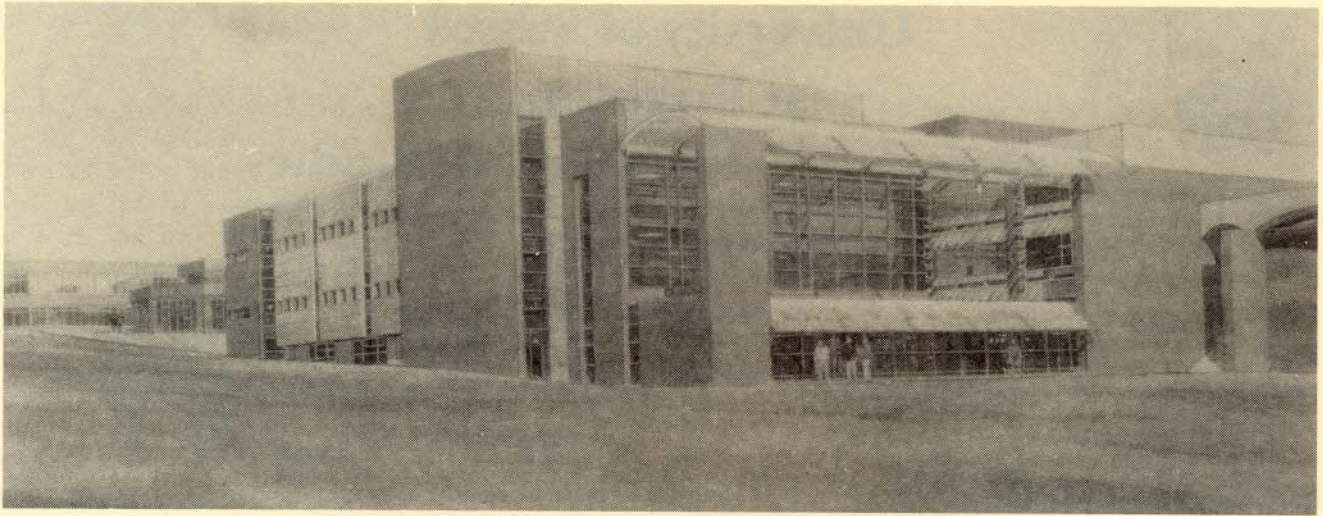
The first topic relates to personal experiences of German-Jewish refugees to the UK between the 1930s and 1945. It focuses on their family histories and their later progress, in addition to broader issues of displaced persons and the movements of groups and institutions. The second topic concerns German-Jewish refugees to other English-speaking countries and the experiences of Jewish refugees from other parts of Europe.

There is a large amount of personal documents, taped testimonies, transcripts, printed ephemera, photographs and other records, which urgently need to be collected, collated and analysed. Staff at Sussex University (particularly in the Mass Observation Unit) are

experienced in providing a home and expertise for the study of oral and personal history, and the histories of German-speaking Jewish refugees will represent one of the main sources of primary material to be held and studied in the Archive.

Further areas of research, for which secondary material will be collected, include the German-Jewish symbiosis and the impact of Jewish refugees to the UK, in fields such as technology, commerce and the media. Other subject areas to be studied cover Jewish life and identity in relation to multi-culturalism, migration and resettlement, refugeeship, the psychology of survival and exile, language change and acculturation, and the imaginative literature of migration and exile.

The campaign of the German-Jewish Centre and the London Support Group has already raised the £100,000 needed to cover the capital costs of constructing the necessary space for the Archive within the Library.



Architect's Drawing of University Library Extension

Further funding is now needed above all to provide the Archive and Research Centre with up-to-date information technology. The intention is to install work stations with e-mail and Internet facilities to link the Centre to Jewish archives in Israel and the United States

and other relevant institutions worldwide. One particular purpose of this equipment will be to develop a programme for monitoring and counteracting the dissemination of racist material, including Holocaust denial propaganda.

CONFERENCES

The second international conference organised by the Centre (with the support of the Austrian Institute and the Institute of Germanic Studies, London) took place in London on 16-19 April 1996. The conference was entitled 'Theodor Herzl and the Origins of Zionism' and was held to commemorate the centenary of the publication of Herzl's *Der Judenstaat*. A public lecture on 'Theodor Herzl and the Dreyfus Affair' was given by Professor Julius Schoeps (Potsdam and Vienna) at the Senate House, University of London. Some 20 papers, read at the Institute of Germanic Studies, discussed Jewish identity and Zionism before and after the Holocaust. Speakers (including Edward Timms, Ritchie Robertson, John Röhl, Daniel Steuer and Robert

Wistrich) represented a wide range of universities in Great Britain, Austria, France, Germany, Israel, Poland, South Africa and the United States.

At an international Herzl Conference held at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on 25-28 March 1996 speakers associated with the Centre were Edward Timms, Robert Wistrich and Julius Schoeps.

Future conferences planned by the Centre include 'Changing Languages: Refugee Writers in the English-Speaking World' (1997), 'Metternich and the Contribution of Jews to the Development of the Austro-Hungarian Empire' (1998) and a commemoration of the Austrian cultural critic Karl Kraus (1999).

FOUR CORNERS

Two collaborative research projects have been initiated as the first stage of the work of the Four-Cornered Consortium (consisting of the Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies, the University of Chicago, the Moses Mendelssohn Centre at the University of Potsdam and the Rosenzweig Centre at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem). These will study 'The Reconstitution of Jewish Identity in German-Speaking Europe' and 'The Jewish Contribution to Psychoanalysis and the Healing Professions'. Two International

Research Co-Ordinators, to be funded jointly by Sussex and Chicago will be attached to the Sussex Centre, working under the joint supervision of Edward Timms (Sussex) and Sander Gilman (Chicago). In addition to their specific research the two Co-Ordinators will maintain an efficient working relationship between the four members of the Consortium, prepare research grant proposals, and assist with the publication of research materials.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

A considerable number of research projects relevant to the German-Jewish Centre are currently in progress at the University of Sussex. These include 'The Genesis of Psychoanalysis and its Development in the English-Speaking World' (Daniel Steuer, Edward Timms and Francis Clarke-Lowes), 'Oral History with

Refugees' (Christina Brink), 'The Contributions of Refugees to Journalism and the Media' (Christina Brink and Andrea Hammel), 'Jewishness and Literary Discourse' (Barbara Einhorn; Ladislaus Löb), 'Science and Anti-Semitism' (Daniel Steuer and Caroline Welsh).

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Thanks to two substantial donations the Centre has been able to advertise the following research appointments, tenable from October 1996.

Schild Research Scholarship in German-Jewish Studies

This postgraduate Scholarship, awarded for a maximum of four years, will enable a well-qualified graduate from any British or other European university to take the Sussex MA in German-Jewish Culture and Politics, followed by research for a DPhil degree. The research topic will be the contribution of German-Jewish refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe to British culture. The Scholarship was established through the generosity of Rolf Schild.

Research Fellowship in German-Jewish Studies

This postdoctoral Fellowship, of up to three years' duration, will enable a well-qualified scholar to undertake advanced research in the field of German-Jewish Studies and to participate actively in the development of the Centre. It is open to applicants who

have already obtained a doctorate in a related area. The Fellowship is supported by the Righteous Persons Foundation, established by Steven Spielberg.



Steven Spielberg

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Papers given in the spring term of 1996 to the German Research Colloquium, which is organised at the University of Sussex by Professor Timms, included the following topics of Jewish or German-Jewish interest: 'Hidden Identities: Gender and Jewishness in the Work of Anna Seghers' (Dr Barbara Einhorn, University of Sussex); 'Homosexuality and Judaism' (Rabbi Rodney Mariner, Belsize Square Synagogue, London); 'The Destruction of a Jewish Community: An Eyewitness Account of the German Occupation of Novogrudok, 1942-45' (Jack Kagan, London); 'Hilde Spiel and the Concept of a Multicultural Society' (Andrea Hammel, University of Sussex); 'Jewish Life in Berlin, 1936 and 1996' (Victor Trevor, London, and Melanie Trevor, University of Sussex).

Papers for the summer term of 1996 include: 'The concept of "Jewish Self-Hatred" in Historiography and Literature' (Elisabeth Albanis, St John's College, Oxford); 'The Jews of Pomerania: A Forgotten Community' (Steve Nicholls, Crawley); 'Rabbi Dr Emmanuel Carlebach and the German-Jewish Symbiosis' (Stella Rosenak, London); 'Jewish Identity in the Work of Max Frisch and Arthur Miller' (Dr Ladislaus Löb, University of Sussex); 'Growing up in Pre-Anschluss Vienna' (Lord Weidenfeld, London).

The colloquia are open to anyone interested. It would help the administration if visitors from outside the University could notify Diana Franklin, who will be happy to provide further information (phone and fax number given below).

REPORT FROM LONDON SUPPORT GROUP

A founding member of the London Support Group has provided the following view of the Centre:

"When Professor Timms's inaugural lecture on 'The Wandering Jew' was presented to a large audience of academics and invited guests in April 1994, it was obvious that the University of Sussex supported the concept of a Centre for German-Jewish Studies. It was equally apparent that there was a need for the Centre to form strong links with the Anglo-Jewish Community and organisations representing Jewish Refugees.

In these days when universities face enormous budgetary pressures it is difficult to maintain existing programmes, let alone support new ventures. It was evident that external help would be required to provide funding for conferences, research work and the establishment of the Centre's archive and library.

A 'kick-off' meeting held in London was addressed by Lord Beloff (himself a former University Vice-Chancellor) and Rabbi Julia Neuberger (Chancellor of the University of Ulster). A small Support Group was set up under the leadership of Max Kochmann.

At a time when there are many competing demands for

charitable and educational funds it has not been an easy task to raise initial funds. Through hard work the Support Group has managed to find a sum approaching £175,000 in less than one year. This includes £40,000 for a research scholarship from the Rolf Schild Trust and a £25,000 donation from the Association of Jewish Refugees.

There is, however, no cause for complacency or self-congratulation. The Centre receives almost daily inquiries about the availability of financial support from first-class graduates, who are prevented from engaging in postgraduate work because of a lack of funds. Similarly there is only a short time left in which to gather, collate and analyse the testimonies of those who had personal experience of the pre-Shoah years in Germany and Austria.

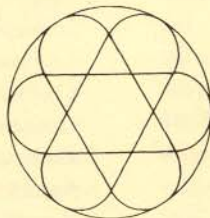
The Support Group would welcome help from people who would like to participate in the early stages of the Centre's work. Anyone who can advise or assist with fund-raising activities is warmly invited to contact Diana Franklin, 19 The Park, London NW11 7ST (phone and fax number below)."

VISITORS

Four representatives of the University of Bonn visited the Sussex European Institute on 18 March to collect information on research and teaching in European Studies. Their points of interest included German-Jewish Studies and the Centre.

Herr Steffen Reiche, Minister for Culture in the German state of Brandenburg, visited the School of European Studies on 20 March to discuss academic exchanges with Potsdam University in various subjects including Jewish Studies.

The logo of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, the Star of David encircled by a rose, symbolizes the ideal of co-operation between the two communities.



It derives from a decorative motif in the old synagogue at Dresden, constructed to the designs of Gottfried Semper in 1840, destroyed by the Nazis in 1938.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Inquiries about any particular aspects of the Centre should be addressed either to Professor Edward Timms, Centre for German-Jewish Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QN. Tel 01273 678495, Fax 01273 623246, or Ms Diana Franklin, Tel 0181 4554785, Fax 0181 3814721. For inquiries about the Newsletter please contact Dr Ladislaus Löb, Arts Building, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QN, Tel 01273 606755, ext. 2089.