

Research on the 'Kindertransport'

Following last year's joint seminar at Sussex, the Centre for Antisemitism Studies at the Technical University organized an international conference in Berlin on 27-29 June 2002. The conference, which was open both to academics and the wider public, began with a reading from a recently published autobiography by a 'Kindertransport' child, Gideon Behrendt from Israel.

Participants were welcomed by Professor Wolfgang Benz (Berlin) and Dr Eric Jacobson (Assistant Director of the Sussex Centre). Twelve academic papers were presented, including contributions from Ruth Barnett (London) and the Sussex researchers Andrea Hammel, Susan Kleinman, Monica Lowenberg, Chana Moshenska and Sybil Oldfield, not all of whom were able to attend in person. Speakers from Berlin included Rebekka Göpfert, Mona Körte, Claudio Curio and Ute Benz.

A particular highlight was the evening panel discussion, attended by seven 'Kinder', including three from the former German Democratic Republic. The conference concluded with a showing of the film 'My Knees Were Jumping' and a discussion with its American director, Melissa Hacker. The cumulative outcome of this combined research by the Sussex and Berlin Centres will be a volume of papers to be published in German by the Fischer Verlag in May 2003, edited by Wolfgang Benz, Claudia Curio and Andrea Hammel.

The American Kindertransport Association conference, held in Philadelphia on 7-9 June 2002, was attended by Sussex researcher Iris Guske, who distributed questionnaires designed to gather information about experiences of resettlement in the United States. The British Kindertransport Reunion was represented by Bertha Leverton. The theme of the conference was 'Remembering the Past - Embracing the Future', and it came as a relief to many of the 130 participants that there was less 'harking back to the past' and a greater focus on 'who we are now and what we have achieved'. In view of the attacks on America on September 11 and the feeling that antisemitism is on the rise, the need for communication between the generations was

especially emphasized. The second generation do not feel 'European' any more, while the third generation were even described as 'total Yankees', for whom it was especially important to learn about their roots. The importance of addressing the second and third generation of the



'perpetrators' was also stressed, as a means of making peace with one's country of origin.

Meetings in Sussex

The conferences provided an unexpected bonus: contacts with American 'Kinder' visiting friends in England. Our picture shows (on the left) Margaret Hallett, née Benabo, who now lives in Hove, with her 'sister' from the 'Kindertransport', Laura Gabriel (formerly Lore Eichengrün). They were photographed in their Finchley County Grammar School uniforms in the summer of 1940, a year after Laura's arrival in Britain. In an unpublished memoir entitled 'My Sister Laura', Margaret provides a vivid account of what it felt like as an eleven-year-old to adjust to the arrival of a stranger who spoke not a word of English. Fortunately Mr Benabo managed to arrange entry visas for Laura's parents, and after the Blitz began, Laura's family resettled in America.

A further visitor was the editor of the American newsletter *Kinder-Link*, Irene Katzenstein-Schmied, who was present at the Berlin conference and then visited the Sussex Centre together with her foster sister Eva Dart, who now lives in Southwick. Irene and Eva were welcomed to Britain as refugees by Professor and Mrs Muirhead of the University of Birmingham, and have many happy memories of that period. At Sussex, we value these links with America and hope that the database of 'Kinder'-related autobiographical documents, which the Centre is compiling with a British Academy grant, will later be extended to include American materials, if further funding can be obtained.

Awards

Austrian State Prize



During a ceremony at the Ministry of Culture in Vienna on 26 April, the Austrian State Prize for History of the Social Sciences was awarded to Professor Edward Timms, pictured above with his wife Saime Göksu after the ceremony. The Prize was awarded for a lifetime of scholarly achievement with constructive social implications, and the occasion was also marked by a lunch at the British Embassy, hosted by the Ambassador, Mr Antony Ford.

The 'laudatio' was delivered by Professor Moritz Csáky of the University of Graz. During a survey of Timms's publications, Csáky singled out his book *Karl Kraus: Apocalyptic Satirist* for special praise. It

was a pioneering achievement, Csáky suggested, not least through the development of an explanatory model that places Kraus's circle within a complex diagram of artistic and intellectual creativity, intersecting in the period around 1900 with the circles of Mahler, Freud, Wittgenstein, Schnitzler and Herzl. It was the Jewish dimension of this cultural formation that prompted Professor Timms to set up the Centre for German-Jewish Studies.

Csáky went on to observe that Timms developed a more polarized version of this diagram to show how that network of creativity was displaced during the 1920s by bitter confrontations between the conservative and socialist camps. Hence the bleak conclusions reached in a more recent article: 'Through the polarization of politics and the unprecedented increase of antisemitism after 1918, Viennese culture was torn apart by a rift that proved irreparable'. As an indication of the range of Timms's research, which is by no means confined to the Jews of Vienna, the speech also praised the book which he jointly authored with Saime Göksu, *Romantic Communist: The Life and Work of Nazim Hikmet*, a literary biography of Turkey's leading modern poet.

In a short thank-you speech, Edward Timms paid tribute to one of his mentors, the late Dr Leopold Ungar, a Catholic priest of Jewish origin whom he first met in Vienna in 1961. Inspired as a student during the 1930s by the religious dimensions of Kraus's satire, Dr Ungar played a leading role in Austrian post-war reconciliation.

Teaching & Learning Development Fund

In June 2002 the University's Teaching and Learning Development Fund awarded the Centre funding for a pilot project to create specialised 'online resources' for teachers and students around the globe. The project, headed by Dr Stella Rock, will make the Elton/Ehrenberg and Daghani archive catalogues searchable online and create an Internet-based study pack with selected archival materials.

Chana Moshenska (Director of the Centre's Educational Programmes), Samira Teuteberg (Centre archivist) and Deborah Schultz (Leverhulme Fellow) are working together to select artwork, video clips, documents and memorabilia for use by students and teachers of Holocaust Studies. Ralph Grillo (Sussex Migration Studies) will also advise on materials suitable for students of refugee and migration studies. These digitised images and documents will be incorporated into a special webpage study pack accessible to students and teachers worldwide. 'We hope that students will be encouraged to explore diverse types of primary source material, and benefit from the vast wealth of unpublished material held in these archives,' Stella Rock observes. The project is also intended to advertise the archive collections more widely, increase interest from researchers abroad and encourage teachers locally to view the collections as a rich resource for teaching and learning. Guidelines for teachers and students wanting to use the resource will also be available online. The team will also explore other online collections and investigate the possibility of a further funding bid to expand the digitisation project.

Research in Progress

Pictorial Narrative

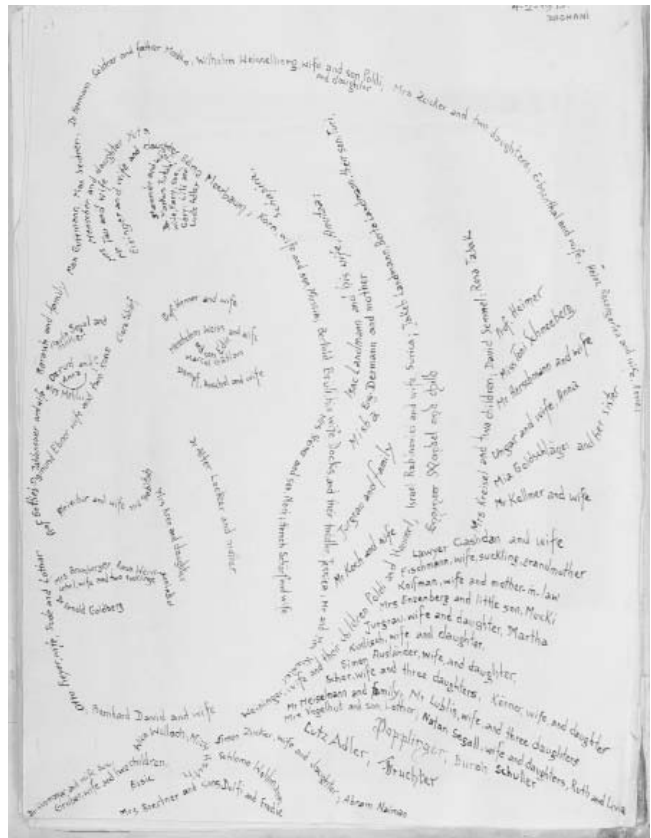
The first year of our three-year project on 'Pictorial Narrative', funded by the Leverhulme Trust, has been extremely productive. This investigation of the creative responses to the Nazi period by three persecuted artists - Arnold Daghani, Felix Nussbaum and Charlotte Salomon - focuses on the innovative forms of artistic production that they developed under the pressure of events, especially through configurations of text and image. Our illustration reproduces a pictographic drawing by Daghani, incorporating the names of Holocaust victims.

The research team of Deborah Schultz and Edward Timms has been strengthened by the arrival of Peter Weber, a doctoral student from Romania, who is also fluent in German, English and Hungarian. His interests lie with inter-ethnic relations in Central Europe and he studied history at Cluj and Berlin. He is thus well placed to investigate the political and cultural context of Daghani's early work, emphasising the connections between the private destiny of the artist and the political regimes of the period 1930-1960. The project hopes to show how the upheavals of the Second World War influenced the identity of the German-speaking Jews from Romania and how their tragic experiences under the Antonescu regime have been reflected in public memory. Mr Weber has made a preliminary assessment of research materials in libraries in Bucharest and Cluj, and has registered to gain access the notorious 'Securitate' archives, which contain files compiled by the communist secret police about Romanian artists and writers.

Further fieldwork has included research trips by Deborah Schultz to Bucharest and Constantza to examine collections of Daghani's work and personal papers, to meet art historians and members of the Jewish community, and to carry out library research. She also joined Professor Timms on a visit to the Felix Nussbaum Museum in Osnabrück, where they held discussions with the director and were given access to the archives. Visits by Professor Timms to the Charlotte Salomon collection at the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam stimulated him to write a paper on Salomon's debt to the eccentric German-Jewish philosopher Alfred Wolfsohn, which is due to be published next year.

International conferences have provided the opportunity to present papers on the research project and to network with leading scholars in the field. Dr Schultz began the year with a paper at MIT

(Cambridge, Mass.), on 'Displacement and Identity: Arnold Daghani in Socialist Realist Romania'. This paper can now be read in the e-journal ARTMargins. She has presented further papers at the universities of London, Sussex, Hamburg and Turku on aspects of her current research, including visual memory, artistic identity and a discussion of visual and verbal diaries. Both Dr Schultz and Mr Weber gave presentations at the Eighth International Conference of the Centre for Romanian Studies at Iasi. This conference on 'Twentieth Century Romania' enabled them to make valuable new contacts.



A German translation of the slave labour camp memoirs of Arnold Daghani, *Lasst mich leben*, is due to be published by the Klampen Verlag at the end of this year, with illustrations of the artist's work. Edited and translated by a former Sussex student, Felix Rieper, on the basis of a text produced by the late Mollie Brandl Bowen, it will include an introduction by Edward Timms and an essay on Daghani as an artist by Deborah Schultz. This publication should enhance Daghani's reputation as one of the most significant artists to survive the Holocaust and record the experiences of his generation in pictorial and literary form.

News in Brief

- Henry Soussan, holder of the Lucas Scholarship, has been awarded the Sussex DPhil for his dissertation, 'From Apologetics to Self-Assurance: A Contextual Study of the "Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaft des Judentums"'.
- A book entitled *Walter Benjamin: Self-Reference and Religiosity* by Margarete Kohlenbach, Lecturer in German at Sussex, will be published this autumn by Palgrave.
- *Carl Schmitt und die Juden*, the pioneering study by Raphael Gross, has been translated into Japanese and published by Hosei University Press. His article on the controversial German writer Martin Walser (co-authored by Werner Konitzer) appeared in *Gedächtnis, Geld und Gesetz. Vom Umgang mit der Vergangenheit des Zweiten Weltkrieges*.
- Articles by Stella Rock about antisemitic tendencies in Russian Orthodox brotherhoods have been published in the Swiss-based journal *Glaube in der Zweiten Welt* and in the American journal *Religion in Eastern Europe*.
- The proceedings of the conference organized by the Centre in September 2000 are to be published this winter by Springer Verlag under the title *Intellectual Migration and Cultural Transformation*, edited by Edward Timms and Jon Hughes.
- A symposium will be held in London on 12-13 February 2003 under the title 'David Josef Bach and Austrian Culture between the Wars'. It will be accompanied by a recital at the Austrian Cultural Forum in Rutland Gate and an exhibition of manuscripts and works of art, including an original drawing by Kokoschka, presented to Bach in Vienna in 1924 on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday.

Life History Seminars

The Autumn Term's Tuesday colloquia will be devoted to a single theme: Refugee experiences in the 1930s. The aim is to explore the wide range of resources involved in the study of Life History and to promote a mutually beneficial dialogue between researchers and survivors, especially those who have family papers or are involved with the recording of memories. With a rich pool of potential speakers to draw on, we have designed a programme of personal reminiscences, themed discussions and papers introducing the academic field of Life History research. The talks will be recorded and will form part of the Centre's archive. There will also be a discussion of the refugees' educational experiences.

This is a collaborative project with the Centre for Life History Research, also based at the University of Sussex. Rena Feld, who teaches on the Life History Certificate course, will begin the programme with an introductory paper on theory and methodology. The programme will also feature members of the refugee generation from different walks of life, including Sir Hans Singer, the development economist; Renée Goddard, whose experiences formed the subject of the recent radio play, 'Reni and the Brownshirts'; Vernon Saunders, who as a schoolboy living near Bristol during the 1940s contributed to the BBC Children's Programme, 'If I Were British'; and Ian Menzies, who uses imaginative forms of narrative to reflect on his experiences since he was forced to leave Vienna as a child.

The series has been planned by Chana Moshenska, Director of Educational Programmes at the Centre. The seminars, which are open to anyone who is interested, will take place in Arts A 155 on Tuesday afternoons at 4:30 pm, starting on 15 October. Further information can be obtained from Diana Franklin at the address below.

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

Diana Franklin, Administrative Liaison Officer, Centre for German-Jewish Studies
University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QN,
University: Tel 01273 678771, Fax 01273 678495 London: Tel/Fax 020 8381 4721
Email: d.franklin@sussex.ac.uk
Website: www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/cgjs