

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES

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NEWSLETTER No. 18, June 1996

Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to The Editor,
Dr Suzanne Rutland, Jewish Education Co-ordinator,
School of Teaching and Curriculum Studies, Faculty of Education,
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The 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 requests for information.

FROM THE EDITOR: CONFERENCE UPDATE

We have an exciting program for the Tenth Annual Conference of our Association. As always the papers which have been submitted cover a wide range of themes, including the biblical period, Zionism, the Holocaust and its meaning, contemporary Diaspora Jewry, issues relating to the arts including Hebrew and Yiddish literature and music. We have presenters from most states in Australia including New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the ACT as well some coming from Israel. We are including with this Newsletter a draft program of all the papers for the conference.

We are holding the conference lunch on Sunday, rather than Monday, so please note this change to your program. Professor Bettina Cass, the new Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Sydney, will be presenting the keynote address, on "Religion, Politics and Welfare". The introduction of a conference lunch is an innovation for this year and we are very fortunate that Professor Cass has agreed to speak.

The conference location at Mandelbaum House is a particularly pleasant one and we have excellent conference facilities.

So—allow yourselves a few days off to be intellectually stimulated, and enjoy meeting with colleagues from other states and from Israel, catching up with old friends and making new ones. If you have not already registered, make sure you do so immediately!

Once again, thank you to those members who have sent me information about themselves, their universities and their publications. This has made the production of the Newsletter much easier. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the conference next month.

Suzanne D. Rutland

JEWISH STUDIES AT SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Participants in the Conference of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies may be interested to have some news of the Department of Semitic Studies in view of the many changes that are taking place.

You should be aware that I am retiring from the headship of this department though I hope to continue my association with it and its graduate students as an Honorary Research Associate.

In the next year it is very likely that my position will be replaced by a senior

lectureship which for the first time at the University of Sydney will be specifically advertised as being in Jewish Studies and will be at senior lecturer level. Our Modern Hebrew lectureship—the Malka Einhorn Lectureship—at present occupied by Mrs Noga Ganor with considerable distinction, is also becoming vacant and is currently being advertised at lecturer level, hopefully with tenure track. The third position in the department is the new Henry Roth Lectureship in Yiddish which will bring Yiddish to the campus in a formal way for the first time at any Australian university.

These changes and developments mean that Sydney University will continue to see Jewish Studies as one of its areas of research and teaching excellence and we hope that the new appointments will continue the tradition that has already been established of coordinated courses in modern and classical Jewish languages and modern and classical culture in a close relationship with other Semitic languages and cultures. The old-style Semitic department has thus given way to the newer style of Jewish Studies that has been seen in the best universities overseas.

In 1997 the options in Jewish Civilisation III will be open to students from UTS Government and History. This cross-institutional teaching makes for enrichment in the courses.

In the new year we will be working together with Monash University to develop three new courses for Open Learning in Jewish Civilisation. As previously, Leanne Piggott will remain our coordinator and current indications are that our liaison with Monash and Bernard Rechter will be close and fruitful.

Mandelbaum Publishing will continue to publish new volumes, though it may not be located in the department. Two new books scheduled for 1996 are Eliyahu Honig's *Zionism in Australia* and Glen Gordon's *Shomrim: Zionist Youth Movement*. It is fitting that these two books should appear in time for the 100th anniversary of the Zionist Movement. The general editors will remain Rabbi Raymond Apple, AM, and myself, with Lucy Davey who has added considerably to our publishing capabilities.

Professor Alan D. Crown
Head, Department of Semitic Studies
University of Sydney.

JEWISH STUDIES AT UNSW

This year has seen established a teaching Program in Jewish Studies at the University of New South Wales. Co-ordinating the Program is Geoffrey Brahm Levey, the first appointee to the Hakoah Lectureship in Jewish Studies. The Program is administratively independent though 'housed' within the School of Political Science. The School is defining the area of Jewish Studies quite broadly, albeit in keeping with the University's resources in work on the modern era.

Jewish Studies subjects will be situated in the wider context of modern world history and the emergence of cultural modernity. They will take account of both developments internal to Jewish civilisation and of broad changing patterns of relations between Jews and others.

In 1996 two subjects in Jewish Studies are being offered: "Jews in Modern Society", which introduces students to the social scientific study of the Jews and their communities in the modern period; and "Jews and the Liberal State", which examines the Jewish encounter with the liberal state from the perspective of political theory and public policy. Both are senior level units and enrolments have been high.

In 1997 additional Jewish Studies units will be offered at UNSW. These include: Hebrew Language; The German-Jewish Experience; The Messiah Complex; History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict; Talmudic Law; and Religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam.

UNSW is currently in the process of appointing a Visiting Scholar in Jewish Studies for 1997. The position has attracted an impressive pool of applicants from Britain, Hungary, Israel, South Africa and the United States. The appointee will teach a course in Modern Jewish History and/or Literature.

The Program in Jewish Studies has established co-operative links with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Haifa University, the University of California at Los Angeles, and the Petersburg Jewish University in Russia. In collaboration with UNSW's Centre for European Studies and ANU's Humanities Research Centre, an

international conference on the "Politics of the Diaspora" is being planned for 1998.

Success in the teaching of any subject ultimately depends on the opportunities for researching that subject. The UNSW Library has now added impressively to its holdings of books, monographs and journals in modern Jewish Studies. The UNSW now ranks as one of best institutions in Australia in which to pursue modern Jewish Studies.

PUBLICATIONS OF MEMBERS

- Lionel E. Fredman, Newcastle Synagogue Jubilee History (1977, revised and forthcoming 1996); this booklet will be issued for the 70th anniversary of the synagogue and Bicentennial of Newcastle in 1997.

- Geoffrey Brahm Levey, "Towards a Theory of Disproportionate American Jewish Liberalism", in Peter Y. Medding, ed., *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*, vol. 11: Values, Interests and Identity: Jews and Politics in a Changing World (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995), pp. 64-85.

- Geoffrey Brahm Levey, "Equality, Autonomy and Cultural Rights", *Political Theory* (forthcoming).

- Geoffrey Brahm Levey, "The Liberalism of American Jews: Has It Been Explained?", *British Journal of Political Science*, 25 (forthcoming 1996).

- Philip Mendes, "On Demidenko, the Left and Morality", *Reconstruction*, Autumn 1996, pp. 55-6.

- Philip Mendes, "Left Attitudes towards Jews: Anti-Semitism and Philo-Semitism", *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*, Vol. IX, Nos. 1 & 2 (1996), pp. 7-44.

- Philip Mendes, "Senator Sam Cohen", *Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate* (forthcoming 1996).

- Philip Mendes, "A Historical Controversy: Causes of the Palestinian Refugee Problem", *Journal of Arabic, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies* (forthcoming July 1996).

- Philip Mendes, "Jews, Ukrainians, Nazi War Criminals and Literary Hoaxes Down Under", *Patterns of Prejudice* (forthcoming August 1996).

- Philip Mendes, "Noam Chomsky and Holocaust Denial Down Under", *Political Expressions* (forthcoming 1996).

- Rubinstein, W. D., *The Myth of Rescue: Why the Democracies Could Not Have Saved More Jews During the Nazi Holocaust* (Routledge, London, forthcoming).

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS

30 June-4 July 1996, "The Second International Conference: Teacher Education: Stability, Evolution and Revolution", hosted by the Zinman College for Physical Education and Sport, Wingate Institute, Israel. Contact person: Dr Nevat Ephraty, Co-chairperson, Academic Program Committee, The Zinman College for Physical Education and Sport, Wingate Institute, Netanya, 42902, Israel, fax: 972 9 639222.

1-5 July 1996, Leo Baeck College Summer Study Week, "Jewish Messianic Thought—On the Edge of the Millennium", Leo Baeck College, Sternberg Centre for Judaism, 80 East Road, London N3 2SY, UK, tel: 44 181 349 4525, fax: 44 181 343 2558, email: <leo-baeck-college@mailbox.ulcc.ac.uk>.

7-9 July 1996, 10th Annual Conference of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies, at Mandelbaum House, University of Sydney. Special theme: "Jewish contribution to the Arts". Enquiries, prospective paper titles and abstracts to the Conference Convenor, PO Box 233, Holme Building, University of Sydney NSW 2006, Australia, email: <sarah.gornall@asia.su.edu.au>.

8-12 July 1996, The Third International Conference on the Sources of Contemporary Law, "Jerusalem—City of Law and Justice". The Jewish Legal Heritage Society, Box 7483, Jerusalem 91074, Israel, tel: 972 2 708552, email: <JewishL@gold.net.il>.

1-8 August 1996, CAJE, Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education, Jerusalem. Contact person in Israel: Sophie Holzer, fax: 972 2 759167, email: <caje21il@elronet.co.il>.

11-13 August 1996, "Jewries the Frontier", the Kaplan Centre, Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town. Contact person: Milton Shain, Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700, South Africa. Email: <Shain@beattie.uct.ac.za> (30 January 1996 closing date for abstracts).

19-24 August 1996, Fifth Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI), University for Humanist Studies, Utrecht; theme: "Memory, History and Critique: European Identity at the Millennium", workshop on 'Caught

between a Rock and a Hard Place: Zionism vs Assimilation', co-ordinated by Professor Michael Berkowitz and Professor Sam Bloom. Contact person: Dr Lenette van Buren, University for Humanist Studies, PO Box 797, 3500 at Utrecht, the Netherlands. Fax: 31 30 539111, email: <ISSEI96@univforhuman.nl>.

13-16 October 1996, Nanjing, China, "Jews in the World", an international conference sponsored jointly by Tel Aviv University, Hebrew Union College and Nanjing University; applications and abstracts due by 1 April. Applications from: Professor Xu Xin, Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University, 6 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA, 02138, fax: 1 617 496 8904; or Beverly Friend, Oakton Community College, 1600 Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL, 60016, tel: 1 847 635 1848, fax: 1 847 635 1987, email: <friend@oakton.edu>.