

Report of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies

SIXTEENTH ACADEMIC YEAR 1987–1988



*The Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies is one of the
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Report of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies

SIXTEENTH ACADEMIC YEAR 1987–1988

Compiled by Nick Thomas

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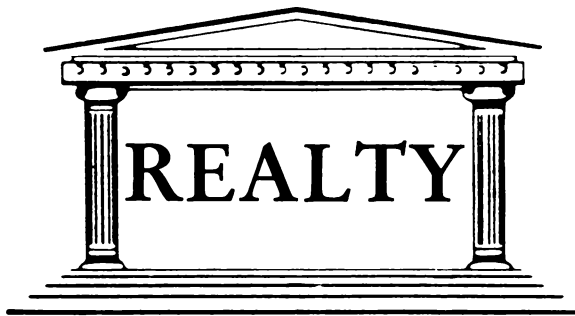
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PREFACE

It is with great pleasure that I write the introduction to this annual report for the year 1987–1988 during which I served as the Acting President of the Centre. I look back on a year of frenetic activity when events planned long before continued through their own momentum, and of pleasant and informative evenings spent listening to sound scholarship presented both in formal wrappings and in informal situations.

The year was marked by a further expansion of activities following the established pattern of developing the Centre's teaching as well as the Centre's research programme. Over the years the horizons of the Centre have shifted. Instead of being solely a research institute of advanced studies focused on one discipline, providing especially for a group of visiting fellows and scholars, it has moved to provide for more permanent (short term or long term) fellows. It has moved even further from this unidirectional activity to enable the expertise of visitors and resident fellows and scholars to be shared with students. The One Year Programme clearly justified the faith shown in it by Governors and the President, as its numbers have begun to build up and students of high calibre – some of mature age – have been attracted to it. The programme has an additional value – through the links between its participants and the undergraduates in the colleges, it has permitted the latter to draw on the Centre's scholarly wealth and skills to mutual academic enrichment. Undergraduates from the colleges attended a number of the Centre's functions at Yarnton Manor and, wherever possible, the Centre provided transport facilities for participants. It has become very clear to the Governors and the Fellows that the Centre can contribute in a substantial measure to the cause of Anglo-Jewish scholarship in this way, as well as through its advanced studies, and the Governors have done their utmost to facilitate what has been seen as a valuable (if costly) educational process.

During the year the administration shifted its offices from the premises at 45 St Giles' to the Manor House at Yarnton. The growth in the number of permanent fellows had meant that the premises in St Giles' were inadequate for teaching and research activities. Moreover, the expanding academic horizons of the Centre imposed such strains on a tiny administrative staff that a supplementation of the secretarial staff was essential (both for the work of the Fellows and for the smooth conduct of the business of the Centre) but impossible under a single roof. For these reasons the move of the administration to Yarnton was imperative – and successful – achieving its various objectives though at

considerable cost, adding to the financial burden of the Centre. This in a year when general increases in academic salaries posed a serious challenge to the Centre's finances.

As an outsider and newcomer to the Centre, privy to all the details of its activities, I found that the most striking feature of its collective life was the discrepancy between its budget and its academic performance. The Centre functions on what can only be described as a shoestring budget for an institution which is almost a college – in fact the size of a college before the expansion in student numbers post-war – yet it holds conferences, residential and one-day seminars of very high quality, and is host to speakers of remarkable distinction. It runs an archive of international reputation and a library which has special strengths in modern Judaism but which can support basic research in many fields of Judaism, is host to academic visitors of world standing and has been the guardian spirit under whose aegis numerous scholarly works have been written. Such has been the especial influence of the Centre on literary productivity that it was proposed by one eminent Israeli author last year that there could be a legitimate thesis written on the influence of the Oxford Centre on contemporary Hebrew literature.

The Centre's own Fellows are a powerhouse of scholarship of international rank. The calendar of the Centre shows a pattern of intense scholarly activity – sufficient to absorb the energies of its President and Governors. Yet the energies of the Governors and the President have to be directed, constantly, to the problems caused by an inadequate budget and the failure of the wider community to realise the nature of the scholarly gem in their midst. One hopes that this will change and that the Centre will secure substantial endowments to secure its future.

Regretfully, when I left the Centre to return to the University of Sydney, there were still some occasions which I had to miss, and there were some specific tasks still uncompleted which, hopefully, will come to fruition. The projected move of the Anglo-Jewish Archive to Oxford was still a matter for deliberation rather than action, though the Centre's role as a host to the researchers in the International Qumran (Dead Sea Scroll) project seems to be more secure.

I offer my sincere thanks to the Governors for their help, kindness, support and instruction, and to the Fellows and staff of the Centre who made the year so enjoyable and fruitful.

Alan Crown

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Professor S. H. Frankel (Chairman), Emeritus Professor of Economics of Underdeveloped Countries and Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College in the University of Oxford.

Mr A. Jones (Vice-chairman), Lecturer in Islamic Studies and Fellow of Pembroke College in the University of Oxford.

Sir Isaiah Berlin OM, CBE, FBA, President of Wolfson College 1966-75. President of the British Academy 1974-78. Fellow of All Souls College in the University of Oxford.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Blake FBA, JP, formerly Provost of The Queen's College of Oxford and Pro-vice-chancellor of Oxford University.

Mrs E. Corob.

Sir Zelman Cowen AK, GCMG, GCVO, K.ST.J., QC, Provost of Oriel College in the University of Oxford. Governor General of Australia 1977-82.

Mr W. Frankel CBE, Editor of the *Jewish Chronicle* 1958-77.

Professor C. Grayson FBA, Serena Professor of Italian Studies and Fellow of Magdalen College in the University of Oxford.

Mr F. Green, Chairman, Yad Vashem UK Committee 1979-83.

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Mr M. D. Paisner, Senior Partner, Paisner and Co., Solicitors.

Professor D. Patterson (President) Cowley Lecturer in Post-Biblical Hebrew and Fellow of St Cross College in the University of Oxford.

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Mr Felix Posen, Businessman.

Dr Derek A. Roe, Vice-master, St Cross College in the University of Oxford.

Sir Maurice Shock, Rector of Lincoln College in the University of Oxford.

Dr G. H. Stafford CBE, FRS, Master of St Cross College in the University of Oxford. Director General, Rutherford and Appleton Laboratories 1979-81.

Sir Sigmund Sternberg KCSC, JP, Company Chairman.

Dr G. Vermes, FBA, Reader in Jewish Studies and Professorial Fellow of Wolfson College in the University of Oxford. Editor of the *Journal of Jewish Studies*.

Additional Committee Members

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| Professor J. Barr, FBA | Dr H-D. Löwe |
| Rabbi S. Brichto | Dr G. Mandel |
| Dr S. P. Brock, FBA | Mr R. A. May |
| Mr S. Corob | Professor F. G. B. Millar, FBA |
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| Dr M. Goodman | Mr C. Silver |
| Mr R. C. Judd | Dr D. Sorkin |
| Dr D. Katz | Dr J. M. Webber |
| Mr D-B. Kerler | Dr R. T. White |

**FRIENDS OF THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR
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Mr I. Navon, formerly President of the State of Israel

Professor D. Patemkin, formerly President of the Hebrew University of
Jerusalem

Rabbi E. Rackman, formerly President of Bar-Ilan University

Mr Y. Teicher, President of Haifa University

Chairman

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President

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Professor Alan Crown

STAFF FOR THE YEAR 1987–1988

PRESIDENT

Professor David Patterson, Cowley Lecturer in Post-Biblical Hebrew,
University of Oxford, and Fellow of St Cross College.

ACTING PRESIDENT, 1987–8

Professor Alan Crown, University of Sydney

FELLOWS

Jacob and Shoshana Schreiber Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies
Dr Glenda Abramson, Fellow of St Cross College, Oxford.

Fellow in Jewish Studies of the Graeco-Roman Period
Dr Léonie J. Archer, Junior Research Fellow, Wolfson College, Oxford.

*Solon Junior Fellow in Jewish–Muslim Relations in the Medieval
Period*
Mr Daniel Frank, Junior Research Fellow, Wolfson College, Oxford.

Solon Fellow in Jewish–Christian Relations in the Early Centuries
Dr Martin Goodman, Senior Research Fellow, St Cross College, Oxford.

Wolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature
Dr Dovid Katz, Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford.

Barnett Shine Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature
Mr Dov-Ber Kerler, Lincoln College, Oxford

Frank Green Fellow in Modern Jewish History 1848–1948
Dr Heinz-Dietrich Löwe, Senior Research Fellow, Wolfson College,
Oxford

David Hyman Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies
Dr George Mandel, sometime Dean of St Peter's College, Oxford.

Fellow in Muslim–Jewish Relations in the Modern Period
Professor Ronald Nettler

Clore Fellow in the Roots of Modern Anti-Semitism
Dr David Sorkin, Research Fellow, St Antony's College, Oxford.

Fellow in Jewish Social Studies

Dr Jonathan M. Webber, Junior Research Fellow, Linacre College, Oxford.

Fellow in Hebrew and Aramaic Studies

Dr Richard White, The Queen's College, Oxford.

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Professor S. W. Baron, Professor Emeritus of Jewish History, Literature and Institutions, Columbia University.

Professor D. Daube, former Director of the Robbins Hebraic and Roman Law Collections and Professor in Residence at the School of Law, University of California, Berkeley.

Professor S. H. Frankel, Professor Emeritus of Economics of Underdeveloped Countries, University of Oxford, and Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE FELLOWS

Professor Y. Bauer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Professor M. Beit-Arié, Director of the Jewish National and University Library of Jerusalem.

Professor J. W. Burbidge, Master, Champlain College, Trent University, Ontario.

Professor C. M. Carmichael, Cornell University.

Professor M. Herzog, Chairman, Department of Linguistics, Columbia University.

Professor B. S. Jackson, University of Kent.

Professor T. Muraoka, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Melbourne.

Professor C. Rabin, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Professor H. Rogger, Chairman, Department of History, University of California at Los Angeles.

Professor Dr P. Schäfer, Fachbereich Philosophie und Sozialwissenschaften, Institut für Judaistik, Free University of Berlin.

Professor M. Stern, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Professor E. Ullendorff, FBA, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Professor M. H. Vogel, Department of History and Literature of Religions, Northwestern University.

Visiting Lecturers

Dr L. Jacobs, Leo Baeck College, London.

Dr L. Kochan, F.R.HIST.SOC., Bearsted Reader in Jewish History,
University of Warwick.

Dr B. Kosmin, formerly Executive Director, Statistical and Demographic Research Unit, Board of Deputies.

Dr T.V. Parfitt, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Associate Scholars

Dr Elinor Lieber, Green College, Oxford.

Mrs Jenny Morris, Oxford.

Editor of the Jewish Law Annual

Professor B. S. Jackson, University of Kent.

Editor of the Oxford English–Hebrew Dictionary of Contemporary Usage

Mr N. S. Doniach, OBE.

Mr Doniach's Assistant

Mr Ahuvia Kahane, Balliol College, Oxford.

Lector in Yiddish Language and Literature

Mr D-B. Kerler, Lincoln College, Oxford.

Director of Studies, Oxford Programme in Yiddish

Dr D. Katz, Wolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature.

Administrative Secretary, Administrative Director of the Oxford Programme in Yiddish

Ms J. Nightingale.

Library Consultant

Mr R. A. May, formerly Senior Assistant Librarian, Bodleian Library.

Honorary Computing Consultant

Mr A. Jones, Lecturer in Islamic Studies, University of Oxford, and Fellow of Pembroke College.

Co-ordinator of the One Year Programme in Jewish Studies

Mrs D. Kerler.

Accounts Officer
Mrs I. Goodwin.

Estate Manager
Mr J. Roberts.

Housekeeper
Mrs E. Roberts.

The Centre also gratefully acknowledges the dedication of its auxiliary and support staff at 45 St Giles', on the Yarnton Estate, and in the Kressel Library and Archive.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Prof R. A. Anderson, University of Melbourne
Prof A. Appelfeld, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Prof Y. Ben-Shlomo, Tel Aviv University
Dr S. Bowman, University of Cincinnati
Dr R. Crotty, University of Adelaide
Prof Y. David, Tel Aviv University
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Prof A. Segal, University of Haifa
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Mr & Mrs Y. Sened, Revivim
Prof U. Shavit Tel Aviv University
Prof B. Temkin, Tel Aviv University

Visiting Scholars 1986–7
(omitted in error from previous Annual Report)

Prof R. Eisenman, California State University
Rabbi D. J. Silver, The Temple, University Circle at Silver Park,
Cleveland, Ohio

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Donations and Covenants

The Oxford Centre receives no government grant of any kind: it is a registered charity relying solely on the contributions of individuals and foundations throughout the world. A number of schemes have been developed to facilitate funding, including Associate Membership, Charter Membership, and Corporate Charter Membership schemes geared to meeting the regulations of the British and American tax authorities. British contributors should note that if a donation is covenanted over a number of years the Centre can reclaim the tax on it, thereby significantly increasing the value of the gift. American donations are tax deductible.

Major Donors

The Centre wishes to record publicly its thanks to those individuals and institutions who have given major donations (£5,000 and over) during this year. (In addition to anonymous donations:)

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THE ACADEMIC YEAR AT THE CENTRE

MICHAELMAS TERM 1987

Regular Lectures and Seminars at 45 St Giles'

Dr Glenda Abramson: *The Literature of the State of Israel – Introduction*

- 14 October Israeli fiction: general introduction
- 19 October Israeli prose and fiction: thematic trends I
- 26 October Israeli poetry – general introduction: major themes and preoccupations
- 2 November Stylistic devices in poetry
- 9 November Myth and image in poetry and prose: thematic trends II
- 16 November Israeli drama: general introduction: political drama and satire
- 23 November Holocaust writing
- 30 November Summary and discussion

The Jewish Experience in Europe, 1648–1878

- 12 October **Dr David Sorkin**
When Does Modern Jewish History Begin?
- 19 October **Dr David Sorkin**
European Jewry in the Age of Mercantilism or, Moses Mendelssohn in Context
- 26 October **Dr David Sorkin**
What was the Emancipation? The Political Situation of Central and West European Jewry, 1781–1871
- 2 November **Dr David Sorkin**
European Judaism Redefined or, Why Reform in Germany?
- 9 November **Dr David Sorkin**
Who Assimilated? Central and West European Jewry in the Nineteenth Century
- 16 November **Dr Heinz-Dietrich Löwe**
Why no Emancipation in the East? The Jews of Russia and Poland, 1722–1881
- 23 November **Dr David Sorkin**
Hasidism, Rabbinism, Haskala: Jews and Judaism in Eastern Europe.

30 November **Dr David Sorkin**
European Jewry in the Age of Liberalism:
A Reconsideration

Dr Martin Goodman Graduate Seminar on *Problems in the History of First-Century Palestine*

Dr Léonie Archer Seminar on *Women in Antiquity*

Yiddish Studies

Weekly lecture courses at 45 St Giles'

Dr Dovid Katz:

Readings in Yiddish Linguistics (in English)
Readings in Traditional Yiddish (in Yiddish)

Weekly seminars at 45 St Giles'

Dr Dovid Katz Graduate Seminar in Yiddish Studies (in Yiddish)

15 October **Marion Aptroot**
Blitz and Witzzenhausen: Translators or Plagiarists?

22 October **Devra Kay**
Modern Research on Middle Yiddish
Women's Poetry

29 October **Dov-Ber Kerler**
Principles of Yiddish Graphemics

5 November **David Schneider**
Prophetic Experience in Modern Yiddish Drama

26 November **Dafna Clifford**
Alienation in Married Life in Three German-Jewish
and Yiddish Novels

3 December **Johannes Brosi**
Changing Trends in Southwestern Yiddish
Dialectology

Talks at Yarnton Manor

29 October **Professor Alan Crown,** Head of Department of Semitic Studies,
University of Sydney.

Jewish Press in Australia

12 November **Professor Norman Golb,** University of Chicago.
The Jews of Medieval Normandy (illustrated).

Classes

Modern Hebrew in the Oriental Institute

Elementary
Intermediate
Advanced } **Mrs Daphna Witztum**

Yiddish at 45 St Giles'

Elementary (**Dr Dovid Katz**)
Intermediate (**Mr Dov-Ber Kerler**)
Advanced (**Mr Dov-Ber Kerler**)

HILARY TERM

Regular Lectures and Seminars at 45 St Giles'

The Jewish Experience in Europe, 1878–1945

- 18 January **Dr David Sorkin**
The Second Stage of Transformation: Migration, Urbanisation and the Shape of the Jewish Community in Central and Western Europe.
- 25 January **Dr Heinz-Dietrich Löwe**
The Rise of Political Antisemitism
- 1 February **Dr David Sorkin**
Post Liberal Politics in Central and Western Europe; Zionism, Liberalism, Socialism to World War I
- 8 February **Dr Heinz-Dietrich Löwe**
The Jews of Czarist Russia, Urbanisation, Pauperisation and Pogroms 1881–1917
- 15 February **Dr Heinz-Dietrich Löwe**
Politics in a Semi-Constitutional Setting: Zionism, Liberalism, Socialism in Eastern Europe, 1881–1917
- 22 February **Dr Heinz-Dietrich Löwe**
Soviets and Successor States: East European Jewry Between the World Wars
- 29 February **Dr David Sorkin**
Crisis or Renaissance? West European Jewry Between the World Wars
- 7 March **Dr David Sorkin**
Hitler, the Germans and the Final Solution

The Jewish Experience in Modern Literature

- 20 January **Professor Alan Crown**, University of Sydney
The Jewish Experience in Australian Literature
- 27 January **Dr R.A.N. Robertson**, University of Cambridge
Schnitzler and Freud: the End of the Enlightenment
- 3 February **Dr Steven Beller**, University of Cambridge
Karl Kraus and the Problem of How Not to be Jewish
- 10 February **Professor Brian Moloney**, University of Hull
The Holocaust and After: the Jewish Experience in Modern Italian Literature

- 17 February **Dr Bryan Cheyette**, University of Leeds
Renewing the East: 'Daniel Deronda' and the Literal
Construction of Judaism
- 24 February **Dr Ephraim Sicher**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev
Breakdown and Breakout: the Writings of Bialik and
Babel
- 2 March **Dr Dan Jacobson**, University College, London
Fictions and Non-Fictions
- 9 March **Dr Peter Mackridge**, University of Oxford
The Image of the Jew in Post-War Greek Fiction

Chairmen: **Dr Glenda Abramson**
Dr David Sorkin

Yiddish Studies

Weekly Seminars at 45 St Giles'

- Dr Dovid Katz** Sociology of Yiddish (in English)
Readings in Traditional Yiddish (in Yiddish)
Readings in Yiddish Linguistics (in Yiddish)
Readings in Yiddish Dialectology (in English)
- Dr Dovid Katz** Graduate Seminar in Yiddish Studies (in
Yiddish)
- 21 January **David Schneider**
Practical Kabbalah in Modern Yiddish Drama
- 28 January **Dov-Ber Kerler**
The End of the Eighteenth Century: A Turning Point in
the Evolution of Literary Yiddish
- 11 February **Dafna Clifford**
'Border Jews' in Bergelson's *Mides hadin* and Roth's
Hotel Savoy
- 18 February **Johannes Brosi**
A Contrast in 'Biblical Yiddish' *Psalms* (1558) and
Samuel (1612)
- 25 February **Devra Kay**
Language of the *Tkhines*
- 3 March **Marion Aptroot**
Blitz, Witzzenhausen and the Yiddish Bible Transla-
tion Tradition

10 March **Jutta Baum**
The Medieval Esther Paraphrase Manuscripts

Dr Martin Goodman: *Jews and Christians in the Early Roman Empire*

Dr Léonie Archer: *Women in Antiquity*

Classes

Modern Hebrew (Mrs Daphna Witztum)

Elementary Hebrew (Oriental Institute)

Intermediate (45 St Giles')

Advanced (Oriental Institute)

Yiddish at 45 St Giles'

Elementary Yiddish (**Dr Dovid Katz**)

Intermediate (**Mr Dov-Ber Kerler**)

Advanced (**Mr Dov-Ber Kerler**)

Talks at Yarnton Manor

4 February **Professor Benny Temkin**, Tel Aviv University,
An Anatomy of the Modern Israeli Jewish Left

18 February **Dr Elisabeth Maxwell**
Why the Holocaust Should be Taught

3 March **Professor Robert Anderson** University of Melbourne
Christians, Jews and the Land of Israel

TRINITY TERM

Regular Lectures and Seminars

Modern Jewish History

- 4 May **Professor V. Karady**
The Orthodox-Liberal Division and the Modernization
of Hungarian Jewry
- Professor M. Gluck**
The Political Culture of Assimilation: Hungarian
Jewry after 1882
- 11 May **Professor J. Israel**
The Place of the Jews in 17th-Century Dutch Society
- 16 May **Dr W. Bartoszewski**
Jews and Peasants in Rural Poland, 1864–1939
- 25 May **Professor W. Mosse**
The German Jewish Business Elite
- 1 June **Dr D. Cesarani**
The Problem of Community in Jewish History: the
Case of Anglo-Jewry
- 8 June **Dr D. Feldman**
Jews and ‘The Nation’ in Britain Between Emancipa-
tion and Immigration

Professor Stone

Dr Löwe

Dr Sorkin

Dr Léonie Archer: Seminar on ‘Women in Antiquity’

Yiddish Studies

Dr Dovid Katz: Rapid Translation into Yiddish (in Yiddish)

Seminars at 45 St Giles’

- Dr Dovid Katz** Graduate Seminar in Yiddish Studies (in Yiddish)
- 26 May **David Schneider**
Godhead and History in Modern Yiddish Drama
- 2 June **Marion Aptroot**
Blitz’s Yiddish
- 9 June **Jutta Baum**
Western Yiddish Drama

Talks at Yarnton Manor

- 5 May **Ms Marion Aptroot**
 Yiddish Amsterdam Bible Translations in the 17th
 Century
- 19 May **Mr Ahuvia Kahane**
 English-Hebrew Dictionary of Current Usage
- 2 June **Dr Nissan Rubin**, Bar-Ilan University
 Burial Rites in Ancient Israel
- 16 June **Mr Clive Marks**, London
 Music in Nazi Germany and Occupied Countries –
 1933–1945

Classes

Modern Hebrew (Mrs Daphna Witztum)

Elementary (45 St Giles')
Intermediate (Oriental Institute)
Advanced (Oriental Institute)

Yiddish at 45 St Giles' (Dr Dovid Katz, Devra Kay)

Elementary
Intermediate
Advanced

The Library and Archive (The Kressel Collection)

The last annual report of the Library and Archive ended by describing the difficult prospect facing them as they entered the new academic year, i.e. 1987–88: that of doing so without a director, a Librarian, or an Archivist, and with only one, part-time, member of staff providing continuity with the past. In the event the retiring Head of the Collection, Dr Mandel, agreed to stay on for one more term (and to postpone the start of his sabbatical), and in October one of the newly arrived visiting scholars, Dr Deborah Schechterman, became a part-time member of the Collection's staff. In January she became acting director, and remained so until her departure in July.

In the meantime a new permanent Head of the Collection has been appointed. We are fortunate in having obtained the services of Dr Noah Lucas, previously of Sheffield University, who took his appointment up in October, 1988, when he also became a Fellow of the Centre.

The situation has also been eased by the fact that Mrs Ruth Reich-Gat, who was the Archivist of the Kressel Collection during the academic year 1986–87, has returned to give part-time help in the Archive while on a visit to England during the summer vacation of 1988.

Dr Schechterman, Mrs Irit Tal, and Mr Paul Vareta deserve the thanks of the Centre and of the readers for the way they maintained the services of the Library and Archive during an exceptionally difficult year.

The Solon Symposium

On Sunday, February 28th the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies held the Second Solon Symposium at Yarnton Manor. Entitled 'Between Kedar and Yavan: the Jewish Community in the Tenth Century C.E.', the symposium focused on medieval Jewish life under Islamic and Byzantine Christian sovereignty. Professor Alan Crown, acting President of the Centre, welcomed some sixty guests and introduced the speakers. Mr Daniel Frank, Solon Junior Fellow at the Centre in Jewish-Muslim Relations in the Middle Ages convened the Symposium and spoke on 'The Mourners of Zion in Tenth Century Jerusalem'. Dr David Wasserstein of University College Dublin contributed a paper on 'The Jewish Community in Islamic Spain under the Caliphate'. The afternoon concluded with a talk by Dr Steven Bowman of the University of Cincinnati on 'The Jews of Byzantine Italy'. It is hoped that the papers may be published by the Centre in its lecture series.

The George Webber Prize for Translation from Hebrew

Founded in 1986, the George Webber Prize is offered annually by the Oxford Centre for the best translation into English of a Hebrew work of any period or literary genre. The principal purpose of the Prize (to the value of £1000) is to recognise and encourage new translations, which should be no more than two years old and undertaken in the United Kingdom.

The 1988 competition was judged by Dr Glenda Abramson, Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies at the Oxford Centre, and Professor Edward Ullendorff of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. They reported that unfortunately this year none of the applications reached the required standard; in the light of this, no prize was awarded in 1988.

The Avrom-Nokhem Stencl Lecture

The Sixth Annual Avrom-Nokhem Stencl Lecture was delivered on Monday, 15 August 1988, by Dr S. Levenberg, joint head of the Zionist Federation in Great Britain, and a veteran Yiddish journalist, author, and cultural historian. Dr Levenberg's subject was 'From Czar to Glasnost: Yiddish in Soviet Russia'. He proposed the daring thesis that a genuine revival of Yiddish language and culture is underway in the Soviet Union. His arguments included demographic analyses claiming that the number of Yiddish speakers is far higher than officially acknowledged (even in such unexpected places as Baku) and citations of reports of very recently organized cultural and literary gatherings. Mr Montague Richardson, former director of the Jewish Institute, Adler Street, London, E1, again presided. Tel Aviv Yiddish author Avrom Karpinowitz delivered the vote of thanks.

The Oxford Centre publishes each year's Stencl Lecture in pamphlet form under the editorship of its Fellow in Yiddish Studies, Dr Dovid Katz. This year again, the published lecture contains a portrait by Professor S. S. Praver, the University's former Taylor Professor of German. The Stencl Lecture was established in 1983 to commemorate the famed Yiddish poet of London's East End, Avrom-Nokhem Stencl (1897–1983).

Holocaust Conference

Many of those participating in the July conference on the Holocaust in Oxford and London paid a visit to Yarnton Manor. A total of 60

participants arrived to take part in a special programme which included a lecture on 'Holocaust Research Today' given by Professor Irving Greenberg; and a lecture on 'Literature arising from the Holocaust' given by Dr Glenda Abramson. On the same afternoon, a party of 12 academics from Poland brought by Mr Jack Fliderbaum, were shown round Yarnton Manor by the President.

Papers on Jewish Law

Human Rights in Jewish, Israeli and International Law were the themes of the papers presented at the Second Annual Lecture Cycle of the Oxford Centre's Fellowship in Jewish Law held at Yarnton Manor on May 15.

The programme was introduced by Lord Justice Woolf. The lecture on 'Human Rights in Jewish Law' was given by Professor Zev W. Falk of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, with Lord Goodman, C.H. formerly Master of University College, in the chair. The second lecture on 'Human Rights in Israeli Law' was given by Professor Uriel Reichman, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Tel Aviv, with Sir Zelman Cowen, Provost of Oriel College, Oxford, presiding and Professor Rosalyn Higgins, J.S.D. QC lecturing on 'Human Rights in International Law'. She is Professor of International Law, LSE, University of London, and a member of the U.N. Committee on Human Rights. In the chair was Lord Justice Woolf. A discussion on the three papers followed.

Annual Garden Party

The Centre's annual summer garden party took place on 12th June 1988 at Yarnton Manor, complete with marquees and a string orchestra playing Mozart. The programme was mostly informal, and included a champagne reception followed by lunch and, later, a cream tea in the grounds.

The garden party was designed this year to allow all those who have supported the Centre over many years, to join together to celebrate its success and to meet members of its Board of Governors and its Fellows.

There were more than 100 people present and during the luncheon it was announced by Mr Felix Posen, the chairman of the Centre's Endowment Appeal, that £1 million had been pledged towards the target of £10 million required to provide endowments to consolidate the Centre's present level of activity; to meet the costs of endowing and developing its teaching and research centre and to attract additional endowments to enable the Centre to realise its full potential.

The Chairman of the Governors of the Centre, Professor Herbert Frankel, told the guests that it was 'a wonderful Centre' and like the State of Israel, was 'a miracle'. It had been established, as he said, to provide new treatment of Jewish learning and research in a scientific, non-denominational way.

Sir Sigmund Sternberg, a Governor, paid tribute to Professor Alan Crown, Professor of Semitic Studies at Sydney University, for his work while acting as President of the Centre for the past year, during the absence on Sabbatical leave in America of the President, Professor David Patterson.

Yiddish Studies

During Hilary Term, Dov-Ber Kerler was elected to the Sir Leslie and Lady Porter Junior Research Fellowship in Yiddish Studies, at Lincoln College, Oxford, and a Fellowship at the Centre. Mr Kerler, a native of Moscow who emigrated to Jerusalem with his family in 1971, after a long struggle with Soviet authorities, is the son of Soviet Yiddish poet Yosef Kerler, now the editor of a prestigious literary annual in Jerusalem. Mr Kerler, who grew up in a home steeped in Yiddish culture, had completed his BA in Yiddish literature and general linguistics at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, before coming to the Centre in 1984 as the University's first doctoral student in Yiddish. Since that time, Mr Kerler has worked closely with Dr Katz in planning and carrying out the wide array of Yiddish Studies activities held throughout the year. The new Porter Fellowship also marks the first occasion on which the Centre holds a fellowship jointly with one of the older Oxford undergraduate colleges. It serves to underscore further the Centre's role as one of the world's major centres of high-level Yiddish Studies. Mr Kerler took up the appointment on 1 October 1988.

Johannes Brosi, of Winterthur, Switzerland, enrolled as a postgraduate research student in Yiddish Studies in the University of Oxford's Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages in Michaelmas Term 1987. Mr Brosi, a veteran of the Centre's 1986 summer programme, where he won prizes for 'best student' and 'best essay', decided to return to the Centre to pursue a doctorate on the Yiddish dialects of Switzerland, Alsace, southern Germany and northern Italy, collectively known to scholars as Southwestern Yiddish. His enrolment brings the number of postgraduate Yiddish students to seven. All are supervised at the Oxford Centre by Dr Dovid Katz, the Centre's Wolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature.

The Centre's doctoral students in Yiddish continued to make their mark internationally, by reading papers at the Winter Symposium, and by contributing to the volumes *Origins of the Yiddish Language* and *Dialects of the Yiddish Language* both of which were published jointly by Pergamon Press and the Centre. In addition, the Centre's graduate research students contributed to Centre life and work in a number of ways. Marion Aptroot (Wolfson College), Johannes Brosi (Hertford), Dafna Clifford (St Cross), Dov-Ber Kerler (Lincoln), Devra Kay (St Cross), and David Schneider (Exeter) have all taught Yiddish or Yiddish-related courses for the Centre's One Year programme. Dafna Clifford, Devra Kay and David Schneider contributed entries in the field of Yiddish to the *Blackwell Companion to Jewish Culture*, edited by Dr Glenda Abramson, the Centre's Schreiber Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies.

Since 1984, students have been selecting the Yiddish option, entitled 'Yiddish Literature with Prescribed Texts', as part of their BA degree in the Faculty of Modern Languages. In 1987–1988, for the first time, two undergraduates elected to do Yiddish options within the BA in Hebrew in the Oriental Studies Faculty. They are Rachel Frankel (Oriël) who has chosen a set texts taught course, and Jutta Strauss (Trinity) who is writing a BA thesis on a seventeenth century Western Yiddish text.

New Yiddish Journal

The international flourishing of Yiddish Studies over the past decade, which was partly inspired directly by the Centre, has manifested itself in a number of ways. One of these has been the increased use of Yiddish as the language of communication between Yiddish scholars of different countries, especially at gatherings, conferences and courses, as well as its widening use as the language in which learned papers are written and read. For some years, however, there has been no forum for the publication of academic papers in Yiddish. The Centre has decided to fill the gap by establishing a new academic annual, entirely in Yiddish. It is the first time since the Second World War that a new journal with these goals has been launched. In Vilna, a journal with similar goals, *Yivo bleter*, was established by the Yivo in 1931. The Centre's new journal will be called *Oksforder yidish (Oxford Yiddish)*: Oxford University Press has kindly allowed use of the word 'Oxford' in the title.

The project was conceived by Dr Dovid Katz, the Centre's Wolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature, who will serve as editor. He has assembled an editorial staff comprising four of his doctoral

students: Marion Aptroot (Wolfson), Johannes Brosi (Hertford), Devra Kay (St Cross) and Dov-Ber Kerler (Lincoln). All the papers for the first volume have been received and set in type, using Dr Katz's Yiddish type fonts. The first volume exhibits a pleasing union of established scholars from a number of countries and Oxford Centre-trained young Yiddish scholars. It will include papers by Joseph Bar-El (Bar-Ilan University), Robert D. King (University of Texas at Austin), Shalom Luria (Haifa University), and Hadassa Shy (Ben-Gurion University), as well as Oxford Centre staff and research students. Professor S. S. Praver, the former Taylor Professor of German in the University of Oxford, has contributed a drawing of an eminent Yiddish scholar. The Yiddish desk-top publishing system necessary for producing the journal has been acquired through the generosity of Sydney and Elizabeth Corob.

The Third Annual Oxford Winter Symposium in Yiddish Language and Literature

Thirty leading Yiddish scholars from the UK, North America, Western Europe and Israel gathered at Oxford from 13th to 15th December 1987 for the Centre's Third Annual Oxford Winter Symposium in Yiddish Language and Literature. Twenty-one of the participants read papers. This year's topic was *The History of Yiddish Studies*. From the early sixteenth century onwards, Yiddish was intensively, and sometimes meticulously, studied by Humanists seeking to supplement their knowledge of Hebrew and Aramaic, missionaries seeking converts, businessmen seeking knowledge of their Jewish competitors, anti-Semites seeking to 'expose Jewish secrets' and finally, scholars fascinated with the unique linguistic structure and literary output of the language. From the nineteenth century, Yiddish was examined from the viewpoint of Germanic linguistics. In the early twentieth, Yiddish Studies emerged as a self-contained academic discipline as part of the Jewish renaissance in Eastern Europe. All these aspects were researched and debated at the three-day Winter Symposium.

The Centre's graduate research students in Yiddish Studies were well represented. Johannes Brosi (Hertford College) read a paper on the history of research on Southwestern Yiddish (Alsace, Switzerland, Southern Germany). Marion Aptroot (Wolfson College) paid special attention to the post World War II rediscovery of Dutch Yiddish thanks to the life's work of the great Dutch Yiddish scholar, Hartog Beem, who died in Rotterdam at the age of 95, days before the Symposium. Devra Kay (St Cross) analysed twentieth century scholarship on sixteenth and

seventeenth century women's poetry, and demonstrated how stereotyped views on women had coloured scholars' objectivity in evaluating the corpus. Dov-Ber Kerler (Lincoln), the Centre's Barnett Shine Junior Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature, presented an extensive study of research by Hebrew scholars on the Yiddish influences on modern Hebrew. David Schneider (Exeter) delivered a critique of literary criticism of twentieth century Yiddish drama and theatre. He is himself the grandson of East End Yiddish theatre producer, actor and playwright Abish Meisels (1896–1959). All the Centre's students read their papers in Yiddish.

Dr Dovid Katz, the Centre's Wolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature, who founded the annual Symposium series in 1985, read a paper entitled 'The First Yiddish Linguist: Elijah Levita'. Levita (1469–1549), a celebrated Hebrew and Aramaic philologist and teacher of Hebrew to Christian scholars, was also a leading sixteenth century Yiddish poet. Dr Katz argued that Levita, known in Yiddish as Elye Bokher, was the first to delve into Yiddish etymology, the sound patterns of Yiddish words, and the origins of the language.

One of the sessions was devoted to twentieth century masters of Yiddish philology. Professor Robert D. King of the University of Texas explored the contributions of Matisyohu Mieses (1885–1945), who was the first to write a modern linguistic study of Yiddish in Yiddish, which he delivered at the Chernowitz Language Conference of 1908, at the age of twenty-three. Christopher Hutton, 30, who began his study of Yiddish at the Oxford Centre as a beginner in 1981, returned as Professor Christopher Hutton (University of Texas at Austin). He delivered a talk on Noyakh Prilutski (1882–1941), a leading Yiddish dialectologist whose ability to pinpoint the precise birthplace of any Yiddish speaker was legendary. Professor Hutton discussed the philosophical implications of Prilutski's work in a paper entitled 'Prilutski as Positivist'. Shmuel Hiley, a member of London's chassidic community, who has participated in each Winter Symposium, read a paper on the contributions of the dean of Yiddish linguists, Professor Solomon A. Birnbaum.

The Centre is particularly delighted at the increased number of institutions of higher learning around the world which were represented at this year's event. The participants included Professor David Neal Miller and one of his graduate students, Ms Jennifer Dowling (a veteran of two Oxford summer courses), both of Ohio State University at Columbus; Professor Robert D. King and Assistant Professor Christopher Hutton, both from the University of Texas at Austin; Professor Gershon Winer and Professor Joseph Bar-El, both of Bar-Ilan University; Ms Ulrike Kiefer of Columbia University's Department of

Linguistics; Professor Jean Jofen of Baruch College in the City University of New York; Ms Heather Valencia (a veteran of three Oxford summer courses) of the University of Stirling, Scotland; and Ms Jutta Baum of the University of Trier in West Germany.

The Symposium opened and closed with lectures by guests of honour from the Yiddish literary world. Leyzer Ran, of New York, author of the three volume *Vilna, Jerusalem of Lithuania* opened the Symposium with a talk about several hundred fictitious Yiddish place names used in modern Yiddish literature for satiric effect. London's veteran Yiddish journalist, I. A. Lisky, closed it, six sessions and twenty-one lectures later, with a talk on four Yiddish scholars he knew well.

Sources of Support

The Centre wishes to record its gratitude to the following benefactors who have assisted the development of Yiddish Studies at the Centre during the academic year.

The Sir Leslie and Lady Porter Fellowship in Yiddish Language and Literature was established at Lincoln College and the Centre, jointly through the generosity of the Porter family in London. Mr Dov-Ber Kerler, previously the Barnett Shine Junior Fellow, was elected to the Porter Fellowship with effect from 1 October 1988. The Centre now has two full fellows in Yiddish Studies on its staff.

Mr David Tabatznik, of Johannesburg, South Africa, a former pupil of Professor S. Herbert Frankel, chairman of the Centre's Board of Governors, established the Mendel Tabatznik Memorial Scholarship in Yiddish Studies at the Oxford Centre, in memory of his late father, the Yiddish poet and novelist Mendel Tabatznik (1889–1975). The Scholarship aims to assist postgraduate research students to complete their doctoral theses in Yiddish Studies at the University of Oxford. The winners of the first annual Tabatznik Scholarship in 1987–88 were Ms Marion Aptroot (Wolfson College) and Mr Johannes Brosi (Hertford College).

The summer course again benefited from two sets of prizes, both granted in each of the programme's four courses. The Albert E. and Lillian C. Marks Charitable Trust Awards were established by the Marks Charitable Trust in Brookline Massachusetts, on the initiative of Professor Seymour Kass of the University of Massachusetts, who was a student in the 1985 summer course. The Marks Awards are awarded to the student in each class who writes the best essay, in the opinion of the faculty. The Amalgamated Bank in the City of New York continued offering the Amalgamated Bank Prizes, on the initiative of its president,

Mr Edward M. Katz. The awards were established after Mr Katz visited the summer programme in 1985. The Amalgamated prizes are awarded to the student in each class who 'works the hardest and achieves the most progress'.

Mrs Miriam De Vries (San Francisco, California) again supported the summer course with a number of donations throughout the year.

Major contributions were received via the good offices of the World Council for Yiddish and Jewish Culture in Tel Aviv at the initiative of its chairman, Mr Yitzhak Korn.

The new Yiddish journal, *Oksforder yidish*, received its earliest support through the generosity of Professor Robert D. King, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Austin; the Yiddish Folk Centre in New South Wales, through the good offices of Professor Alan Crown; and Mrs Miriam DeVries of San Francisco, California. Sydney and Elizabeth Corob generously provided funding for the Yiddish desk-top publishing system which will be used to typeset the journal. Further support is required before the first issue can go to press.

The Seventh Annual Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish Language and Literature

In an atmosphere of elation, and with a sense of history, the thirty-eight students from a dozen countries who attended the Centre's four-week Oxford Programme in Yiddish this year celebrated the course's seventh anniversary at a Yarnton Manor graduation ceremony on 26 August. The graduation was addressed by Professor Ron Nettler, the Centre's Fellow in Muslim-Jewish Relations. Over four hundred students from 22 countries have taken part during the course's first seven summers.

Dr Dovid Katz, the Centre's Wolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature, again served as Director of Studies, working in tandem with Ms Jean Nightingale, the Centre's Administrative Secretary, who has served as Administrative Director of the Oxford Programme in Yiddish since its inception in 1982.

The programme comprised four intensive language courses. Yiddish I (elementary) and II (intermediate) were taught by Elinor Robinson and Johannes Brosi. Ms Robinson, who began her study of Yiddish as a complete beginner at the Centre, is now an accomplished author of shorter Yiddish fiction at work on a Columbia University doctorate. Mr Brosi, of Winterthur, Switzerland, himself a veteran of the summer programme (1986), enrolled in October 1987 in Oxford University's Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages as a graduate research student in Yiddish Studies under Dr Katz's supervision. He read a paper at the Centre's 1987 Winter Symposium.

Yiddish III (higher intermediate) and Yiddish IV (advanced) were taught by Dr Katz and Professor Christopher Hutton of the University of Texas at Austin. Like Ms Robinson, Professor Hutton began his study of Yiddish as a beginner at the Centre. This summer, he brought with him two of his own Yiddish students from Texas – Jeff Grossman, 27, and Alex Katzman, 22. Mr Grossman won one of the prizes established at the Oxford Summer Programme by the Albert E. Marks Charitable Trust for his penetrating essay on the topic ‘Why has Yiddish Literary Criticism Ignored A. N. Stencl?’ Like all essays written in the context of the course, it was entirely in Yiddish.

Troim Handler of West Islip, New York taught a highly successful Conversation Workshop which formed part of the programme for the first time. Her husband, Frank, was a student in Yiddish II.

This year’s students spanned many ages, nationalities and professions. The youngest student was Rebecca Pates, 21, an Oxford University undergraduate. The oldest was Brooklyn ethnomusicologist Carl Cowl, 88, who had participated in the first two Oxford Summer Programmes. Mr Cowl, a beloved figure at the course, gave an inspiring address at the graduation ceremony.

University students included Jerald Altman, 21, of Ohio State University; Karin van Coeverden, 26, a doctoral candidate at the University of Leiden who is researching Dutch Jewish folklore; Ulrike Bark, 24, a Heidelberg University student who won the Marks Prize for best essay in her class for her analysis of the poetry of Moyshe Leyb Halpern; Stephanie Fine, 21, a Brandeis graduate student in Jewish history; Bruce Kahn, 21, who just completed his BA at Rutgers and is going on to Yeshiva Or Sameyach in Monsey, N.Y.; Antje Ramming, 24, of Munich; and Jennifer Sylvor, 22, a PhD student in comparative literature at Berkeley.

Esther Hürlimann, 23, an MA student at the University of Zurich, won the Amalgamated Prize in her class (Yiddish III). The Amalgamated Prizes were established in 1985 by Edward M. Katz, president of the Amalgamated Bank, for the student who ‘works the hardest and achieves the most progress’ in each of the four classes.

Students hailing from other walks of life included Shura Lipovsky, a professional singer from the Netherlands who hopes to produce a Yiddish folkmusic record next year; Chic Wolk, the President of Charter Auto Parks, Inc. in Los Angeles; Dr Charles Israel Cohen, a consultant psychiatrist in Poole, Dorset, England; Dr Meyer Dwass, professor of mathematics and statistics at Northwestern University; and Barbara Jean Axelrod, an elementary school teacher from Palisades Park, New Jersey.

The organizers were particularly glad to welcome two participants from Eastern Europe. Magdalena Pirozynska began her study of Yiddish

at the University of Cracow. Peter Varga, a student at the University of Budapest, was a student in Yiddish IV, where he won the Marks Prize for his essay on the history of Yiddish culture in Hungary.

The supplementary Programme included four Yiddish films, eight lectures on Yiddish culture by Tel Aviv Yiddish author Avrom Karpowitz, eight lectures on the history of the Yiddish language by Hebrew University's Professor Wolf Moskovich, four Yiddish folksinging sessions led by Majer Bogdanski of London, and two lectures on the mysteries of Old Yiddish printed books by Hermann Süß, a railway conductor in Fürstenfeldbruck, whom the Centre 'discovered' in 1979. Mr Süß has since been invited to lecture on Old Yiddish bibliography in New York and Jerusalem. Professor William J. Fishman led an historical walking tour of East London, and Isaac Goldberg recounted the literary history of Yiddish in Whitechapel. A guest appearance by London Yiddish author I. A. Lisky marked the celebration of Mr Lisky's 89th birthday. Professor Ora Schwarzwald of Bar-Ilan University, who spent the summer as a Visiting Scholar at Yarnton Manor, introduced the students to Judezmo (Ladino), the traditional language of Sephardic Jewry.

Among the special events this summer were two live Yiddish theatre performances. One was performed by the London Yiddish Players, featuring Harry Ariel, Bernard Mendelovich and David Mazower, whose 'Gems of the Classic Yiddish Theatre' was a highlight of the summer. Anna Tzelniker, doyenne of the London Yiddish theatre, performed a 'Cavalcade of Yiddish Theatre'.

Plans have now been finalized for the 1989 Summer Programme. Both Yitskhok Niborski of Paris, director of the Paris One-Year Seminar in Yiddish Studies and Dov-Ber Kerler of Jerusalem, the Centre's newly appointed Sir Leslie and Lady Porter Fellow in Yiddish, will return to full summer course duties in 1989. Details of the programme, which will be held from 31 July to 25 August, 1989, can be obtained from Ms Jean Nightingale at the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, 45 St Giles', Oxford OX1 3LW, England.

The One Year Programme in Jewish Studies

The 1987–8 One Year Programme once again offered an interdisciplinary curriculum in Jewish Studies with the social and dining facilities of an Oxford College to a small number of participants from the US and South Africa.

The programme provided a variety of courses in Jewish history, literature, religion, archaeology, sociology, Biblical Hebrew, modern Hebrew, and Yiddish. In widening the curriculum specialists such as Professor

William Fishman (Queen Mary College), Dr Jeremy Hughes (University of Oxford), Mr Leon Yudkin (University of Manchester) and Dr Izhak Eshel (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev) were invited to conduct courses.

There was a wide range of supplementary activities of general cultural and of particularly Jewish interest such as theatre trips to 'The Merchant of Venice', 'The Jew of Malta', 'Les Miserables', and 'Lettice and Lovage'; films such as 'the Dybbuk' and 'Hamsin'; outings to Bath, Cambridge, the East End of London and Blenheim Palace and a series of Lecture Evenings and Symposia at Yarnton Manor.

An intense effort was made to publicise and promote the programme in the New England and Chicago area by David Patterson and Ron Nettler and it is hoped that the programme will grow and attract candidates from all over the English-speaking world.

Perhaps one of the most important results of the programme has been that, of the seven students who participated in 1986-7 and have since completed their undergraduate degrees, two have decided to return to the University of Oxford as postgraduate students in Jewish Studies.

The One Year Programme would like to thank Ms Raquel Newman for her generosity in creating a scholarship in memory of Professor Shamaï Davidson.

IN MEMORIAM

Jacob M. Schreiber, who passed away on 15th August 1987 in London at the untimely age of 51, was a Governor of the Oxford Centre. His wise counsel and unflinching understanding of the importance of reviving Jewish studies from the ashes of the Holocaust resulted in the founding in 1981 of the Shoshana and Jacob Schreiber Fellowship in Modern Jewish Studies with Dr Glenda Abramson as the incumbent presenting the inaugural lecture entitled 'The Distant Self—Aspects of Alienation in Contemporary Hebrew Poetry'. The Fellowship complements the existing Schreiber Chair at Tel Aviv University, thus widening post-graduate contact between the countries.

Jacob M. Schreiber's unstinting support and courteous disposition will be greatly missed.

Mr William W. (Bill) Simpson

We mourn the passing of William W. (Bill) Simpson who was a great friend of the Oxford Centre. Over the years he participated in many of the Centre's activities, culminating in the 13th Sacks Lecture entitled 'Freedom, Justice and Responsibility' which he delivered at Yarnton Manor in June 1986.

Bill Simpson considered the aims and aspirations of the Oxford Centre to be in total harmony with his own.

As a pioneer and constant advocate of interfaith relations, his work on behalf of the Council of Christians and Jews was outstanding.

He will be remembered for his gentle and genial personality, his friendliness, steadfastness and loyalty to the causes in which he believed.

His death deprives the Oxford Centre of a true and trusted friend.

Rabbi Dr David Goldstein

The untimely death of Rabbi Dr David Goldstein at the age of 54 has deprived the world of Jewish scholarship of an erudite and creative scholar and the Oxford Centre of a loyal and trusted friend.

Dr Goldstein held the work of the Centre in the highest regard and made great efforts to find substantial support for its library and archive. He learned that he had been awarded the Centre's 'Webber Prize' for his translation of 'The Wisdom of the Zohar' just before his death.

Rabbi Dr Shalom Singer

The death of Rabbi Dr Shalom Singer came as a sad blow for his many friends and admirers. A frequent visitor to the Oxford Centre, Rabbi Singer strove tirelessly to find material support for its activities, and spoke of his visits in the warmest terms on his deathbed.

His congregation has established an annual scholarship for a student at the Centre's One Year Abroad Programme to preserve his memory.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Prof DAVID PATTERSON, the President of the Oxford Centre, spent the academic year 1987–8 as Professor of Jewish Studies at Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts, where he and Mrs Jose Patterson were received with great kindness and courtesy. In addition to his courses at Mount Holyoke College, Professor Patterson lectured at the Annenberg Research Centre, the University of Miami, Ohio State University, Cornell University, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst College, Dartmouth College and Williams College. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters by Baltimore Hebrew University, where he was given the Stiller Prize for his contribution to Jewish literature. He was invited by the Regents of the University of Massachusetts to chair a committee to assess the work of the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. During the summer of 1988 he chaired the Jerusalem Workshop on the Teaching of Modern Hebrew Literature in English Translation, sponsored jointly by the Oxford Centre and the International Centre for University Teaching of Jewish Civilisation founded by Professor Moshe Davis. Professor Patterson then spent five weeks at the Ben Gurion Research Institute at Sde Boqer in the Negev.

Dr GLENDA ABRAMSON returned to Oxford for Michaelmas Term 1987 after a successful two term sabbatical at UCLA, during which she also found time to deliver papers to the National Association of Professors of Hebrew at Brandeis University, and to the European Association of Jewish Studies in Berlin. In Oxford she undertook teaching for the B.A. in Hebrew, and for the graduate degrees of M.Phil and M.St, as well as organising the seminar series *The Jewish Experience in Modern European Literature*. Her articles 'Teaching the Literature of the Holocaust in Translation' (*Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation*, M. Wiener Publishing, New York), and "'Here" and "There" in Modern Hebrew Poetry' (*Pillars of Smoke and Fire*, Southern Book Publishers, Johannesburg) have both been published in the last year.

Dr LÉONIE ARCHER continued to organise and chair her weekly seminar *Women in Antiquity* at the University and successfully negotiated with Macmillan Press to publish a selection of papers from the series under the title *An Illusion of the Night: Women in Ancient Societies*. Macmillan is considering commissioning a series of volumes from the seminar, for which Dr Archer will be joint editor.

In Hilary Term Dr Archer taught a course on 'The Jewish Woman in Graeco-Roman Palestine' for the Centre's One Year Programme in Jewish

Studies, for which she also served as a Student Counsellor, and she organised and chaired the antiquity section of 'Sink or Swim', a one-day workshop on the state and future of Women's Studies at Oxford University. She gave a lecture in Cambridge, entitled 'Bound by Blood: The Gender-Based Dynamic of the Rituals of Circumcision and Menstrual Taboo in Post-Exilic Judaism' for the Jewish and Early Christian studies Seminar of the Divinity school. This lecture is to be published in Janet Martin-Soskice (ed) *Women, Theology and Judaeo-Christian Tradition*. She also spoke on 'Women and Jewish Ritual Practice' and 'Women in Formative Judaism' at the *Women in Antiquity* seminar and the Oxford Women's Theology Group. In May Dr Archer was filmed at Yarnton Manor for a Channel 4 documentary series on 'Women, Ritual and Taboo', a series for which she acted as advisor for Jewish history both on and off screen. The programmes are scheduled for broadcasting in spring 1989. June saw the publication of her book *Slavery— And Other Forms of Unfree Labour* (Routledge).

For the future, Dr Archer has been invited to address the 1989 World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. She has also collaborated with David Sorkin in introducing and organising a new venture at the Centre: a Fellows' Seminar on 'Notions of Community and Jewish Identification through the Ages'. The seminar is scheduled to start in Michaelmas Term 1988 and it is hoped that the papers from the series will be published.

Dr STEVEN BOWMAN writes: 'A year at Yarnton is sufficient only to taste the fruits in season and to enjoy the lovely gardens, both a tribute to the efforts of the gardeners, and to enjoy the hospitality of the staff. Yet one may accomplish a few things on the occasional rainy day when even the sheep huddle indoors.'

Dr Bowman lectured extensively during the year, in a number of settings both academic and public: 'The Agony of Greek Jewry', 'Methodological Aspects of the Greek Holocaust', 'Yosippon on Ancient Rome', 'Between Kedar and Yavan; Jewish Communities in the Tenth Century', 'The Jews of Byzantine Italy', 'The Agony of Greek Jews during World War II' and 'Jews in Tenth Century Italy' (Oxford and Yarnton), 'The End of a Millenium' and 'A Medieval Jewish View of Ancient Rome' (University of Edinburgh), 'Thucydides, Josephus and World War II' (University of Birmingham), 'Greek Jews during World War II' (University of Leicester); 'Repentance and the Jewish New Year, or How to Say Sorry and Mean It' (William Fletcher Primary School, Yarnton), 'Greek Jewry during the Holocaust' (WIZO, Oxford), 'Will it Happen Again?' for Yom Hashoah (Jewish Community Centre, Liverpool), 'Jerusalem – Three Millenia and One Generation' (Redbridge Community Centre, London)

and 'The Development of the Christian Attitude toward Jews and Judaism during the First Four Centuries' (YAKAR, London).

Dr Bowman also found time during the year to visit Paris, Nantes, Berne and Vienna in order to undertake archival research, and to pursue his researches into English Jewry.

Dr ROBERT B. CROTTY writes: During the period June–August 1988, I was a Visiting Scholar at the Centre and concentrated my research on the Jewish background of early Christianity. This research developed in three phases. The first phase is a literary dissection of the Greek text of the letter of James. Although it would seem that this text consists of an unsystematic collection of aphorisms and ethical exhortations I am convinced that a redactor has imposed a consistent chiasmic structure on pre-existing material. Interpreting the text requires a recognition of the structural device.

The second phase relied on the application of the principle of sociology of knowledge, namely that all knowledge is socially located. What sort of community would have produced, accepted and disseminated such a piece of literature?

The final phase is one of historical judgement and imagination. Is it possible to identify such a community, in some way connected with a 'James', amidst the plethora of groups identifiable in extant descriptions of early Christianity and first century Judaism? Historical decisions need to be made on the basis of the Qumran literature, Josephus, and the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of Paul, Eusebius, and the Pseudoclementine Recognitions, to give some obvious examples.

This research is still underway. I would hope to publish eventually, with due credit to the facilities offered by the Centre, in journal articles.

Mr DANIEL FRANK, Solon Junior Fellow in Jewish-Muslim Relations in the Middle Ages, writes: During the past year, I have concentrated my efforts on the completion of my doctoral dissertation for Harvard University, a study of the Karaite Aaron ben Elijah's teachings on divine justice, as expounded in his treatise *'Ets Hayyim*. In the process of researching my dissertation, I have assembled material on the Karaite classification of the Commandments. Some of my findings were presented in a paper delivered this past December in Boston at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies. During the coming academic year, I plan to expand the paper for publication.

In November, I gave two general lectures to audiences at the Centre for the Study of Judaism & Jewish/Christian Relations, Selly Oak Colleges (Birmingham) and Leo Baeck College (London). Both talks examined the Karaite critique of Rabbinic tradition.

At the end of February, I convened the Second Solon Symposium at Yarnton Manor: 'Between Kedar and Yavan: Jewish Communities in the Tenth Century C.E.' Dr David Wasserstein (University College Dublin) and Dr Steven Bowman (University of Cincinnati) discussed the Jews of Islamic Spain and Byzantine Italy respectively; I described the Karaite 'Mourners of Zion', an ascetic group in Jerusalem with powerful messianic expectations.

Not all of my work has centred on Karaism; I have continued to pursue my interest in Rabbanite Judaeo-Arabic literature and more generally in medieval Jewish-Muslim cultural and intellectual interactions. During the fall I gave a series of talks at the Oxford Colloquium for Jewish Studies on the Judaeo-Islamic symbiosis in the Middle Ages as well as a seminar on the same subject at the Centre for the Study of Islam, Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham. One of my projects during 1988–89 will be writing a volume on Judah Halevi for the Jewish Thinkers series published by Peter Halban.

My teaching in Oxford has been varied and enjoyable. As a member of the Oriental faculty, I have been lecturing to undergraduates and M.Phil. students on their Hebrew set-texts. In 1987–88, these comprised: Maimonides, *Hilkhot Talmud Torah*, the *Book of Ruth*, Rashi's *Commentary on Exodus*, and David Kimhi's *Commentary on Psalms*. My tutorials with the undergraduates have focused on literary and historical problems raised by these texts; I have also directed a special subject tutorial devoted to rabbinic exegesis of the Bible. During the coming academic year, I plan to continue lecturing on rabbinic texts at the Oriental Faculty; in addition, I intend to offer a course, 'The Age of Maimonides' for the Centre's One Year Programme.

Mr JOSEPH FRIEDLANDER is one of the last writers in both Hebrew and Yiddish. He lives in Israel and is a regular contributor to newspapers and journals appearing in Israel and the United States. His principal occupation is with book reviews. Amongst other things, he was editor of the Pavzana Memorial Book in Hebrew and English, and the book of Solomon Weisman in Hebrew entitled *Reflections of Marcus Aurelius*. He also broadcasts on the radio in Israel in Hebrew, and more recently in Yiddish.

Friedlander's critical articles are short and pithy, conveying his impressions of the content and mode of expression of the authors. In recent years he has devoted his time to a larger literary creation in Hebrew, for which purpose he stayed at Yarnton Manor. He hopes to publish the work in the near future.

Dr MARTIN GOODMAN has spent much of the year working on a large project on mission and conversion in the ancient world with special reference to Jews and Christians in the early Roman Empire. Other areas of research include a paper on the emergence of the Roman conception of Judaism as a religion distinct from Jews as a nation and another paper on the concept of sacred scripture in rabbinic texts. With Dr Geza Vermes he has completed a book to be published by the Centre late in 1988 on Greek and Latin Sources on the Essenes. Meanwhile, Dr Goodman's book *The Ruling Class of Judaea* (CUP, 1987) has been chosen by the Ancient and Medieval History Book Club as its January Choice.

Dr Goodman's public activities during the year have included his service as Hon. Secretary of the British Association for Jewish Studies, which met in Oxford in July under the presidency of Dr Geza Vermes, as well as a series of lectures on 'Sources for Jewish History in the Roman Period' (Colloquium in Jewish Studies, Oxford), and lectures on 'Jewish Proselytizing and Early Christianity' (Council of Christians and Jews, Oxford) and 'The Origins of the Jewish Revolt' (Palestine Exploration Fund, London).

For the Centre in Oxford and Yarnton, Dr Goodman taught the courses on 'Introduction to Ancient Jewish History' in the One Year Programme, and convened the regular Wednesday evening seminars for Fellows and Visiting Scholars. For the University he supervised two doctoral students in the faculties of Theology and Oriental Studies, and took classes on 'Problems in Jewish History before AD 70' (graduate) and delivered undergraduate lectures on 'Jews and Christians in the Early Roman Empire' both for the faculties of Oriental Studies, Theology and Literae Humaniores. In addition, he delivered the following seminar papers: 'Nerva and the Fiscus Judaicus', 'Hippolytus and Josephus on the Essenes', and 'The canon of the Bible in rabbinic texts' (Oxford), 'Jewish and Christian Mission' (Oxford and Cambridge) and 'Jews and Gentiles in Asia Minor' (KCL).

Dr DOVID KATZ, the Centre's Wolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature, and the Leslie Paisner Senior Research Fellow at St Antony's College, reports a very busy year in teaching, research, editing, administration, and work for the wider community.

Throughout the academic year, Dr Katz served as Supervisor to the University's seven doctoral candidates in Yiddish Studies. His Graduate Seminar in Yiddish Studies, held in all three terms, met sixteen times during the year. In Michaelmas he taught the lecture courses *Readings in Traditional Yiddish* (in Yiddish), and *Readings in Yiddish Linguistics* (in English) as well the Centre's weekly *Elementary Yiddish*

course. In Hilary, his teaching schedule comprised *Readings in Traditional Yiddish* (in Yiddish); *Readings in Yiddish Linguistics* (in Yiddish); *Readings in Yiddish Dialectology* (in English); the Centre's weekly *Elementary Yiddish* course; *Sociology of Yiddish* (in English); and a four hour per week intensive Yiddish language course. These last two courses formed part of the Centre's One Year Programme and were attended by one year students as well as students of Oxford University's Modern Languages Faculty. In Trinity term, Dr Katz taught *Advanced Yiddish* which was combined with his new *Rapid Translation into Yiddish* course, in which advanced students produced on-the-spot translations, into different styles of Yiddish (including literary, idiomatic and journalistic), from English texts which ranged from *Jane Eyre* to *Superman*. In Trinity term, Dr Katz taught two options in Yiddish Studies as part of the BA in Hebrew in the Faculty of Oriental Studies. One is a paper on 'Modern Yiddish Literature with Prescribed Texts'. The other was a thesis option paper on a seventeenth century Yiddish text. It was the first time that Yiddish Studies had formed part of the BA in Hebrew in the Oriental Studies Faculty.

Dr Katz's research progressed in a number of directions. In Michaelmas, he wrote the paper 'The First Yiddish Linguist: Elijah Levita' which he read at the 1987 Winter Symposium. During Hilary, he continued work on his forthcoming *Christian Studies in Yiddish*. Most of Trinity was dedicated to a paper in general linguistics entitled 'Proto Language Theory and the Case of Yiddish'. In the paper, Dr Katz traces protolanguage theory from Leibniz and Sir William Jones through to the 1980s. He argues that Yiddish provides evidence for rather than against protolanguages. A preliminary version of the paper was presented to the Seminar on Linguistics and Philology at St Hugh's College on 17 May. Dr Katz also revised his paper 'Di elttere yidishe leksikografye: mekoyres un metodn' ('Older Yiddish Lexicography: Sources and Methods') for publication in the Centre's forthcoming new Yiddish journal. He began work on a book on the social history of Yiddish. He contributed a number of entries to the *Blackwell Companion to Modern Jewish Culture*, edited by Dr. Glenda Abramson, the Centre's Schreiber Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies. General entries include 'Yiddish', 'Yiddish Studies', 'Yiddish Dialectology' and 'Yiddish Humour'. Biographies of Ber Borokhov, Noyakh Prilutski, Zalmen Reyzen, Max Weinreich, Uriel Weinreich and other leading Yiddish scholars were also submitted.

Dr Katz's editing activities included editing and seeing through the press the Fifth Annual Avrom-Nokhem Stencl Lecture, which the Centre published in 1988 in pamphlet form. The lecture, by Professor Robert D. King, is entitled *The Weinreich Legacy*. Dr Katz edited and

saw through the press *Dialects of the Yiddish Language*, which appeared in 1988. During the academic year, Dr Katz edited the first volume of *Oksforder yidish (Oxford Yiddish)*, the new Yiddish academic journal which he recently founded, and which will appear as soon as the necessary funding materialises. He continued to serve as Advisory Editor to the *Blackwell Companion to Modern Jewish Culture*.

Dr Katz's administrative duties, in his capacity as Director of Studies of the Centre's *Oxford Programme in Yiddish*, included the organization – from the earliest planning stages through to coordinating press coverage after the event – of both the Third Annual Oxford Winter Symposium on Yiddish Language and Literature, entitled *History of Yiddish Studies* (13–15 December 1987), and the seventh annual Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish Language and Literature (1–26 August 1988). In both these endeavours he was ably and consistently assisted by Ms Jean Nightingale, the Centre's Administrative Secretary, who also serves as Administrative Director of the Oxford Programme in Yiddish. Dr Katz served as advisor on Yiddish studies to the Centre's One Year Programme, and devised a formalized system for training and allocating teaching assignments to the Centre's doctoral students. He continued to work on the Taylorian Yiddish library project, which entails coordinating efforts to increase the Yiddish holdings of the Taylorian Library. During the year, the Yiddish collection grew by several hundred volumes, while suitable premises were found to house non-Yiddish materials that had comprised part of the Whitechapel Library's Judaica and Hebraica section (see *Annual Report* for 1984–1985, p. 28). Dr Katz participated in interviewing panels at Exeter College (General Linguistics) and Lincoln College (Yiddish Studies).

This academic year was characterized by an expansion of Dr Katz's involvement with projects intended to be of service to the wider community. He continued to serve as an Occasional Inspector to Her Majesty's Inspectorate, specializing in Yiddish speaking schools in London. In November 1987, he travelled to Tel Aviv for the founding meeting of the new Oxford-Tel Aviv Youth Project, of which he is Executive Director. Dr Katz proposed the project to the World Council on Yiddish and Jewish Culture in a lecture delivered on 22 November in Tel Aviv, following which the proposal was unanimously approved. Dr Katz's article outlining the project appeared in the November issue of *Yidish velt* (Tel Aviv). He was elected to the presidium of the Fifth World Conference on Yiddish and Jewish Culture, held in London from 5 to 8 July 1988 and delivered three lectures before the conference: one at its opening emphasizing the major goals of Yiddish Studies in the last decade of the twentieth century, one at the session on education,

spelling out proposals for effective educational programmes designed to train true experts, and one at the concluding session urging increased international cooperation in the field. Dr Katz did a number of radio and television interviews during the year. Among them are presentations on Yiddish for Radio 4 ('Language Extra', with Francis Hallowell and Katherine Flower), the BBC's Russian Service, New York's WEVD, Israel's Kol Israel, and Israeli Television News.

In recognition of Dr Katz's contributions to Yiddish Studies, he was awarded the Second Annual Sholem Aleichem Award for Literature. The award was presented at a ceremony in Sholem Aleichem House in Tel Aviv on May 8th. This year, Dr Katz completed ten years of service to the Centre.

Mr DOV-BER KERLER continued to serve as the Oxford Centre's Barnett Shine Junior Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature. During the first two University terms he taught classes in Yiddish Language and Literature at Intermediate and Advanced levels. Students included Oxford University undergraduates and graduates as well as members of the wider community. He taught and examined the M.Phil option in Modern Jewish Studies (entitled 'Modern Yiddish Literature since 1864') for the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

Mr Kerler participated in the planning of the Third Oxford Winter Symposium in Yiddish Language and Literature held in December 1987, and delivered a paper on the Yiddish influences on modern Hebrew. During the academic year he placed two papers before the Graduate Seminar in Yiddish Studies: 'The Dialectological Climate of Two Early Eastern Yiddish Texts' (Michaelmas Term 1987) and 'Twenty-Four Years in the History of Yiddish: 1770-1794' (Hilary Term 1988). In addition, he gave an extensive interview in Russian for the radio programme on Yiddish prepared and broadcast by the BBC Russian Language Service.

Mr Kerler also successfully completed his Oxford D.Phil thesis, entitled 'The Eighteenth Century Origins of Modern Literary Yiddish' during this year. Despite frequent general pronouncements, there had been no previous attempt at systematic research into the emergence of Modern Literary Yiddish. Mr Kerler's thesis abstracts, analyses and categorises the linguistic changes manifest in the transition and shift from Old to nascent Modern Literary Yiddish, and concludes that the new form emerged in the absence of the usual support of governmental and academic institutions, suggesting that forces favouring standardisation are as natural phenomena in writing as are those favouring variation in speech.

Mr Kerler is now Sir Lesley and Lady Porter Fellow at Lincoln College, Oxford, and will be receiving his doctorate formally during 1989.

RABBI ARTHUR LELYVELD, whose *Cleveland appeal* brought a total of \$1000 to the Centre over the summer, writes: My paper, 'The Theological Problem of Evil and the Holocaust', which was accepted by the 'Remembering for the Future' conference and preprinted, and which is to be included in the Pergamon Press volumes, was written at the suggestion of Dr Yehuda Bauer made to me here at the Centre in the summer of 1987. The initial preparation of references and the outline of the essay were done at the Centre.

In July I was visited at the Centre by Dr Joseph Kelly, Chairman of the Department of Religion at John Carroll University, who brought me the happy news that I have been elected to the Walter Tuohy Chair of Religion at John Carroll for the fall of 1989. In addition to my normal load I shall be teaching a graduate course and giving seven public lectures on 'Social Values in Jewish Thought and Practice'. The lectures are to be suitable for publication in the Tuohy Lecture series and I hope to complete them here at Yarnton in the summer of 1989.

At the invitation of Dr Jonathan Magenot of Leo Baeck College I served as a 'resource leader' at the twentieth annual Jüdische-Christliche Bibelwoche in Bendorf/Rhein, West Germany, from 18th to 23rd July. My experience there was the subject of a paper on 'Forgiveness and Reconciliation: the Distinction between Them', which I gave to the Visiting Scholars' Colloquium on August 16th, and which is slated for publication in the United States.

During my stay I was able to make further progress on my book on 'Conflict Resolution', which is taking shape and should be ready for publication soon.

On July 16th I preached at the Northwest London Reform Synagogue, and on August 20th at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in London, and in each case appropriate recognition was given to the Oxford Centre by my hosts. In all it has been another happy summer in Oxford and I am grateful for the opportunities it provided.

Dr HEINZ-DIETRICH LÖWE writes: this being my first academic year at Oxford and the Centre a lot of time was spent on getting settled here: I was made a Senior Research Fellow at Wolfson College in November, a member of the SCR of St Antony's College in January, a member of the History Faculty during Michaelmas term and a member of the Oriental Studies Faculty during Hilary. During Trinity I joined the Advisory Board of *Polin*, the journal of the Polish-Jewish Institute.

During Michaelmas and Hilary I taught, together with Dr David Sorkin, the course 'The Modern Jewish Experience in Europe, 1846–1945', where I covered the history of Eastern European Jewry and the origins of modern antisemitism.

For the One Year Abroad Programme I taught the history of the Eastern European Jewish Community and antisemitism in Eastern Europe from 1200 to 1945. This course consisted partly of lectures given by me and partly discussion about a group of texts on special problems of that period. With Prof Norman Stone and Dr David Sorkin I organized a seminar on modern Jewish history for Trinity term which was held at St Antony's College.

In the field of postgraduate work I advised students on the Eastern European background of Jews in the East End and supervised a D.Phil on Polish Jewry in the 19th century and a MA student on Jewish non-socialist parties in Russia before the revolution. A former student of mine will come to Oxford next year to do his D.Phil on this topic under my supervision. Next year I shall tutor four students in my field. Beyond this I worked as an outside reader for the Slavonic and East European Review (London).

In November I contributed to a series of lectures in London for B'nai Brith and the Jewish Historical Society where I dealt with the pogroms in Russia. Inside the university I gave a talk to Dr Michael Hurst's (St John's College) seminar on 'Comparative Imperialism' in Hilary term about antisemitism in Russia before the revolution, to Michael Hurst's, Dr Robert Evans' and Dr David Sorkin's seminar on 'Liberalism' about Russian liberalism and to Professor Scott Eddie's (All Souls College) and Dr Patrick O'Brien's (St Antony's College) seminar on 'Patterns of Landholding and Europe' about landholding in Russia.

In December my book *Die Lage der Bauern in Rußland* finally appeared in print. To the journal *Polin* I contributed several book reviews on Polish-German-Jewish relations, on Russian and on Eastern European Jewry. I agreed to contribute to a collection to be edited by Professor Herbert Strauss of the 'Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung' at the Freie Universität Berlin on the causes of Russian antisemitism (in English), on which I am presently working.

Dr GEORGE MANDEL delayed the start of his sabbatical year by one term, i.e. to the beginning of Hilary Term, in order to assist in the transition of the Library and Archive to new arrangements. A paper by him on 'Eliezer Ben-Yehuda and Professor Joseph Halévy', in Hebrew, was published in the Proceedings of the Sixth Hebrew Scientific European Congress (Jerusalem: Brit Ivrit Olamit, 1988).

Prof RONALD L. NETTLER became Fellow in Muslim-Jewish Relations in the Modern Period on October 1st, 1987. He continued his research on modern Islamic doctrine concerning the Jews, Judaism and Israel. Prof Nettler's book, *Past Trials and Present Tribulations: A Muslim Fundamentalist's View of the Jews*, was published by Pergamon Press, Oxford, as the first volume in their new series, *Studies in Anti-Semitism*, edited by Prof Yehuda Bauer.

Prof Nettler taught lecture courses in Islamic Mysticism as well as Jewish-Muslim Relations for the Oriental Faculty, Oxford University; he also served as a special tutor in Islamic Mysticism for a B.A. finalist in Arabic. In the Centre's One Year Programme he taught Jewish-Muslim Relations and the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

Prof Nettler gave lectures in a number of places outside the Centre and the University: Selly Oak Colleges' Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations; the Israel-Diaspora Trust, London; and Blundell's School, Devon.

Dr NISSAN RUBIN writes: During my stay at Yarnton I had the opportunity to continue the researching and writing of my book on rites of passage in Talmudic literature. I also completed several articles of which some had already been accepted for publication. In the field of sociological history my paper 'Historical Time and Liminal Time' was accepted by *Jewish History*, and 'On Drawing Down the Prepuce and the Excision of the Foreskin' was accepted by *Zion*. Another paper, 'From Monism to Dualism: Body and Soul in Talmudic Thought' was accepted by *Da'at*, the Israeli philosophical quarterly.

In the field of the sociology of mourning I completed the paper 'Social Network and Mourning: A Comparative Approach' which was accepted for publication in *Omega – The Journal of Death and Dying*.

In July I presented to the International Conference of Grief and Bereavement in London a paper on 'The Double Message of Holocaust Monuments in Israeli Cemeteries', which I am now preparing for publication. I also made intensive use of the Kressel Collection for my research on mourning practices in early kibbutzim. I found some very important information in the Collection, and presented some of the findings in a lecture in the Long Gallery at Yarnton.

I wish to thank the Centre for its kind hospitality and for the opportunity to spend a most fruitful sabbatical.

Dr DEBORAH SCHECHTERMAN writes: My academic activities during my stay at the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies were extremely prolific and included writing and publishing as well as teaching and being involved in the activities of the Kressel Collection.

My first published research this year, 'The Doctrine of Original Sin and Maimonidean Interpretation in Jewish Philosophy of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries', (Hebrew), (*Daat*, (1988), pp. 37–62), was completed during the first month of my stay. The main theory of the research is as follows: Original Sin is considered to be a uniquely Christian doctrine. Nevertheless, an analysis of apparently forgotten Jewish treatises – most of which are to be found only in manuscript form – reveals that an extraordinary philosophical theory of Original Sin is present in late medieval Jewish thought. It implies, therefore, a new dimension in characterising this doctrine and has implications for the understanding of the process of inter-communication between Jewish and Christian thought. My study focuses on fundamental Jewish passages, beginning with Apocalyptic literature and ending with medieval philosophical texts. Yet, the examination of these Hebrew texts is carried out in the light of the writing of Christian scholars. This means that the attempt to clarify this Jewish doctrine is made, from a methodological viewpoint, both by looking at the development of this doctrine through the history of Jewish thought, and by a close examination of the parallel general sources. It is only then that one can see that rudiments of the Christian doctrine of Original Sin were inserted into the Aristotelian theory of Nature, and combined with elements from Maimonides' Biblical-allegoric exegesis.

I also wrote and completed for publication 'Concepts of Suffering', (*Remembering for the Future, Jews and Christians During and After the Holocaust*, Pergamon Press, Oxford 1988, Theme I, pp. 975–986). This specific study is devoted to concepts of suffering that emerged from the very occurrence of the Holocaust, and focuses on the way in which they were brought into question by the victims themselves. The attempt to clarify the bases of those views is carried out in the light of some recent Christian and philosophical discussions. This publication was written during my stay here and I was therefore delighted to acknowledge the Centre for Hebrew Studies. This research was undertaken for presentation at the International Scholars' Conference to be held in Oxford, July 1988.

Furthermore, I was able to contribute extensively to the *The Blackwell Companion to Jewish Culture – from the Eighteenth Century to the Present* under the editorship of Dr Glenda Abramson (Basil Blackwell, Oxford) because of my access to the unique documentation in the Kressel Collection.

In addition to my published research, I am preparing two books for publication. *Immanuel of Rome's Philosophic Treatise on the Book of Genesis – Critical Edition with Introduction and Commentary*. The edition will supply a critical text, based upon textual analysis and

comparison of all the manuscripts of the tractate known to me. The author of this philosophic treatise – Immanuel of Rome – the greatest of Jewish-Italian poets, was active in the second half of the thirteenth century and at the beginning of the fourteenth century. Yet his exegetical-philosophic treatise, as most of the philosophic writings of the Jewish-Italian circle, gained very little scholarly attention. Almost all of the Philosophic Commentary on Genesis has never been published. The influence of the general culture will be researched by examining points of contact, in the light of Christian-Scholastic philosophy, i.e. the texts of Bonaventure and his School, Thomas Aquinas, and the Latin Averroism – Siger of Brabant and Boetius of Sweden. In connection with Immanuel's philosophic systems I am also writing a book *The Philosophy of Immanuel of Rome*.

I presented some of the results of my research to colleagues and scholars at group discussions in Yarnton Manor during my stay in Yarnton. I also taught a course on Trends in Jewish Philosophy in the One Year Programme. This course provided the student with a general introduction to the various schools of Jewish thought, and focused on the leading figures within the intellectual tradition.

Finally, I had the opportunity to be involved in the activities of the Kressel Collection. Besides dealing with the day to day work in the archive and the library, I was one of the organisers and the host of the International Congress of the Hebraica Libraries here. The Congress was held in April 1988 at Yarnton Manor, Oxford, by courtesy of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies.

Dr DAVID SORKIN, Clore Fellow of the Centre and Senior Research Fellow at St Antony's College, is pleased to report that his book, *The Transformation of German Jewry, 1780–1840* (OUP, 1987), won the Present Tense/Joel H. Caviar Literary Award for History in March, 1988. He has been appointed General Editor of a new series, Jewish Society and Culture, to be published by Basil Blackwell (Oxford and New York).

Dr Sorkin shared the lectures in the Modern Jewish Experience in Europe with Dr Löwe. He gave a tutorial in European Jewish history for the students of the One Year Abroad Programme. He examined two students for the M.Phil degree in Modern Jewish Studies.

Dr Sorkin lectured three times for the Jewish Historical Society of England and the Adult Education Committee of B'nai Brith, London, in the autumn of 1987. He gave papers in a St John's College seminar and in the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Cambridge. In Trinity Term he co-sponsored a seminar on Liberalism and Nationalism with Michael Hurst (St John's) and RJW Evans (Brasenose). Also in Trinity Term he

co-organized the Seminar in Modern Jewish History (with Professor Norman Stone and Dr Löwe) held at St Antony's College.

During the year Dr Sorkin wrote reviews for *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*, the *Journal of Jewish Studies* and *Polin*. He continued research on a book provisionally entitled 'The Other Enlightenment: Reasonable Religion in Central and Western Europe, 1689–1789,' which compares the ways in which Christians and Jews utilized Enlightenment ideas to support religious belief.

Dr JONATHAN WEBBER, Fellow in Jewish Social Studies at the Oxford Centre, continued with his research and teaching in the fields of contemporary Jewish society and biblical anthropology. He reports that he was particularly pleased at the opportunities he had this year to take up an interest in a number of new research topics, including food, dress, incense, identity, and Polish-Jewish studies.

In February 1988 he was invited by the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Wassenaar, to speak at a symposium on 'Eating, History and the Social Sciences'; his paper was entitled 'Food for Thought: The Jewish Preoccupation with Diet'. The symposium, on which a long report appeared in the *NRC Handelsblad* on 5th March 1988, represented part of a relatively new interest amongst scholars in the anthropological study of food and social identity, and Dr Webber has now organised a seminar series in Oxford on this topic for the next academic year. Following the untimely death, in July 1987, of his teacher and former supervisor Edwin Ardener, he took over the responsibility for the regular weekly seminar on 'Identity and Ethnicity' at the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Oxford. Together with Edwin's widow Shirley, of Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, and Dr Tamara Dragadze, of the Department of Near and Middle East at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, he organised the first series in Hilary Term 1988, on the theme 'Historical and Cultural Elements in Identity and Ethnicity, with Special Reference to Eastern Europe', and in Trinity Term a further series, on the theme 'The Role of Intellectuals and Academics in the Cultural Construction of Ethnic Identity'. On 4th February 1988 he delivered a paper entitled 'On the Concept of Language Revival: The Case of Modern Spoken Hebrew' at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of St Andrews.

Dr Webber continued as Visiting Lecturer at Leo Baeck College, London, where he conducted this year one shiur per term in his series on anthropological approaches to the Bible: on 'The Incense' (Exodus 30: 1–10), on 'Tzitzit' (Numbers 15: 32–41) and on 'Jacob's Change of Name' (Genesis 35: 9–21). On 29th November 1987 he participated in

the College's annual Theology Student Seminar (a weekend encounter with Judaism for Christian students) by giving a lecture on 'The Jewish Community: An Anthropological Overview', and on 24th May 1988 he again spoke at the College, at its annual one-day seminar for rabbis, this time on the subject of food; his title was 'Some Reflections on Exodus 12'. Other special lectures given this year included the Fourth Israel Abrahams Memorial Lecture, 'The Babel Tradition and the Revival of Modern Hebrew', at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue on 11th November 1987; 'The Different Religions of Jerusalem', at the West London Synagogue on 1st June 1988; and 'Being Jewish: From an Anthropological Viewpoint', at the Journal Club of the Radcliffe Infirmary, University of Oxford, on 9th February 1988.

Following on the feasibility study he conducted in July 1987, Dr Webber was invited back to Poland for the summer of 1988 by the Department of Social Anthropology of the Jagiellonian University of Kraków for the purpose of organising and collaborating in a major field research initiative in Polish-Jewish studies. This research, which was sponsored also by the Jagiellonian University's Research Centre on Jewish History and Culture in Poland, consisted this year of three main topics: 'Attitudes of Poles towards the Holocaust Based on a Survey of the Population of Oświęcim (Auschwitz) and Vicinity', 'Sub-Carpathian Jewish Culture in the Memory and Social Consciousness of Local Communities', and 'Remains of Jewish Material Culture in Small Communities in the Sub-Carpathian Region'. The project on Auschwitz was conducted by Dr Webber with the assistance of nine graduate students and staff of the University, and for the other two projects a further twenty persons participated. Altogether several hundred hours of tape-recorded interviews, together with photographs and other survey material, were collected over a period of two months. It will take some time before analysis and publication can be completed, especially since Dr Webber hopes to continue the fieldwork in Poland next year, in part to finish collecting the data for the third project, which will be used as a basis for a guide-book that he will be preparing on synagogue buildings, cemeteries and other items of Jewish interest in southern Poland. Financial support for the exercise was generously given by the David Lewis Charitable Foundation, the *Jewish Chronicle* (which carried a report on the Auschwitz project on 17th June 1988), and the Project Judaica Foundation. Whilst in Poland Dr Webber gave a series of three seminars at the Jagiellonian University concerning the structure of the research, two lectures on 'Judaism as an Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Category', one seminar on contemporary Jewish society, one field demonstration on synagogues and Jewish cemeteries, and one formal lecture at the University's Jewish Research Centre

entitled 'The Contribution of Social Anthropology to Jewish Studies: The Significance of Food Habits'.

Within the Oxford Centre, Dr Webber completed the second year of his two-year roster as Director of Studies of the One Year Abroad Programme, for which he also taught two courses, one an Introduction to Judaism and the other on Biblical Anthropology. On 10 December 1987 he gave an additional lecture within the Programme on 'Twentieth-Century Judaism'. He also taught a course on the sociology of the State of Israel for the University's M.St. degree in Modern Jewish Studies, for which he acted as an examiner in Trinity Term 1988. On 24th February 1988 he spoke at Yarnton Manor, in Dr Martin Goodman's series on academic work at the Centre, on the subject of the relationship between social anthropology and Jewish studies. As in previous years, he organised an exhibition of Centre publications at Jewish Book Week in London (March 1988), and represented the Jewish community at the annual Commonwealth Day observance at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. He was elected a member of the Centre's Publications Committee.

Dr Webber completed the last year of his three-year duties as a member of the executive Council of the Royal Anthropological Institute, London, and member of its Finance Committee. He continued as Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth, whose annual conference, on 'The Social Construction of Youth, Maturation and Ageing', he attended in London in April. During the course of the year he was elected Research Associate of the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Oxford (for the academic year 1988–89), acted as a reader for Cambridge University Press and the anthropological journal *Man*, continued as senior editor of the *Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford (JASO)*, of which the three issues for 1987–88 were published, and became series editor of *JASO's Occasional Papers* series, of which volume seven was published in July. The latter, entitled *Vernacular Christianity: Essays in the Social Anthropology of Religion*, was a Festschrift in honour of Godfrey Lienhardt, retiring Reader in Social Anthropology. He published one review article in the *Jewish Journal of Sociology*, on the subject of Polish-Jewish studies, wrote a further review for the same journal on social inequality in the kibbutz, published an article on the subject of Jewish fundamentalism in a collection of anthropological essays edited by Lionel Caplan, and worked on a Polish edition of a set of papers on identity and ethnicity including a reconstruction from notes of a lecture by Edwin Ardener for posthumous publication.

DR RICHARD WHITE was on leave of absence during the academic year 1987–88. He was in Oxford for two weeks during Hilary term during which he made some revisions to a concordance of the Targum to Psalms which he is preparing on the university computer. In the Autumn he taught Babylonian Aramaic at the New York school of Hebrew Union College. He contributed a number of book reviews and notices for the *Journal of Jewish Studies* and the *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*, and a brief entry on the Genesis Apocryphon from the Dead Sea Scrolls for the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. He was also working on a number of other projects involving the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Prof ALEXANDER BARZEL of the Israel Institute of Technology, *Visiting Scholar 1987*, writes: During my visit to Oxford and Yarnton in January to May 1987 I was working on the research for *The Concept of Nature in Jewish Thought*. I think I read almost everything available in the Bodleian Library's Hebrew Section, mainly the manuscripts dealing with natural sciences (including medicine). In the Oriental Institute's Judaica collection I also found some treatises, as in the Kressel Collection (or rather in the additional donations, mainly the German language Jewish philosophy). My intention was not to begin writing in Oxford, but to collect the material for further elaboration, which I did most successfully.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr GLENDA ABRAMSON

'Teaching the Literature of the Holocaust in Translation' in *Modern Hebrew Literature in English Translation* (M. Wiener Publishing, New York, 1987)

'"Here" and "There" in Modern Hebrew Poetry' in *Pillars of Smoke and Fire* (Southern Book Publishers, Johannesburg, 1988)

Dr LÉONIE ARCHER

'Bound by Blood: Circumcision and Menstrual Taboo in Post-Exilic Judaism' in Martin-Soskice [ed.], *Women, Theology, and the Judaeo-Christian Tradition* (Marshall Pickering, 1988)

ed., *Slavery and Other Forms of Unfree Labour* (Routledge, 1988)

Mr DANIEL FRANK

'Lea Naomi Goldfeld, *Moses Maimonides' Treatise on Resurrection: An Inquiry into its Authenticity*' (review), *Journal of Jewish Studies* 38/2 (1987) pp267–275

Dr MARTIN GOODMAN

The Ruling Class of Judaea (Cambridge University Press, 1987)

Dr DOVID KATZ

'Yugnt proyekt in Oksford' in *Yidish velt* (Tel Aviv), no. 46, Nov. 1987

ed., King, Robert D., *The Weinreich Legacy. The Fifth Annual Avrom-Nokhem Stencl lecture in Yiddish Studies delivered before the Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish Language and Literature on 17 August 1987.* (Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies: Oxford 1988)

ed., *Dialects of the Yiddish Language.* (Pergamon and OCPHS: Oxford 1988)

'On the Second Winter Symposium' in Katz, ed., *Dialects of the Yiddish Language,* (Pergamon and OCPHS: Oxford 1988)

'Origins of Yiddish Dialectology' in Katz, ed., *Dialects of the Yiddish Language,* (Pergamon and OCPHS: Oxford 1988)

'Alexander Harkavy and his Trilingual Dictionary' in Alexander Harkavy, *Yiddish-English-Hebrew Dictionary,* (Schocken Books and Yivo: New York 1988) pp. vi-xxiii

'Aleksander Harkavi un sayn drayshprakhiker verterbukh' in Alexander Harkavy, *Yiddish-English-Hebrew Dictionary,* (Schocken Books and Yivo: New York 1988) pp. xxiv-xii

ed., *Oksforder yidish,* vol. I, in press

'Di eltere yidishe leksikografye' in *Oksforder yidish,* vol. I, in press

Contributions to: Abramson, G., ed., *Blackwell's Companion to Jewish Culture,* (Blackwell) in press

'Yiddish Literature' in *Oxford Illustrated Encyclopedia, Volume 5: The Arts,* (Oxford University Press) in press

'Fun Tshernovits biz London' in *Folks-shtime* (Warsaw), August 1988

'Preface' in Menke Katz, ed., *Freshness of the Ancient: Ocarina's Double Annual, 1986–1987. Featuring Modern Yiddish Poetry,* (T.I.C.W: Madras 1987) pp. 1–7

Mr DOV-BER KERLER

'East Meets West: the Dialectal Climate of Two Early Eastern European Yiddish Prints' in Katz ed., *Dialects of the Yiddish Language*, (Pergamon and OCPHS, Oxford 1988) pp 69–84

Dr HEINZ-DIETRICH LÖWE

Die Lage der Bauern in Russland (Scripta Mercatorae, 1987)

Dr GEORGE MANDEL

'Eliezer Ben-Yehuda and Professor Joseph Halevy' in *Proceedings of the Sixth Hebrew Scientific European Congress* (Brit Ivrit Olamit, Jerusalem, 1988)

Prof RONALD NETTLER

Past Trials and Present Tribulations: A Muslim Fundamentalist's View of the Jews, Bauer [ed.], *Studies in Anti-Semitism*, vol I (Pergamon Press 1988)

Prof DAVID PATTERSON

'University Teaching of Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation: Parameters and Limitations' in *Modern Hebrew Literature in English Translation* (M. Wiener Publishing, New York, 1987)
Contributions to *Blackwell Companion to Jewish Culture* (Blackwell) in press.

Dr DAVID SORKIN

The Transformation of German Jewry, 1780–1840 (O.U.P. 1987)

Dr JONATHAN WEBBER

'Studies on Polish Jewry' (review article), *The Jewish Journal of Sociology*, Vol. XXX, no. 1, June 1988, pp. 51–5
'Rethinking Fundamentalism: The Readjustment of Jewish Society in the Modern World', in Lionel Caplan (ed.), *Studies in Religious Fundamentalism*, (Macmillan Press, 1987) pp. 95–121.

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