

AAJJS of AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION of JEWISH STUDIES

No. 18 October 1996

President: Dr Bernard Rechter
Vice President NSW: Dr Myer Samra
Vice President Vic: Dr Ziva Shavitaky

Editor's Column

A decade on ...

and a time for reflection...

After ten years of operation, and after holding its Tenth Annual Conference, it seems a opportune time for assessing the role which the Association has played in both the Australian academic community and within the wider context of Australian Jewry.

The formation of the Association in 1986 filled a real gap in the structure of tertiary Jewish Studies in Australia as it is the only academic association for Jewish Studies in Australia, and over the past ten years the Association has successfully carried out the activities associated with a professional group.

The Conferences

The annual AAJS Conferences, held, since 1987 in Sydney or Melbourne (and once in Adelaide), have played a vital role in the development of tertiary Jewish Studies in Australia. They provide an opportunity for both postgraduate students and academics in all the disciplines of Jewish Studies to present the results of their latest research to an interested audience. The Conferences also act as a regular meeting place for tertiary academics, Jewish educators, researchers, students and others devoted to the study of Jewish life, thought and culture. In this way there is a constant cross fertilisation of ideas across the boundaries of the different states, helping to combat the tyranny of distance and the feeling of isolation felt by Jewish Studies researchers in far away Australia, which is so distant from the centres of Jewish culture.

The Journal

The Australian Journal of Jewish Studies, a well respected and high quality publication which is devoted to the study of Jewish culture in all aspects and in all periods, is published twice yearly. The original editor was Dr Evan Zuess, who was also the first president of the Association. The Journal is now under the editorship of Dr Rachel Kohn.

The Journal always includes a fascinating selection of articles covering a varied and intellectually challenging range of topics

within Jewish Studies, including work from key researchers and academics in Australia and also work from scholars overseas with an international reputation. It is a valuable source of scholarship in this area.

The Newsletter

Members of the Association are kept informed of its activities and in touch with fellow members through the regular Newsletter which we produce three or four times a year. The Newsletter is also full of information from other professional Jewish bodies around the world as well as upcoming Conferences and Seminars. The Newsletter was initially edited by Dr Hilary Rubinstein, then by Paul Bartrop - from whom I took over in July 1995.

WHO BENEFITS FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S WORK?

The academic community, in particular all academics working in the area;

- Postgraduate students;
- Members of the wider community with an interest in Jewish scholarship
- Jewish educators in the day schools;
- Adult education programs such as the Melton Program;

Anyone interested in fostering young and interested Jewish minds and ensuring that those who want to further their Jewish education after school can do so because of the high standard of tertiary academic Jewish Studies and research that the AAJS has helped to create and maintain.

SPREAD THE MESSAGE!

What can we, as members, do to help the Association? We should spread the message of the vital role played by the Association within the academic community, and the Jewish Community. Not enough people are aware of the importance of our double role, or the fact that we are, in no small way, responsible for the increased interest in the study of Jewish life, history and culture in Australia... and that means Jewish continuity.

As a first step, let's try and expand our membership base so that more people know about us and what we do and more people benefit from our valuable work. I'd love to hear from anyone who knows someone who would like to become a member.

Suzanne Rutland

In this issue:

A full report on our recent successful conference plus ALL the news of the Association.

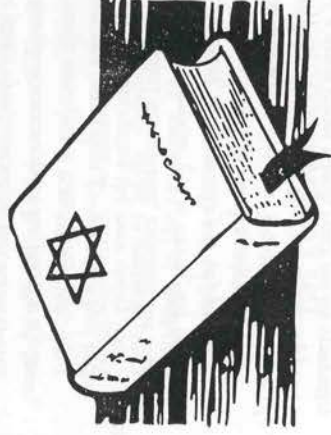
Publisher: Australian Journal of Jewish Studies

Honorary Secretary: Barbara Linz
Treasurer: Sister Marianne Dacy
Editor: Dr Rachel Kohn

With great regret, the Annual General Meeting has accepted, due to work pressures, the resignation of our honorary secretary, Sarah Gornall.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sarah for all her hard work on behalf of the Association and, in particular, all the effort she expended as co-convenor of the conference - producing the Abstract Booklet for the conference required an enormous amount of work. Barbara Linz has agreed to take over this responsibility and, in particular to work to further promote our Association within the broader academic and Jewish Communities. We welcome her as a new member of our team.

The next conference will be held in Melbourne, with Professor Bernard



Rechter, our president, as convenor. We are investigating changing the time of year that the conference is held at a different time from July, as many people are overseas at that time. Any feedback from members on more suitable dates would be appreciated.

Our congratulations go to Dr. Rachel Kohn on the production of another excellent Journal. This Journal (1995) consists of two issues. Rachel is already working on the 1996 Journal. While the publication of the Journal is not always as regular as we would like, it is extremely time-consuming to produce a publication of such a high calibre. Rachel undertakes this voluntary task in addition to her huge professional commitments, and we greatly appreciate her endeavours on behalf of the Association

THE TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Association 7 - 9 July, 1996

Report by Myer Samra

*Mandelbaum House, Sydney
University's bright new Jewish
residential college and centre for
Jewish studies provided a well catered,
attractive venue for a stimulating
conference with an excellent,
surprisingly varied range of papers.
Speakers included a number of
postgraduate students as well as more
established figures in Jewish Studies,
and two scholars came from Israel to
participate.*

Two papers dealt with Australian topics: Dr. Chanan Reich compared the policies of Labor and non-Labor Australian governments to the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine, while Dr. Rodney Gouzman examined how the Australian press reported the 1967 Six Day War. Dr. Reich showed that although non-Labor governments had been openly hostile to Zionism and Labor Governments tended to be more sympathetic, in fact neither side offered all out support for the Jewish State, though once Israel was established, the Menzies non-Labor government had little difficulty accepting the new entity. Dr. Gouzman, meanwhile, exposed the way Australian media "got it wrong" by not foreseeing the possibility of any peace process in the light of the extent of Arab humiliation in the war. Ironically, because of its dramatic victory, Israel lost the support of a press corps which reserves its sympathy for the underdog.

Professors Bernard Rechter and Lionel Redman offered highly entertaining "revisionist" perspectives on the Bible: one reviewing the historicity of the biblical account of Joshua's conquest of the Land of Israel, the other highlighting the irony that so many of the biblical figures we take as heroes and moral exemplars in fact behaved in ways we might elsewhere find unethical (how many times did the righteous Abraham describe his beautiful wife Sarah as his sister and allow one king or another to take her into his harem?). Sister Mariann Dacy continued the foray into ancient history with a riveting account of relations between Jews and Christians in the early centuries of the Common Era, revealing how sometimes absurd anti-Jewish works from ancient Greek sources were assimilated into the armoury of Christian authors who sought to vilify the Jews.

Professor Bettina Cass, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, gave a thoughtful keynote address linking Maimonides' stages of charity into a theory of social responsibility. At a time when governments have been assiduously dismantling the welfare state, Professor Cass urged a return to ethical concerns in politics. Although Professor Cass' views owed as much to Catholic social theory as to Maimonides, significantly this was the only paper which attempted to look at the ethical dimensions of Judaism.

Another dimension of theology featured in Rabbi Avrum Ehrlich's exploration of the history of the Chabad movement and the late Lubavitcher Rebbe's teachings on the Messiah, Chabad's mystical aspects and its outreach program (under the aegis of the late Rebbe) to the whole Jewish world. I felt I understood more about Chabad and Lubavitch after hearing this paper, and was struck by the many parallels to the development of early Christianity.

While the Rebbe has had a major, inescapable influence on Judaism in our own time, Rabbi Raymond Apple's paper demonstrated the continuing relevance of Rabbi Hermann Adler's life and his role as Chief Rabbi of Great Britain during the 1890s to the challenges facing Australian Jewry today, showing the limits of cohesion in a community which included pro-establishment Anglo-Jewry and Liberal reformers, Zionists and traditionalist Eastern European Jews.

Two papers examined literary topics: Rachel Birati explored the depiction of the shtetl in the writings of Isaac Lieb Peretz, Sholem Aleichem and Dvora Baron, while Dvir Abramovich analysed the changing attitudes to Jerusalem found in Israeli fiction, shifting from the idealised wellspring of Jewish inspiration, to the postmodern, postzionist trend of showing Jerusalem as a city that is "dreary and grey, emblematic of conflict and bloodshed". Both presenters gave us an insight into their authors' political and social milieu. Jewish creativity of another kind was highlighted in the paper presented by Rachel Ehrlich, who offered a comprehensive account of the history of ethnomusicology in Israel, and treated us to sample recordings from the remarkable range of musical traditions brought to Israel by Jewish immigrants from different historical communities, along with the music of Druse and Arab communities found in the country.

The Holocaust has always provided a rich source of papers at our Conferences. This year, Dr. Tom Kramer and Professor

Sol Encel grappled with issues bearing on the uniqueness of the Holocaust in the light of other genocidal events in modern history. Professor Sol Encel highlighted the way these have shaped the psychic of aggrieved national communities, while Dr. Kramer emphasised the singularity of the Germans' "final solution" for the Jews, making the extermination of the Jews a major feature of their war effort, expending their energies to develop sophisticated technology solely to achieve this purpose.

Two welcome additions to our knowledge on the Holocaust were provided in Dr. Suzanne Rutland's re-evaluation of the Dutch record during the Nazi occupation, and Ludmila Stern's exploratory work on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, based on oral histories of survivors now living in Australia. As Dr. Rutland showed, while many Dutch families risked their lives harbouring Jews, others willingly collaborated with the Nazis; indeed, apart from Poland, Holland was the country with the highest proportion of its Jewish citizens exterminated during the Holocaust. Ms. Stern's paper made me aware for the first time how extensive the Holocaust had been in the USSR, and how varied were the experiences of Jews in the different Republics.

Veronica Sumegi's account of the present state of Hungarian Jewry was also very welcome, showing the way that the largest surviving Jewish community in Eastern Europe has developed, after the Holocaust and the collapse of the Communist regime. Sumegi speaks of a "Jewish Renaissance" in Hungary, exhibiting a lively interest in Jewish culture and history, even though the practice of Jewish religion has almost disappeared.

I found this conference stimulating. I learnt a lot from the many excellent presentations, and was impressed with the range and quality of research on Jewish topics being conducted in Australia. *However, I could not help feeling sorry for the many people who might have been similarly inspired but had not attended.*

The success of the Melton Program in Sydney and the proliferation of other courses of Jewish Studies for adults here indicate that many people would enjoy exposure to such a feast of Jewish scholarship. *We have an obligation to let them know just how valuable our conferences are.*

NEWS

vidcotaping eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust worldwide for historical preservation, research and educational use.

“This project stands as a monument to remembering the past and to always examining our present”.

.....Steven Spielberg,
Founder and Chairman.

NEWS

By sharing stories first-hand, survivors play a vital role in making sure one of the most devastating events in human history is never forgotten. The testimonies also honour the memory of the more than six million whose stories will never be heard. Since the beginning of 1995 the

Foundation has interviewed more than 1100 survivors in Sydney and is now conducting interviews in Melbourne. There are many people who have been involved with the project in Sydney

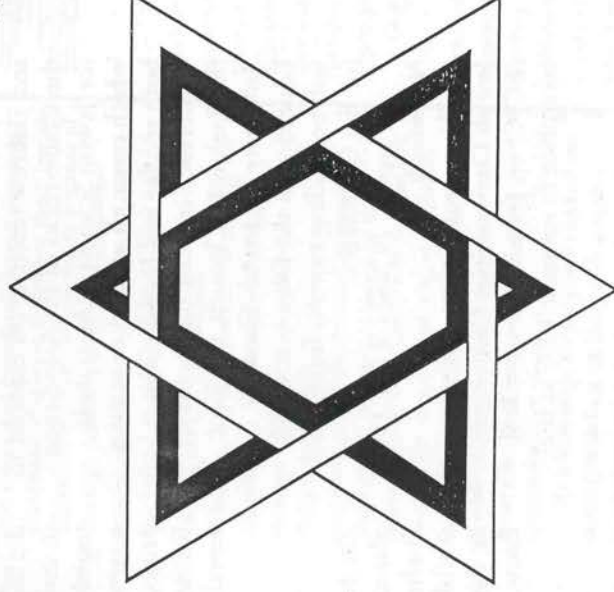
If you know any survivors interested in giving testimony, either in Melbourne or Sydney (interviews can be arranged in other parts of Australia also), please ask them to contact Pauline Rockman, the Melbourne Co-ordinator at the Foundation office in Melbourne at: 03 9681 9666. The archives are intended to include a wide range of testimonies from survivors whose lives were dislocated in any way by the Nazis after 1933... whether they were in concentration or labour camps, in ghettos, in hiding, in the resistance, in any country occupied by the Germans or their allies, or deported to Russia.

THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE IN POTSDAM.

Recently contact has been made with Australian Jewish Studies centres by Carrie Casselman, a student at Stanford University in CA who spent her summer working at the Australian Centre in Potsdam (near Berlin), Germany. Her project at the centre was collecting information regarding the status of Jewish studies at the six Consortium Australian universities that support the Centre. These are: Australian National University, Monash University, University of Melbourne, University of NSW, University of Sydney. This information will be used in the near future to determine points of contact and collaboration with interested German partners, such as the Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum in Potsdam. The Australia Centre is involved in the planning and co-ordination of a conference on Jewish Studies in 1998. Berlin also has a *JuedischeWoche* planned for 1997 and 98.

SPIELBERG'S SURVIVORS OF THE SHOAH VISUAL HISTORY FOUNDATION; DOCUMENTING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES.

Founded by Steven Spielberg, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to



THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES

The European Council of Jewish Communities has been sending a newsletter by faxlink, through the Internet, with updates relating to all its constituent communities. These communities total 3 million Jews on the European mainland and the UK. The newsletter contains educational news which is of interest to Australian academics and educators. (See upcoming Conferences and Seminars.)

This Newsletter exists in order to provide AAJS members with updates in the field of Jewish studies. Any relevant items are welcome including new appointments, research in progress, conference and seminar material and request for information.

CONFERENCES



AND SEMINARS

1996

Both these Conferences are happening now (October). If you would like a report or other information on the Conferences, contact the relevant person listed below.

First Conference on Holocaust Education

14 - 17 October at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel.

This Conference aims to reinforce relations between commemorative centres worldwide, developing channels of communication through which those teaching the Holocaust and its significance can exchange information and ideas. Participants have had an opportunity to examine the current state of the field, assessing it as the basis of their future efforts, present their programs, and discuss each other's work. The themes have been examined in the light of various disciplines: history, sociology, the creative arts and literature. Another avenue of inquiry has been the contribution of the electronic media, cinema, television, computers and multimedia. The Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) has sent Mrs Judy Shapira to represent Australia at this Conference.

For further information, please contact Ms Lea Roshovsky, Conference Coordinator, Yad Vashem, POB 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel. Fax: 972 - 2 - 751637/612/613/693.

The Inaugural Australian Conference: Disability, Religion and Health
Exploring the Spiritual Dimensions of Disability, The University of Queensland, 18 - 20

October 1996.

The Closing date for abstracts for this Conference was 31 July 1996, but for those interested in finding out more about the Conference, please contact:

Dr Deborah Selway, Schonell Special Education Research Centre, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland.
Hp: (07) 3365 6438
Fax: (07) 3365 7199
email: d.selway@mailbox.uq.edu.au

1997

Note the dates of the Conferences for 1997 - and don't hesitate to contact us to make sure you are on our mailing list if you are interested in receiving further information.

JEN/ZFA Conference on Jewish Education, 6 - 9 June, 1997, Melbourne

The Jewish Educators' Network, together with the Zionist Federation of Australia, is planning the first national Jewish education conference which will be devoted purely to issues of Jewish Studies and Hebrew teaching (in contrast to the Conferences of the Association for Jewish Schools in Australasia which cover all areas of education, both secular and Jewish). This Conference is being supported by the Reshut HaChinuch, the Joint Authority for Jewish/Zionist Education in the Diaspora, which will be sending experts from Israel for the Conference.

Ma'ayan II, 29 June - 3 July, 1997, Netherlands

The second European Council of Jewish Communities Conference (ECJC) on Jewish Education will take place in summer 1997 at the

Debron Conference in rural Dalfsen, Netherlands (outside Zwolle).

It is:

Five intensive days devoted to teaching and learning about Jewish education with top experts Organised for European Jewish Educators by European Jewish Educators

Meet, share and exchange ideas with colleagues from Jewish Schools and communities throughout Europe - large and small, East and West

Full details and registration forms will be available in early 1997 - make sure you're on our mailing list!

Mofet Institute, Programs for Teacher Educators: Research, Curriculum Development, In-Service Training.

The Mofet Institute in Israel is planning a week-long invitational working colloquium for teacher educators in July 1997 in Israel. They hope to gather between 15 - 40 colleagues from several countries who work with teacher educators, to discuss issues of common concern, possible approaches to dealing with specific problems and to investigate ways of working together internationally. If anyone is interested in being involved in this project, please contact Suzanne Rutland, the Editor of this newsletter.

1998

The Australian Centre in Potsdam is planning a Conference on Jewish Studies for 1998 - details are not yet available, but when they are, we'll be the first to have them and let you know.

All correspondence to:

P.O Box 233, Holme Building
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006
Ph: 9337 5064 Fax: 388 8169

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to: The Editor Dr S Rutland

Jewish Education Co-ordinator
School of Teaching and Curriculum Studies
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION of JEWISH STUDIES

No. 19 May 1997

President: Dr Bernard Rechter
Vice President NSW: Dr Myer Samra
Vice President Vic: Dr Ziva Shavitky

In this issue:
*News of our July AAJS
Conference - Send your
papers in by 30 May*

Publisher: Australian Journal of Jewish Studies

Honorary Secretary: Barbara Linz
Treasurer: Sister Marianne Day
Editor: Dr Rachel Kohn

THE STORY OF HENRY ROTH

Henry is the sponsor of the "Henry Roth Lectureship in Yiddish" in the Department of Semitic Studies, University of Sydney.

Henry Roth was born in Lublin in Poland. Lublin was one of the five main cities in Poland, with a Jewish population of approximately 40,000 before the Second World War, (35% of the total population of Lublin), most of whom were very religious. Lublin had one of the biggest Yeshivas in the world.

War broke out on 1 September 1939, and 10 days later Henry escaped from his home town with only 50 cents in his pocket. At first he made his way to the town of Zaleszczyki on the Romanian border, but when he saw barbarous guards extracting the gold teeth and fillings from Jewish refugees, he went back and decided to try and make his way north to Lithuania. By this time Poland had been partitioned between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, and in the two months before the border was sealed, more than one quarter of a million Jews fled to the Soviet side from the German side of Poland. It was mostly these Polish Jews who survived at the end of the war.

Henry managed to acquire a transit visa and after some nightmarish experiences travelling through Russian territory, arrived in Vilna around December, 1939. Vilna had been annexed by Lithuania, and, at this stage, was less inhospitable for Jews. Henry lived in Vilna for almost a year with his sister, Ziuta, her husband and their baby, who had escaped with him from Lublin. From Vilna they went to Kovno. By now they had managed to acquire visas for the Dutch West Indian island of Curacao in order to leave Europe and the Nazi terror, but they needed transit visas to travel through Japan in order to get there. In Kovno a Japanese diplomat, Sempo Sugihara, was in charge of the Japanese consulate. Against the orders of his government, and in a desperate three weeks from August 10 until the end of August, 1940, by which date all foreign consulates in Kovno were forced by the Russian government (which had annexed Lithuania in the summer of 1940) to close, Sugihara issued thousands of Japanese transit visas to Polish Jewish refugees, regardless of whether they had the necessary supporting documents. Henry and his family were among those lucky ones. (Sugihara was later granted the status of Righteous Gentile by Yad Va Shem in Jerusalem.)

Henry left Vilna in December 1940, travelling through Moscow, Omsk, Tomsk, and Vladivostok to Tsuruga and Kobe where he spent a few weeks. He was then taken by the Japanese authorities to Shanghai by boat, the *Kamakura Maru*, with the other Polish Jewish refugees who had no opportunity to leave Japan on their own.

His sister and her husband, who had also escaped to Kobe were more fortunate. They had a non-Jewish sounding name, Gostynski, and received a visa for Australia from the Polish consul who thought that they were Catholic. They arrived in Sydney in 1941.

Henry arrived in Shanghai in 1941 and lived in Hongkew as he did not have the money to live in the French Concession area. Hongkew was one of the poorest areas of Shanghai, where rents were low and food was cheap - an area where Jews who had no money had to live and which later became a Jewish 'ghetto'. Henry survived by buying and selling. His wares included a type of saccharin, which he bought and then sold for a small profit. He also bought mercury which was needed by the Japanese military authorities for ammunition. One day, as he was carrying a whole bottle of mercury, he dropped it and it broke. He saw his whole present and future spilt on the footpath in front of him. He spent the whole day collecting up all the mercury with his hands and putting it into a new bottle. He had to ensure

that it was clean, since dirty mercury was of no use. Soon, he was doing well, and was able to move out of Hongkew to better accommodation. He met his wife, Anne, in Shanghai, and after the war they married. With the help of his sister they emigrated to Sydney in 1946.

Henry Roth is, to the present day, very proud of the fact that he did not need to request assistance from the American Joint Distribution Committee or from HIAS. He said that after the war he received a letter from HIAS thanking him for not appealing for monetary or any other assistance during his time in Shanghai.

Henry has two sons: John, born in 1950 and Stanley born in 1954. The challenges of surviving as a Jewish refugee in Europe and Shanghai led him to develop business skills which stood him in good stead in Sydney. After initially being in the clothing business, he went into property and has been extremely successful, particularly in the Manly area. His commitment to maintaining the Yiddishkeit of his home town in Poland led him to sponsor the Lectureship in Yiddish at the University of Sydney, which has been filled by Jennifer Dowling.

Jewish Studies is Alive and Well

An overview of some of the courses available in 1997

JEWISH CIVILISATION ON OPEN LEARNING

difficulties or requiring advice is also available.

A large number of specialists have contributed the texts of the lectures, which have been edited and produced on tape by Ms Leanne Piggott of Sydney University and myself from Monash University.

Leanne is undertaking the responsibility for student assessment and advice and can be contacted at:

Department of Semitic Studies

Sydney University

Sydney NSW 2006

Email: leanne.piggott@semitic.edu.au

The course has tried to cater for a diverse range of students, both Jewish and non-Jewish and has avoided taking a dogmatic or narrowly ideological position on the various elements of the story of the Jewish people. For instance, in Unit 1, which deals with the biblical period, we have avoided a so-called maximalist position which accepts the bible as a totally accurate account of events and also the minimalist view of some scholars, which is extremely sceptical of the whole biblical corpus as an historical source.

The first two units are already on stream and have a small number of enrolled students. We are presently investigating the possibilities (and practicalities) of making this course available on the internet and this looks a promising direction, given the necessary resources.

Bernard Reacor.
Continued on page 2

A unique collaboration between the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University and the Department of Semitic Studies at Sydney University has resulted in the production of a course in Jewish Civilisation now available through Open Learning Agency.

The course consists of three semester length units and provides students with a broad introduction to Jewish history and civilisation from the biblical period to the present day.

The three units are:

- The Biblical period from Canaan to Yavneh
- The Medieval period: Jews under Christian and Moslem rule
- The Modern period

Each unit can be undertaken by students independently without prerequisite, and provides successful students with credit towards an Arts degree at participating Universities.

The resource provided for those enrolling in a unit consists of:

- Thirteen taped lectures: one on video, the remainder on audiotape
- A detailed study guide containing introductory written materials and advice for studying the unit, including review questions and recommended readings related to the lectures
- Instructions for the assessment procedures which need to be undertaken, including essays and examinations

A contact point for students having

Jewish Studies is Alive and Well

Continued from page 1

DEPARTMENT OF SEMITIC STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

The department offers an intensive range of Jewish Studies courses covering both the classical and modern periods. The courses on offer for 1997 include:

MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE, MALKA EINHORN LECTURER IN MODERN HEBREW; NOGA GANOR

This course aims to provide students with the skills of the spoken language and idiom, as well as the ability to read modern Hebrew fiction and poetry. It involves the writing of essays, reading of newspaper articles and texts which explore the large spectrum of Israeli cultural, social and political life, in addition to the enrichment of vocabulary and reading skills.

Hebrew IV

The prerequisites for enrolment in this subject is Hebrew at HSC level, or other record of Hebrew study or a placement test to be determined by the lecturer in charge. The subject is composed of both a language and literature component which aims to enrich students' vocabulary, syntax and grammar, as well as conversational skills.

Hebrew IIA & III

This course, aimed at second and third year students, is a more advanced stream which involves the analysis of works by contemporary Israeli authors such as Amos Oz, A.B. Yehoshua and David Grossman, as well as modern poetry. The subject involves the reading of critical material, essay writing and the strengthening of written and conversational skills.

Hebrew IV

The fourth year honours course involves the writing of a thesis, as well as the examination of advanced literary texts and class presentations.

CLASSICAL HEBREW I, II & III

LECTURER: DR IAN YOUNG

Classical Hebrew IA, IIA, & IIIA

This course is for students who have taken the Classical Hebrew option for the HSC. The course is a three year one, with the Classical Hebrew offering a number of options, including Mishnaic and Medieval Hebrew, during the second and third years of the course.

Classical Hebrew IB, IIB, & IIIB

The first year of this course is for beginners in Hebrew. During the first semester the foundations in Classical Hebrew grammar are laid and in the second semester students can take the option to specialise in Modern Hebrew (IO2) or Classical Hebrew (IO3), or they can take both options. Classical Hebrew students can continue with their studies for a second and third year.

Modern Hebrew IIB

Students who opted for the Modern Hebrew option (IO2) can continue for a second year.

Other Semitic languages:

These include Aramaic, Akkadian, Ugaritic and Syriac and can be studied as an adjunct to either Hebrew or Arabic.

BIBLICAL STUDIES I & II

LECTURERS: DR IAN YOUNG AND DR

ANTOINETTE COLLINS

This course is taught in English translation and so does not require knowledge of Hebrew. It covers the world of the Tanach, the Hebrew Bible and leads on to a study of the development of the New Testament and its ideas. Both the text of the Bible and its historical and archaeological background are studied. The second year of the course emphasises the period of the Second Temple as the access period to both the Rabbinic and Christian world.

JEWISH CIVILISATION THOUGHT & CULTURE I, II, & III. LECTURERS: DR S. D. RUTLAND AND RABBI R. APPLE

This is a three year course which explores the development of the Jewish people over the last two millennia through a study of their history, literature and ethics. As such it aims to focus on the historical evolution of Judaism, and the ways Jewish practice has been moulded by key Jewish thinkers and the Jewish historical experience. It traces this experience over five continents which include Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas and Australia, looking at communities as far flung as the Jews in Kaifeng in China, Spanish Jewry and the history of the Jews in Australia.

Jewish Civilisation I

The first year of the course deals with the Talmudic period. It also covers Jewish beliefs and practices and deals with Jewish philosophy including such questions as free will and determinism.

Jewish Civilisation II

This course deals with Medieval Jewish history, the evolution of Jewish philosophy in this period and broader Jewish issues such as attitudes to women and business ethics.

Jewish Civilisation III

The final year of the course deals with the Jew in the modern world. It covers the period from the eighteenth century to the present day and includes the Holocaust, the issue of Jewish peoplehood and the emergence of the State of Israel.

Option: Conflict & Peace in the Middle East: Leanne Piggott

This course analyses the Arab-Israeli conflict in the broader context of conflict and peace in the Middle East. It is an option in Jewish Civ III, Hist & Gov't.

YIDDISH

HENRY ROTH HOLOCAUST FOUNDATION

LECTURER: JENNIFER DOWLING

In 1997 Yiddish will be offered for the first time in the Department of Semitic Studies. It is planned that it will develop into a full, three year course. The course is open to degree students as well as people wishing to enrol through continuing education.

Special Opportunities:

• Scholarships are available for a year's study in Israel and there is a full exchange program with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

• Prizes: The Department offers a number of prizes each year for the best first year students in Classical or Modern Hebrew who intend to continue with their Hebrew Studies.

• Teacher Education: A full program for Jewish Studies and Hebrew teachers at all levels exists, in conjunction with the Faculty of Education. This program is supported by the NSW Inter-Schools Committee for

Jewish Education.

• Cross-Institutional Studies: Students at a university other than Sydney can enrol in any of these courses through cross accreditation. Students can also enrol in these courses as a non-degree student through continuing education.

• Postgraduate studies: the department offers an MA by coursework in Jewish Civilisation, focusing on the period of the beginnings of Christianity and the destruction of the Second Temple. It is planned to extend options available for 1998 to include both the biblical and the modern period. Students can also enrol for postgraduate work by thesis only.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES Program in Jewish Studies

Jewish Studies at UNSW is an interdisciplinary program focusing on the modern Jewish experience. It brings together various perspectives and approaches from History, Political Science, Sociology, Literature, Modern Languages and Law to explore the subject of the Jews... their religion, culture and language and their interrelations with non-Jews and the wider society... with an emphasis on the past two centuries.

Students may take a major sequence in Jewish Studies as their second major for the Bachelor of Arts degree or take individual subjects. Most of the subjects may also be counted towards majors in other Disciplines.

Eleven subjects in Jewish Studies are available in 1997:

- *Introductory Hebrew*
- *Modern Jewish History*
- *Jews, States and Citizenship*
- *The German-Jewish experience*
- *Judaism. Christianity and Islam*
- *Jews in Modern Society*
- *The Messiah Complex*
- *Arab-Israeli Conflict*
- *The Holocaust*
- *Talmudic*

In session 11, Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies, Michael Berkowitz will join the Program and teach a unit on the Holocaust and Modern Jewish History. Professor Berkowitz is Assistant Professor of History at Ohio State University and Visiting Professor of History of Jewish Studies at the University of Chicago. He is a specialist in the history of the Zionist movement and has indicated an interest in speaking at other universities and at Jewish community forums. He will be visiting from July to November 1997. Interested parties should contact the Coordinator of Jewish Studies, Geoffrey Brahm Levey (Tel: 9385 1376).

A new Centre for Intercultural Jewish Studies, Sydney, is currently being established in association with the University of Sydney and Macquarie University, with headquarters at UNSW. The mission of the Centre is to foster research into the broad social relations between Jews and non-Jews in Europe, North America and Australia.

An international conference at UNSW on "The Culture and Politics of the Diaspora" is being planned for February 1998. One part of the conference will be devoted to the Greek experience, the other to the Jewish experience in Europe, Australia and North America.

AAJS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association is holding its eleventh conference in Melbourne on 13 and 14 July at Kimberley Gardens Motel, East St. Kilda, Melbourne.

Jewish Studies in Australia at university level is still in the process of development and growth. Formally, Jewish Studies are now centred at Sydney University, the University of N.S.W., Monash University and Melbourne University. Melbourne University has had Jewish Studies since the 1940s. Deakin University has discontinued its Jewish Studies and Hebrew very recently.

However, as past AAJS conferences have made evident, academic study of Jewish interest has not been limited to such 'official' centres. Academics from universities in many states have contributed important research papers and non-affiliated researchers have also made their mark.

The Conferences of the AAJS have also given many graduate students the opportunity to test their mettle. This year is no exception, and already a range of papers have been offered for the Melbourne Conference. Notification of requests to present papers is open until 30 May, and the organisers expect an interesting range of studies to be presented in July.

This year we are experimenting with a shorter two-day format and we hope all those interested in Jewish Studies will take advantage of the opportunity to meet, at a very pleasant venue, with others who share their interest.

Requests to deliver a paper, and for any further information, should now be addressed to:

Ms Ros Ben-Moshe,
17 Holland Gve.,
North Caulfield, 3161
Tel: (03) 9523 7857

THE CULTURE AND POLITICS OF THE DIASPORA February, 1998

The Centre for European Studies is organising a cross-disciplinary conference on The Culture and Politics of the Diaspora at the Vallentine Annexe conference centre at UNSW in late February 1998, in association with the Centre for Intercultural Jewish Studies, Sydney, the Australian Association for Jewish Studies, and Modern Greek Studies at the University of NSW.

The conference will consist of two consecutive sections:

1. *Monday 23 February a.m. till Wednesday 25 February p.m.*
2. *Wednesday 25 February p.m. till Friday 27 February p.m.*

This will focus on the Jewish existence in Europe, Australia, and North America.

Although the sections share a common theme, the relationship of Greek and Jewish diaspora existence both to the 'host' societies and to the idea of the reality of a historical homeland lost or found, they are planned as self-contained 'seminar-conferences', and participants may choose to attend either or both. The conference language will be English.

Enquiries about the Jewish section should be addressed to a member of the organising group:

- Geoffrey Brahm Levey
g.levey@unsw.edu.au or
- John Milfull
j-milfull@unsw.edu.au or
- Konrad Kwiet
kkwiet@laurel.ocs.mq.edu.au or
- Suzanne Rutland
Suzanne.Rutland@semitic.su.edu.au

Key questions to be discussed might include:

- identification and integration patterns of citizens of Jewish extraction
- German-Jewish assimilation: myth or reality?
- "Ordinary people" and anti-semitism
- Mapping European anti-semitism(s)
- The self-definition of (Jewish) socialists
- Multiple identities: cultural pluralism and modernity
- Jewish Americans and US politics
- The Jewish Australian Experience(s)
- Migrants and Refugees
- Zionism and national identity

We hope to invite keynote speakers from Britain, Germany and the United States to the conference, and, of course, a host of local luminaries from all disciplinary backgrounds. Reinhard Ruerup, the distinguished German historian, has already accepted in principle, and we will let you know as further names come to hand. Conference visitors are likely to be available for guest lectures subsequent to the conference: please contact John Milfull if you are interested in hosting a visit to your University.

Enquiries about the Greek section should be addressed to a member of the organising group:

- Nick Doumanis
hind@cc.newcastle.edu.au or
- Nina Maria Potts
n-m.potts@unsw.edu.au or
- Helen Amvrazi
e-amvrazi@unsw.edu.au

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News from Members

Retirement of Professor Alan Crown
In December 1996 Professor Alan Crown retired from the Department of Semitic Studies after a record period of service of 34 years to tertiary Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney. During this period he saw the department grow in student numbers with new courses being added in Biblical Studies and Jewish Civilisation, Thought and Culture which he developed as a full three year course and for which in the latter years of his involvement in the department he was the main lecturer. Professor Crown will continue to be very

busy in his retirement, being dedicated to Mandelbaum House of which he is Master with Rabbi Raymond Apple.

Appointment of Dr Suzanne Rutland

Following Professor Crown's retirement, Dr Suzanne Rutland has been appointed as Senior Lecturer in Jewish Civilisation, Thought and Culture. She took up this position in February, after handing in her resignation as Jewish Education Co-ordinator in the Faculty of Education at the University of Sydney. Until a new appointment is made, an Honours student, Tony Buchen, has been

appointed as Associate Lecturer.

A second edition of *Edge of the Diaspora: Two Centuries of Jewish Settlement in Australia*, by Dr Rutland has just been released in paper back by publishers, Brandl and Schlesinger. The book has been out of print for the last five years but is now available again, retailing for \$29.95.

Dr Rodney Gouzman

Congratulations to Dr Rodney Gouzman for the publication of his new book relating to Australia and the Middle East.



Continued from page 3

MARIANNE DACY

• On 17 July, following the Conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies, Marianne Dacy will be leaving for Tel Aviv and Rome. She will present a paper at the International Congress on the Dead Sea Scrolls - Fifty Years after their Discovery, on a comparative study of examples of the treatment of the theme of *da'at* (knowledge) in The Epistle to Barnabas, an early Christian document and the Dead Sea Scrolls. This Congress will be held at the Israel Museum. The Congress will be followed by a trip to Jordan especially designed for scholars in the field. She hopes that although Pella is not on the itinerary, and Petra is a focus, that she also will be able to see the site of the excavations at Pella which are being carried out by the archaeological Department of Sydney University.

• The second paper will be on the Bischofswerder material in the Archive of Australian Judaica, and will be presented at the Twelfth World Congress of Jewish Studies which takes place at the Hebrew University from the 29 July - 5 August. Boaz Bischofswerder is the father of the well known musician, Felix Werder, who currently lives in Melbourne. Both were brought to Australia on the infamous Dunera.

She will also profit from the time overseas to collect data both in Israel and Rome for her Ph.D. thesis on the conflict between Church and the Synagogue.

MA'AYAN

The European Conference on Jewish Education

POSTPONED

December 1997

MA'AYAN looking forward to join LIMMUD for December Conference in Manchester, England
(watch this space for further detail!)

Pleased be advised that the 2nd European Conference on Jewish Education, MA'AYAN II - which had been scheduled to take place this summer outside Zwolle, Netherlands - HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER in order to take advantage of an unrivalled learning opportunity for Jewish educators throughout Europe.

Discussions are underway aimed at joining with Limmud, the British Jewish education conference, which will take place from 23 to 28 December 1997 in

All correspondence to:

P.O Box 233, Holme Building
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006
Ph: 9337 5064 Fax: 9388 8169

Manchester, England (exact dates to be confirmed).

Limmud is the premier UK Jewish learning experience, both for professional educators and lay persons, attracting over 1000 participants for a five-day, jam-packed programme featuring 600 individual sessions from over 200 of the best known and most respected Jewish educators from Israel, the US and the UK (see attached press clippings about their 1996 conference).

Ma'ayan Programme Coordinator Alastair Falk and the Limmud Programme Team are investigating ways to create a specialised "Ma'ayan Track" geared to the needs of teachers in European Jewish schools. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in this track as well as take full advantage of the exhilarating learning opportunities, entertainment and ruach that Limmud has to offer.

Further details and registration forms will be available this summer, so be sure to look for our next mailing in September or keep an eye on the ECJC website <<http://www.ort.org/ecjc/>>.

If you have any particular suggestions or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact us at the ECJC London Office.

We sincerely hope this change of plan does not cause you any inconvenience and we are certain that Jewish education in Europe would benefit enormously from a combined Ma'ayan/Limmud experience!

Ma'ayan is an initiative of the European Council of Jewish Communities Conseil European des Communautés Juives ecjc@ort.org
74 Gloucester Place, London W1H 3HN
Tel: (44)(171)224 3445
Fax: 224 3446

JEWEL: The Jewish Euro Web Link
<http://www.ort.org/ecjc/>

The Yiddish and Ashkenazic Studies Program of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University, in cooperation with the College of Humanities; and the Jagiellonian University, in cooperation with the Faculties of Philosophy and Philology, announce an international conference on Yiddish and Ashkenazic Studies.

This conference focuses on aspects of Ashkenazic Jewry as nation. Papers may be from any discipline (e.g., literature, history, linguistics, cultural studies, social anthropology, folklore, geography, demography, sociology, etc.), and should employ the theory or methodology of the

relevant discipline to the analysis of Ashkenaz as nation. Papers dealing with Ashkenaz from a cross-cultural perspective are welcome as well. Papers presented will be thirty minutes in length, including the discussion period. Persons interested in presenting a paper should submit a one-page abstract by 1 November 1997 to:

Professor David Neal Miller
Yiddish and Ashkenazic Studies
The Ohio State University
314 Cunz Hall
Columbus, OH 43210-1229
USA

or

Dr. Annamaria Orla-Bukowska
Institute of Sociology
Jagiellonian University
ul. Grodzka 52
31-044 Krakow
Poland

or by email to:

ashkenaz98@brooklyn.net

Abstracts should include title of paper, author(s), affiliation(s), address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address.

Notification of acceptance will be sent by 30 November 1997. North American scholars may submit abstracts by 1 October 1997 for notification by 30 October 1997.

Ashkenazic Studies focuses upon the culture and civilisation of Ashkenaz.

Ashkenaz (alternatively: Erets Ashkenaz 'the land of Ashkenaz') is the indigenous name of the home territory of Central and Eastern Jewry. From its compact origins some 1000 years ago in th ShUM

communities along the Rhine, Ashkenaz grew to cover the second-largest unbroken language and culture area in Europe. From the outset, Ashkenazic Jewry defined itself as distinct both from the other emerging European peoples and cultures with which it was coteritorial, and from other Jewries. Ashkenaz developed a unique, internally consistent, and culturally advanced European civilisation. Sharing a Confession with non-Ashkenazic coreligionists,

Ashkenazic Jewry also participated in the millennia of cosmopolitan Jewish textuality (sacred texts, commentary and responsa, commercial contracts, domestic agreements, etc.). Ashkenazic culture is characterised by a national language (Yiddish); religion (Judaism); textual tradition; material culture (architecture, dress, foodways, routes of trade and migration); systems of education, social welfare, dispute adjudication; politics and ideology; national literature; high and popular culture.

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to: The Editor Dr S Rutland

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Fax: 9351 6684
email: Surzanne.Rutland@semitic.su.edu.au