

Art from behind the barbed wire

An exhibition of works by Arnold Daghani was displayed at the Villa Meier Severini in Zurich from 26 August – 7 November 2004, featuring original works created in 1942-43 while the artist was in the Mikhailowka slave labour camp and the Bershad ghetto. The exhibition, based on works from the University of Sussex Collection, was organised in conjunction with the Zurich Lehrhaus, founded ten years ago to promote Christian-Jewish reconciliation. In his speech at the opening of the exhibition, Professor Heinz Stefan Herzka praised Daghani's work both as a chronicle of persecution and as an expression of its long-term spiritual consequences. A programme of talks and guided tours, including a symposium of the International Walter Benjamin Society on the theme of exile, accompanied the exhibition, which was designed by Deborah Schultz in consultation with the curator, Bernd Stieghorst.

Following the show in Zurich, the exhibition will tour a number of venues in Germany, starting with Rostock in January and Düsseldorf in May 2005. A book inspired by the exhibition, co-authored by Deborah Schultz and Helmut Braun, will be published early in 2005 by ZuKlampen (Lüneberg),



Zurich exhibition poster (featuring a watercolour by Daghani)

who recently issued a new German edition of Daghani's diary. The book will include approximately eighty colour and black and white plates of works by Daghani, essays by Braun and Schultz, and related documentation on Daghani's life. This relaunching of the artist's work in the German-speaking world will help to raise the profile

of the Sussex collection and perhaps attract further funding for its conservation and display. Although Daghani came from a German-Jewish family in Austria-Hungary, his work is also being rediscovered in Romania, the country where he spent his formative years, and a new Romanian edition of his diary was also published last summer.

Jewish scientists and scholars

On 4-5 October an international workshop on 'Research Practices of Jewish Scientists and Scholars in the 19th and 20th Centuries' took place at the University of Sussex Conference Centre, jointly organised by the Leo Baeck Institute London and the Centre for German-Jewish Studies.

This marked the start of a long-term project under the leadership of Ulrich Charpa (London) and Ute Deichmann (London and Cologne) on 'Jews in German-Speaking Academia in the 19th and 20th centuries'.

The question whether it is possible to identify specifically 'Jewish' features in scientific research was addressed from a variety of angles. The programme included papers by Moritz Epple (Frankfurt) on 'The Mathematician Felix Hausdorff'; Anthony Travis (Jerusalem) on 'Colorant Science

and Technology'; Gabor Pallo (Budapest) on 'Antisemitism and the "Modernity" of Jewish Scientists'; Simon Baumberg (Leeds) on 'Jewish Biologists' Views on Evolution'; Ute Deichmann on "'Jewish biochemistry"?' Leonor Michaelis and Emil Abderhalden as Representatives of their Jewish and non-Jewish Peers in Germany'; Emile G. L. Schrijver (Amsterdam) on 'What motivated Moritz Steinschneider, the Father of Modern Jewish Bibliography?'; Ulrich Charpa on 'Torah, Talmud, and Harry Bresslau's Historical-philological Work'; Nurit Kirsch (Tel Aviv) on 'Human Population

Genetics in the Young State of Israel'; Yael Hashiloni-Dolev (Tel Aviv) on 'The Effect of Religion on Paediatrics: Comparison between Israel and Germany'; and Frank J. Leavitt (Beer Sheva) on 'Science and Religion in the Brain Death Controversy in Israel and Japan'. Although no conclusion could be drawn from such a variety of papers, the primary identification of most of the figures discussed was with the international scientific community, not with any narrowly defined national or ethnic group.

Obituary: Muriel Emanuel



With the death on 27 June 2004 of Muriel Emanuel (née Hill), the Centre lost one of its most loyal supporters.

Born on 14 October 1928, she grew up in London and was educated in Muswell Hill. Her marriage to Ralph Emanuel in 1953 brought her into contact with some of the refugees who had been assisted by the Emanuel family, including Alfred Bader, the well-known chemist and art collector, and Gerald Loewi, the immunologist, father of the Centre's Liaison Officer, Diana Franklin. To many readers Muriel will be best known as co-author (with Vera Gissing) of the landmark publication *Nicholas Winton and the Rescued Children*. Her wide ranging literary and cultural interests are reflected in the invaluable reference work, *Jewish Writers of the Twentieth Century*, which she helped to edit.

Muriel made equally significant contributions in less tangible ways, especially when she and Ralph made their home in Hampstead available for meetings and other events in support of the Centre. The original gathering in autumn 1994 that led to the creation of the Centre's Support Group was held at their house. More recently, they hosted a recital by the young Russian-Israeli soprano, Ilona Domnich, who performed a programme of German *Lieder* and other songs to an appreciative audience. Music and painting formed an essential part of Muriel's life, and she helped to organize a number of events at the London Jewish Cultural Centre, including exhibitions of paintings by the Czech-born artist Bedrich Feigel and the Berlin artist Eugen Spiro.

Jewish Women Photographers

Since arriving at the Centre in October 2003, Lisa Silverman has been working as a part-time Research Fellow on a project supported by a grant from the Kohn foundation. Her special interest in Jewish women photographers has led her to concentrate on a relatively unexplored field, 'Visualizing Modernity: Jews and Photography in Berlin and Vienna, 1870-1940'.

Building on discussions with colleagues at the Centre, she has undertaken research at the British Library and the Victoria & Albert Museum, consulting their extensive collections of books on photography and visual culture. She has also found opportunities to conduct interviews and examine private collections. In January 2004 she met Primavera Boman-Behram, the daughter of Hilde Holger (1905-2001), the well-known Expressionist dancer and choreographer from Vienna, who allowed her to view materials from her mother's estate, including many photographs. In February 2004 she interviewed two well-known photographers in their London homes and viewed their extensive collections: Wolfgang Suschitzky, who was born in Vienna in 1912, and Dorothy Bohm, who was born in Königsberg in 1924, both of whom came to the United Kingdom as refugees in the 1930s.

In May 2004 Lisa travelled to the University of New Hampshire to conduct research on Lotte Jacobi



The three year old Lotte, photographed with her nanny by Sigismund Jacobi (1899)
© The Lotte Jacobi Collection

(1896-1990), a Jewish photographer from Berlin. The Jacobi Archive comprises 47,000 negatives, several hundred exhibition prints, and three portfolios, as well as letters, catalogues, and other documents. An article based on Lisa's research in the Jacobi archives was published in the Autumn 2004 number of the *Jewish Quarterly* under the title 'Family Business'.

Chancellor's Award for Chana Moshenska

The contribution of Chana Moshenska, the Centre's Director of Educational Programmes, to the work of the University has been recognized by a Chancellor's Award, which will be presented to her at the Winter Graduation Ceremony. Chana launched our annual programme of educational events marking Holocaust Memorial Day. She has also organised the Centre's weekly colloquium programmes, setting up a seminar series focusing on life history narratives entitled 'Refugees from Hitler'.

A presentation to the Board of the ANNE FRANK-Fonds in Switzerland secured funding for her educational project on 'Living with Diversity'. This enabled Chana to develop a teaching pack for primary schools entitled 'Welcome to Britain?' linking refugee stories from the 1930s with current refugee experiences. The project has been piloted in primary schools in Brighton and Cambridge, linking teachers and educationalists from both cities to their mutual advantage.

Chana has made several visits to Poland in connection with the new Galicia Jewish Museum in

Krakow, helping museum staff to prepare for visitors by means of Holocaust awareness workshops. This educational outreach is based on insights developed during her teaching of the Jewish Holocaust course at Sussex. As co-author of the *Teachers' Guide to Holocaust Denial on the Internet*, Chana has made a lasting contribution to British educational resources. Working with colleagues at the Centre, she has helped to ensure that a selection of documentary materials from our archives is globally accessible via the Web. Chana has earned for herself a reputation as a multicultural educationalist that enhances both the reputation of the Centre and the international standing of the University.

Holocaust Memorial Day Events

On Sunday 23 January 2005, a one-day workshop, coordinated by Raphael Gross and Ben Barkow, Director of the Wiener Library, will be held at the Leo Baeck Institute in London on 'Different Scholarly Perspectives on Contemporary Antisemitism'. This is a first public event organised under the umbrella of the European Network for Research into Historical and Current Antisemitism, and speakers will include Dan Diner (history and antisemitism), Ruth Wodak (linguistics and antisemitism), Michel Wieviorka (sociology and antisemitism), and Brian Klug (philosophy and antisemitism). Anthony Lerman, former director of Jewish Policy Research will open the programme with a survey of antisemitism in Europe today.

The focus of the fifth annual educational programme organized on the University of Sussex campus by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, which will coincide with the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, will reflect the national theme of 'Survivors, Liberators and Rebuilding Lives'.

One of the themes to be presented will be a comparison between the fate of Kindertransport children who arrived in Britain from German-speaking countries and the experiences of English children evacuated from the blitz and placed with families in the countryside. Which group had the greatest difficulties and why? The programme will take place on Wednesday 26 January 2005, and details will be circulated to Friends of the Centre shortly.

Russian Jews in Germany

When the creation of a Centre for German-Jewish Studies was proposed ten years ago, doubts were raised about a project that seemed exclusively historical and backward looking. Surely, it was objected, German-Jewish culture ceased to exist in 1933, according to a famous dictum attributed to Rabbi Leo Baeck. Research at the Centre and associated academic institutions has shown that this view was mistaken. The achievements of German-speaking Jewish refugees in their countries of resettlement, which have provided a focal point for a number of projects, show that this great cultural tradition continued to thrive for at least a further fifty years in displaced forms.

More recently, Jewish life in the German-speaking world has experienced a remarkable revival as a result of the migrations from Russia and other areas of Eastern Europe. The implications of this new development form the theme of the conference on 'Russian Jews in Germany in the 20th and 21st Centuries', organized at the University of Sussex on 13-14 December 2004 by Raphael Gross, Director of the Leo Baeck Institute (London) and the Centre for

German-Jewish Studies, and Yfaat Weiss, Director of the Bucerius Institute for Research on Contemporary German History and Society, Haifa. The conference is supported by the ZEIT-Stiftung in Germany.

Delegates from Britain, the United States, Germany and Israel will be welcomed by Richard Whatmore, Head of the Department of History at Sussex. The programme features a series of topics dealing with contemporary issues, including the acculturation of young Russian Jews in Berlin, the writings of Russian Jewish authors in Germany since 1989, and the ambivalent position of immigrants who say 'We live in Germany, but our heart is in Israel'. Other speakers will use a comparative methodology to contrast the experiences of Soviet Jewish migrants in Israel and Germany, and in Chicago and Berlin. A most intriguing topic, to be presented by Harriet Murav from the University of Illinois, is 'The New Golem and the Russian Jew in Germany Today'. In tackling these controversial themes, the conference will contribute to the understanding of an important aspect of the renaissance of Jewish culture.

Joint Lecture Series 2004-2005

This new lecture series, jointly organized in London by the Wiener Library, the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and Leo Baeck Institute, was launched on 28 September 2004 with a memorable presentation by **Dr Hans Keilson**, the distinguished psychiatrist and author. He delivered a fascinating lecture entitled *Leben und Trauma*, intertwining his own experiences with his theoretical approach to

trauma. The 94-year-old spoke most eloquently and with great feeling, quoting long poems from memory and keeping the large audience enthralled.

The topic for the second lecture, scheduled for 23 November 2004, was *Bitter Harvest: Jews and Christians in Hamburg 1933-1945*, presented by **Professor John Grenville**. In the years following Hitler's rise

to power, Jewish-Christian relations were more varied than popularly supposed – as is demonstrated in the case of Hamburg, a traditionally liberal city with a strong mercantile past. Professor Grenville uses data from official records and private documents to present a vivid picture of a city in crisis. Gauleiter Kaufmann, the Nazi in overall command, was one of Hitler's favourites, and yet was not always as obedient and officious as his leader might have wished. There were instances where economic interests prevailed over ideology with some Jewish firms still functioning in 1940.

Forthcoming lectures

7 December 2004

Gerhard Riegner Memorial Lecture

Professor Carlo Ginzburg, University of California, Los Angeles

Sacred Sociology: A French Approach to the Religious Dimension of Fascism

Georges Bataille, the French thinker and novelist, put forward a religious interpretation of fascism in the framework of the Collège de Sociologie, which he founded in Paris with his friend Roger Caillois in 1937. The lecture will deal with the precedents, ambiguities, and relevance of Bataille's approach.

Professor Ginzburg is the Franklin D. Murphy Professor of Italian Renaissance Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his dottore in Lettere from the University of Pisa (1961) and taught at the University of Bologna before moving to the United States. His field of interest ranges from the Italian Renaissance to Early Modern European History. He is a leader in the field of 'microhistorical' methodologies. He has published extensively and written numerous books including *The Night Battles: Witchcraft and Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* (1983), *The Enigma of Piero della Francesca* (1985 and revised edition 2000), and *History, Rhetoric, and Proof. The Menachem Stern Jerusalem Lectures* (1999).

27 January 2005

Holocaust Memorial Day Lecture

Professor Anson Rabinbach, Princeton University

Raphael Lemkin and the Notion of Genocide

Raphael Lemkin (1900-1959) is best known as the creator of the term genocide and the author of the United Nations Genocide Convention. His admirers have emphasized his single-minded belief in the efficacy of both law and language to alter reality, as well as his conviction that the extermination of entire peoples and cultures was by no means a uniquely modern experience in history. Critics have pointed to the lack of means to enforce the convention, to Lemkin's almost naïve belief that language translated into law could prevent mass murder, and the difficulties of translating supranational principles into a world where law and sovereignty remain intimately linked.

This talk takes as its starting point Lemkin's belief that genocide was an unpolitical concept and looks at how Lemkin's lifelong campaign was thwarted by the United States' failure to ratify the convention. Professor Rabinbach will look at the reasons behind the United States' obduracy and at the resulting stalemate which made genocide a lost cause until the break-up of Yugoslavia in 1994.

Professor Anson Rabinbach is the Director of European Cultural Studies at Princeton University. He is a specialist in modern European history with an emphasis on Nazi Germany, Austria, and European thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He is the co-founder of *New German Critique*, the premier journal in German studies in the United States. He has published extensively and is the author of *The Crisis of Austrian Socialism: From Red Vienna to Civil War 1927-1934* (1979), *The Human Motor* (1991) and *In the Shadow of Catastrophe: German Intellectuals between Apocalypse and Enlightenment* (1997). His current research is on Nazi Germany and on post-second world war exchanges between European and American intellectuals.

23 February 2005

Professor John Röhl, University of Sussex

The Kaiser and the Jews

15 March 2005

Hilde and Max Kochmann Memorial Lecture

Professor Edward Timms, University of Sussex

Origins and Angels: Karl Kraus's Religious Ideas as Interpreted by Gershom Scholem and Walter Benjamin

6 April 2005

Dr Avraham Barkai

The Centralverien and the Search for a Modern Jewish Identity

12 April 2005

Dr Cynthia Hooper

Volunteers against Fascism, yet Victims of Dictatorship: Remembering the Stalin Era in Soviet Russia

4 May 2005

Professor Richard J. Evans, University of Cambridge

Coercion and Consent in Nazi Germany

8 June 2005

Dr Nikolaus Wachsmann, Birkbeck College, London

Prisons and Camps. Terror and Confinement in Nazi Germany

These lectures will be held at:

Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1 and begin at 19.00.

Admission is free. Places must be reserved by contacting the LBI on 020 7580 3493 or email: info@leobaeck.co.uk.

For Further Information about the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and joining the Friends, contact:

Diana Franklin

Administrative Liaison Officer
Centre for German-Jewish Studies
University of Sussex
Brighton BN1 9QN

University tel: 01273 678771
London tel/fax: 020 8381 4721
Email d.franklin@sussex.ac.uk

Website www.sussex.ac.uk > Academic Units > Research Institutes > Centre for German-Jewish Studies