

Report of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies

SEVENTEENTH ACADEMIC YEAR 1988–1989



*The Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies is one of the
associated centres of St Cross College*

With Compliments

**STAR DIAMOND
COMPANY**

Report of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies

SEVENTEENTH ACADEMIC YEAR 1988–1989

Compiled by Didi Kerler

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PREFACE

The Annual Report for the year 1988-9 illustrates once more the remarkable progress achieved by the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies and reflects an impressive range of activities, both in research and teaching. The combined scholarly work of the Centre's own Fellows and the many Visiting Scholars represents a major contribution to Jewish scholarship in international terms.

Ties with Oxford University were strengthened by the official invitation given to the Centre to undertake the teaching of Modern Hebrew at Oxford University. The University agreed that the Cowley Lectureship in Postbiblical Hebrew should be attached to one of the Centre's Fellowships, and on the retirement of the President from the Cowley Lectureship in September 1989 after a tenure of thirty-three years, Dr Glenda Abramson was appointed to the post.

The One Year Programme in Jewish studies made a considerable advance, not only in the number and calibre of the students, but also in the range of subjects offered. Because of the difficulties experienced in finding suitable accommodation for the students of the course in Oxford itself, it was decided for the next academic year to use some of the cottages on the Yarnton Manor Estate to house the students and to divide the teaching between Yarnton Manor and 45 St Giles'.

Another development of considerable importance for the Centre was the agreement reached with the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem to enable the Centre to acquire a complete set of photographs of Qumran materials. Housed in a special room in the library at Yarnton Manor, this acquisition will ensure the Oxford Centre becoming a focus for the study of the Qumran materials in the years ahead. It will comprise a most valuable addition to the holdings of the library.

Apart from the wide range of lectures given at 45 St Giles' and at Yarnton Manor, a new series of monthly lectures in London given by Fellows of the Centre proved to be a great success. The series enables the Centre to widen the range of persons who can benefit from the combined expertise of the Centre's fellowship. Symposia at Yarnton Manor included one on the Jews and Islam, one on Jewish Law in honour of Professor David Daube's eightieth birthday, and one on the place of St Paul in the history of Judaism. A very successful annual Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish Language and Literature was followed by the fourth annual Winter Symposium in Yiddish Language and Literature. This was devoted to the politics of Yiddish on the occasion of the eightieth anniversary of the famed 1908 Yiddish Conference at Chernowitz Bukovina. A successful

symposium on Jewish Food held at Yarnton Manor in June attracted a large number of participants.

In July, a grand Reunion for Scholars, Fellows and Associates (past and present at the Oxford Centre) at the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, was attended by some one hundred and fifty people, and declared a great success. All these and many other events indicate a remarkably active year, which augurs well for the future.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Governors, the Fellows, and the staff of the Centre, all of whom make an invaluable contribution to the continuing achievements and impressive progress throughout the year. Sincere thanks are also due to the Chairman of the Fund-Raising Committee, Mr Felix Posen, and his colleagues, whose efforts underpin the work of the Centre.

David Patterson

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 1974-8. Fellow of All Souls College in the University of Oxford.

Mrs E. Corob, Designer.

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.

Sir Ralf Dahrendorf Hon KBE, FBA, Warden of St Antony's College in the University of Oxford

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

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

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

Mr C. Hurwitz, Company Chairman.

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Professor G. Kozmetsky, School of Business Administration, University of Texas at Austin, USA.

Dr A. Levin, formerly Medical Director, Wellington Hospital, London.

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

Mr G. R. Pinto, Banker.

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

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

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

Sir Sigmund Sternberg O. St. J. KCSG JP, Company Chairman.

Professor 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.
The Rt Hon Lord Justice Woolf PC .

Additional Committee Members

Dr G. Abramson	Mr D. J. Lewis
Dr L. J. Archer	Dr H-D. Löwe
Professor J. Barr, FBA	Dr Noah Lucas
Rabbi S. Brichto	Dr G. Mandel
Dr S. P. Brock, FBA	Mr R. A. May
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Mr D. Frank	Dr A. Salvesen
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Dr D. Katz	Dr D. Sorkin
Dr D-B. Kerler	Dr J. M. Webber
Mr D. Landau	Dr R. T. White

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The Haham, Dr S. Gaon

Lord Goodman CH

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The Rt. Hon. Lord Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi

The Right Revd E. J. Tinsley, formerly Lord Bishop of Bristol

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Honorary Council

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Professor E. Katzir, formerly President of the State of Israel

Professor M. Many, formerly President of Tel Aviv University

Mr Y. Navon, formerly President of the State of Israel

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

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PRESIDENT

Professor David Patterson, Cowley Lecturer in Post-Biblical Hebrew,
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FELLOWS

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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 1984–8, Wolfson College,
Oxford.

*Marc Rich Junior Fellow in Jewish-Muslim Relations in the Medieval
Period*
Mr Daniel Frank, Solon 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, Paisner Memorial Fellow, St Antony's College, Oxford.

Barnett Shine Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature
Dr Dov-Ber Kerler, Sir Leslie and Lady Porter Junior Research Fellow,
Lincoln College, Oxford.

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

Librarian and Fellow in Israeli Studies
Dr Noah Lucas, Senior Associate Member, St Antony's 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.

Fellow in Aramaic and Syriac Studies

Dr Alison Salvesen, Junior Research Fellow, New College, Oxford.

Clare 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 Webber, Junior Research Fellow 1984–7, Linacre College, Oxford.

Fellow in Hebrew and Aramaic Studies

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

HONORARY FELLOWS

Professor S. W. Baron, Professor Emeritus of Jewish History, Literature and Institutions, Columbia University (See In Memoriam)

Professor Sir Isaiah Berlin OM, CBE, FBA, Fellow of All Souls College in the University of Oxford.

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 and Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College in the University of Oxford.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE FELLOWS

Professor A. Band, University of California at Los Angeles.

Professor Y. Bauer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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

Professor J. W. Burbidge, Trent University, Ontario.

Professor C. M. Carmichael, Cornell University.

Professor M. Hengel, University of Tübingen.

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Professor T. Muraoka, University of Melbourne.

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Professor N. Rotenstreich, The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Professor Dr P. Schäfer, Free University of Berlin.

Professor R. P. Scheindlin, Jewish Theological Seminary.
Professor M. Stern, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (See In Memoriam)
Professor E. Ullendorff FBA, School of Oriental and African Studies,
University of London.
Professor E. E. Urbach, The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.
Professor M. H. Vogel, Northwestern University.
Professor B. Wasserstein, Brandeis University.

Visiting Lecturers

Professor G. Alderman, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College.
Dr L. Jacobs, Leo Baeck College, London.
Dr L. Kochan, University of Warwick.
Dr B. Kosmin, formerly Executive Director, Board of Deputies.
Dr T. V. Parfitt, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of
London.
Dr T. Rajak, University of Reading.
Professor G. Rose, University of Warwick.
Dr N. Solomon, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham.
Mr L. I. Yudkin, University of Manchester.

Associate Scholars

Dr Elinor Lieber, Green College, Oxford.
Mrs Jenny Morris, Oxford.

Editor of the Jewish Law Annual

Professor B. S. Jackson, University of Liverpool.

Editor of the Oxford English–Hebrew Dictionary of Contemporary Usage

Mr N. S. Doniach OBE, Wadham College, Oxford.

Assistant Editor

Dr A. Kahane, Balliol College, Oxford.

Librarian

Dr N. Lucas, St Antony's College, Oxford.

Editor of the Journal of Jewish Studies and Director of Publications

Professor G. Vermes FBA, Wolfson College, Oxford.

Director of Studies, Oxford Programme in Yiddish

Dr D. Katz, St Antony's College, Oxford.

Coordinator of the One Year Programme in Jewish Studies
Mrs D. Kerler.

Administrator of the Oxford Qumran Project
Professor A. Crown, University of Sydney.

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Library Consultant, USA
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Computing Consultant
Mr A. Jones, Pembroke College.

Fiscal Bursar
Professor L. Minkes.

Domestic Bursar
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Accounts Officer
Mrs I. Goodwin.

Administrative Secretary, Administrative Director of the Oxford Programme in Yiddish
Ms J. Nightingale.

Assistant to the Director of Studies of the Oxford Programme in Yiddish
Ms M. Wright.

Lector in Yiddish
Ms Devra Kay, St Cross College.

Mendel Tabatznik Scholars in Yiddish Studies
Ms Marion Aptroot, Wolfson College.
Mr Johannes Brosi, Hertford College.

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Mrs M. Peacock.

Assistant Secretaries
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Mrs B. Hood
Miss E. Muir

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Mr J. Roberts (until January 1989)

Housekeeper
Mrs E. Roberts (until January 1989)

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Mrs E. Tricker

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Mr D. Burnett

Groundsman
Mr P. Peacock

Teamleader, Domestic Staff
Mrs S. Hawkins

The Centre would like to express its gratitude to Elsie and John Roberts, Housekeeper and Estate Manager at Yarnton Manor, for their fourteen years of devoted and loyal service.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Prof A. Appelfeld, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Prof Y. Ben-Shlomo, Tel Aviv University
Prof Y. David, Tel Aviv University
Prof Z. Even-Paz, Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem
Prof K. Frieden, Emory University
Prof R. Hendel, Southern Methodist University
Dr A. Hurvitz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Dr J. Kabakoff, Lehman College, CUNY
Rabbi A. Lelyveld, John Carroll University
Dr I. Oppenheimer, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Prof Ch. Rabin, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Rabbi R. Rosenthal, University of Puget Sound
Rabbi M. Rozenberg, New York
Dr N. Rubin, Bar Ilan University
Prof R. Scheindlin, Jewish Theological Seminary of America
Prof E. Schweid, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Dr M. Shemesh, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Dr N. Shupak, University of Haifa
Rabbi L. Sigel, New Jersey
Prof Ilan Troen, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Prof B. Uffenheimer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Prof Z. Weisman, University of Haifa

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:)

Instone Bloomfield Charitable Trust
The Clore Foundation
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The Dellal Foundation
Professor and Mrs S.H. Frankel
Mr Edwin Gale
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The Wingate Foundation

THE ACADEMIC YEAR

MICHAELMAS TERM 1988

Literature of the State of Israel (Monday 12 noon, 45 St Giles')
Lectures delivered by Dr Glenda Abramson.

10 October	Modern Hebrew Literature: Introduction to Israeli Fiction
17 October	Israeli Prose and Fiction: Thematic Trends
24 October	Israeli Poetry: Major Themes
31 October	Stylistic Devices in Poetry
7 November	Myth and Imagery in Poetry and Prose
14 November	Israeli Drama: Political Drama and Satire
21 November	Holocaust Writing
28 November	Summary and Discussion

The Jewish Experience in Europe (Monday 2pm, 45 St Giles')

10 October	European Jewry in the Age of Mercantilism; or the Origins of the Haskalah (Dr David Sorkin)
17 October	The Jews of Poland: Medieval and Early Modern Times (Dr Heinz Löwe)
24 October	What was the Emancipation? Central and West European Jewry, 1781–1871 (Dr David Sorkin)
31 October	Emancipation Withheld: the Jews of Russia and Poland, 1772–1887 (Dr Heinz Löwe)
7 November	Central and West European Jewry in the Age of Embourgeoisement: A Social Profile (Dr David Sorkin)
14 November	Between Pauperization and Embourgeoisement: The Social and Economic Situation of East European Jewry, 1772–1881 (Dr Heinz Löwe)
21 November	Recasting Judaism: Religion and Culture in Central and West European Jewry (Dr David Sorkin)
28 November	Between Assimilation and Tradition: Jews and Judaism in Eastern Europe (Dr Heinz Löwe)

Women in Antiquity (Monday 5pm, Social Studies Faculty)
Chaired by Dr Léonie Archer

Fellows' Seminar: Notions of Community and Jewish Self-Identification
Through the Ages (Tuesday 11am, 45 St Giles')

Problems in Jewish History after A.D. 70 (Wednesday 5pm, 45 St Giles')

- 12 October Introduction: Sources and Approaches (Dr Martin Goodman)
26 October The Formation of the Mishnah (Mr Jonathan Campbell)
9 November Early Christian Sources and the Pharisees (Ms Judy Lieu)
23 November Jewish Identity and *Hukat Hagoy* (Mr Sacha Stern)
30 November The Problem of the Herods after the Fall of Jerusalem (Mr Nikos Kokkinos)

Informal Discussion Group (Wednesday 8.30pm, Yarnton Manor)
Chaired by Dr Martin Goodman

Identity and Ethnicity: The Significance of Food (Friday 11am, Institute of Social Anthropology)
Chaired by Dr Jonathan Webber, Shirley Ardener and Tamara Dragadze.

Yiddish Language Classes (45 St Giles')

- Elementary (Tuesday 5pm, Ms Devra Kay)
Intermediate (Wednesday 5pm, Ms Marion Aptroot)
Advanced (Thursday 5pm, Mr Johannes Brosi)

Hebrew Language Classes (45 St Giles' and Oriental Institute)

- Elementary (Friday 1pm, Ms Hagar Smilansky)
Intermediate (Monday 11.30, Ms Fania Oz)
Advanced (Monday 12.30, Ms Fania Oz)

Talks at Yarnton Manor

- 20 October Impressions of a Polish Journey
Dr Jonathan Webber
26 October The Beginnings of Hebrew Printing
Mr Richard Judd
17 November Reflections on Israeli Elections
Dr Noah Lucas

HILARY TERM

The Jewish Experience in Europe (Monday 2pm, 45 St Giles')

- 16 January The Second Stage of Transformation: Migration, Urbanization and the Shape of the Jewish Community in Central and Western Europe (Dr David Sorkin)
- 23 January The Rise of Political Anti-Semitism (Dr Heinz Löwe)
- 30 January Post-Liberal Politics in Central and Western Europe: Zionism, Liberalism, Socialism (Dr David Sorkin)
- 6 February The Jews of Czarist Russia: Urbanization, Pauperization and Pogroms, 1881–1917 (Dr Heinz Löwe)
- 13 February Politics in a Semi-Constitutional Setting: Zionism, Liberalism, Socialism in Eastern Europe 1881–1917 (Dr Heinz Löwe)
- 20 February Soviets and Successor States: East European Jewry Between the World Wars (Dr Heinz Löwe)
- 27 February Crisis or Renaissance? West European Jewry Between the World Wars (Dr David Sorkin)
- 6 March Hitler, the Germans and the Final Solution (Dr David Sorkin)

Women in Antiquity (Monday 5pm, Social Studies Faculty)

Chaired by Dr Léonie Archer

Fellows' Seminar: Notions of Community and Jewish Self-Identification Through the Ages (Tuesday 11am, 45 St Giles')

History of Yiddish Literature (Tuesday 4pm, 45 St Giles')

Lectures delivered by Dr Dov-Ber Kerler.

Topics in Yiddish Linguistics (in Yiddish) (Wednesday 3pm, 45 St Giles')

Lectures delivered by Dr Dovid Katz

Religion Seminar (Wednesday 5pm, St Giles' House)

Chaired by Professor E.P. Sanders and Dr Martin Goodman

Informal Discussion Group (Wednesday 8.30pm, Yarnton Manor)

Chaired by Dr Martin Goodman

Graduate Seminar in Yiddish Studies (in Yiddish) (Thursday 3pm, St Giles')

- 19 January Southwestern Yiddish Grammar (Mr Johannes Brosi)
26 January Seventeenth Century Yiddish Translation Technique (Ms Marion Aptroot)
9 February Problems Encountered in a New Production of Peretz's *Banakht afn altn mark* (Mr David Schneider)
16 February Was There a Movement for Canonical Prayer in Yiddish? (Ms Devra Kay)

Jews and Christians in the Early Roman Empire (Thursday 12 noon, Examination Schools)

Lectures delivered by Dr Martin Goodman.

Identity and Ethnicity: The Relationship Between Religion and Ethnicity
Contemporary Islamic Identities (Friday 11am, Institute of Social Anthropology)

Chaired by Dr Jonathan Webber, Shirley Ardener and Tamara Dragadze.

Yiddish Language Classes (45 St Giles')

- Elementary (Tuesday 5pm, Ms Devra Kay)
Intermediate (Wednesday 5pm, Ms Marion Aptroot)
Advanced (Thursday 5pm, Mr Johannes Brosi)

Hebrew Language Classes (45 St Giles' and Oriental Institute)

- Elementary (Friday 1pm, Ms Hagar Smilansky)
Intermediate (Monday 11am, Ms Fania Oz)
Advanced (Monday 12 noon, Ms Fania Oz)

Talks at Yarnton Manor

- 19 January Reactionary Utopia, Russian Anti-Semitism, 1860–1917
Dr Heinz Löwe
2 February German Jewry and the Myth of Assimilation
Dr David Sorkin
16 February Jews in Arab Lands; The Contemporary Situation
Dr Tudor Parfitt
5 March Violence and Non-Violence: War and Peace in Judaism
Rabbi Albert Axelrad
9 March Half Free: The Role of the Jewish Press in a Pluralistic Community
Mr Geoffrey D. Paul

TRINITY TERM

Jews and Judaism in the Mirror of Islamic Thought: Islamic Conceptions of Another Faith (Monday 12 noon, 45 St Giles')

Lectures delivered by Professor Ron Nettler

Women in Antiquity (Monday 5pm, Social Studies Faculty)

Chaired by Dr Léonie Archer

Fellows' Seminar: Notions of Community and Jewish Self-Identification Through the Ages (Tuesday 11am, 45 St Giles')

Topics in Yiddish Linguistics (in Yiddish) (Wednesday 3pm, 45 St Giles')

Lectures delivered by Dr Dovid Katz

Religion Seminar (Wednesday 5pm, St Giles' House)

Chaired by Professor E.P. Sanders and Dr Martin Goodman

Revolution, Political Dissent and Religion (Wednesday 5pm, St Antony's)

Chaired by Dr Heinz Löwe, Dr David Sorkin and Professor Norman Stone

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| 3 May | Religion and the English Revolution (Dr W. Lamont) |
| 10 May | Dechristianizing France: The Church and the French Revolution (Dr F. Tallet) |
| 17 May | The Politics of Jewish Entrepreneurs in Germany, 1815-1933 (Professor Peter Pulzer) |
| 24 May | Religion and the American Revolution (Professor D. Lovejoy) |
| 31 May | Jew, Poles and Communists, 1918–1968 (Dr Antony Polonsky) |
| 7 June | The Revolution of 1848 and Religious Minorities in the Hapsburg Empire (Dr R. J. W. Evans) |
| 14 June | Jewish Orthodoxy and the Russian Revolution: A Rabbi's View (Professor Chimen Abramsky) |

Josephus (Wednesday 5pm, 45 St Giles')

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| 10 May | Josephus: An Introduction (Professor Fergus Millar) |
| 17 May | Modern Scholarship on Josephus in New Testament Studies (Dr Martin Goodman) |
| 24 May | The Use and Abuse of Josephus in New Testament Studies (Dr Jamie McLaren) |

- 31 May The Purpose of Josephus, Contra Apionem (Professor Geza Vermes)
 7 June Problems in Using Josephus as a Source on the Causation of the Jewish Revolt (Dr Tessa Rajak)
 14 June Josephus and the Sign Prophets (Dr Becky Gray)

Informal Discussion Group (Wednesday 8.30pm, Yarnton Manor)
 Chaired by Dr Martin Goodman

Yiddish Language Classes (45 St Giles')

- Elementary (Tuesday 5pm, Ms Devra Kay)
 Intermediate (Wednesday 5pm, Ms Marion Aptroot)
 Advanced (Thursday 5pm, Mr Johannes Brosi)

Hebrew Language Classes (45 St Giles' and Oriental Institute)

- Elementary (Friday 1pm, Ms Hagar Smilansky)
 Intermediate (Monday 11am, Ms Fania Oz)
 Advanced (Monday 12 noon, Ms Fania Oz)

Talks at Yarnton Manor

- 8 May Towards a Confederation in the Middle East
 Dr André Chouraqui
 18 May Politics and Theatre: The Israeli Example
 Dr Zvi Jagendorf
 1 June Tel-Aviv: A Tale of Two Cities
 Professor Ilan Troen
 13 June Athens and Jerusalem and Modern Philosophy
 Dr Gillian Rose

The Library and Archive

Readers of the last few reports will be aware that for some years the Library and Archive have suffered from a shortage of staff. In 1988–9 there was a significant improvement as Dr Lucas took up his appointment as Librarian and new staff were engaged. A part-time team led by Mrs Devora Weisman of Kibbutz Heftzi-ba, together with two full-timers who joined in mid-session, Mrs Idit Goodisman and Mr Gabriel Piterberg, reduced the backlog of work. Scores of cartons awaiting attention were unpacked and some 4000 books were catalogued, while shelving was reorganized to accommodate these and make the collection more accessible. In the Archive, progress was made in the preparation of a biographical index of the newspaper cuttings.

Much of the summer was taken up in preparing for the arrival of students of the One Year Programme. The former residential area of the barn was incorporated into the Library, to provide two reading rooms for students as well as a kitchen-cum-common room for staff. A generous gift by Miss Ethel Wix enabled the Library to acquire an English-language collection for the use of students. David Lewis continued his support for the Library by providing funds for acquisitions, enabling us to fill gaps in the main Hebrew section. David Landau, David Lewis and Martin Paisner provided money for extensive additional shelving, carpeting and refurbishing of the barn.

During the year the Archive received its annual consignment of newspapers sent by Mrs Kressel. A gift of Hebrew periodicals from Dr Menuha Gilboa, a past Visiting Scholar, also reached us from Israel. The Library was most indebted to Mrs Carmel Webber for a gift of hundreds of books from the library of her late husband, the renowned scholar Dr George Webber. This included many fine works in the field of Israeli law, a new subject-area which greatly enhances the collection.

Many distinguished visitors called in on the Library during the session. They included Sir Ralf Dahrendorf, Warden of St Antony's College and now one of our Governors, American novelist Chaim Potok, and the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Dr Lionel Kopelowitz and his wife. Among regular readers in the Library were the famous Israeli novelist Aharon Appelfeld and the Israeli philosopher Professor Eliezer Schweid.

The Solon Symposium

On Sunday, 6 November 1988 an audience of about 140 packed into the Long Gallery in Yarnton for the Third Solon Symposium, which was devoted to the topic of 'Paul the Jew'.

The relevance of studying the writings of St Paul as evidence for Judaism in the first century C.E. was stressed by Dr Martin Goodman in an introductory paper on 'Paul and Jewish Studies'.

The main papers were presented by Professor Martin Hengel, Professor of New Testament and Early Judaism, University of Tübingen, and Professor E.P. Sanders, Dean Ireland's Professor of Exegesis of Holy Scripture, University of Oxford. Their talks revealed the wide divergences between the experts on many important aspects of the field, and the discussion of all three papers which followed, under the chairmanship of Dr Geza Vermes, was intense and fruitful, with much participation by the many learned members of the audience.

Colloquium on Islamic Fundamentalism

On Sunday, 16 October the Centre held a colloquium on Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East, West Bank and Gaza Strip and the implications for Israel and world Jewry. Among those attending and presenting papers were leading scholars from Israel, the US and England. The colloquium was divided into four sections, each dealing with different aspects of the problem. Professor James Piscatori of Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC, lectured on 'Islamic Fundamentalism in the Wake of the Six-Day War: Religious Self-Assertion in Political Conflict'; Professor Ronald Nettler, a Fellow at the Centre, spoke on 'An Islamic Account of Modern Jewish History: The Jews, Zionism and Communism in the Palestine Dispute'; Dr Elie Rekhess of the Dayan Centre at Tel Aviv University and Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, discussed 'Islamic Fundamentalism in the Israeli Arab Community'; and Dr Glenda Abramson, also a Fellow at the Centre, analysed 'The Absence of Reality: Islam and the Arabs in Contemporary Hebrew Literature'.

In the course of the discussions and lectures, it was emphasized that Islam was reacting to a crisis brought about by the erosion of its power in the world caused by the upsurge of Communism, Zionism, Christianity and secularization. Contemporary Muslim concepts of the Jews were based on Islamic scriptures in which Jews were depicted as an inferior people and that their rightful place was under Islamic domination. It is hoped that the papers presented will be published in an edited collection.

The Qumran Project

The Oxford Centre is to receive copies of the entire collection of Dead Sea Scrolls. This is the first time copies of all the scrolls will be stored under

one roof. The 3,300 photographs of the 2,000 year-old documents, reflecting Jewish life and thought in Roman times, will be housed in a special room at the Centre's library in Yarnton Manor. Professor Alan Crown, head of semitic studies at Sydney University in Australia and 1987–8 Acting President of the Centre, has been appointed Administrator of the project in Oxford. The new Qumran Room is scheduled to be open to scholars by October 1990.

The Journal of Jewish Studies

Internationally recognized as a leading periodical in the field of Jewish studies, the Journal is published bi-annually under the editorship of Professor Geza Vermes, FBA, Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Oxford, Fellow of Wolfson College, and a governor of the Oxford Centre. In volumes 39 and 40, fifteen articles and nearly one hundred book reviews were published.

The Sacks Lecture

The Fifteenth Sacks Lecture took place at Yarnton Manor on Wednesday, 24 May. Entitled 'Out of Bondage - Two Centuries of Modern Hebrew Literature', the lecture was delivered by Professor David Patterson, President of the Centre with Sir Claus Moser, Warden of Wadham College, in the Chair. Over seventy people attended the lecture including Dr Samuel Sacks and members of his family.

The George Webber Prize for Translation from Hebrew

Founded in 1986, the George Webber Prize is offered annually by the 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 recognize and encourage new translations, which should be no more than two years old and undertaken in the United Kingdom.

The fourth George Webber Memorial Prize was awarded jointly to Professor David Patterson for his translation of *Out of the Depths* by Yosef Chaim Brenner, the Zionist Labour leader and writer who was murdered in Jaffa in 1921, and Ms Anna Grinfeld, a 23-year-old Russian-born Israeli scholar, for her translation of part of the highly-acclaimed novel *A Russian Novel* by Meir Shalev.

The 1989 competition was judged by Dr Phillip Alexander, Senior Lecturer in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Manchester, and

Professor Edward Ullendorff, a Senior Associate Fellow of the Centre. The presentation of the awards was held at Yarnton Manor in July, and glowing tribute was paid to the Webber family by Professor Ullendorff. The family were represented at a dinner to mark the occasion by Mrs Carmel Webber and her son Jonathan, who is a Fellow of the Centre.

The Law Lecture

Lord Justice Balcombe delivered a lecture in June in connection with the Centre's recently instituted Fellowship in Jewish Law. The lecture was held in London and was arranged jointly by the Centre and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

In his talk entitled 'The Attitude of the Law to Religion in a Secular Society', Lord Justice Balcombe discussed the law of blasphemy recently brought to the public eye by Salman Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses*. In the chair was Lord Justice Woolf, a Governor of the Centre while the vote of thanks was given by Professor T. Daintith of the Institute.

Symposium in Honour of Professor David Daube

Legal luminaries, historians and many of his former pupils and friends, gathered at Yarnton Manor on Sunday, 19 March to honour Professor David Daube on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

Three lectures were delivered on different aspects of Professor Daube's work. Professor Alan Watson of the University of Pennsylvania, discussed Professor Daube's work on Roman Law; Professor Bernard Jackson of the University of Liverpool spoke on his interpretations of law, language and narrative; and Professor Calum Carmichael of Cornell University gave a talk entitled 'On Reading David Daube'. The last lecture of the programme was delivered by Professor Daube, himself, on the importance and significance of the Book of Esther.

Professor Daube is Emeritus Professor of the School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley and was formerly the Regius Professor at Oxford University.

The Oxford Symposium on Jewish Food

Over ninety people convened on 18 June 1989 at Yarnton Manor to attend the first annual Oxford Symposium on Jewish Food. Organized by Professor Gerald Mars, Mrs Valerie Mars and Dr Jonathan Webber, the symposium took place in the proximity of the Oxford Food Symposium

established for several years as one of the main contacts for the discussion of the history of food and cuisine in general. In the Jewish tradition food plays a central role, not only in the detailed regulations of kashrut, but also in their sociological implications which affect all branches of the Jewish community. The symposium was organized into four sections – religion, history, culture and cuisine – with two plenary sessions. Papers were delivered by rabbis, sociologists, social anthropologists, cultural historians and specialists in Jewish cuisine. A wide variety of topics were covered and those papers delivered were: ‘Some Aspects of Jewish Food in Medieval and Modern Times’ by Professor Chimen Abramsky; ‘Jewish Cookery Books’ by Josephine Bacon; ‘Kashrut Certification in the Age of Food Technology’ by Rabbi J. D. Conway; ‘The Sabbath Food of the Jews of Poland and Lithuania’ by Mr John Cooper; ‘Research into the History of Jewish Cuisine: a Museum Curator’s Point of View’ by Dr Jana Dolezelová; ‘Modern Matza Baking’ by Mr Leslie Fox; ‘Kosher Olive Oil in Antiquity’ by Dr Martin Goodman; ‘The Bene Israel Kitchen’ by Miss Sophie Jhirad; ‘Coffee and Cakes in Suburban Tel Aviv’ by Dr Iris Kalka; ‘The Development of a Classic: The New York Deli’ by Ms Susan Kreitzman; ‘The Definitive Borsch Recipe’ by Mr Jack Lang and Ms Lis Leigh; ‘Jewish Ritual Slaughter and the Discovery of the Circulation of the Blood’ by Dr Elinor Lieber; *Hamotsi* and *Mezonot*; ‘The Rise of the Yeast Cake’ by Ms Sandy Littman; ‘A Comparison of Feasting Styles among Soviet Georgian and Soviet Central Asian Jews’ by Professor Gerald Mars; ‘Commensality amongst Jews: An Ethnographic and Literary Analysis’ by Dr Leonard Mars; ‘Nineteenth-Century Anglo-Jewish Cookery Books in their Social Context’ by Ms Valerie Mars; ‘What is Jewish Food?’ by Evelyn Rose; and ‘The Jewish Preoccupation with Food’ by Dr Jonathan Webber.

The London Lecture Series

With the aim to bring the Fellows’ scholarship to a wider audience, a series of London lectures delivered by Fellows and Visiting Scholars of the Centre were held throughout the year at the Athenaeum Club. The lectures drew large audiences and provoked lively and heated discussion. Scholars who spoke were Professor Ron Nettler on Islamic fundamentalism; Dr Martin Goodman on anti-Semitism in antiquity; Dr Glenda Abramson on the present Arab-Israeli situation in Israeli literature; Dr Dovid Katz on the revival of the Yiddish language and culture; Professor Robert Wistrich on Jewish responses to anti-Semitism in Vienna; and Dr Jonathan Webber on Jewish food.

YIDDISH STUDIES

The Centre's historic impact upon the international development of Yiddish Studies was again evident in 1988–9. Academic staff grew to two full fellows, two graduate scholars, and one lector. In addition to language classes, courses on Yiddish language and literature and graduate seminars, the programme successfully organized the fourth annual Winter Symposium, held in December, and the eighth annual summer programme, held in August. Library facilities were enhanced by thousands of acquisitions, and the Centre's role in inspiring Yiddish Studies internationally was apparent.

Dr Dovid Katz, the Centre's Wolf Corob Fellow, continued to serve as Director of Studies of the Oxford Programme in Yiddish, the framework within which all of the Centre's Yiddish Studies activities take place.

Dr Dov-Ber Kerler, who had become the Centre's first doctoral student in Yiddish in 1984, was successfully examined on his doctoral thesis, *The Eighteenth Century Origins of Modern Literary Yiddish* in December 1988. Several months earlier, at the start of Michaelmas term in October, he had taken up the Sir Leslie and Lady Porter Fellowship in Yiddish Language and Literature, held at the Centre and Lincoln College, Oxford. It is the Centre's first fellowship to be held jointly with one of the old undergraduate colleges. Since his arrival in Oxford, Dr Kerler has worked closely with Dr Katz in the development and realization of all of the Centre's Yiddish Studies projects (courses, symposia, publications and events).

Ms Marion Aptroot (Wolfson College, Oxford), of Leiden, the Netherlands, who was introduced to the Centre via the 1985 summer programme, successfully completed her DPhil thesis, *Bible Translation as Cultural Reform: The Amsterdam Yiddish Bibles (1678–1679)* in the University's Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages. In addition to her research work, Ms Aptroot taught classes in Intermediate Yiddish throughout the academic year, read a paper at the annual Winter Symposium in December, served as a member of the editorial board of *Oksforder yidish*, and as substitute instructor for both the One Year Programme and the Summer Programme in Yiddish. At the close of the academic year, Ms Aptroot was appointed to a Junior Research Fellowship in Yiddish Language and Literature at Queen Mary and Westfield College University of London, and joined the faculty of the European School Culham in Abingdon, England. Ms Aptroot was a Mendel Tabatznik Scholar at the Centre throughout the academic year.

Mr Johannes Brosi (Hertford College, Oxford), of Winterthur, Switzerland, who had come to the Centre via the 1986 summer programme,

continued work on his thesis on the history of Southwestern Yiddish (the Yiddish formerly spoken in Alsace, Lorraine, Switzerland and Southern Germany). In addition, he chaired a session at the Winter Symposium in December, taught the Centre's Advanced Yiddish class during all three terms, and served as a member of the editorial board of *Oksforder yidish*. Mr Brosi was a Mendel Tabatznik Scholar at the Centre throughout the academic year.

Ms Devra Kay (St Cross College, Oxford) returned to thesis work after a leave of absence and was appointed a lector in Yiddish at the Centre. She taught Elementary Yiddish at 45 St Giles' during all three terms. Ms Kay read a paper at the Winter Symposium, served on the editorial board of *Oksforder yidish*, and, at the close of the academic year, was appointed to a Junior Research Fellowship in Yiddish Language and Literature at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, jointly held with Ms Aptroot. In addition Ms Kay was appointed Director of Studies of their nascent Yiddish Studies programme. Ms Kay continued work on her doctoral thesis on *tkhines* (religious prayers in Yiddish) composed by female authors.

In view of the rapid growth of the Centre's Yiddish Studies programme, the need for an administrative assistant became increasingly evident. In Trinity term, Ms Marie Wright was appointed to the new post. Ms Wright, a Manchester University graduate in drama, has a wide background in administration, publishing, and public relations. Ms Jean Nightingale, who had served as Administrative Director of the Oxford Programme in Yiddish from 1982 to 1989, returned to full-time work as Administrative Secretary to the Centre on 1 September 1989. The Centre and its Yiddish programme wish to record a debt of sincere gratitude to Ms Nightingale for her many dedicated efforts during her seven years of service to the Yiddish programme.

The Fourth Annual Winter Symposium

Fifty leading Yiddish scholars from Canada, England, Germany, Holland, Israel, Switzerland and the US attended the Centre's fourth annual Oxford Winter Symposium in Yiddish Language and Literature held from 11 to 13 December 1988. The topic was *The Politics of Yiddish: Studies in Language, Literature and Society on the 80th Anniversary of the Chernowitz Conference*. The famed 1908 conference had passed a resolution proclaiming Yiddish to be 'a national Jewish language'. The Chernowitz Conference helped to inspire the meteoric twentieth century rise of Yiddish literature.

The historical, social and cultural factors inherent in the movement for the Chernowitz Conference were the subject of papers by Professor David E. Fishman of the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York), Professor Emanuel S. Goldsmith of Queen's College (New York), Dr Benjamin Nadel of the University of Chicago, Dr Rakhmiel Peltz of the Yivo Institute for Jewish Research, and Professor Eugene Orenstein of McGill University (Montreal). All saw a confluence of historic forces at work.

The effects of the Chernowitz conference to this day were the subject of a paper read by Professor Robert D. King of the University of Texas. Professor Wolf Moskovich of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, spoke on the present-day status of Yiddish in Chernowitz (now in the USSR).

Dr Dovid Katz, the symposium's founder and director, read a paper on controversies concerning Yiddish in rabbinic treatises from the fourteenth century onward. Two of the Centre's doctoral students, Marion Aptroot of the Netherlands and Devra Kay of London, read papers on Old Yiddish topics. A third, Johannes Brosi of Winterthur, Switzerland, chaired a session.

Mr Holger Nath, who came to Yiddish via the 1984 Oxford Summer Course in Yiddish, returned to the Centre to read a paper on the Conference of Catalan in Barcelona in 1906, seeking to determine whether there was a pan-European movement for the rights of minority languages, and more specifically, on whether Barcelona influenced Chernowitz. Esther Hürlimann of Zurich and Ulrike Bark of Heidelberg, who had won prizes for writing the best Yiddish essays at the 1988 summer programme, used their prize money to attend the Winter Symposium.

Papers from the first two Oxford symposia have appeared in print in the *Winter Studies in Yiddish* series edited by Dr Dovid Katz. The first volume, *Origins of the Yiddish Language* appeared in 1987. The second, *Dialects of the Yiddish Language* was published on the day this year's event opened, to participants' delight. Both volumes were published by the Centre jointly with Pergamon Press. Papers from subsequent symposia, starting with *History of Yiddish Studies*, and *The Politics of Yiddish*, are edited by Dr Dov-Ber Kerler, and will be published jointly by the Centre and Harwood Academic Publishers.

Each Oxford Winter Symposium has ended with a guest appearance by London Yiddish editor I. A. Lisky. This year's appearance was particularly poignant, coming as it did shortly after a vicious attack on Mr Lisky at his Stoke Newington, London, home last September left him partially blinded. Mr Lisky, 89, articulate as ever, spoke on 'Controversies concerning Yiddish in my Lifetime'. He concluded by expressing joy at the 'incredible resurgence of Yiddish at Oxford'.

The Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish

Forty-seven students from eleven countries attended the Centre's eighth annual Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish, held from 31 July to 25 August 1989. Since its inception in 1982, over 500 students from 22 countries have participated. About 200 have gone on to become teachers of Yiddish around the world.

Classes and activities of the intensive four-week course were held at the Centre's Georgian townhouse headquarters at 45 St Giles in central Oxford. The graduation, chaired by Yitskhok Niborski of Paris, one of the four teachers, was held at Yarnton Manor, the Centre's early 17th century estate. Certificates were distributed signifying successful completion of the programme. The Marks Prizes for the writer of the best essay in each class, and the Amalgamated Prizes for the hardest working student in each class were distributed by Mr Sidney Corob of London, who, together with his wife Elizabeth, established the Wolf Corob Fellowship in Yiddish Language and Literature at the Centre.

The Faculty

Dr Katz was joined on the summer course faculty this year by Yitskhok Niborski, Dr Dov-Ber Kerler and Johannes Brosi. Dr Kerler is the Centre's Sir Leslie and Lady Porter Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature. Mr Niborski is the founder and director of the intensive one-year seminar in Yiddish in Paris, where a full programme of Jewish studies is taught entirely in Yiddish. Mr Brosi is one of Dr Katz's doctoral students and one of the Centre's Tabatznik scholars.

The Students

This year's summer course students came from Brazil, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Hungary, Israel, the Netherlands, Poland, West Germany, and the US. They ranged in age from twenty to eighty, and spanned a wide range of occupations and backgrounds.

Among them were Georges Jono Ejchenrand, a law student in Paris; Hadasa Cytrynowicz, a Yiddish instructor in Sao Paulo, Brazil; Meyer Dwass, a mathematics professor in Evanston, Illinois; Frieda Forman, a researcher in Toronto; Penny Grant, a London solicitor; Ethel Raicus, a Toronto artist; Theo Richmond, a London television scriptwriter and producer; Ariel Stravynski, a professor of psychology at the University of Montreal; Maurice Novoseller, rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaim in Feasterville, Pennsylvania.

As usual, there was a large contingent of university students from leading institutions of higher education around the world. They included Columbia University students Amanda and Diana Newman, Miriam Anisfeld, Dror Futter, and Marla Maritzer; Yeshiva University students Jonathan David Lewin, Miriam Bloom and Jordana Margolin; Kenneth Segal of Brooklyn College; Joel Berkowitz of City College; Benjamin Eckman of Touro College; Kirsten Burmeister of the University of Heidelberg; Kerstin Hoge of Ohio State University; Cary Nathenson of the University of Illinois. Among the 'home contingent', from Oxford, were Susie Varga, Laura Brownlow and Leon Ferera, all of whom plan to incorporate Yiddish Studies into their academic career plans.

Two Eastern European students took part: Magdalena Pirozynska, 25, a University of Krakow lecturer in German, and Erzsébet Schiller, 25, of the University of Budapest. Both hope to pioneer Yiddish Studies in their universities. For the first time, a student came from Denmark. He is Jens Erik Mogensen, aged 24, of the University of Copenhagen who hopes to teach Yiddish in Denmark one day.

Supplementary Lectures

A special highlight this year was the 90th birthday celebration of I.A. Lisky, the distinguished London Yiddish editor and author. Mr Lisky delivered a lecture entitled '90 Years of Yiddish in Britain' and was presented with a birthday cake alight with 90 candles.

Professor S. S. Prawer, formerly the Taylor Professor of German at Oxford University, delivered a series of lectures on Yiddish theatre music from the mid nineteenth century onward. Selections from the early twentieth century were amply illustrated by Professor Prawer from his collection of old Yiddish records. At the end of the last lecture, he was awarded a standing ovation and presented with a gift from students and teachers.

Other supplementary activities included a series of lectures on the history of the Yiddish theatre by New York's Dr David Lifson; a series on the history of the Yiddish language by Professor Wolf Moskovich of Hebrew University, Jerusalem; and recitals of Yiddish folk and cantorial music by Mr Majer Bogdanski of London.

Anna Tzelniker, the well-known Yiddish actress of London, presented a 'Cavalcade of Yiddish Theatre', an anthology of Yiddish drama.

A conversation workshop was led by Troim Handler of West Islip, New York to enable students to become used to Yiddish as a spoken everyday language outside the classroom. In addition to her teaching activities, Ms

Handler worked intensively as a member of the editorial board of *Oksforder yidish* during her month in Oxford.

Charles Klinger, a London Yiddish author, spoke on the role of the Sabbath in modern Yiddish literature, amply illustrating his thesis with citations from modern Yiddish masters and lesser known authors.

Support

Excellence was again inspired by the two series of prizes for each of the four classes. The four Albert E. and Lillian C. Marks Prizes for the best essay in Yiddish were provided by the Albert E. Marks Charitable Trust of Massachusetts, at the initiative of a summer programme graduate who wishes to remain anonymous. Four Amalgamated prizes, for the student who 'works the hardest and progresses the most' at each level, were established by the Amalgamated Bank of New York on the initiative of its former president, Edward M. Katz. Mr Chic Wolk, president of Charter Auto Parks, established two scholarships to enable deserving students to attend the programme. Contributions toward the program's running costs were received on repeated occasions from Mrs. Miriam DeVries of San Francisco. Mr Harry Maizel of Sparta, New Jersey, kindly contributed, and arranged for additional support from the Pentagon Foundation (New York). Additional gifts were received from Benjamin and Anna Baron, Dr and Mrs R. Dunkell, Dr Abby L. Maizel, and Dr and Mrs J. Maizel (all of the United States).

Through the good offices of the well-known American Yiddish poet and philanthropist, Mr Walter Artzt, a series of summer course scholarships was launched for an initial five-year period. These will enable deserving students from around the world to attend at one half the regular tuition fee. The scholarships are provided by the Walter and Betty Artzt Foundation, and come into effect immediately.

For the third year, the programme has benefited from the support of the Tel Aviv based World Council for Yiddish and Jewish Culture, at the initiative of its chairman, Mr I. Korn.

Seventh Annual A. N. Stencl Lecture

The Seventh Annual Avrom-Nokhem Stencl Lecture in Yiddish Studies was delivered on Monday, 14 August 1989, by Mr Bernard Mendelovitch, director of the *London Yiddish Players*, the renowned Yiddish theatre troupe founded by the late Harry Ariel. Mr Mendelovitch's topic was 'Memoirs of London Yiddish Theatre'. Mr Mendelovitch recounted his work with London Yiddish theatre groups from early childhood in

Manchester through to the present day. Mr Mendelovitch's epilogue was a biography of and tribute to Mr Harry Ariel (1915–89), his mentor and teacher. Mr Ariel and Mr Mendelovitch had together appeared in a highly successful performance entitled 'Gems of the Yiddish Theatre' at the Centre's 1988 summer programme. It was one of their last major joint performances. Mr Montague Richardson, former director of the Jewish Institute, Adler Street, London E1, who has presided over all seven Stencl Lectures, again took the chair. Professor S. S. Prawer, formerly Taylor Professor of German in the University of Oxford, delivered the vote of thanks to Mr Mendelovitch, who concluded his lecture with a monologue from An-ski's *The Dybbuk*.

The Oxford Centre publishes each year's Stencl Lecture in pamphlet form. Lectures from 1982 to 1988 were edited by Dr Dovid Katz. This year's lecture was edited by Dr Dov-Ber Kerler. Once again, the published lecture contains as frontispiece a portrait of the speaker by Professor Prawer.

The Stencl Lecture series was inaugurated in 1983 to commemorate the beloved Yiddish poet of Whitechapel, Avrom-Nokhem Stencl (1897–1983).

Launch of *Oksforder yidish*

The pioneering inaugural volume of *Oksforder yidish* ('Oxford Yiddish'), the first new academic Yiddish journal to appear in Yiddish since 1931 in pre-war Vilna, was in preparation throughout the academic year. Founded and edited by Dr Dovid Katz, with the assistance of an editorial board comprising Marion Aptroot, Johannes Brosi, Troim Handler, Devra Kay and Dov-Ber Kerler, the 22 papers of the 401 page volume were typeset by the end of Trinity term. The Yiddish typefaces used were developed by Dr Katz. Volume 1 of *Oksforder yidish* will appear in 1990. It is published jointly by Harwood Academic Publishers and the Centre. The Centre would like to record its debt of gratitude to Mr Mark Simon, commissioning editor at Harwood, for his substantial and successful efforts on behalf of this historic project. The necessary financial support for the launch of *Oksforder yidish* was provided through the generosity of Sidney and Elizabeth Corob of London, and Professor Robert D. King of the University of Texas at Austin. Additional support was made available by Dr Ralph Kohn (London).

Library Facilities

Through the Centre's good offices, several thousand Yiddish volumes comprising the Shlomo Schweizer collection, were donated to the Taylor

Institution Library, where they are available for loan to Oxford University's Yiddish students. Shlomo Schweizer, a noted Israeli Yiddish literary critic and editor, contributed the collection in memory of his daughter, the late Lillian-Deborah Schweizer-Salomon. The Taylor's Librarian, Mr Giles Barber, and its director of Germanic studies, Ms Jill Hughes, spared no effort to ensure the success of negotiations and transfer of the library. The proposal for the transfer was initiated by Mr Abraham Lis, director of Tel Aviv's Sholem Aleichem House, a former Oxford summer programme guest lecturer. Negotiations were conducted by Dr Dovid Katz. A grant to cover transport costs was provided by Mrs Sophie Phillips of London, in memory of her late husband, Mr Laurence Phillips, a former secretary of the London branch of the Yivo Institute for Jewish Research.

In a separate development, the Bodleian Library received several thousand Yiddish books, comprising the former collection of the now defunct New York Yiddish newspaper, the *Frayhayt*. Dr Harry Shukman of St Antony's College, a member of the Centre's Academic Advisory Council, played a crucial role in the transfer.

Contributions to Yiddish Studies Internationally and the Wider Community

Throughout its history, the Centre's Yiddish Studies programme has worked for the progress of Yiddish Studies elsewhere in Britain and around the world, and this work continued unabated in 1988–9. The Centre worked closely with Dr Hilary Wise, of the linguistics department at the School of European Languages and Literatures at Queen Mary and Westfield College (University of London) to establish a Yiddish Studies programme at QMW. The Centre provided assistance in conceiving and structuring the project, and in obtaining funding from Government sources. The QMW programme got underway in October 1989 when Marion Aptroot and Devra Kay, both doctoral candidates at Oxford who have been trained by the Centre, were jointly appointed to junior research fellowships.

In another development, Dr Adam Nádasdy, a professor of English at the University of Budapest, negotiated an agreement with the Centre by which Hungarian students would be trained at the Oxford Centre's summer programme.

Professor Christopher Hutton continued to hold the post of Assistant Professor of Yiddish at the University of Texas at Austin. Professor Hutton, who began his study of Yiddish at the Centre as a complete beginner in 1981, has kept in close touch with the Centre. He regularly

sends students to the Summer Programme, and one of his students, Jeffrey Grossman, has contributed a paper to the inaugural volume of *Oksforder yidish*.

Ms Devra Kay taught Yiddish for one term at the Spiro Institute in London.

Dr Dovid Katz continued to serve as an Occasional Inspector with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools, with responsibility for Yiddish speaking schools in Britain.

Mr David Schneider, one of Dr Katz's doctoral candidates, took a leave of absence from his thesis work at Oxford to embark on a full-time acting career. One of his first major successes was his part in *Ghetto*, the National Theatre's award-winning play about a Yiddish theatre company in a World War II ghetto.

The Campaign for Yiddish at Oxford

The history of Yiddish Studies at the Oxford Centre has continually been characterized by substantial achievement in the absence of the endowments which are necessary to secure and enhance the programme. It was therefore decided, at the end of the academic year, that the *Campaign for Yiddish at Oxford* would be launched, with inaugural events to be held at the start of the 1989–90 academic year. The major desiderata are an Institute of Yiddish Studies (endowed by £1,000,000), Fellowships (£650,000), Summer Programme (£500,000), Lectorships (£300,000), Winter Symposium (£200,000) and Scholarships (£100,000).

The Oxford Centre Reunion

Jerusalem was the venue for more than 150 people who gathered at Hebrew Union College on 17 August, at a reception for Scholars, Fellows and Associates of the Centre. The reunion was planned so that it coincided with the Tenth World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem which brought together some 1,500 international scholars in Judaica, many of whom had spent time on their academic research at the Centre since its foundation in 1972. The reception was sponsored by the Frank Green Fellowship and Mr Frank Green.

The One Year Programme in Jewish Studies

The 1988–9 academic year proved to be the most rewarding and exciting year so far for the One Year Programme. The outstanding calibre of the students, the development of the curriculum and the supplementary features all combined to produce a gratifying and first-rate programme.

The Centre hosted eleven American students, three of whom were graduates taking time off from their careers to pursue Jewish studies for a year. Undergraduates hailed from Mount Holyoke College, Smith, Ohio State, University of California at San Diego, Vassar, and the University of Miami. One student, Cheryl Obedin from Mount Holyoke, will be returning to Oxford in the 1990–91 academic year as a Marshall Scholar.

The Programme offered over thirty courses including Biblical Hebrew, Modern Hebrew and Yiddish. Each term students chose four regular courses in addition to a language. Visiting lecturers conducting seminars included Professor Eliezer Schweid (Modern Jewish Philosophy); Dr Isaac Benabu (Judeo-Spanish Literature); Dr Ron Hendel (Biblical Archaeology); Professor William Fishman (Jewish Immigration in Britain); Rabbi Dr Norman Solomon (Talmud); Dr Ronnie Barkai (Medieval Hebrew Texts). Students were also offered the option to write dissertations under the supervision of one of the Centre's Fellows. The curriculum was designed not only to cover a wide spectrum of subjects but also to provide the opportunity to focus on a specific field.

Students once again were associate members of different colleges where they could dine and join team sports and the junior common room activities. Several students became very involved in university and college life. One student joined the university's women's basketball team and even travelled to the Netherlands for a tournament. Another student joined the water polo team while two joined a light entertainment society. Colleges which offered membership were St Antony's, St Cross, Brasenose, Somerville, Jesus, St Hugh's, University and St John's.

A special effort was made to increase the extra-curricular activities offered by the Centre. Students were invited on a regular basis to the Yarnton Manor dinners and lectures, the different symposia and the various social events. Films such as 'The Dybbuk' and 'Hamsin' were shown, theatre trips were arranged and a tour of the East End of London was given by Professor William Fishman. Students were also invited to a traditional American Thanksgiving meal at the President's home. The year closed in an atmosphere of excitement, friendship and fulfillment.

Plans to move the student accommodation to Yarnton and to provide a frequent and convenient transportation service to and from the city centre were underway in July 1989.

The Centre would like to thank Ms Raquel Newman and Mr Edwin Gale for their generosity in providing scholarships.

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Salo Wittmayer Baron

The Oxford Centre mourns the passing of Professor Salo Baron, scholar of world stature and doyen of Jewish historians. He was the Miller Professor in Jewish History, Literature and Institutions at Columbia University and the founder of the American Academy for Jewish Research. His magnum opus, *A Social and Religious History of the Jews* was published in eighteen volumes over a period of almost sixty years.

A great friend and supporter of the Centre, Professor Baron visited Oxford in 1983 when, at the age of 88, he delivered the Sacks Lecture at Yarnton Manor. To mark the occasion he received an honorary fellowship.

Dr Sara Kamin

Everyone connected with the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies deeply regrets the premature passing of Dr Sara Kamin who was a Visiting Scholar at Yarnton Manor on three separate occasions during the academic years 1980–1, 1983–4, and 1986–7. Dr Kamin was a specialist in Medieval Jewish and Christian Exegesis. She was particularly interested in Rashi's commentaries on the Bible and made scholarly comparisons of the relationship of Rashi's Exegesis and Christian Exegesis of the Song of Songs and other biblical books. Her book *Rashi: peshuto shel mikra u-midrasho shel mikra* (Rashi's exegetical categorization in respect to the distinction between *peshat* and *derash*) was published in Jerusalem in 1986.

The warmth and generosity of her spirit and her congenial personality made a favourable impact on all who were privileged to know her. She will be sorely missed.

Professor Menahem Stern

It was with shock and horror that the news of Professor Menahem Stern's death was received at the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies. There is no doubt that this tragic loss to the world of both Jewish history and classical studies will long be felt. As Professor of Jewish History in the Second Temple Period at the Hebrew University since 1971, Professor Stern made his contribution to Classics with his three volume *Greek and Latin Authors on Jews and Judaism* (1974–84), an impeccable model of scholarship.

Professor Stern was a Visiting Fellow in 1976 and Senior Associate Fellow at the Oxford Centre. The Centre deeply mourns his passing.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Dr GLENDA ABRAMSON, Jacob and Shoshana Schreiber Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies and Fellow of St Cross College, continued to supervise students throughout the year for the University's BA, MSt, MPhil, MLitt and DPhil degrees in Hebrew literature and Jewish studies. She also taught a course for the Centre's One Year Programme in Jewish Studies on modern Israeli literature.

Dr Abramson delivered a number of papers at various institutions. She participated in the Centre's conference on Muslim-Jewish Relations in the Modern Period in October and gave a paper, which is to be published in a collected edition, entitled 'The absence of reality: Islam and the Arabs in contemporary Israeli literature'. Dr Abramson also spoke on 'Society and its discontents: politics in Israeli literature' at the Athenaeum Club in London in connection with the Centre's London Lecture Series. She attended the Association of Jewish Studies Conference in Boston in December and delivered a paper entitled 'Hellenism revisited: the Judaisation of myth in modern Hebrew literature' to be published in *Prooftexts*. In June, Dr Abramson travelled to Tel Aviv to attend a conference on Jewish humour and talked herself on Jewish political cartoons in South Africa. This talk will be published in a collected volume to be edited by Avner Ziv of Tel Aviv University. She also attended the conference of the British Association for Jewish Studies in Cambridge and gave a paper entitled 'Biradicalism in modern Hebrew poetry' which will be published in the *Jewish Book Annual* (New York). Dr Abramson also gave lectures at Selly Oak College in Birmingham and for 'Genesis' in London.

During the year, Dr Abramson published a book entitled *The Writing of Yehuda Amichai: A Thematic Approach* and edited the *Blackwell Companion to Modern Jewish Culture*.

In October 1989, Dr Abramson was appointed the Cowley Lecturer in Postbiblical Hebrew at the University of Oxford.

Dr LÉONIE ARCHER, Fellow in Jewish Studies of the Graeco-Roman Period, continued to organize and chair her weekly seminar *Women in Antiquity* at the University and to work on editing a selection of papers from the seminar to be published by MacMillan Press under the title *An Illusion of the Night: Women in Ancient Societies*. In collaboration with David Sorkin, Dr Archer also organized the Fellows' Seminar *Notions of Community and Jewish Identification Through the Ages* which ran throughout the academic year, and successfully negotiated with Harwood Academic Publishers to publish the papers from the series. Dr Archer

was also invited to join the editorial collective of a new journal entitled *Gender and History*.

During the academic year Dr Archer delivered a number of public lectures. These included speaking at the Institute of Historical Research, London, on 'Death Ritual and Gender in Graeco-Roman Palestine' (to be published in *An Illusion of the Night*); the Spiro Institute, London, on 'Her Price is Beyond Rubies; Women in Formative Judaism'; and at the Annual National History Workshop Conference, Brighton, on 'Notions of Community and the Exclusion of the Female in Biblical Judaism' (to be published in the Sorkin-Archer collection). Dr Archer taught two courses for the One Year Programme and continued to act as the Programme's Student Advisor.

In the summer Channel 4 Television screened a three-part documentary on the subject of women, ritual and taboo in the four major religions, to which Dr Archer contributed extensively, both on and off screen. A book from the series, entitled like the programme, *Through the Devil's Gateway*, will be published next year, to which Dr Archer has contributed an article "'In Thy Blood, Live": Gender and Ritual in Judaeo-Christian Tradition'.

In July, Dr Archer resigned her post at the Centre to make a career change. She became a Research Fellow with a special brief for environmental matters at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. Dr Archer had been Fellow in Jewish Studies of the Graeco-Roman period at the Centre since 1983.

Mr DANIEL FRANK, Marc Rich Junior Fellow in Jewish-Muslim Relations in the Medieval Period and Junior Research Fellow of Wolfson College, devoted much of the year to researching medieval Karaite exegesis of the Bible. In the autumn, he worked through manuscripts of the tenth-century exegete Yefet ben Eli in the Bodleian and British Libraries. Comparing these Judaeo-Arabic commentaries with a later Hebrew epitome, he was able to chart certain theological tendencies in the transmission of ideas among the medieval sectarians. In December, he presented some of his findings at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies which was held in Boston. His paper, 'The Karaites Yefet ben Eli and Jacob ben Reuben on Christianity and Christendom' was well-received; he plans to revise it for publication in the near future.

Mr Frank's work on thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Karaite writings led him to participate in the International Symposium on Abraham Ibn Ezra and His Age, held in Madrid in February. His paper 'Abraham Ibn Ezra and the Bible Commentaries of the Karaites Aaron ben Joseph and Aaron ben Elijah' dealt with the reception of Ibn Ezra's Torah commentary among the Byzantine sectarians. The paper has been substantially revised and will be published in the conference proceedings.

During the summer of 1989 he researched a third book review relating to the House of Maimonides: Nissim Dana ed., *Abraham Maimonides: Kifâyat al-Abidîn, Pt. II, Vol. 2* ; this was published in *The Journal of Jewish Studies*, vol. 40, no. 2. (The other reviews discussed Paul Fenton's *Deux traités de mystique juive* and Lea Naomi Goldfeld's *Moses Maimonides' Treatise on Resurrection*.)

In the second half of the academic year, Mr Frank resumed work on his Harvard University doctoral dissertation, a study of the Karaite Aaron ben Elijah's teachings on divine justice. The dissertation – to be submitted in the first half of 1990 – includes an introduction on Aaron's sources and views, a translation of the relevant chapters in his treatise *'Ets Hayyim* together with an extensive commentary, a critical apparatus, and a glossary of technical vocabulary.

Upon completion of his dissertation, Mr Frank plans to write a volume on the twelfth-century poet and religious philosopher Judah Halevi for the Jewish Thinkers series published by Peter Halban.

As a member of the University's Oriental Studies Faculty, Mr Frank has lectured the post-biblical Hebrew set-texts to undergraduates and MPhil students. In 1988-9, these comprised: Mishnah *Tractate Sanhedrin*, Midrash *Genesis Rabbah*, and selected poems of Judah Halevi. During Trinity Term he offered a course, 'The Age of Maimonides' for the Centre's One Year Programme. In conjunction with the course, he arranged for a class visit to the Bodleian where he lectured on the Maimonides autographs in the Library's collection.

Dr MARTIN GOODMAN, Solon Fellow in Jewish-Christian Relations in the Early Centuries and Senior Research Fellow of St Cross College, supervised during the year four doctoral students in the faculties of Theology and Oriental Studies. He participated in the teaching of the MPhil programme in Jewish Studies in the Graeco-Roman period and organized two graduate seminars, one in Michaelmas on Jewish history after A.D. 70, the other in Trinity on Josephus. In Hilary term he lectured in the Examination Schools on 'Jews and Christians in the Early Roman Empire'. As a Lecturer in ancient history at Christ Church, he undertook regular tutorials of undergraduates in all three terms. In Yarnton, Dr Goodman organized the Wednesday evening seminars for Visiting Scholars and Fellows.

Dr Goodman also organized a very well attended conference on 'Paul the Jew' in Yarnton in October, delivering a brief paper of his own as part of the introduction to a very high-level discussion by the two eminent main speakers. He continued to act as Secretary of the British Association for Jewish Studies and organized the annual conference of the Association which took place in Cambridge in July.

Dr Goodman's research revolved largely around an expansion of an idea first floated in a paper he presented to the London Ancient History Seminar in October on 'Nerva, the *Fiscus Judaicus* and Jewish Identity'. That paper is to be published in the *Journal of Roman Studies* in late 1989. He also delivered papers to the Oxford Seminar of Ancient Religions on Jewish attitudes to non-Jewish idolatry; to the Oxford Ancient History Seminar on Jewish feasting; to the Jewish Food Symposium held at Yarnton Manor on kosher olive oil in antiquity; to the First International Conference on Galilee in Late Antiquity on the rabbinic patriarch and the Roman State in the third century; to the Durham-Tübingen Research Seminar on Early Christianity on relations between Palestine and the Diaspora, 70–135 C.E.; and to the Fellows' Seminar at the Centre on Jewish identity in late antiquity. The papers given to the First International Conference on Galilee and to the Durham-Tübingen Seminar are to be published in the conference proceedings. The paper on Jewish identity is to be published in a short form in the periodical *Judaism* and, in an expanded version, in a Yarnton Trust pamphlet under the title 'Who was a Jew?' Dr Goodman also gave public lectures on his work in London, both to the Spiro Institute and in the Centre's London Lecture Series.

Dr Goodman continued to work on his project on mission and conversion in the ancient world and was elected by the University to deliver on this theme the Wilde Lectures in Natural and Comparative Religion for 1991–1992.

Dr DOVID KATZ, Wolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature, and the Leslie Paisner Research Fellow of St Antony's College, continued to serve as Director of Studies of the Oxford Programme in Yiddish, in which capacity he organized and directed the 1988 Winter Symposium (11–13 December) and the 1989 Summer Programme (31 July–25 August).

Dr Katz's teaching duties included the courses *Topics in Yiddish Linguistics* (Hilary term) *Readings in Yiddish Linguistics* (Trinity Term), and the intensive Yiddish language course in Trinity which formed part of the One Year Programme. He chaired the Graduate Seminar in Yiddish Studies which met in Hilary term. In addition, he supervised the thesis work of a number of doctoral candidates in Yiddish Studies, all in the University's Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages.

In the area of academic development in Oxford, Dr Katz developed a new BA option in Yiddish Linguistics in the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages to supplement the existing option in Modern Yiddish Literature. Dr Katz saw the proposal through a meeting of the German Sub-Faculty and prepared a draft outline for the course requirements as they will appear in the University's *Examination Decrees and Regulations*.

Dr Katz participated in a series of meetings in Trinity term designed to enhance the language courses which form part of the One Year Programme. In this connection, he prepared a memorandum in support of his proposal that language classes be taught four hours per week, with no more than one hour on any one day.

In support of the required expansion in Yiddish library facilities in Oxford, Dr Katz negotiated the transfer of the Shlomo Schweitzer Collection from Tel Aviv to Oxford, and raised the funds for transport of the collection's several thousand books. As a result of the successful negotiations, the collection arrived at the Taylor Institute Library in Spring of 1989. Dr Katz also worked with Mr Adrian Roberts, Keeper of Oriental Books at the Bodleian to enhance the Bodleian's Yiddish holdings.

On the international front, Dr Katz continued to work with the World Council for Yiddish and Jewish Culture (Tel Aviv) on a number of joint projects, and negotiated an agreement in Spring 1989 with the University of Budapest for participation of Hungarian students in the Centre's summer course.

Dr Katz delivered a lecture on 4 April 1989 entitled *Love and Hate of Yiddish* at the Athenaeum Club in London. The talk formed part of the Centre's London Lecture Series.

As a continuing Inspector with Her Majesty's Inspectorate, Dr Katz participated in inspections in Lubavitch House School in Stamford Hill, London, and Pardes House School, in Finchley, among others. He drafted a number of policy proposals for HMI and worked closely with Staff Inspector Mr Colin Selby on key areas of HMI policy.

In support of the Centre's vital fundraising projects, Dr Katz organized and launched the *Campaign for Yiddish at Oxford*, the goal of which is to endow and enhance the already vast array of Yiddish Studies projects and activities underway at the Centre.

A good part of Dr Katz's time during the year was dedicated to editing and organizing the inaugural volume of *Oksforder yidish*, the Centre's new academic annual, published entirely in Yiddish, which he founded. The first volume comprises twenty-two learned papers, spread over 401 pages, many of them written by his present and former students. Other editing activities included seeing through the press the sixth annual Stencl Lecture, S. Levenberg's *From Czár to Glasnost: Yiddish in the Soviet Union*, which appeared in January 1989. Proceedings of the second annual Winter Symposium, entitled *Dialects of the Yiddish Language*, which Dr Katz edited, appeared in late 1988. Finally, Dr Katz continued to serve throughout the academic year as advisory editor for the *Blackwell Companion to Modern Jewish Culture*, edited by Dr Glenda Abramson.

Dr Katz's own research branched in a number of directions. He revised his paper 'Di eltere yidishe leksikografye: mekoyres un metodn' (Older Yiddish Lexicography: Sources and Methods), which will appear in volume 1 of *Oksforder yidish*. Rather than attempting to provide a chronological history of older Yiddish dictionaries and vocabularies, the paper seeks to provide a structural analysis, with emphasis on developing strategies for recovering lost stages of the early history of the language from lexicographic sources. A short statement on the need for continuing Yiddish scholarship carried out in the language itself forms the preface to *Oksforder yidish*. It is entitled 'Yidish beyidish' (Yiddish in Yiddish).

Dr Katz completed a paper entitled 'Yiddish Historical Linguistics and Jewish Interlinguistics' in which he takes 'Jewish Interlinguistics' to task for what he regards as theoretical weakness and fanciful etymologizing. In the paper, Dr Katz focuses on questions of the nature of linguistic evidence, the avoidance of circularity and the foundations of sound etymological proposals. The paper will appear in *History of Yiddish Studies*, edited by Dr Dov-Ber Kerler.

Dr Katz delivered a paper entitled 'Di politik fun yidish in amolikn Ashkenaz' (The Politics of Yiddish in Early Ashkenaz) at the December 1988 Winter Symposium. In it, he applies methods of sociolinguistic reconstruction to the often oblique comments on Yiddish made by medieval Ashkenazic rabbinic authorities, in their Hebrew and Aramaic legal treatises.

His paper 'Origins of Yiddish Dialectology', published in *Dialects of the Yiddish Language*, traces this branch of Yiddish linguistic science to medieval rabbinic scholars who divided the Ashkenazim into two distinct groups based on a phonetic differentiation, in the course of discussions on certain points of Jewish law. The paper considers the first modern Yiddish dialectologist to be the Christian scholar Carl Wilhelm Friedrich, whose 1784 compendium contains the first attempt at a classification of all the Yiddish dialects of Europe.

He began work on three new papers. One is on the linguistic history of Ashkenazic Hebrew and Aramaic, which is to appear in a forthcoming volume on pronunciations of Hebrew edited by Dr Lewis Glinert of the School of Oriental and African Studies. Another, entitled 'The Children of Heth and the Origins of Yiddish', was initiated at the invitation of the Philological Society (London). A third, on the sociolinguistic history of the language, is scheduled to appear in a volume edited by Dr David Sorkin.

Dr Katz was able to do some work on his longstanding books in progress, *Christian Studies in Yiddish*, *Reconstructing from within: Historical Yiddish Phonology*, and a book on the origins of Yiddish.

In recognition of Dr Katz's work at the Centre, Sir Sigmund Sternberg,

chairman of the International Council of Christians and Jews, made a presentation to him at the graduation ceremony of the 1989 summer programme held on 25 August. This year, Dr Katz completed eleven years of service to the Centre.

Dr DOV-BER KERLER, Barnett Shine Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature and Porter Junior Research Fellow of Lincoln College, continued throughout the academic year to teach and supervise several students for the University and the Centre's One Year Programme in Jewish Studies. He taught and examined the specially designed BA paper on 'Modern Yiddish Literature' for the Faculty of Oriental Studies, supervised a BA Dissertation on older Yiddish literature for the same Faculty, and supervised a DPhil thesis for the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages. In Hilary term Dr Kerler taught the intensive course in Yiddish Language and Literature as well as the introductory course on the History of Old Yiddish Literature for students on the One Year Programme and for the University's Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages. In Trinity he also provided tutorials in modern Yiddish literature and in modern Hebrew.

In May Dr Kerler spoke before the Centre's Yarnton Discussion Group, chaired by Dr Martin Goodman, on his future project to research the pre-nineteenth century Hebrew and Yiddish communal and professional registries and official books of records as a prospective source of recovering the earlier forms of spoken varieties of Yiddish and written forms of contemporary Ashkenazic Hebrew. On 13 June he delivered the Seventh Memorial Moses Gaster Lecture before the Society for Jewish Study (London) entitled 'Yiddish Literature in the Eighteenth Century'. In this lecture Dr Kerler outlined the earlier stages, genres and sources of old Yiddish literature, its later development throughout the eighteenth century with a special emphasis on socio-cultural, semiotic and linguistic precursors of modernization which ultimately evolved into early modern Yiddish literature of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

In 1989 Dr Kerler began to edit the forthcoming volumes of *Winter Studies in Yiddish*, of which volume III is entitled *History of Yiddish Studies* (Papers from the Third Annual Oxford Winter Symposium in Yiddish Language and Literature, 13–15 December 1987) and volume IV, *The Politics of Yiddish*, (Papers from the Fourth Annual Oxford Winter Symposium in Yiddish Language and Literature, 11–13 December 1988). Both volumes will be published jointly by the Centre and Harwood Academic Publishers. Dr Kerler also served on the editorial board of the inaugural volume of the Centre's Yiddish academic journal *Oksforder yidish* under the editorship of Dr Dovid Katz, and he also began to serve as a Yiddish linguistics co-editor of the forthcoming volumes of the

renewed Yiddish academic bi-annual *Yivo-bleter*, which will be published by the New York Yivo Institute for Jewish Research under the editorship of Professor David E. Fishman.

At the 1989 Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish Language and Literature Dr Kerler taught the courses Yiddish I and Yiddish IV. For Yiddish I he wrote an elementary Yiddish language handbook comprising nineteen lessons which provide several grammatical tables, examples and paradigms, as well as exercises, dialogues, folksongs, short stories and a short anthology of modern Yiddish poetry. For Yiddish IV Dr Kerler compiled an extensive anthology of modern Yiddish literature entitled *In yidishn vort*. This collection encompassing some of the works of thirty-two Yiddish authors was devoted to the centennial of the great Yiddish Soviet poet Dovid Hofshsteyn (1889–1952).

Dr HEINZ-DIETRICH LÖWE, Frank Green Fellow in Modern Jewish History 1848–1948 and Senior Research Fellow of Wolfson College, taught extensively throughout the academic year. Together with David Sorkin, Dr Löwe organized and lectured on ‘The Modern Jewish Experience in Europe, 1789–1945’ in Michaelmas and Hilary terms for the University. These lectures were combined with regular tutorials for students studying for the MSt and MPhil degrees in Oriental Studies. He also supervised one MPhil and two DPhil students and tutored four postgraduates in Russian history for the University. Through the efforts of Dr Harry Shukman of St Antony’s College and Dr Löwe, the Russian Studies Department has introduced a new optional paper entitled ‘The History of the Jews in Russia and the Soviet Union, 1772–1945’ in the MPhil curriculum. Dr Löwe also conducted a seminar on ‘The Jews of Eastern Europe, 1200–1939’ for the Centre’s One Year Programme. Students read relevant texts that were discussed and analysed in depth. Finally with the collaboration of Professor Norman Stone of Worcester College and David Sorkin, Dr Löwe helped to organize a lecture series in Trinity term on the topic of ‘Political Dissent, Revolution and Religious non-Conformity’ in which specialists in various fields participated.

Dr Löwe’s research branched out into several different avenues. While he continued his long-term project on the social history of the Jews in Poland and Russia from the middle of the eighteenth century, Dr Löwe also wrote an article on Russian (Tsarist) antisemitism for a collection of essays on antisemitism to be edited by Professor Herbert Strauss of The Free University in Berlin. He also participated in the Fellow’s Seminar on Notions of Community and Jewish Identification through the Ages where he delivered a paper on Jewish charity and self-help organizations in Tsarist Russia. He traced the change from traditional charitable

undertakings to an almost conscious social policy aimed at remedying the economic situation of Eastern European Jewry and at preserving the Jewish identity. In addition, Dr Löwe began work on the preparation of a revised and enlarged English edition of his book on pre-revolutionary Russian antisemitism to be published by Harwood Academic Press.

Throughout the year, Dr Löwe delivered a number of public lectures. For the history seminar at St John's College, he spoke on 'Poland's East, Russia's West' which dealt with nationality problems and policies in these areas concerning Jews, Ukrainians, Lithuanians and Poles. Dr Löwe also spoke at the annual conference of the British Association of East European Studies and at the University of Sussex.

Dr NOAH LUCAS, Librarian and Fellow in Israeli Studies, joined the Centre from Sheffield University at the beginning of the academic year. His initial task upon arrival was to reorganize the Kressel Collection and Archives and search for qualified full-time staff. By mid-session the enormous backlog of work began to be cleared. As part of his new role, Dr Lucas participated in three meetings of Middle East librarians in Manchester, Durham and London and chaired a session at the International Hebraica Colloquium held in London in September.

Dr Lucas taught a two-term course on Israeli history and politics for two postgraduate students and conducted a seminar on Israeli history for the Centre's One Year Programme. Other lectures delivered during the year included one on Israel within the framework of a 'Weekend Seminar on the Middle East' arranged for seventy adult participants by the Department of Continuing Education of Oxford University. Dr Lucas also spoke on the Israeli elections for the dinner-lecture series at Yarnton Manor and broadcast an interview on this subject for the BBC World Service. In January, Dr Lucas was invited to deliver a talk for the Bnai Brith Top Table in London and in May he lectured on Jewish Religious Extremism in Israeli Politics at the Annual Conference of the Canadian Professors for Middle East Peace, in Toronto. He also gave a paper on Israel in the Fellows Seminar in May.

Publications which appeared, in addition to book reviews, included the main entry on Israel in the *New Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the Middle East and North Africa* and the chapter on Israel in the *Annual Register of World Events, 1988*. Dr Lucas also published a profile of the Centre in the *Newsletter* of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies. He contributed the essay on Zionism for the *Blackwell's Companion to Jewish Culture*, a chapter on Israel for a book in a Longmans series on countries in crisis, and an article for the *Proceedings* of the Canadian Professors for Middle East Peace.

Dr GEORGE MANDEL, David Hyman Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies, although no longer Fellow in Charge of the Library and Archive, continued to be a member of the Library Committee. He also taught, as before, for the MPhil in Modern Jewish Studies at the University and for the Centre's One Year Programme. Dr Mandel continued (and nearly completed) the editing of an English translation of the autobiography of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda which is to be published under the Centre's auspices. In Trinity Term he delivered a paper on 'The Debate between Smolenskin and Ben-Yehuda' in the Fellows' Seminar on 'Notions of Community and Jewish Identity Through the Ages'.

Professor RONALD L. NETTLER, Fellow in Muslim-Jewish Relations in the Modern Period, continued to work on a sourcebook of modern Islamic religious thought concerning the Jews. The book will include analyses and partial translations of a selection of important Arabic texts dealing with this subject. His article, 'Arab Images of Jews and Israel', appeared in *Survey of Jewish Affairs, 1989* (edited by W. Frankel and published by Basil Blackwell for the Institute of Jewish Affairs). Professor Nettler continued his research and preparation of a book on the thought of the Muslim mystic Ibn al-'Arabi (d. 1240). One part of this work will be devoted to the mystic's doctrine concerning Jews and other non-Muslims.

Professor Nettler taught courses on Islamic mysticism and Muslim-Jewish relations for the Oriental Studies Faculty. He also became the supervisor of a new DPhil student who will be doing a study of the portrayal of the Jews in the Qur'anic exegesis of Sayyid Qutb, the great modern fundamentalist thinker. This DPhil degree is being done under the auspices of the Sub-faculty of International Relations, Social Studies Faculty.

Professor Nettler also gave a number of public lectures on Islamic doctrine concerning the Jews, Judaism and Israel in London as part of the Centre's London lecture series.

Dr DAVID PATTERSON, President of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, Cowley Lecturer in Postbiblical Hebrew at the University of Oxford and Fellow of St Cross College, resumed his role as President of the Centre after spending the 1987-8 academic year as Professor of Jewish Studies at Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts. He spent three weeks in the Spring of 1989 at Mount Holyoke College consolidating the agreement between the College and the Centre, enabling students to take part in the One Year Programme in Jewish Studies. During that time he lectured at the State University of New York at Albany, and at Union College. He gave the fifteenth Sacks Lecture entitled 'Out of Bondage: Two Centuries of Modern Hebrew Literature' at Yarnton Manor before

returning to the US where he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by Hebrew Union College. He also shared the Webber Prize for a translation of J. H. Brenner's Hebrew novel, *Out of the Depths*.

During the summer of 1989 he once again chaired the Jerusalem workshop on the Teaching of Modern Hebrew Literature in English Translation, sponsored jointly by the Oxford Centre and the International Center for the Teaching of Jewish Civilization. During this visit he, together with Mrs José Patterson, organized a reunion for Visiting Scholars of the Oxford Centre which was attended by one hundred and fifty people. He also helped to arrange for the acquisition of photographs of the Qumran materials in Jerusalem.

Dr Patterson examined a PhD thesis for the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and supervised two doctoral students for Oxford University. During the year he conducted courses for the BA (Hons) degree in Hebrew and for the One Year Programme in Jewish Studies. Other lectures included a talk to the Yarnton Manor discussion group, a lecture at Selly Oak College, Birmingham, a talk to the Birmingham Jewish students, a lecture at St John's Wood Synagogue, an introductory talk at the Symposium on Jewish Food at Yarnton Manor, and a talk to the Oxford branch of the Council of Christians and Jews. His lecture delivered on the occasion of his receipt of the honorary degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters and the award of the Stiller Prize by Baltimore Hebrew University was published under the title 'A Darkling Plain: Jews and Arabs in Modern Hebrew Literature' under the joint auspices of the Oxford Centre and Baltimore Hebrew University.

Dr ALISON SALVESEN, Fellow in Aramaic and Syriac Studies and Junior Research Fellow of New College, joined the Centre as a Fellow in January 1989, having finished her doctoral thesis on the Biblical translator Symmachus six months previously. She is currently the University Lecturer in Aramaic and Syria while Dr Sebastian Brock holds a two year British Academy Research Fellowship, so much of her year was spent teaching for the Oriental Institute. Her courses included beginning and intermediate Syriac, and Aramaic of the Targumim and Babylonian Talmud. She taught mainly for undergraduate and MPhil students, but several advanced students in Patristics, New Testament studies and Arabic also studied with her.

In March, Dr Salvesen was invited to give a seminar on the Septuagint at the Sorbonne in Paris. In July, she gave a paper at the British Association of Jewish Studies in Cambridge on the midrashic elements and non-Christian exegesis in Symmachus's revision of the Pentateuch and in the early autumn of 1989 she gave a series of four seminars to a lay audience entitled 'In the Image? Women According to Scripture', which

examined biblical exegesis in Christian tradition concerning women's role in church and society and explained the meaning of certain key passages in Hebrew and Greek.

Dr Salvesen is producing an English translation of St Ephrem's Commentary on Exodus which contains many examples of Jewish haggadoth despite the Syriac author's anti-Jewish attitude. She is also working on some of the treatises of another Syriac writer, Aphrahat. Several of his Demonstrations were designed to counter Jewish criticism of Christianity and to deter Christians from Judaizing at a time when the state was persecuting the church.

Dr Salvesen recently contributed reviews of books on Syriac, Patristics and Qumran studies for the *Journal of Jewish Studies* and the *Journal of Semitic Studies*. She is currently preparing her doctoral thesis for publication by Manchester University Press as a Supplement to the *Journal of Semitic Studies*.

Dr DAVID SORKIN, Clore Fellow in the Roots of Modern Anti-Semitism and Research Fellow of St Antony's College, taught for the Centre's One Year Programme, gave lectures on the 'Jewish Experience in Modern Europe', supervised and examined BA, MSt and MPhil students, and examined a DPhil candidate in European history. He gave a paper on German-Jewish history at Southampton University for the celebration of the Parkes Fellowship and he lectured on his new project, a comparison of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish reactions to the Enlightenment in the eighteenth century, at New York University, the British Association for Jewish Studies and St John's College, Oxford.

A volume he is co-editing (with Frances Malino), entitled *From East and West: Jews in a Changing Europe, 1750-1870*, which contains biographies of individuals and families, is now in press (Basil Blackwell). Dr Sorkin contributed an article, 'Preacher, Teacher, Publicist: Joseph Wolf and the Ideology of Emancipation' to this collection. Additionally, in the series he edits for Basil Blackwell ('Jewish Society and Culture'), the first volume entitled *The Making of Modern Anglo-Jewry 1880-1950* (ed. David Cesarani) was completed and will be published in November 1989.

Dr Sorkin has been invited to teach in Paris at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales during May 1990. He will give four public lectures and has been asked to participate in a colloquium on German Jewry at the Historisches Kolleg in Munich in July. In the spring he was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Leo Baeck Institute in London.

Dr JONATHAN WEBBER, Fellow in Jewish Social Studies, 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 during the year to consolidate his interests in Jewish food and Polish-Jewish studies.

The regular weekly seminar on 'Identity and Ethnicity' that he organized together with Shirley Ardener and Tamara Dragadze continued throughout the year at the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Oxford. The theme for the series in Michaelmas Term was 'The Significance of Food', at which, on 11 November 1988, he presented his own paper entitled 'Food for Thought: The Jewish Preoccupation with Diet'. The series in Hilary Term was on the theme 'The Relationship between Religion and Identity: Contemporary Islamic Identities', and in Trinity Term on the theme of 'Theoretical Perspectives'.

On 18 June 1989, together with Professor Gerald Mars and Mrs Valerie Mars, he organized a one-day Symposium on Jewish Food, an event which was held at Yarnton Manor and attended by about ninety people; eighteen papers were delivered, including one by Dr Webber, who also prepared and edited a 36-page pamphlet for the occasion, based on the abstracts of the papers given. It was gratifying to see the strong level of interest in this comparatively new field of academic study; the *Jewish Chronicle* carried a number of news reports about the Symposium, probably the first of its kind anywhere, and numerous enquiries were received from far and wide. Jewish food was also the subject of a special lecture he gave at the Athenaeum Club in London, on 5 June 1989, within the framework of the Centre's London Lecture Series.

In May 1989, Dr Webber returned to Poland for a two-week fieldwork trip, in order to direct a group of ten student volunteers from the Institute of Sociology at the Jagiellonian University of Kraków. These volunteers had become so enthusiastic after their participation in the project in Polish-Jewish relations in the summer of 1988 (as described in last year's Annual Report) that the Jagiellonian University's Inter-Faculty Committee for Religious Studies generously agreed to sponsor a short return visit to the Polish Sub-Carpathians, this time to the eastern district, in the area of Przemyśl, adjacent to the border with the Soviet Union. Together with this group and their Head of Department, Dr Andrzej Paluch, Dr Webber covered over 1500 miles in this region and tracked down more than thirty sites of Jewish interest for inclusion in the guide-book he is preparing: former synagogue buildings, Jewish cemeteries, and commemorative plaques concerning Holocaust events.

During the summer of 1989 he went back again to Poland, this time for a full two months. His work on the guide-book, which he now intends

will cover the whole of that part of Galicia that is today in Poland, was carried forward by intensive study in the towns and villages of the western regions of Bielsko-Biala and Nowy Sacz, as well as in Kraków itself. In this context he also accompanied the Institute's summer fieldwork camp, which as last year was on the subject of the memory of Jewish culture in the local folk consciousness; and he gave there two lectures on 'Judaism as an Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Category' and one on 'The Hasidim and their Place in Jewish Culture, with Special Reference to Galician Hasidism'. Analysis of the hundreds of Polish-language tape-recorded interviews collected now over three fieldwork seasons is proceeding satisfactorily, and is being handled by a special team of scholars at the Institute with whom Dr Webber is closely collaborating.

His principal activity during this last visit to Poland, however, related to the month or so that he spent in Auschwitz. The crisis over the Carmelite convent there, on which the *Jewish Chronicle* published a long leading letter from him on 14 July 1989, was a subject he made a special study of, in the context of a general piece of anthropological research into beliefs about the present nature of the former concentration camp and how they might be shaped in the future. Especially given the considerable political changes currently taking place in the country, this topic aroused a good deal of interest locally: Dr Webber was granted a private audience with Cardinal F. Macharski at his palace in Kraków on 17 August; he addressed an international meeting of Pax Christi in the principal church of Oswiecim on 6 August, his subject being 'Auschwitz: The Symbol and the Realities'; he delivered a lecture on the present and future of Auschwitz to the faculty staff of the Jagiellonian University's Jewish Research Centre on 5 September; and he had a number of private meetings with prominent local Catholic intellectuals and academics concerning future Jewish involvement in Auschwitz affairs.

Within the Centre, Dr Webber's activities during the year included the teaching of one course, 'Introduction to Judaism', for the Centre's One Year Programme in Jewish Studies. He also taught a course on Modern Jewish Sociology for the University's MSt degree in Modern Jewish Studies, a degree for which he acted as Chairman of Examiners in Trinity Term. On 20 October 1988, he gave an after-dinner lecture at Yarnton Manor entitled 'Impressions of a Polish Journey', concerning his fieldwork in Poland conducted the previous summer; and on 22 February 1989, he spoke at Yarnton at Dr Goodman's series on academic work at the Centre, on the subject of the special relationship between social anthropology and Jewish studies, with reference to the study of Jewish food. On 7 March he read a paper at the Fellows' Seminar entitled 'Modern Jewish Identities: The Concept of Community in the Contemporary Jewish

World' as his contribution to the series on 'Notions of Community through the Ages'. He gave regular fortnightly tutorials on the Song of Songs to a student from the Convent of the Incarnation (Oxford) and took on the co-supervision of a doctoral student in social anthropology working on the women's movement in Israel and the West Bank. As in previous years, he organized an exhibition of the Centre's publications at Jewish Book Week in London, and he continued to hold administrative responsibility for the George Webber Prize for Translation from Hebrew.

Dr Webber gave one *shiur* at Leo Baeck College, London, on the subject of 'The Spies' – an anthropological analysis of the espionage tale found in Numbers 13–14.

Continuing his involvement in interfaith activities, Dr Webber this year organized a special programme on 13 March for the theology students of Ripon College Cuddesdon and lectured on the role of the synagogue in Jewish life, followed by a demonstration Passover *seder*. He again represented the Oxford Jewish community at the annual Commonwealth Day observance at Christ Church Cathedral on 13 March, where he read prayers he had composed for the occasion.

Dr Webber continued as Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth. At its annual conference on 'Autobiography and Anthropology' which he attended in York in April, he was re-elected for a further two-year term. He represented the Association in its relations with ALSISS, the Association for Learned Societies in the Social Sciences, and acted as a Trustee of the Radcliffe-Brown Fund for Research in Social Anthropology. He continued also as senior editor of *JASO*, the *Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford*, of which the three issues for 1988-9 were published. He published one review in the *Jewish Journal of Sociology* on social inequality in the kibbutz and one review article, in the same journal, on the subject of the Holocaust, antisemitism and the Jews of France.

Dr RICHARD WHITE, Fellow in Hebrew and Aramaic Studies, was in Oxford in Hilary Term and taught 'Introduction to the Bible' for the Centre's One Year Programme. He wrote a number of reviews for the *Journal of Jewish Studies* and the *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*, and compiled an index for Professor Patterson's latest book *A Phoenix in Fetters: Studies in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Hebrew Fiction*. Dr White worked on the manuscript commentary on the Targum to the Prophets and delivered a paper on this subject at Yarnton.

Visiting Scholars

Professor AHARON APPELFELD writes: The main purpose of my stay this year was to collect materials for my forthcoming novel. I made much use of the Kressel Collection.

During my stay in Yarnton a new book of mine, *For Every Sin*, came out in England. Part of this book was written at Yarnton. The company of many friends, which I would probably not have met otherwise, was of great inspiration and as usual it was a pleasure to stay at the Manor.

Professor YOSEF BEN-SHLOMO writes: This summer I continued my research on the comprehensive system of Rabbi Kook that I have been working on here in recent years. I succeeded in summarizing an appreciable part of his philosophy of history, and in particular I analysed Rabbi Kook's doctrine of the nature of Exile within the framework of the place of Jewish history in world history. This is part of a larger chapter on the meaning of Jewish history from its beginnings until our own times. I am about to begin writing the last part of the entire project: Rabbi Kook's doctrine concerning the present time, his attitude to Zionism, and his place in the spectrum of modern Jewish thought. I hope to complete the work in about another year and a half, and for the final topic I shall particularly need the Kressel Collection at Yarnton.

Professor YONAH DAVID writes: During my stay at Yarnton during the 1988–9 academic year I compiled thirty-six poems of Rabenu Tam (1100–1171) in a critical edition of extant works collected for the first time. The sources for the edition are Hebrew manuscripts, early printed prayer books and liturgical collections found in France, England, Italy, Spain and Holland. In addition, I compiled ten love stories of Jacob ben Eleazar from Toledo based on Hebrew Manuscript Munich 207 (copied in 1268).

Professor ZVIEVEN PAZ writes: During my stay from August to September 1989 at Yarnton, I researched the historical and geographical background of the exploitation of the Dead Sea and Jordan River regions. Use of the Kressel Collection, the Bodleian, Ashmolean and Oriental Institute Libraries in Oxford and the British Library in London enabled new information to be unearthed from many scattered sources. These go back to Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman writings, Biblical and Talmudic texts, accounts by well-known Muslim travellers, the Crusaders, and reports of American, British, German and French exploratory expeditions during the past 150 years.

The Egyptians used Dead Sea bitumen for many agricultural, industrial, medical and other purposes including ship building and embalming, for they had no local sources of this material. They coveted the plantations in the region as a source of medicinal and cosmetic products, which were also highly valued by the Greeks and Romans. Many legends and myths associated with the Dead Sea region were engendered. Some extolled the therapeutic powers and others stressed harmful and satanic influences.

This study opens up many as yet unexplored trails and promises to add fascinating information about what to many has been a little known and neglected corner of the world.

Professor KEN FRIEDEN writes: During my stay as a Visiting Scholar during the summer, I concentrated on two areas of Jewish literature: nineteenth-century Yiddish fiction and twentieth-century Hebrew fiction.

The research on nineteenth-century Yiddish classics forms part of my ongoing project entitled *Jewish Masks: Self and Satire in Yiddish Fiction*. I reread some relevant primary works by Sh. Y. Abramovitch (Mendele Moykher Sforim), Sholem Aleichem, and Y.L. Peretz, and reviewed the secondary literature by Dan Miron and Gershon Shaked. Subsequently I completed a paper to be presented in December at the annual Association for Jewish Studies Conference entitled 'Metamorphoses of the Mendele Moykher Sforim Persona'. This study deals with the gradual changes in the literary figure known as Mendele the Bookseller.

At Yarnton I also continued reading modern Hebrew literature, which is an essential dimension of the Emory University Program in Judaic Languages and Literature. I read novels by Pinhas Sadeh and Aharon Appelfeld. This turned out to be especially stimulating since the latter was also residing at the Manor and I was able to discuss his new novel *Katerina*. Moreover, at Aharon Appelfeld's request, I checked the English translations of *The Miracle Worker* and *Katerina* which led to several interesting discussions concerning the atmosphere and cadences he strives to achieve.

Finally, I met several of the faculty members of the Centre. I was pleased to join David Patterson, Glenda Abramson, and David Sorkin at the conference of the British Association for Jewish Studies. In addition, I had several meetings with Dovid Katz and Dov-Ber Kerler from the Yiddish faculty. When the Yiddish Summer Programme began in August, moreover, I had occasion to meet such Yiddish scholars as Itzhok Niborski and David Miller.

I wish to thank the Oxford Centre for its warm hospitality.

Professor RONALD HENDEL writes: My wife and I had a delightful and productive year at Yarnton Manor. During the days I alternated between

attending lectures or seminars in Oxford and working on a commentary on Genesis for the Anchor Bible series. During the year I also worked on two other papers, 'The Bible in the Second Temple Period' which I delivered at the University of Michigan and at the Old Testament Seminar in Oxford; and 'Images of God in Ancient Israel: Archaeological and Textual Evidence', which I delivered to the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society in London. Life in the orbit of Oxford was filled with intellectual stimulation. Though the libraries often seemed to be a medieval maze, to be entered at one's peril, the University is a marvellous place, filled with remarkable and learned people.

When not indulging in scholarship, my wife and I enjoyed wandering the country paths around the Manor and throughout the countryside of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. We ventured through many small villages – and many small pubs – exploring the pastures, canals, rivers, and lanes. We have many fond memories of our year at Yarnton and are most grateful to the staff at the Manor and the scholars at the Centre for their kindness and hospitality.

Professor AVI HURVITZ writes: In recent years my research has centred on Biblical Wisdom Literature. At the moment I am engaged with the problem of identifying possible 'Wisdom influences' on biblical writings which do not belong to the distinctive Wisdom corpus (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job). Within this framework, I am trying to isolate linguistic features which may be used as reliable markers of Wisdom influence; and to this subject I have devoted most of my work during my recent stay at Yarnton.

Dr JACOB KABAKOFF writes: The goal which I set for myself during my one-month stay at Yarnton was to work on my Hebrew monograph on the poet Naphtali Herz Imber, of 'Hatikvah' fame.

I am happy that I was able to complete some three chapters dealing with various phases of Imber's life and creativity as a trilingual author. Among these chapters was one dealing with the poet's sojourn in England at the end of the 1880s, when he contributed articles and autobiographical sketches to the *Jewish Standard*, published in London.

I found helpful the resources of the Kressel Collection, especially its holdings of press clippings on Hebrew writers. Not the least of the benefits I derived from my stay was the opportunity to spend time in discussion with visiting scholars from Israel. In my book, *Naphtali Herz Imber, Baal Hatikvah*, which is scheduled to appear in Israel in 1990, it will be my pleasure to acknowledge the gracious help received at Yarnton.

Rabbi ARTHUR LELYVELD writes: During the summer of 1989, I interrupted my work on 'Conflict Resolution in Jewish Thought' in order to do research for my lectures at John Carroll University under the Walter and Mary Tuohy Chair of Interreligious Studies in 'Social Values in Jewish Thought and Practice'. Those lectures were almost complete when we left Yarnton. They have now been delivered and will soon be published with appropriate credit to the Oxford Centre whose Yarnton Manor provides such a splendid milieu for study and writing. We are grateful not only for the natural beauty of the Manor and its peace and quiet but also for the presence and fellowship of distinguished colleagues. We always leave with reluctance and look forward to returning.

Dr ISRAEL OPPENHEIMER writes: My two month stay has been a most fruitful period in the furtherance of my research. The quiet, pleasant surroundings and the friendly assistance of all the staff, have only added to the great benefit that I derived from my stay here.

For the most part I was engaged in completing the manuscript of the last part of my work on the history of the Hechalutz movement in Poland between the wars (vol. II, 1929–39). I have no doubt that the peace and quiet I enjoyed during my stay advanced my work immensely. I hope that I shall be able to benefit from a stay here again.

Professor CHAIM RABIN writes: My subject of research is currently a history of the Hebrew language. While the Jerusalem university libraries are the obvious place to trace original Hebrew books and manuscripts on this subject, the use of the Centre's library made me discover a number of books in other languages from which I could draw valuable material on the use of Hebrew, written and spoken, in various European countries, among their Jewish populations.

The atmosphere at Yarnton also generated for me occasions of talking with lecturers and students, through which I learned much about different attitudes to Hebrew current in the types of society to which they belonged. An interesting subject for gathering opinions is also the growing interest taken by students in learning Yiddish as well as Hebrew.

Mrs Rabin and I enjoyed our stay at Yarnton and hope to come again.

Rabbi RICHARD ROSENTHAL writes: I am very grateful to the Oxford Centre for its hospitality last June. My wife and I enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere and I had an opportunity to use the rich facilities of the Bodleian Library. I spent my time there comparing the opening sections of *Sefer Mitzvot Katan* (SMAC) in various manuscripts and in the printed editions.

SMAK is a collection of mitzvot organized around the days of the week and parts of the human body. It was written so that ordinary men might devote a portion of each day to the study of mitzvot. This study was to serve a kind of meditative, liturgical purpose. Isaac of Corbeil sees it as a corrective to the disruptive events of his time but also as a way of countering the sinfulness of the human condition. The study of SMAK raises some interesting questions. What is the connection it has to other collections of mitzvot and especially to Maimonides' code? Since many collections of mitzvot have introductions, what can a comparative study teach us about the collector's methodology, view of Judaism and vision of his ideal reader? Why is there a continual need to restate the mitzvah system as evidenced by the nature of the restatement? I hope to be able to address these and similar questions in some articles soon.

Rabbi MARTIN S. ROZENBERG writes: I came to the Centre to research two specific areas: biblical law and biblical prophecy. The experience was most gratifying and more than met my expectations. The staff at the Centre was most cooperative and the physical accommodations and beautiful natural surroundings made our stay a very pleasant one. An added plus was the social and intellectual interchange with the other Visiting Scholars which proved stimulating in a general way but also gave me helpful suggestions regarding my research. I especially enjoyed the lectures at the Centre from which I learned much. The total freedom to pursue one's interests and the unpressured atmosphere that prevails at Yarnnton was most welcome and proved conducive for study and reflection. I look back upon my stay with great nostalgia and look forward to a return visit.

My specific concern in biblical law was to examine the role of intention and accident in criminal acts with regard to punishment, especially in cases of homicide. The Bible clearly does make a distinction between intentional and unwitting acts with the latter usually going unpunished. There are, however, certain seeming contradictions and inconsistencies in the biblical laws as well as gradations between acts that are totally 'accidental' and those that are 'unintentional'. I examined the various laws that proved problematic and the fine distinctions that are drawn and sought to understand the inconsistencies by positing an underlying principle that reconciles them. I am in the process of preparing my study on biblical law for publication.

In the area of biblical prophecy I only managed to do preliminary research. My interest here is to trace the anatomy of Hebrew prophecy to its earliest beginnings. I want to examine specifically whether the apostolic and moral elements of Hebrew prophecy have their antecedents

in the other cultures of the ancient near east or was this unique to the Israelites.

Dr NISSAN RUBIN writes: During my stay at Yarnton between July and September 1989, I worked on my book on birth rituals in the Talmudic period. This is an anthropological study on circumcision and redemption of the first-born, as well as on some latent rituals related to birth and to the definition of the status of the mother and new born child, i.e. how they are separated and then reintegrated into society.

I wish to thank the Centre for its kind hospitality and for the opportunity to spend a most fruitful summer which enabled me to complete my book.

Professor RAYMOND P. SCHEINDLIN writes: During my stay at Yarnton in August I revised the draft of my translation of I. Elbogen's *Ha-tefilah b'yisrael b'hitpatkhutah ha-historit* (The historical development of prayer in Israel), making use of reference materials in the Kressel Collection in checking details. As a result, the manuscript is now ready for submission to the publisher. I also collected examples of certain themes in Arabic and Hebrew poetry to which I intend to refer in my new book *The Gazelle: Medieval Hebrew Poetry on God, Israel, and the Soul*. This book should be completed this winter. In the evenings Professor Nettler and I met regularly to study together some Arabic texts that are relevant to my next major research project in which I hope to deal with the relationship between Arabic mystical poetry and medieval Hebrew liturgical poetry. Thanks to his generosity with his time and erudition, I was able to lay the groundwork for what I hope will become an important bicultural contribution to the study of medieval Hebrew literature.

On a less formal level, I derived much satisfaction from being together with other scholars working in related areas. I had valuable conversations and made contacts that promise to be fruitful for years to come.

Professor ELIEZER SCHWEID writes: As a Frank Green Fellow, I stayed at Yarnton for the entire academic year. My residence conditions were excellent. I enjoyed the use of a lovely and well-equipped apartment, and the facilities, such as use of libraries, printing, photocopies etc. were very good. The opportunities of meeting colleagues who represent a wide spectrum of Jewish and general philosophical scholarship, making new acquaintances and friendships, were also very important for the progress of my work. I was especially eager to meet Jewish intellectuals from England and the US and learn through direct and frank conversations their views on the main problems of Jewish existence and Jewish spirituality today. In Yarnton, I had a rare opportunity to fulfill this wish.

My project was the completion of a research program on the ideological, theological and philosophical positions of Jewish thinkers on problems raised by the Holocaust, during the time of the Holocaust and under the Nazi yoke. I have completed a book entitled *Wrestling Until the Breaking of the Day*, translated it into English and written a series of articles on this topic in Hebrew.

While at the Centre, I lectured on Jewish philosophy in the twentieth century to the students on the One Year Programme. I also delivered several lectures at the Institute of Jewish Affairs and Leo Baeck College and at the annual conference of the British Association of Jewish Studies which took place in Cambridge in July.

Dr MOSHE SHEMESH writes: During my year as a Visiting Scholar both at the Centre and at St Antony's College I pursued my research on Israel-Jordan relations, 1949–57 and finished co-editing the forthcoming book *The Suez-Sinai Crisis 1956: Retrospective and Reappraisal* to be published by Frank Cass in early 1990. I also completed a study on 'the Palestinian national awakening 1959–89' which will be incorporated as two chapters in a forthcoming book on *The Palestinian National Movement 1919–1989* and prepared a chapter on the army's role in Jordanian politics for my forthcoming book on Jordan to be published by Frank Cass.

I attended a number of seminars and delivered a paper at the Middle East Centre, St Antony's College entitled 'Jordan and the West Bank: A Historical Perspective 1950–88'. I also gave three lectures on the Palestinians at the Institute of Jewish Affairs in London and at the Centre.

Dr NILI SHUPAK writes: During my one month stay at Yarnton I chiefly worked at the Ashmolean Library which houses one of the best libraries on Egyptology and compiled references for an article I completed on 'The Legal Aspect of Ancient Egypt'. I also completed the bibliographic details for a book entitled *The Wisdom of Egypt* to be published by Bialik Press.

Rabbi LOUIS SIGEL writes: Three months at the Centre gave me the opportunity to pursue inquiries into the legal ordinances (*takkanot*) enacted in twelfth-century France by Rabbi Jacob ben Meir (Tam). I was curious whether these *takkanot*, promulgated to correct communal problems in that time and locale, had any staying power and remained in force in subsequent halakhic codifications. Of the five ordinances under consideration, I discovered that only one, the *takkanah* concerning the finality and uncontestability of a writ of divorce (*get*) once it has been delivered to the woman, appears in later halakhic literature and is clearly attributed to its author, Rabbenu Tam.

Yarnton's congenial and collegial atmosphere was highly conducive to such study. I was greatly aided by the kind and knowledgeable guidance of our co-resident in the Manor, Mr Richard Judd, Assistant Director of the Bodleian's Oriental Library and expert *extraordinaire* in its incomparable collection of Hebrew manuscripts.

Professor ILAN TROEN writes: During my stay at Yarnton, I was able to complete and submit a number of articles for publication. In the volume *Redeeming the Captives; National Solidarity and the Rescue of Persecuted Jews in the Modern Period* I contributed the introductory essay 'Organizing the Rescue of Jews in the Modern Period' and in a book on the Suez-Sinai crisis I contributed 'The Sinai Campaign as a "War of No Alternative"; Ben-Gurion's View of the Israel-Egyptian Conflict' and an edited appendix 'Selections from Ben-Gurion's Diary on the Suez-Sinai Campaign'. Other publications include: 'Origins of Israeli Social and Physical Planning Policy', *Yahadut Zemanenu*, (vol.5); 'Urban Reform in 19th Century France, England and the United States', the Keating Lecture (monograph series); 'The Development of a Zionist Social Science and Calculating the Economic Absorptive Capacity of Palestine', *Contemporary Jewry*, (forthcoming); 'The History of Childhood in Israel' in *Children in Comparative and Historical Perspective; An International Handbook*, (forthcoming).

My research in progress is devoted to 'The Zionist Settlement Experience'. Results of this work have been presented in a variety of lectures delivered at the Centre, the London Lecture Series, the Tenth World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, Wayne State University and Columbia University.

Professor BENJAMIN UFFENHEIMER writes: During my three-month stay at Yarnton, I managed to write the chapter on Amos and Hosea for my third volume on Hebrew prophecy. Simultaneously, I completed a short monograph on 'The religious meaning of Jerusalem according to the Bible and Rabbinic literature'. The above volume on prophecy will be published by the Magnes Press of the Hebrew University whilst the monograph will be included in a volume on *Jerusalem During the Ages*, to be published by the Shazar Centre of Jewish History.

Professor ZEEV WEISMAN writes: As a Visiting Scholar of the Centre I enjoyed the opportunities offered to me to participate in the academic and cultural activities that took place throughout the year. I also was able to talk about my work with other scholars in an informal discussion group. During my stay in Oxford I successfully completed and submitted for publication a study on the judicial system in Ancient Israel. I also

lectured in faculty seminars in Oxford, Cambridge and Manchester. On the whole, I enjoyed a very fruitful and interesting year.

Finally, I should like to mention that my wife Devora, who accompanied me on my sabbatical leave, took an active part in advancing the Kressel Collection and Archives at Yarnton. I hope that the Centre will keep growing and that we shall have other opportunities in the near future to enjoy its many activities.

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Dr GLENDA ABRAMSON

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Dr ALISON SALVESEN

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Dr JONATHAN WEBBER

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Dr RICHARD WHITE

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