

REPORT OF THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR POSTGRADUATE HEBREW STUDIES

NINETEENTH ACADEMIC YEAR 1990 - 1991



Yarnton Manor, Yarnton, Oxford

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

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Report of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies

NINETEENTH ACADEMIC YEAR 1990–1991

Compiled by Didi Kerler

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PREFACE

As in previous years, the Annual Report for the 1990–91 year reflects further encouraging progress achieved by the Oxford Centre for Post-graduate Hebrew Studies and embraces a wide 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 further strengthened by the appointment of two more of the Centre's Fellows to official Hebrew Centre Lecturerships at the University: Dr Jonathan Webber in Social Anthropology and Dr Noah Lucas in Social Studies. Dr Webber was also appointed to a Research Fellowship at Wolfson College and Professor Nettler was appointed to a Fellowship at Mansfield College. Dr Lucas has become a Senior Associate Member of St Antony's College. Dr Heinz-Dietrich Löwe was appointed Oxford University Lecturer in Russian History and a Fellow of St Antony's College, while Dr Martin Goodman was appointed Reader in Jewish Studies at Oxford University and a Fellow of Wolfson College. Of the Centre's Fellows, fourteen are members of University faculties and thirteen hold College Fellowships. This very gratifying development illustrates the mutual benefit arising from close ties between the Centre and the University.

On the teaching side, the Fellows of the Centre continue to provide most of the teaching, tutoring and supervision of Hebrew and Jewish studies at Oxford University, both for undergraduates and graduates up to doctoral level. The One-Year Programme in Jewish Studies flourished on the Yarnton Manor campus and was attended by nineteen students from a variety of countries. The range and quality of teaching, research, and publication are described in later sections of this Annual Report.

During the year the arrival of photographs of Qumran material from the Rockefeller Museum and the Shrine of the Book in Jerusalem was completed. The entire collection of photographs is in place in the special room in the Library allocated to the Qumran Collection. Professor Geza Vermes was appointed Director of a new Qumran Forum which will doubtless become a leading centre of Qumran research in the years ahead. The Qumran Room was officially opened on 1 July at a meeting chaired by the Provost of Oriel College, Dr E. Nicholson.

Yiddish Studies continued to flourish with the help of the sixth Winter Symposium, devoted to Yiddish in the Soviet Union and the tenth Summer Course, both of which were a great success.

During the year a number of most important international conferences took place on the Yarnton Manor campus. To mark the 150th

anniversary of the birth of the Hebrew novelist, editor and publicist, Peretz Smolenskin, the Centre organized an international interdisciplinary conference which was attended by twenty major scholars. An international forum for the study of Ethiopian Jewry attracted eighteen participants from many countries. The second annual text workshop on 'The History of Ideas in Muslim-Jewish Relations' was once again a great success. The highlight of the year, however, was a two-month seminar on the Yarnton Manor campus devoted to a study of Israel in the 1950s. An original format brought together nine senior scholars and eight scholars at doctoral level for two months of study. There were twenty-two official sessions, and the papers will be published in a volume. It is planned to continue this seminar in the summer of 1992.

Contacts with universities in Eastern Europe were further strengthened by an official arrangement with the University of Vilnius on the initiative of Dr Dovid Katz. It is hoped to establish official ties with other universities in Eastern Europe at an early date.

During the year the Centre was extremely fortunate in obtaining an additional two Fellowships from the Skirball Foundation, for five years in the first instance, to enable the Centre to invite two senior scholars each year. One is reserved for a Muslim scholar of Hebrew from an Arab country, while the other will be allocated to a scholar in Jewish Studies from Eastern Europe. These new fellowships will add greatly to the intellectual life at the Oxford Centre.

Throughout the year a wide range of lectures for the general public were given both at 45 St Giles' and at Yarnton Manor, while the series of lectures in London given by Fellows of the Centre was once more highly successful.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Governors, the Fellows, and the staff of the Centre, all of whom made an invaluable contribution to the continuing achievements and impressive progress maintained throughout the year. Special thanks are once again due to the chairman of the Fundraising Committee, Mr Felix Posen, and his colleagues who have continued to work with such loyalty and devotion to underpin the financial situation of the Centre. We are particularly pleased to record that Mr Posen has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in recognition of his support for the work of the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism.

David Patterson
President

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In Memoriam: Mr Brian Tricker

The Oxford Centre deeply regrets the death of Mr Brian Tricker in December 1990 at the age of 62. Mr Tricker served as the Security Officer at Yarnton Manor for two years. He was a highly respected member of staff and will be sorely missed.

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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, geared to meeting the regulations of the British and American tax authorities. British contributors should note that if a donation is covenanted the Centre can reclaim the tax on it, thereby significantly increasing the value of the gift. American donations are tax deductible.

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THE ACADEMIC YEAR

MICHAELMAS TERM 1990

Lectures, Seminars and Classes

The Jews of Medieval Islam, 622–1099 CE (Dr Daniel Frank)

Introduction to Judaism (Mr Jeremy Schonfield)

Jewish History from 170 BC to AD 500 (Dr Martin Goodman)

Readings in Postbiblical Hebrew (Dr Daniel Frank)

Readings in Modern Yiddish Literature (Dr Dov-Ber Kerler)

Introduction to Modern Jewish History: Central and Western Europe
(Dr David Sorkin)

Jewish Immigration: A Survey of the East London Settlement, 1870 –
1960 (Professor William Fishman)

Nazi Holocaust of the Jews: Its Genesis, History and Historical Inter-
pretations (Dr John Fox)

Biblical Hebrew (Dr Jeremy Hughes)

Yiddish Language Classes (Dr Devra Kay)

Elementary
Intermediate
Advanced

Hebrew Language Classes (Dr Fania Oz, Ms Jennifer Dowling)

Elementary
Intermediate
Advanced

Talks at Yarnton Manor

18 October The Dead Sea Scrolls Research: Past and Present
Dr Magen Broshi

1 November German Unification in the Light of 20th-Century Euro-
pean Jewish History
Dr John P. Fox

15 November The Reproduction of Jewish Illuminated Manuscripts
Michael and Linda Falter

29 November 'A Cup' – Reflections on Definitions
Dr Ahuvia Kahane

HILARY TERM 1991

Lectures, Seminars and Classes

Hebrew Literature of the State of Israel (Dr Glenda Abramson)

Readings in Yiddish Linguistics (Dr Dovid Katz)

History of the Jews in Modern Europe: The Problem of Comparison
(Dr David Sorkin, Dr Heinz-Dietrich Löwe, chairmen)

Religions in the Mediterranean World (Dr Martin Goodman, Dr Simon Price, Professor Rowan Williams, chairmen)

Readings in 16–17th Century Yiddish Literature (Dr Dov-Ber Kerler)

Jewish Liturgy (Mr Jeremy Schonfield)

Biblical Anthropology (Dr Jonathan Webber)

Jewish History from 170 BC to AD 500, Part II (Dr Martin Goodman)

The Jews of Medieval Islam (Dr Daniel Frank)

The History of Islamic Ideas on Judaism (Professor Ron Nettler)

The Poetry of Hayyim Nachman Bialik (Professor Ezra Spicehandler)

The Origins of Jewish Nationalism (Dr George Mandel)

Nazi Holocaust of the Jews: Its Genesis, History and Historical Interpretations, Part II (Dr John Fox)

The Jews of the United States, 1881–1991 (Professor Henry Green)

Religion and Politics of Israel (Dr Noah Lucas)

Biblical Hebrew (Dr Jeremy Hughes)

Yiddish Language Classes (Dr Devra Kay)

Elementary

Intermediate

Advanced

Hebrew Language Classes (Dr Fania Oz, Ms Jennifer Dowling)

Elementary

Intermediate

Advanced

Talks at Yarnton Manor

24 January The Hidden Legacy Foundation
 Mrs Evelyn Friedlander

- 7 February Managing Disasters
 Professor Leonard Minkes
- 21 February The Influence of Greek Medicine on the Writings of
 Maimonides: Medical, Philosophical and Theological
 Dr Elinor Lieber

TRINITY TERM 1991

Lectures, Seminars and Classes

- Jewish History AD 70–425 (Dr Martin Goodman)
- Modern Hebrew Literature (Dr Glenda Abramson and Professor Ezra
 Spicehandler)
- History of Russian and Soviet Jewry (Dr Heinz-Dietrich Löwe)
- Yiddish Literature in Transition, 1790–1864 (Dr Dov-Ber Kerler)
- Readings in Pre-modern Yiddish Literature, 17th and 18th Century (Dr
 Dov-Ber Kerler)
- Jewish Ceremonial Life (Mr Jeremy Schonfield)
- The Abraham Legends in the Postbiblical Period (Professor Ezra
 Spicehandler)
- Jews and Christians in the Fourth-Century Persian Empire (Dr Alison
 Salvesen)
- Issues of Contemporary Jewry (Rabbi Dr Sidney Brichto)
- Biblical Hebrew (Dr Jeremy Hughes)
- Yiddish Language Classes (Dr Devra Kay)
 Elementary
 Intermediate
 Advanced
- Hebrew Language Classes (Dr Fania Oz, Ms Jennifer Dowling)
 Elementary
 Intermediate
 Advanced

Talks at Yarnton Manor

- 9 May The Zionist Dream and Israel as an Expression of its
 Fulfilment
 H.E. Mr Yoav Biran
- 23 May Mark Gertler: A Jewish Painter in Bloomsbury
 Professor Marcia Allentuck

The Library and Archive

The re-cataloguing of some 20,000 volumes in the Library is complete. We were fortunate to obtain the part-time services of Johannes Brosi, who catalogued all our Yiddish holdings. Also, the main newspaper cuttings in the Archive have been itemized and entered in a database by Howard Seal, with a view to dissemination throughout the research community. A list has been prepared of English-language titles held in the Library, which will be sent out to Oxford libraries and elsewhere for their information. Work will now focus on entering the main Hebrew book collection into the database.

A fine collection of about a thousand volumes of Judaica, from the personal library of the late Dr Samuel Sacks, was given as a gift to the Library by his son Dr David Sacks. We were also pleased to receive from Mrs Colette Littman a gift of volumes from the backlist of the distinguished Littman Library of Jewish Civilization.

In March the Library Committee met at Yarnton Manor. The meeting coincided with a dinner-lecture on the British Library delivered by Lord Dainton, its pioneer and long-time chairman. Lord Dainton personally visited the Library and Archive and expressed his admiration and good wishes.

Seminar in Honour of N. S. Doniach

A seminar in honour of the 84th birthday of the lexicographer Mr N. S. ('Naky') Doniach took place at Yarnton Manor on 12 May 1991 and was attended by over one hundred friends, family and colleagues. Mr Doniach is the editor of one of the Centre's major publications, the *Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary of Current Usage*, due to come out in the summer of 1992. The seminar was divided into two sessions, the morning one focusing on biblical studies and the afternoon on lexicography. There were talks on word patterns in Genesis, Chapter 1; the influence of the Dead Sea Scrolls on biblical research; rabbinic and Christian interpretations of Moses' rod; modern Hebrew lexicography; the revision of the classical Greek lexicon; and the trials of reviving the Hebrew, Coptic and Slavonic languages. An introduction in praise of Naky Doniach was given by the President of the Oxford Centre, Dr David Patterson.

Participating in the seminar were David Howlett, Editor of the *Mediaeval Latin Dictionary*, introduced by Ron May, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Bodleian Library; Geza Vermes, Professor of Jewish Studies and a Governor of the Centre, introduced by Sebastian Brock, Reader in Syriac Studies; Alison Salvesen, a Fellow of the Centre,

introduced by Terry Fenton of Haifa University; Ahuvia Kahane, a Fellow of the Centre and assistant editor of the *Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary of Current Usage*, introduced by Gloria Cigman of Warwick University; Peter Glare, Editor of *Liddell and Scott Supplement*, introduced by Glenda Abramson, a Fellow of the Centre; and Tudor Parfitt, Lecturer in Hebrew at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, introduced by Adrian Roberts, Keeper of Oriental Books at the Bodleian Library. Mr Doniach concluded the seminar with a short talk.

The proceedings of this seminar will be published as a Festschrift in honour of Mr Doniach.

Smolenskin Anniversary Conference

An international conference on Peretz Smolenskin to mark the 150th anniversary of his birth was held at Yarnton Manor on 23–25 June 1991. Smolenskin was an early advocate of Jewish nationalism and played a central role in reviving the Hebrew language. The conference was organized by Dr Rivka Maoz of the Hebrew University and Dr David Patterson, President of the Oxford Centre, and was attended by leading scholars from the US, Israel and England. Over nineteen papers were given discussing the literary, historical, socio-economic and socio-cultural aspects of Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe during the last century. Among those participating were Professors Gershon Shaked, Shmuel Werses, Israel Kolat and Reuven Merkin. It is hoped that the proceedings will be published in book form.

Colloquium on Ethiopian Jewry

A colloquium on the academic study of Ethiopian Jewry was held at the Centre on 26–28 June 1991. Organized by Professor Alan Crown of Sydney University and David Kessler, author of a history of the Falashas and the former chairman of the *Jewish Chronicle*, the colloquium attracted participants from a host of countries and established an organization for the research into Ethiopian Jewry. Amongst those who attended were Daniel Friedman of the CNRS Paris, Vittorio Morabito of Sicily, Father Dr Paul Stenhouse of the University of Sydney, Professor Tadasse Tamrat of the University of Addis Ababa, Dr Emanuela Trevisan-Semi of the University of Venice, Dr Steven Kaplan of the Truman Institute at the Hebrew University, Dr Habib Tawa of the Sorbonne and Dr Tudor Parfitt of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London.

As the colloquium was held soon after Israel airlifted thousands of Ethiopian Jews out of Ethiopia, Mr Ami Bergman of the American Joint Distribution Committee, who was on the last transport to leave Addis Ababa, and Fantahun Mekonnen, a teacher who had been working with the Falasha villagers until they left for Israel, also participated in the discussions.

It is hoped that the proceedings of the colloquium will be published in the near future.

Workshop on the History of Ideas in Muslim-Jewish Relations

On 7–8 July 1991, the Centre held its second annual texts workshop on the History of Ideas in Muslim-Jewish Relations. Convened by Professor Ron Nettler, the special theme this year was scriptural exegesis. There were nine speakers and nine other participants including some from the Netherlands, Australia, and Egypt. All were chosen for their knowledge of the field and their prominence as scholars. Each speaker spoke on a text (either Arabic or Hebrew), explicating it on various levels. After each talk a general discussion of the text was held, and an attempt was made to relate the text to the texts read by other speakers as well as the larger subject.

All those participating felt that the workshop was a great success. The special subject provided a rich body of textual material for the study of relations between Judaism and Islam. And most important, this workshop was at the ‘cutting edge’ of the field. To our knowledge, this specific subject has not been examined in this way before, while the general area of the history of ideas in Muslim-Jewish relations is still, to all intents and purposes, an unstudied subject. We hope to make it a main area of scholarly activity at the Centre.

Muslim-Jewish Relations

The Centre has made Jewish history in the Muslim world and the relations and cultural interchange between Judaism and Islam an integral part of its teaching and research. There are at present two full-time Fellows in this field at the Centre: the Fellow in Muslim-Jewish Relations in the Middle Ages and the Fellow in Muslim-Jewish Relations in the Modern Period (the latter also works on medieval subjects). These Fellows teach a wide range of courses and supervise research students for the BA, MPhil, and DPhil degrees of Oxford University. Both Fellows are deeply engaged in research in their respective areas, working with Hebrew, Judeo-Arabic, and Arabic texts and manuscripts.

In addition to teaching and research in Muslim-Jewish relations, the Centre regularly holds seminars, workshops and public lectures on this subject, including the annual workshop on the History of Ideas in Muslim-Jewish Relations held at Yarnton Manor to which scholars come from many countries to read and discuss texts together. The last workshop of this kind, in July 1991, had among others, participants from the Netherlands, Australia and Egypt.

The Centre has recently founded a new publication called *Studies in Muslim-Jewish Relations*, under the editorship of R. L. Nettle. It will appear regularly, and to our knowledge, is the only one of its kind in the world.

The Qumran Project

The opening of the Qumran Room at Yarnton Manor took place on 1 July 1991. Chaired by Dr E. W. Nicholson, Provost of Oriel College, the ceremony was attended by many leading experts in the study of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Professor Emanuel Tov, Editor-in-Chief of the Scrolls, gave a lecture entitled 'Some unpublished "Biblical Paraphrases" from Qumran' which was followed by a paper delivered by Professor Geza Vermes describing unknown fragments of the Qumran Community Rule.

The Centre has catalogued the photographic copies of all the Scrolls and fragments, and from 1 October 1991 Professor Vermes will begin a Forum for Qumran Research with the aim of organizing open lectures and seminars to discuss the work in progress.

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. Volume 42 was published in 1991 and included over fifteen articles and sixty book reviews.

The Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary of Current Usage

The final revision of one of the Centre's major projects, *The Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary of Current Usage*, has just been completed and was sent to typesetters in Israel in August 1991. The dictionary is edited by N. S. Doniach, OBE, with the assistance of Dr Ahuvia Kahane

and has benefited from contributions by prominent Hebrew writers and scholars including Benjamin Tammuz, Joshua Kenaz and Yoram Bronowski.

The Sacks Lecture

The seventeenth Sacks Lecture was given by Gloria Cigman, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Comparative Studies at the University of Warwick, on 29 May 1991 at Yarnton Manor. She spoke on 'The Jew as an Absent-Presence in Late Medieval England', and explained how the Jews remained in the English consciousness long after their expulsion from the country in 1290. Ms Cigman included in her lecture slides of medieval manuscript illustrations.

The lecture was attended by an audience of over one hundred including members of the Sacks family. The Sacks Lecture was established in 1974 by friends of the late Samuel and Elsie Sacks.

The Maxwell Lecture

The second Maxwell Lecture was delivered on 30 April 1991 by Dr John P. Fox, the 1990–91 Maxwell Fellow for the Study and Teaching of the Holocaust at the Oxford Centre. Dr Fox's lecture was entitled 'Auschwitz, Nazi Ideological Imperatives and Rational Historization'. Dr David Patterson, President of the Oxford Centre, presided over the lecture and introduced the speaker.

The Jewish Law Lecture

The third annual Jewish Law Lecture, entitled 'Objectivity and Subjectivity in Jewish Legal Decisions: The Debate on A.I.D.' was given by Rabbi Dr Louis Jacobs at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London, on 18 June 1991. The lecture was arranged under the joint auspices of the Institute and the Jewish Law Fellowship of the Centre and was chaired by the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Taylor. The vote of thanks was given by Professor T. Daintith.

The London Lecture Series

As a consequence of the tumultuous political events of 1990–91 the London Lecture Series, sponsored by the Oxford Centre and the Israel Diaspora Trust, took on a new form of presentation. Professor Ron

Nettler gave a briefing on 'The Gulf Crisis: The Implications for International Affairs and the Arab-Muslim World' which took place in the Grosvenor House Hotel on 30 January 1991. Dr Dovid Katz spoke on his impressions of Lithuania following his visit to the country in December 1990. The talk was held at the Athenaeum Club in London on 7 March 1991. On 27 June 1991 Professor Ron Nettler gave a second briefing entitled, 'In the Wake of the Gulf Crisis: Religious and Cultural Trends in the Middle East' at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, London.

YIDDISH STUDIES

The Oxford-Vilnius Agreement

In spite of the troubles in Lithuania's capital city of Vilnius (Vilna) at the beginning of 1991, a historic agreement was negotiated between the University of Vilnius, the oldest university in the region (founded in 1579), and the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies. The agreement was one of the results of Dr Dovid Katz's one month stay in the Baltic capital during December 1990 and January 1991. Dr Katz, the Centre's Wolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Studies, is Director of Studies of the Centre's programme in Yiddish language and literature.

In close cooperation with Dr Meyer Shub, who is Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Vilnius, a detailed plan of cooperation between the two institutions was worked out. Ratified by the Centre's Academic Advisory Council and its Board of Governors, the agreement provides for top students from Vilnius to study at Oxford in the framework of the one month summer course in Yiddish, the One-Year Programme in Jewish Studies, and the various MLitt and DPhil research degrees within the University.

Additional clauses in the agreement, drafted by Dr Katz and Professor Rimantas Remeika, dean of Vilnius University's Faculty of Philology, provide for the Centre to send a visiting professor of Yiddish to Vilnius to help set up a permanent Yiddish language programme. Vilnius University will provide facilities for visiting students and scholars from Oxford.

Known before World War II as Vilna, the city was the historic 'capital' of East European Jewish culture for hundreds of years. In the nineteenth century it became a great centre of Hebrew and Yiddish literature, and in the twentieth it became the world centre of Yiddish scholarship. In fact, the Oxford Centre takes pride in continuing the Vilna tradition of 'Yiddish scholarship in Yiddish'. It was in that spirit that the Centre launched *Oksforder yidish* in 1990. It is the first new Yiddish academic journal to be founded since the launch of *Yivo bleter* in Vilna in 1931.

Candidates who apply for periods of study at Oxford under the terms of the new agreement will be approved by Professor Meyer Shub of Vilnius University, who recently emerged from retirement to start a Jewish studies programme. His dream is that the new agreement will in due course enable students to return to Vilnius as trained specialists and build a permanent programme in Jewish studies in the Baltic capital. Professor Shub, despite severe injuries suffered at the hands of

the Nazis, invests enormous energy in teaching and inspiring students.

In addition to teaching and carrying out research in Jewish studies, trained specialists will be in a position to catalogue and make available to scholars from around the world the many thousands of Jewish books, documents and cultural artifacts that remain in Lithuania, but are inaccessible to scholars and students elsewhere.

Professor Rimantas Remeika issued a statement saying: 'We at Vilnius University are acutely aware of the proud and tragic history of the Vilnius Jewish community and its vast contributions to modern civilization generally and to Lithuanian culture specifically. We feel certain this historic agreement will contribute to the study of those contributions here in Vilnius, and internationally.'

All parts of the agreement are wholly contingent upon the necessary funding materializing. To this end, the Centre would be happy to hear from individuals and institutions interested in providing support.

The Postgraduate Research Programme

After the successful completion of four postgraduate Oxford theses in Yiddish linguistics and in literary history under Dr Dovid Katz's supervision a new generation of postgraduate students embarked upon their work in the field of Yiddish in the University's Medieval and Modern Languages Faculty.

Both Ms Helen Beer, a graduate of Monash University (Australia), who also completed graduate courses in Yiddish literature and folklore at the Hebrew University, and Ms Jennifer Dowling, a graduate of Ohio State University (Columbus, Ohio) and a veteran of two Oxford summer programmes in Yiddish, enrolled as full-time graduate students at the University. Ms Beer (Worcester College) started her research on 'Folk and literary derivations in the ballads of Itzik Mángner'. Ms Dowling (Wolfson College) began her study of the popular narrative genres of pre-modern Yiddish literature from comparative literary, semiotic and ethnographic perspectives. Ms Magdalena Pirozynska, a graduate of Cracow University who participated in two summer programmes in Yiddish, spent the academic year 1990-1991 as a Soros scholar at Oxford where she began her research project on Jewish-Polish linguistic and cultural interrelationships with special focus on comparative Yiddish and Polish pareomiology (study of proverbs). A third full-time graduate student was accepted by the University of Oxford for the ensuing academic year (1991-1992). Gennady Estraiikh, a native of Zaporozhye in the Ukraine and a resident of Moscow, is a well-known and already accomplished Yiddish author

of the younger generation who began to publish his work in the mid-1980s. Upon his arrival to Oxford Mr EstraiKh will embark upon his research into the 'Origins and Structure of Soviet Yiddish'. All four research students are working under the supervision of Dr Dov-Ber Kerler, Sir Leslie and Lady Porter Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature at the Centre and at Lincoln College, Oxford.

The Sixth Annual Winter Symposium

Thirty leading Yiddish scholars from around the world participated in the sixth annual Oxford Winter Symposium in Yiddish Studies, held at the Centre from 9 to 11 December 1990. Of the twenty learned papers read, twelve were in Yiddish.

This year's symposium was devoted to the subject of Yiddish in the Soviet Union. Experts in the fields of Yiddish language, linguistics, ethnography, theatre, and literature delivered papers on various aspects of Soviet Yiddish culture, past and present.

The keynote address was delivered by Josef Kerler, one of the leading Yiddish poets of our time. In the 1960s and early 1970s, Kerler pioneered and inspired the Soviet Jewish writers' dissident movement for freedom of expression and emigration. He delivered an impassioned talk on the fate of Soviet Yiddish poetry whose greatest poets were murdered by Stalin in 1938 and 1952. Josef Kerler, a veteran of the Second World War, himself endured six years' hard labour in the Vorkuta region of the Gulag Archipelago. He is the author of seven books of poetry, two volumes of short stories, memoirs and literary criticism. He edits *Yerusholaymer almanakh*, one of the world's leading Yiddish literary periodicals, which continues to appear uninterrupted since 1973.

Papers on Yiddish in the Soviet Union today were read by Professor Wolf Moskovich (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Professor Joseph Bar-El (Bar-Ilan University), Mr Bono Wiener (Elwood, Australia), and Dr Schneier Levenberg (Jewish Agency, London). Other lectures focused on personalities and issues in the rich and tragic history of Soviet Jewish culture from the Russian Revolution to the present.

Mr Romas Kinka, Political Affairs Coordinator of the Lithuanian Association in London and Adviser to President Landsbergis, addressed the symposium on the current state of affairs in Lithuania.

The symposium also highlighted the achievements of the Centre's present and former students. Esther Hürlimann, a summer course veteran, spoke on the 'Yiddish press of Russian Jewish emigrés in Switzerland'. Peter Varga, a summer course graduate from Budapest, talked on

'Yiddish in Karpato-Ukraine'. Magdalena Pirozynska, a Soros scholar from Poland, discussed 'Problems of comparative Yiddish-Polish paremiology' and Jennifer Dowling, a participant in the summer course and a doctoral candidate in Yiddish literature at Oxford University, spoke on 'The search for the origins of Yiddish folktales'.

Symposium proceedings appear in print in the *Winter Studies in Yiddish* series. The first two volumes, *Origins of the Yiddish Language*, and *Dialects of the Yiddish Language*, were edited by Dr Dovid Katz and published by Pergamon Press, Oxford. The third volume, *History of Yiddish Studies*, was edited by Dr Dov-Ber Kerler and published by Harwood Academic Publishers. Volume four is nearing completion and will appear thanks to the generous provision of a publication grant by the Littauer Foundation in New York.

The Tenth Annual Summer Programme

This year marked the tenth anniversary of the Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish Language and Literature. The course was held from 5 to 30 August 1991. Over the last decade the intensive four-week course has produced over 700 graduates, from more than 25 countries. This year's students came from Austria, Belgium, England, France, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and the United States.

The 1991 faculty included Ms Helen Beer of Worcester College, Oxford; Mr Johannes Brosi, Lecturer in Yiddish at the Oxford Centre; Dr Dov-Ber Kerler, Fellow in Yiddish Studies at the Centre and Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford; and Mr Yitskhok Niborski, who directs Yiddish studies at the Sorbonne and acted as Director of Studies while Dr Dovid Katz was on sabbatical leave.

The core of the programme comprises the intensive language courses held each morning: Yiddish I (elementary), Yiddish II (intermediate), Yiddish III (higher intermediate) and Yiddish IV (advanced). It is especially gratifying to note that this Summer Programme attracted the most advanced group of students in its history. Each one of the ten students in Yiddish IV prepared and presented a number of papers on various issues and personalities in modern Yiddish literature and scholarship.

This year's programme featured a rich schedule of afternoon lectures on a wide range of topics: 'Topics in Yiddish Linguistics' (Professor Wolf Moskovich, Hebrew University of Jerusalem); 'Yiddish Humour and Folklore' (Mr Yehuda Elberg, Montreal, Canada); Yiddish Theatre Workshop (Ms Miriam Hoffman and Ms Rena Borow, both directors of the Joseph Papp Yiddish Theatre, New York); 'A Yiddish *vert!*' (Professor Joseph Bar-El, Bar Ilan University); 'Themes and Variations

in Yiddish Song' (Professor S.S. Praver, Queen's College, Oxford). Other lectures were given by Mr Brad Sabin Hill on 'The Dialects of Yiddish'; Ms Melanie DeWynter on 'The Life and Works of Joseph Hillel Levy'; and Mr Majer Bogdanski on 'Yiddish Folksong'. Once again there were a number of theatrical events. Miss Anna Tzelniker, doyenne of the London Yiddish stage, performed a 'Cavalcade of Yiddish Theatre', and Mr Bernard Mendelovich performed 'The World of Yiddish Theatre in Story and Song'. As in previous years, Professor William Fishman conducted a tour of the East End of London. The well known Yiddish author Yehuda Elberg from Canada gave an enthusiastic closing speech at the Programme's graduation ceremony at Yarnnton Manor.

Support for Yiddish Studies

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

Mr Sidney and Mrs Elizabeth Corob, who established the Wolf Corob Memorial Fellowship at the Centre and at St Antony's College, continued to generously support the administrative budget which enables the Centre's Yiddish Studies programme to flourish.

Sir Leslie and Lady Porter established the Fellowship in Yiddish Language and Literature at Lincoln College and the Centre in 1988 and continued their kind support.

Mr Chic and Mrs Dorothy Wolk, of Los Angeles, California, again offered a series of scholarships to enable deserving students to attend the Summer Programme. The Walter Artzt Foundation of Palm Beach, Florida, also provided a number of scholarships which enabled full-time students to come at half the regular fees.

The summer course again benefited from the contribution of the Albert E. and Lillian C. Marks Charitable Trust Scholarships. This year the Marks Scholarship was awarded to Mr Misha Jakobas, an assistant headmaster of the Jewish School in Vilnius. He returned to Lithuania after the course to introduce the first Yiddish studies course in his school.

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

Mendel Tabatznik Graduate Scholarships

For the fourth consecutive year, the annual series of Mendel Tabatznik Graduate Scholarships enabled talented students from around the

world to complete MLitt and DPhil research degrees in Yiddish studies in the University of Oxford, and to carry out specific research and publication projects. The scholarships were established by the Tabatznik family in 1987 in memory of the well-known Yiddish poet and essayist Mendel Tabatznik (1894 – 1975), a native of Kletz, Byelorussia, who migrated to Johannesburg in 1927. In addition to his volumes of poetry and literary criticism, Tabatznik played a leading role in Yiddish educational institutions, both in his youth in Russia and his later years in Johannesburg. His final book was his autobiographical *Shtaplen in mayn lebnsveg* (1973). The 1991–92 holders of the Tabatznik Scholarships are Ms Jennifer Dowling from Ohio State University and Mr Gennady Estraiikh, a Yiddish writer from Moscow.

Ninth Annual A.-N. Stencl Lecture

The ninth Annual Avrom-Nokhem Stencl Lecture in Yiddish Studies was delivered on 12 August 1991 by Professor Chone Shmeruk, the leading authority on the history of Yiddish literature. Professor Shmeruk's lecture was entitled 'The Children's Literature of Isaac Bashevis Singer'. In his lecture Professor Shmeruk traced and analysed the diverse sources of Bashevis's works for children, especially those that were later rewritten or reclassified as children's literature.

Traditions were maintained. Mr Montague Richardson, former director of the Adler Street Settlement House, took the chair, and Professor S. S. Praver, Oxford University's former Taylor Professor of German Language and Literature, offered the vote of thanks. The Stencl Lecture series was inaugurated in 1983 to commemorate Avrom-Nokhem Stencl (1897–1983), the beloved Yiddish poet of Whitechapel, whose devotion to Yiddish was legendary. Mr Stencl edited the Whitechapel journal *Loshn un lebn* from the days of the Blitz until his death.

Each year's Stencl Lecture is published by the Centre in pamphlet form, and edited by Dr Dov-Ber Kerler, the Centre's Sir Leslie and Lady Porter Fellow in Yiddish Studies.

Oksforder yidish

The second volume of *Oksforder yidish* ('Oxford Yiddish'), edited by Dr Dovid Katz, came off the press. The 300-page volume comprises papers by Yiddish scholars from around the world, including a number by young scholars trained at the Oxford Centre. Assistant editors for Volume Two were Dr Marion Aptroot and Dr Dov-Ber Kerler.

Winter Studies in Yiddish III

The third volume of *Winter Studies in Yiddish*, entitled *History of Yiddish Studies*, edited by Dr Dov-Ber Kerler, was published in early 1991. It comprises twelve studies that cover a range of topics including Yiddish linguistics, dialectology, historical semantics, old and modern Yiddish folklore, literature and drama. The contributors all address themselves to aspects of the history and methodology of Yiddish scholarship.

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. The *Campaign for Yiddish at Oxford* seeks to achieve funds for the endowment of a Department 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). Various five and ten year arrangements can be made via annual rather than capital sums. Individuals and institutions interested in supporting Yiddish at Oxford are invited to contact Ms Marie Wright, coordinator of the Oxford Programme in Yiddish at 45 St Giles', Oxford OX1 3LW (telephones: 0865 311030/511869).

The One-Year Programme in Jewish Studies

Nineteen students from seven countries attended the Centre's One-Year Programme in Jewish Studies. The programme combined an intensive interdisciplinary curriculum in Jewish Studies with the social life of an Oxford student.

The Students

The students participating in the programme came from Britain, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Poland and the United States. They varied in age from 19 to 65 and spanned a wide range of backgrounds. Of the nineteen students, twelve were graduates and seven undergraduates. Among the students were Kirsten Burmeister, a graduate from the University of Heidelberg; Adrienne Jacobson, a graduate from the University of California; Karin Peterson, an undergraduate from Mount Holyoke College, and Vincent Skemp, a graduate from St John's University in Minnesota.

For the first time since the programme started, two of the participants came from Eastern Europe: Maria Glodek, a graduate from the University of Warsaw, and Alexis Leonas, an undergraduate from the University of Budapest. Both Maria and Alexis are pioneers in Jewish studies in their home universities. Maria is completing her doctoral thesis entitled 'The Work of I.L. Peretz in the Context of the Tradition of Polish Literature'.

Participating in the programme from Britain were Joanna Coburn and Elizabeth Goldschmidt, both graduates from the University of Manchester; Howard Seal, a graduate from the University of Brunel; and Julia Shay, a graduate from the University of St Andrews. Elizabeth, Howard, and Julia plan to continue in the field of Jewish studies.

Karina Sonnenberg, a graduate from Sara Lawrence College, is going on to do an MLitt in Jewish Studies in the University of Oxford for the academic year 1991-92.

The Faculty

Professor Ron Nettler continued as Director of Studies and Mrs Beatrice Lucas the Coordinator. Apart from courses given by Fellows of the Centre a number of seminars were conducted by Visiting Scholars and Lecturers including: Dr Sidney Brichto, Professor William Fishman (University of London), Dr John Fox (Visiting Maxwell Fellow in Holocaust Studies), Professor Henry Green (University of Miami),

Dr Jeremy Hughes (University of Oxford), Mr Jeremy Schonfield, and Professor Ezra Spicehandler (Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati).

Courses

Over thirty courses, including Biblical Hebrew, Modern Hebrew and Yiddish, were offered to the students. Each term students chose three courses in addition to a language. Students also had an option of working on independent research. Among the courses given were:

Introduction to Judaism
Jewish Ceremonial Life
Jewish Liturgy
Biblical Anthropology
Jewish History from 170 BC to AD 500
Readings in Postbiblical Hebrew
The Abraham Legends in the Postbiblical Period
Jews and Christians in the Fourth-Century Persian Empire
The Jews of Medieval Islam
Introduction to Modern Jewish History: Central and Western Europe
The History of Islamic Ideas on Judaism
The Poetry of Hayyim Nachman Bialik
The Origins of Jewish Nationalism
Hebrew Literature of the State of Israel
Jewish Immigration: A Survey of the East London Settlement, 1870–1960
History of Russian and Soviet Jewry
Nazi Holocaust of the Jews: Its Genesis, History and Historical Interpretations
Issues of Contemporary Jewry
Readings in Modern Yiddish Literature
Yiddish Literature in Transition, 1790–1864
The Jews of the United States, 1881–1991
Religion and Politics of Israel
Biblical Hebrew
Modern Hebrew – Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced
Yiddish – Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced

Extracurricular Activities

Throughout the year the students had access to the Kressel Library in Yarnton Manor and were noted to have worked there well into the

night on many occasions. The students also had access to the Bodleian Library, the Oriental Institute Library, the Taylorian Library, the Ashmolean Museum Library and the Middle East Library in St Antony's College.

Many of the students attended and participated in the weekly evening seminars and fortnightly dinners and talks which were held in the Manor. The programme also organized a number of trips, including a tour in London of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, a visit to the Israel State of the Art Exhibition at the Barbican Theatre, and a tour of the East End of London conducted by Professor W. Fishman. Finally, Dr and Mrs Patterson hosted a traditional American Thanksgiving Dinner at their home to which all the students were invited.

Several students became involved in different aspects of college and university life. Some attended Oxford Union Society activities and debates, others were involved in the Oxford University Jewish Society. Three of the students joined the rowing team of Wolfson College and successfully competed in races.

The One-Year Programme would like to record its gratitude to the following benefactors who have assisted with scholarships during the academic year: the Doron Foundation, Jerusalem; Philip and Muriel Berman Centre, Lehigh, Pennsylvania; Mrs Vivian Singer and Mrs Harriet Goldman, Illinois, for the Shalom Singer Memorial Scholarship; Dr Carl Hermann Voss, Florida; Mrs Raquel Newman, San Francisco, for the Shamai Davidson Memorial Scholarship; Mr Herbert Neuman, New York; and Lord David Young, London.

The Rich Seminar

This summer at Yarnton Manor an original formula in academic discourse was successfully tested. An intensive international research workshop held meetings throughout July and August 1991 on the topic 'Israel: The First Decade of Independence'.

The Rich Foundation of Paris funded the seminar, which was the first of two sessions, to be followed in the summer of 1992 by a second session covering different aspects of the same broad topic. Professor Ilan Troen of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Dr Noah Lucas of the Centre co-chaired the seminar and will jointly edit a volume incorporating the papers and discussions. The second session of the seminar, scheduled for July-August 1992, will include some new participants from Britain and the United States together with some who took part in the first session. The 1992 meetings will address aspects of

the 1950s not covered in the first session, and a second book will be published to reflect the scholars' findings. The following is a list of the 1991 participants and their subjects:

Senior Fellows

Professor Yosef Gorny (Tel Aviv University): Israel-diaspora relations
Professor Moshe Lissak (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Civil-military relations
Dr Noah Lucas (Oxford Centre): Socialism and nationalism
Professor Ilan Troen (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev): Settlement ideology and policy
Professor Alex Weingrod (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev): Moroccan and Iraqi immigrants

Additional Senior Participants

Professor Menahem Friedman (Bar-Ilan University and Skirball Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre): the Orthodox and the State
Professor Ezra Spicehandler (Hebrew Union College and Skirball Visiting Fellow at the Centre): Literature and society
Dr Glenda Abramson (Oxford Centre): Hebrew drama and poetry
Dr David Patterson (Oxford Centre): Hebrew literature

Junior Fellows

Dr Rafi Cohen-Almagor (Oxford University): Nation-building ideology
Dr Arnon Golan (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Abandoned Arab villages
Dr Y. Hadari-Ramage (Tel Aviv University): the Hebrew press and public philosophy in 1956
Dr A. Korn (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): the Arabs and military rule
Dr Ilan Pappé (Haifa University): Israeli Arabs and the State
Dr Eli Tzur (Givat Haviva Institute of Advanced Study): Mapam and the new immigrants
Dr Yechiam Weitz (Haifa University and the Open University of Israel): Mapai and the Kastner trial
Dr Hanna Yablonka (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev): Holocaust survivors in military service

Visiting participants

Professor Arnon Sofer (Haifa University); Dr Martin Kolinsky (University of Birmingham); Dr Roger Owen (Oxford University); Professor

Saul Cohen (City University of New York); Mr Ben-Zion Tomer (Tel Aviv); Mr Yitzhac Laor (Tel Aviv); Mr Gaby Piterberg (Oxford University); Professor Emmanuel Guttman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem); Dr Joshua Haberman (Washington DC)

(For participants' reports on the Rich Seminar, see the Individual Reports below.)

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Fellows of the Centre

Dr GLENDA ABRAMSON, Jacob and Shoshana Schreiber Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies, Cowley Lecturer in Postbiblical Hebrew, and Senior Research Fellow of St Cross College, continued to teach modern Hebrew literature to university undergraduates, graduates and One-Year Programme students. She supervised two DPhil theses and one MPhil thesis and served as the external examiner for the University of Manchester and Leo Baeck College.

In Hilary Term 1991, Dr Abramson delivered a series of eight lectures entitled 'Hebrew Literature of the State of Israel'. In November 1990, she delivered a public lecture entitled 'Kafka's Storytellers' at the Barbican Art Gallery in London in the context of the exhibition *The Jewish Experience in Art*. Dr Abramson also attended the Association for Jewish Studies Conference which takes place in Boston every December where she gave a paper on 'The Problematics of David Vogel'. In February 1991, Dr Abramson gave a talk to the Council for Christians and Jews entitled 'Allusiveness and Intertextuality in Modern Hebrew Literature', and in June 1991 she delivered a paper on 'The Literature of the Intifada' at a conference in Manchester University on Israeli Literature in the 1980s.

Dr Abramson served throughout the year as the editor of the *BAJS Bulletin* (British Association for Jewish Studies) and continued to be a member of the Executive Committee of St Cross College.

Dr DANIEL FRANK, Marc Rich Fellow in Jewish-Muslim Relations in the Medieval Period and Solon Research Fellow of Wolfson College, completed during 1990 his Harvard University doctoral dissertation, 'The Religious Philosophy of the Karaite Aaron ben Elijah', and continued work on two projects relating to Jewish history and literature in the Mediterranean during the tenth to twelfth centuries: a volume on Judah Halevi for the 'Jewish Thinkers' series (Peter Halban Publishers) and a series of studies on Karaite Bible commentaries in Judeo-Arabic. In July he participated in the Centre's Second Annual Workshop on the History of Ideas in Muslim-Jewish Relations, presenting a paper on exegetical terminology in tenth-century biblical exegesis. In August, he attended the biennial conference of the Society for Judaeo-Arabic Studies in Princeton where he presented a paper entitled 'Mashal and Mathal in Tenth-Century Biblical Exegesis'. During the past year he lectured on the following Hebrew texts: Mishnah Sanhedrin, Midrash

Genesis Rabbah, and selections from the biblical exegesis of Rashi and Ibn Ezra. For the Centre's One-Year Programme he offered readings in postbiblical Hebrew literature and a course on the Jews of Arab lands in the Middle Ages.

Dr MARTIN GOODMAN, Solon Fellow in Jewish-Christian Relations in the Early Centuries, Reader in Jewish Studies, and Professorial Fellow, Wolfson College, continued his research on the concept of mission in ancient religions; his findings will be delivered as the Wilde Lectures in the University of Oxford in Hilary Term 1992. He has also completed a study of the notion of sacred space in diaspora Judaism, a topic on which he gave a paper to the Jewish History seminar in Oxford in October 1990 and again to a conference on the Jewish Diaspora under the auspices of Tel Aviv University in January 1991. Among other public lectures he addressed the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin in November 1990 on the political and social history of first-century Palestine, and in April 1991 he engaged in a public discussion with Dr Tessa Rajak in front of an audience at Yakar in London on the topic of Jewish reactions to the destruction of the Second Temple. In June 1991 he spoke in King's College, London to a conference of classics teachers about the teaching of Jewish history within classics courses at school level.

Dr Goodman has been much engaged in the supervision and teaching of DPhil students (for Oriental Studies, Theology and Ancient History), of MPhil students (for Oriental Studies and Theology), and of BA students (for Literae Humaniores, Oriental Studies and Theology). He gave a lecture series to large audiences in Michaelmas Term 1990 on Jews and Christians in the Early Roman Empire and in Trinity Term 1991 on Jewish History, AD 70–425. He was joint convenor of the regular Tuesday afternoon seminars on Jewish History and Institutions, and of a termly seminar on Religions in the Ancient Mediterranean World.

Dr Goodman was involved a great deal with administration as Tutor for Admissions for St Cross College for the second year and as Honorary Secretary of the British Association for Jewish Studies for the fifth year.

During the year, Dr Goodman was elected to the Readership in Jewish Studies in the University of Oxford, to take up office in October 1991 on the retirement of Professor Geza Vermes. In connection with this post he was also elected to a Professorial Fellowship at Wolfson College.

Dr AHUVIA KAHANE, Junior Research Fellow in Hebrew Lexicography and Junior Research Fellow of St Cross College, continued to prepare the *Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary of Current Usage* for

press. The *Dictionary* was submitted to typesetters in Israel in August 1991 and will be published by summer 1992. Dr Kahane is currently engaged in compiling a companion to the *Dictionary* which involves assessing new sources, examining bi-lingual lexicographic theory, and researching computing and database techniques. At the same time, he is also collecting material for a monograph on Eliezer Ben-Yehuda's lexicographic method and success in reviving the Hebrew language. In addition Dr Kahane is preparing several articles on the early Greek epic and on the Roman novel by implementing recent developments in linguistics to a literary understanding of the texts. He is also researching the stratification of modern Hebrew and the non-classical elements in Israeli Hebrew.

Throughout the year Dr Kahane gave a number of public lectures: 'The First Word of the Odyssey', to the American Philological Association, San Francisco, on 29 December 1990; 'Ha-politropia ha-odisa'it' to the Israeli Classical Studies Conference, Tel Aviv, on 30 May 1991; 'The Paradox of Modern Hebrew and the Hebrew of OEHDCU', for the seminar in honour of N. S. Doniach, 12 May 1991, at Yarnton Manor.

Dr DOVID KATZ, Wolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature, Hebrew Centre Lecturer in the Faculty of Modern Languages, and Wolf Corob Memorial Fellow of St Antony's College, continued to serve as Director of Studies of the Oxford Programme in Yiddish.

Dr Katz edited and saw through the press volume 2 of *Oksforder yidish*, the Centre's academic annual in Yiddish. He taught a number of courses during the academic year, including 'Readings in Yiddish Linguistics' and an introduction to Yiddish dialectology designed for specialists in literature (rather than linguists).

He revised his paper 'The Children of Heth and the Ego of Linguistics: A Story of Seven Yiddish Mergers', which was published in 1991 in *Transactions of the Philological Society*. He also revised and prepared for publication his paper 'Der semitisher kheylik in yidish: a yerushe fun kadmoynim'.

Dr Katz gave interviews to the *New York Times*, the *Forward* and the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, all of which resulted in coverage of the Centre's historic progress in Yiddish studies.

In December 1990, Dr Katz travelled to Lithuania for one month on behalf of the Centre. In preparation for his trip, he met with Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis in London on 13 November. The major aim was to negotiate an agreement between the Centre and the University of Vilnius. To this end, he worked out a detailed proposal with Meyer Shub, Professor of Jewish Studies at Vilnius University, and with Rimantas Remeika, the dean of the university's Faculty of Philology.

One of the top priorities of the plan is for the best Jewish studies students in Vilnius to participate in various of the Centre's programmes in Jewish studies. Hopefully some will stay for doctoral work and will return to Vilnius as fully trained specialists. Additional aspects covered are the eventual provision of a visiting professor of Yiddish to the University of Vilnius, and the selection of an appropriate library.

In addition to his successful negotiation of the Oxford-Vilnius Memorandum of Understanding, Dr Katz established contacts with the Vilnius Jewish National School, a day school on the elementary and intermediate levels where hundreds of Jewish children study a wide array of Jewish subjects. One of the results of these contacts is that Mr Misha Jakobos, assistant director of the school, participated in the 1991 Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish Language and Literature. Mr Jakobos plans to teach Yiddish upon his return to Vilnius.

During the trip, Dr Katz carried out dialectological research within the Vilnius Jewish community. He also did research on the villages of Mikhalishek and Svir, and the town of Svintsyan, whence his own family hailed. Dr Katz's father, New York Yiddish poet Menke Katz (1906–1991), dedicated much of his poetry to these villages, especially Mikhalishek, where the family had lived for six hundred years. Dr Katz carried out taped interviews with aged members of the local population on life in the area prior to and during the First World War. He is collaborating with Dr Irena Veisaite, a professor of West European literature in Vilnius, on investigating the possibility of a documentary film about the village. Marie Wright, coordinator of the Centre's Yiddish programme, who has a wide background in drama and film, hopes to produce the documentary.

While in Vilnius, Dr Katz gave three interviews to Radio Vilnius, two in English and one in Yiddish. Upon his return, he published a series of articles in Yiddish on his Vilnius trip in New York's Yiddish weekly, the *Forward*. On 7 March 1991 he delivered a lecture entitled 'Impressions of Lithuania' at the Athenaeum Club in London, as part of the Centre's London Lecture Series.

Dr Katz applied for and was granted a one-year sabbatical leave with effect from the end of Hilary Term 1991, to enable him to write up and prepare for publication various research projects he has been working on for a number of years.

At the end of the 1990–91 academic year, Dr Katz completed thirteen years of service to the Centre.

Dr DOV-BER KERLER, Sir Leslie and Lady Porter Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature and Sir Leslie and Lady Porter Research Fellow in Yiddish Linguistics, Lincoln College, devoted most of his

time to supervision and teaching for the University and the Centre's One-Year Programme.

In Michaelmas term 1990 he taught a course called 'Readings in Modern Yiddish Literature', which was devoted to the works of Sholem Aleichem. In Hilary 1991 he taught 'Readings in 16th and 17th Century Yiddish Literature' which largely focused on the various narratives from the *Máyse bukh* (1596; 1602) and *Máyse nísim* (1696). In Trinity 1991, he conducted two seminars, entitled 'Readings in Pre-Modern Yiddish Literature (17th and 18th century)' and 'Yiddish Literature in Transition 1790-1864'. Each of these seminars concentrated on various central works and figures of pre-modern and early modern Yiddish literature with special attention to stylistic, sociolinguistic and semiotic aspects of the selected texts. In both seminars every participant presented one or two short introductory papers.

Dr Kerler also taught and examined the BA Option Paper 'Modern Yiddish Literature with Prescribed Texts' in the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages as well as supervising two DPhil students for the Faculty. He also served as the University's host supervisor of a Soros graduate scholar from Poland.

Working with Marie Wright, Dr Kerler planned and organized the Sixth Annual Winter Symposium in Yiddish Studies that took place in December 1990. In June he attended the international conference on Peretz Smolenskin, on the 150th anniversary of his birth, which was held at Yarnton Manor (23-25 June). Throughout August 1991 he taught Yiddish I and Yiddish IV at the Tenth Summer Programme in Yiddish Language and Literature and also served as the Programme's academic advisor. Dr Kerler was invited to serve as an external examiner for a doctoral thesis on modern Yiddish poetry submitted to the University of Stirling.

Dr Kerler is currently completing his book provisionally entitled *Origins of Modern Literary Yiddish*. In addition to his ongoing editorial work on volume 4 of *Winter Studies in Yiddish*, Dr Kerler has widely assisted with some of the editorial chores for volume 2 of the Centre's academic Yiddish yearbook, *Oksforder yidish* (edited by Dr Dovid Katz) and was appointed its assistant editor.

Dr Kerler pursued work on his intensive elementary Yiddish-language handbook as well as continued to collect materials for his research projects on traces of eastern Yiddish in older Yiddish literature; periodization and (socio)linguistic historiography of Yiddish and Ashkenaz; literary Yiddish in the early nineteenth century; the quasi-official Hebrew-Yiddish 'scribal' languages of Ashkenaz; the Yiddish component of modern Hebrew and the history of Soviet Yiddish philology and linguistics.

Dr HEINZ-DIETRICH LÖWE, Fellow in the History of Eastern European Jewry, History Faculty Lecturer in Russian History, and Fellow of St Antony's College, continued to teach the history of the Jews in Eastern Europe both as part of the MPhil in Russian studies and as part of the undergraduate curriculum. He also supervised two DPhil students who are preparing theses in the field of Jewish history. During Trinity Term 1991, Dr Löwe lectured for the University and the One-Year Programme on 'The History of Russian and Soviet Jewry'. Also for the One-Year Programme he supervised two students for dissertations on Jewish history. During Michaelmas Term 1990 and Hilary Term 1991, Dr Löwe lectured on 'Between Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1856-1917'. With Dr Harry Shukman, he ran a class on Russian history which introduced the history paper (Russia and the Soviet Union, 1856-1965) to the first-year students for the MPhil in Russian studies.

Together with Professor Norman Stone and Dr David Sorkin, Dr Löwe organized a seminar during Hilary Term on Jewish history to which he gave a paper discussing the relationship between the development of Jewish selfhelp and the awakening of a Jewish national consciousness. With Michael Hurst and Dr David Sorkin, Dr Löwe ran a seminar on contemporary politics in East-Central Europe in Michaelmas Term 1990 and a seminar entitled "'Recrudescence themes" in re-emergent nationalisms in Eastern Europe' in Trinity Term 1991.

During the year Dr Löwe completed a book on Tsarist Jewish policy and the rise of political anti-Semitism from 1772 to 1917. He also prepared for press an article on Russian nationalism and Tsarist nationalities policies from 1905 to 1914. Finally, he wrote a 20,000-word contribution to the *Oxford Companion to the Second World War* on the Soviet Union during that time.

Dr NOAH LUCAS, Librarian and Fellow in Israeli Studies, and Hebrew Centre Lecturer in Politics (from 1 April 1991) was invited to participate throughout the year in sessions of the Royal Institute of International Affairs' (Chatham House) Middle East Programme devoted to Israeli politics. In February he attended a meeting of the Hebraica Libraries' Group in London, and in April participated in a meeting in Oxford of the Middle East Libraries Committee (Melcom) of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies.

In March Dr Lucas addressed the Oxford branch of the Council for Christians and Jews on 'Religion in Israeli Politics'. In May, Dr Lucas delivered a paper on comparative laws of nationality at a conference on immigration held at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, jointly sponsored with the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr Lucas taught a course on 'Religion and Politics in Israel' for the One Year Programme, supervised an MPhil thesis on Israeli history at St Antony's College, and was appointed examiner for the MPhil in Modern Jewish Studies.

Together with Professor Ilan Troen, a Visiting Scholar at the Centre from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Dr Lucas organized and co-chaired the first Rich Seminar. The first session, an intensive international research workshop on the subject of Israel's development in the 1950s, took place at Yarnton Manor throughout July and August, with the participation of nine Senior Scholars from Israel, the USA and Britain, together with eight Junior Scholars at doctoral or postdoctoral level. The seminar will continue in 1992 with some new participants. In addition to taking part in the continuous discussion, Dr Lucas addressed the seminar on 'The Methodology of Political Science' and delivered a paper on 'Socialism and Nationalism in Flux in Israel in the 1950s'. Dr Lucas and Professor Troen are editing a book based on the papers and discussions of the seminar.

In September, Dr Lucas gave three talks in the United States. He lectured in the Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University (Bloomington), in the Political Science Department at Washington University (St Louis), and at Brandeis University under the auspices of the Departments of History and Near Eastern Studies.

Dr GEORGE MANDEL, David Hyman Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies and Research Fellow of Green College, continued his research on Eliezer Ben-Yehuda and on the revival of Hebrew. In October 1990 he attended the International Conference on Language Revival in Honor of the Centenary of Modern Hebrew in Jerusalem, and delivered two papers, one entitled 'The Revival of Hebrew - Were the Circumstances Unique?', and the other 'When did Ben-Yehuda First Propose that Hebrew be Made a Spoken Language?' In June 1991 Dr Mandel delivered a paper on 'Smolenskin, Ben-Yehuda, and the Future of Jewish Education' at Yarnton Manor to the International Inter-Disciplinary Conference on Peretz Smolenskin held to mark the 150th anniversary of the latter's birth.

As in previous years, Dr Mandel taught a course on Jewish Nationalism for the Centre's One-Year Programme. He also acted as assessor in the same subject for the MPhil examination in Modern Jewish Studies.

Dr Mandel also lectured to non-specialist audiences during the year. In March 1991 he spoke on the revival of Hebrew at a seminar on 'Israel - Cultural and Social Values in a Changing Democratic Society' at Yarnton Manor, organized by the Balfour Diamond Jubilee Trust, and in August 1991 he lectured and conducted workshops at a seminar

held in London under the auspices of the Spiro Institute to train teachers for the foundation course in Modern Jewish History at the Open University.

Professor RONALD L. NETTLER, Fellow in Muslim-Jewish Relations in the Modern Period and Hebrew Centre Lecturer in Oriental Studies, continued his 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. He also continued his research on the thought of the Muslim mystic Ibn 'Arabi (d. 1240) in which the subject of prophecy and some of the biblical prophets is a major theme. Professor Nettler continued work on the first volume of the new publication *Studies in Muslim-Jewish Relations*. It will include thirteen papers on various aspects of the subject, medieval and modern. The volume will go to press before the end of 1991. Professor Nettler has contributed a paper to this volume, and completed a number of other projects for publication.

Professor Nettler taught courses on Muslim-Jewish relations, modern Islamic fundamentalism and Islamic mysticism in the Faculty of Oriental Studies. He also tutored students in Muslim-Jewish relations for the MPhil in Modern Jewish Studies and in modern Islamic thought for the MPhil in Modern Middle Eastern Studies. Professor Nettler continued with his supervision of a DPhil student in Muslim-Jewish relations, while his MPhil student in this field completed her degree.

Professor Nettler organized a two-day international workshop on the history of ideas in Muslim-Jewish relations. The workshop was held in Yarnton Manor in July 1991. Another workshop on the same subject is being planned for July 1992.

Professor Nettler participated in an international conference on 'Religion and Capitalism' at Lancaster University in July 1991.

At the end of Trinity Term 1991, Professor Nettler was appointed Supernumerary Fellow in Oriental Studies in Mansfield College. The appointment begins officially in October 1991.

Dr DAVID PATTERSON, President of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies and Emeritus Fellow of St Cross College, continued his work on the growth and development of the Oxford Centre. He was appointed Series Editor of a new series entitled 'Modern Hebrew Classics', published by Westview Press in Boulder, Colorado. He attended a meeting of the Senate of the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien in Heidelberg and acted as chairman of the annual workshop on the Teaching of Modern Hebrew Literature in English Translation

in Jerusalem under the auspices of the International Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization, of which he is a member of the Board of Regents. He also attended a meeting of the European Development Conference in Jerusalem under the same auspices. Together with Professor A. Crown, he arranged for the Oxford Centre to have a complete set of photographs of the Qumran materials housed in the Rockefeller Museum and the Shrine of the Book in Jerusalem. He gave the opening address at the Sixth International Winter Symposium on Yiddish Studies and delivered the closing remarks at the Tenth Summer Programme of Yiddish Studies. Together with Dr Rivka Maoz he organized an international conference on the 150th anniversary of the birth of Peretz Smolenskin. He also took part in the two-month seminar on Israel in the 1950s, which he also helped to organize. He successfully negotiated a number of Hebrew Centre lecturerships at Oxford University and a number of fellowships at Oxford colleges for Fellows of the Oxford Centre. He is currently negotiating with the University for recognition of the Oxford Centre's One-Year Programme in Jewish Studies as a diploma course of Oxford University.

Dr ALISON SALVESEN, Fellow in Aramaic and Syriac Studies, resumed her Junior Research Fellowship at New College after a two-year spell as a temporary lecturer in the Oriental Institute. The first part of the year was spent completing two projects, the publication of her doctoral thesis, and an annotated translation of Ephrem the Syrian's commentary on Exodus. In the spring she was one of the speakers at the symposium held by the Centre to celebrate the eighty-fourth birthday of the lexicographer Naky Doniach, and chose the topic of the identification of Moses' staff with the cross in early Christian literature and the Jewish reaction to this idea. Over the spring vacation she participated in a project to translate the Maronite liturgy from Syriac into English for the use of Maronite congregations in the USA.

Besides helping with the preparation of the Centre's magazine, *Centrepiece*, Dr Salvesen taught two courses for the One-Year Programme: Jews and Christians in the Fourth-Century Persian Empire and Talmud Aramaic. She also acted as assessor for a number of postgraduate students at the University in Syrian and Aramaic studies, and examined a doctoral thesis on the theology of names in St Ephrem.

In addition, Dr Salvesen reviewed books on the Septuagint of Exodus and of Sirach, the theology of the Psalms in Greek, a new concordance to the Peshitta, and a Neo-Aramaic Targum to Leviticus, for the *Journal of Semitic Studies* and the *Journal of Jewish Studies*.

Dr DAVID SORKIN, Clore Fellow in the Roots of Modern Anti-Semitism, Hebrew Centre Lecturer in the Faculty of Modern History and Leslie Paisner Memorial Fellow of St Antony's College, was appointed to a Governing Body Fellowship at St Antony's College as of 1 October 1990. He taught an introduction to modern Jewish history (Central and Western Europe) for the One-Year Programme in Michaelmas Term and in Hilary Term he lectured on 'The Jews of Central and Western Europe, 1648–1945' and co-sponsored a seminar on 'Jewish History: The Problem of Comparison'. Dr Sorkin also tutored BA students in Hebrew for their preliminary examinations under the new syllabus.

During the year, Dr Sorkin lectured in Berlin at a conference organized by the Free University and Bar-Ilan University on 'Haskalah und Reform Katholizismus: ein Vergleich', and in Munich on 'Juden und Aufklärung' at the invitation of the C. H. Beck publishers and the University. He gave the George Webber Memorial Lecture to the London Society for Jewish Studies and in Oxford lectured to the Society for Christians and Jews on 'Religious Ideas of Religious Toleration in the Eighteenth Century: The Case of Germany'.

Dr Sorkin continued to work on a book comparing the responses of various religions to the Enlightenment in the eighteenth century and received a research grant from the British Academy to use libraries in Munich and Paris.

Peter Halban Publishers (London) has commissioned him to write an intellectual biography of Moses Mendelssohn for its 'Jewish Thinkers' series. Cambridge University Press has also commissioned him to write a volume entitled *European Jewry in the Age of Emancipation, 1750–1870* for its series, 'New Approaches to European History'.

In May he gave four public lectures at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris on the response of Jews and Catholics in Central Europe to the Enlightenment. He contributed an essay, 'From Context to Comparison: The Berlin Haskalah and Reform Catholicism', to an issue of the *Jahrbuch des Instituts für Deutsche Geschichte* (Tel Aviv) on German Jewish history in honour of Jacob Toury. In July he gave a paper at the Historisches Kolleg in Munich entitled 'Juden und Katholiken: Deutsch-jüdische Kultur der Aufklärungs- und Vormärzzeit im Vergleich'. The paper will be published by Oldenbourg press in the series of the Historisches Kolleg.

Dr Sorkin continued to edit a series for Basil Blackwell (Oxford and Cambridge, Mass.) entitled *Jewish Society and Culture*. The first volume in the series, David Cesarani, ed., *The Making of Modern Anglo-Jewry*, appeared in November 1989. The second volume, Ben-Zion Pinchuk, *The End of the Shtetl. The Soviet Occupation of Eastern Poland, 1939–41*, has just been published.

Dr Sorkin's book, *The Transformation of German Jewry, 1780-1840*, has been issued in paperback version by Oxford University Press. Also appearing in the autumn was a volume of biographical studies Dr Sorkin co-edited with Frances Malino (Wellesley College), entitled *From East and West: Jews in a Changing Europe, 1750-1870*, published by Basil Blackwell. The book is intended for university classroom use and appeared simultaneously in hardcover and paperback.

Dr JONATHAN WEBBER, Frank Green Fellow in Jewish Social Studies (from 1 January 1991), Hebrew Centre Lecturer in Social Anthropology (from 1 April 1991) and Research Fellow of Wolfson College (from 1 November 1990), continued with his research and teaching in the fields of contemporary Jewish society and biblical anthropology and, in particular, consolidated his involvement with the future of the site of the former concentration camp at Auschwitz.

In November 1990 Dr Webber went to Auschwitz to attend the second meeting of the International Auschwitz Council, where he was elected chairman of the Council's new standing committee for education, publications, information and public relations; in this capacity he became a member of the Council's praesidium. Later in the year he was invited by Cardinal Franciscus Macharski, Archbishop of Kraków, to become a member of the International Council of the new Centre of Information, Encounter, Dialogue, Education and Prayer in Auschwitz (the Centre which is to accommodate in its grounds the site of the new Carmelite convent).

Amongst other activities connected with his membership of these Councils, Dr Webber took on the responsibility for supervising the editing of the first major English-language album on Auschwitz to be published by the Auschwitz State Museum, and revised the commentary to the first video film to be produced by the Museum for sale to visitors. He attended the Fourth International Conference of Martyrological Museums, held in Auschwitz in November 1990, and, as a sequel to the conference of Jewish intellectuals and scholars which he co-organized in Yarnton in May 1990 on 'The Future of Auschwitz', he successfully applied to the Polish Ministry of Culture for financial sponsorship of a follow-up conference in 1992, to be held in Kraków and hosted by the Jagiellonian University. In England, he lectured on 'The Future of Auschwitz' to a variety of audiences: the Federation of Women Zionists of Great Britain and Ireland at WIZO House, London (the Levi and Meir Gertner Annual Memorial Lecture, on 30 October 1990, a lecture which was reported in the *Jewish Chronicle* on 9 November 1990); the Yakar Educational Foundation, London, on 27 January 1991; the Zionist Central Council of Greater Manchester, on 13

February 1991 (reported in the *Jewish Telegraph* on 15 February 1991); and the Parkes Library, University of Southampton, on 30 April 1991. A letter of his on the subject of Auschwitz was published in the *Jewish Chronicle* on 11 January 1991; other reports on his participation in the work of the International Auschwitz Council appeared for example in the *Canadian Jewish News* of 3 October 1990 and the *Tablet* of 1 December 1990.

Over the summer Dr Webber spent a month in Poland (supported, as in previous years, by the David Lewis Charitable Foundation); he conducted field research in Auschwitz, and also in the Tarnów region for his project on Jewish monuments of Galicia. In addition, the idea which he had devised the previous year, that of creating a four-week international summer programme in Polish-Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University, Kraków, came to fruition, in a format following the academic programme he had drafted. He visited the course ('Tracing the Jewish Heritage in Poland', as it came to be called) over several days and lectured and chaired discussions with the students. In his capacity as a Jewish member of the International Council of the new Catholic Centre, he also delivered a speech, entitled 'The Significance and Reality of Auschwitz', to three hundred French Catholic pilgrims from Toulouse (a group known as *Jeune Europe sans Frontière*) visiting Auschwitz en route for Czestochowa for a major international Catholic youth pilgrimage held there on 15 August.

Dr Webber continued during the year with his regular teaching programme at Oxford: the weekly seminar on 'Identity and Ethnicity' that he organizes (with Shirley Ardener and Tamara Dragadze) at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology met throughout Michaelmas and Hilary terms. The theme for the series in Michaelmas was 'Ethnic Identities in Transylvania', while the theme for the Hilary series was 'The Significance of Music'. For the Centre's One-Year Programme he taught a course on Biblical Anthropology in Hilary Term and supervised a student for a dissertation on 'Attitudes towards the Holocaust and Holocaust Education amongst a Sample of Anglo-Jewry'. He also taught modern Jewish sociology for an MPhil student he supervised in Modern Jewish Studies, acted as academic adviser and supervisor of various other students (including one from the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography working on the Bene Israel of India), and acted as an examiner for the Faculty of Modern Languages. As in previous years, he organized an exhibition of the Centre's publications at the annual Jewish Book Week in London.

Dr Webber's academic activities outside Oxford this year included a paper that he gave, in March 1991, entitled 'Modern Jewish Identities: The Ethnographic Complexities' at the Social Anthropology Staff-

Graduate Seminar at the University of Kent, Canterbury. In the same month he gave a shiur at Leo Baeck College, London, on 'The Clothing of the Priest: Part 2', an anthropological analysis of the dress rituals laid out in Leviticus 8. At a symposium organized on 12 May 1991 for Yom Yerushalayim, he spoke at the Yakar Educational Foundation, London, on the subject 'Holier than Thou: Jerusalem as a Holy City for Three Religions'. In July 1991 he attended a conference on 'The Sociology of Sacred Texts', organized by the Department of Religious Studies, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and delivered a paper entitled 'Creating a New Inscription for the Memorial at Auschwitz-Birkenau: A Short Chapter in the Mythologization of the Holocaust'. He was invited to examine a London University PhD thesis on an aspect of Anglo-Jewish sociology.

There were two overseas trips Dr Webber made this year with the aim of consolidating foreign collaborative links with the Oxford Centre in the field of Jewish studies. The first was a trip he made to Budapest in November 1990, as a guest of the Ethnographical Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, for meetings with specialists in Eastern European Jewish sociology. That visit led to the subsequent invitation of a young Hungarian Jewish scholar to spend Michaelmas Term 1991 at Yarnton. The second trip was to Jerusalem, in May 1991, after Dr Webber had been invited to become a member of the Frank Green Programme Committee (together with Professors Sergio Della-Pergola, Evyatar Friesel, and Robert Wistrich). The purpose of this visit was to meet the other members of the committee in order to coordinate arrangements for the activities of the Programme: the first Frank Green Lecture (to be held at Yarnton Manor in October 1991) and the first Frank Green Conference (on 'Jewish Identities in the New Europe', to be held in Yarnton in June 1992).

Dr Webber continued this year as a Council member of the Royal Anthropological Institute, where he was invited to become a founder member of its Middle East Committee, and so helped to organize a public symposium at the London School of Economics, on 28 April 1991, on the subject of the Gulf War ('Cultural aspects of conflict in the Middle East'). He was elected member of various Wolfson College committees for 1991-92 (Catering, Finance, and General Purposes). He continued as Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth, and attended its annual conference, held in Cambridge on 9-12 April 1991 on the subject of the anthropology of socialism; thereafter he retired from the ASA executive committee, having completed the statutory four years of service. He acted as reader for the anthropological journal *Man*, for Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, and the *Journal*

of Refugee Studies. He continued as managing editor of *JASO, Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford*, and, as series editor of the *JASO Occasional Papers Series*, saw through to publication the eighth volume of the series: *An Old State in New Settings: Studies in the Social Anthropology of China in Memory of Maurice Freedman*, edited by Hugh Baker and Stephan Feuchtwang.

Dr RICHARD WHITE, Fellow in Hebrew and Aramaic Studies, is on extended leave in the US.

Visiting Scholars

Dr AHUVA BELKIN writes: In the 1990–91 academic year I pursued my research on Jewish folk theatre. The association with the Centre was very fruitful, especially the various activities, meetings and talks with the members of the Centre and the Visiting Scholars from different disciplines and countries. These gave new perspectives to my studies. A special contribution to my understanding of early Yiddish literature was the seminar on 'Readings in Pre-Modern Yiddish Literature' and 'Yiddish Literature in Transition' held by Dr D.-B. Kerler, and the highly interesting Yiddish graduate seminar organized by Dr D. Katz. In the latter I presented the thesis of my research. I also participated in the Sixth Winter Symposium in Yiddish Studies and read a paper on 'Zmiroth Purim'. I would like to thank Dr David Patterson and the Fellows and staff of the Centre who made my stay possible.

Dr MAGEN BROSHI writes: During my stay last autumn as a Visiting Scholar I worked on problems of agriculture in early Iron Age Palestine. I also delivered a paper entitled 'Seven Agricultural and Economic Notes to the Papyri of Babatha' to the Jewish History seminar organized by Professor Geza Vermes.

Dr NEIL CAPLAN writes: During my stay at Yarnton, I was able to begin primary research on Arab-Israeli negotiations between 1948 and 1956 by consulting British Foreign Office files at the Public Record Office (Kew). These revealed an unexpected wealth of detail into negotiating manoeuvres contemplated or initiated in London, Washington, Tel Aviv and Arab capitals. The Kressel Collection and St Antony's Middle East Centre Library afforded many valuable memoirs, biographies, periodical articles and analytical works in English, Arabic and Hebrew. The work which was compressed into a six-week stay provided me with a most auspicious start to my future probing in Israeli and United States archives.

Dr RAFI COHEN-ALMAGOR writes: The Rich Seminar was a wonderful experience which I found highly interesting and stimulating. The conjunction of scholars from different disciplines provided a plurality of insights and provoked many intellectual discussions on various topics. My own presentation was concerned with the nation-building ideology and the absorption of the Middle Eastern immigrants.

The seminar was successful thanks to the careful attention that was given to its organization. All people involved in the conduct of the seminar, particularly the chairmen, did their utmost to ensure that the

sessions were relaxed and fruitful. The setting itself was perfect and the conditions at Yarnton were excellent for carrying out inspiring discussions. I also found the Kressel Collection invaluable in helping me prepare for my paper and the assistance of the librarian, Mrs Idit Goodisman, a great asset.

Professor YONAH DAVID writes: During my stay at the Centre, I continued my work on M. H. Luzzatto using the Kressel Collection extensively. I hope to publish a monograph about Luzzatto shortly. I also copied the poetics of Josef Zarfati and the poems of Don Santob de Carrion in the hope of publishing these as well. Finally, I participated in the Smolenskin Anniversary Conference which took place at the end of June.

Professor PAUL DEKAR writes: My major project during my stay at Yarnton, was to complete the research for and to write a book related to the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. I was able to complete this task and have submitted a 350-page manuscript entitled 'For the Healing of the Nations' to a publisher.

I also attended a series of lectures on 'Judeo-Christian-Islamic Theology: Issues in Relation', and 'Evaluating the Just War Tradition'. I gave six public talks: at Coventry, in connection with the 50th anniversary of the city's aerial bombardment; at the Oxford Centre on 'Nonviolent action amidst the Gulf crisis'; at Regents Park College; at the Wildfire Community, Birmingham; at Iona; and at the Oxford Quaker Centre.

Rabbi A. STANLEY DREYFUS writes: During my stay I prepared presentations for the Assembly of Rabbis of the RSGB, and for the Biennial Conference of the ULPS, as well as two seminars at Leo Baeck College. I gave the address at a joint Reform-Liberal service for 'Yom Ha'atzmaut', and preached at two synagogues in London and one in Nottingham. Finally, as Director of Rabbinic Placement for the Reform Movement in North America, I met with a number of rabbis to compare and contrast the rabbinate as a profession in England and the United States, with the purpose of gaining insights which would benefit my American colleagues.

I also worked on documents dealing with eighteenth-century Alsatian Jewry, and read midrashim and Hebrew commentaries in preparation for writing a chapter in a volume intended to give non-Jewish clergy an introduction into the Jewish interpretation of selected scriptural texts. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to be in residence at the Centre, and I hope to be able to return at some future time.

Dr DOUGLAS R. EDWARDS writes: My tenure as Visiting Scholar at the Centre was fulfilling both privately and professionally. The Oxford environment proved to be one of the most stimulating of my academic career. Most of my time was spent at the Ashmolean Museum Library completing the research for my book *Religion and Power: Jews, Pagans, and Christians in the Greek East*, which should be published by early 1992. I completed an article during my stay entitled 'Religion, Power and Politics: Jewish Defeats by the Romans in Iconography and Josephus', which will be published in *Diaspora Jews and Judaism. Essays in Honor of and in Dialogue with A. T. Kraabel* (J. Overman and R. MacLennan, eds.), University of South Florida, Series in Ancient Judaism (Scholars Press). I also drew on the fine archives of the Palestine Exploration Fund in London, which provided information for a book on Galilee that I shall begin writing next year and for primary data for an excavation that I shall co-direct at Jotapata, Israel, beginning in the summer of 1992.

I had a splendid time attending a host of seminars, most particularly the Ancient History seminar, the seminar on the Ancient Novel and the Jewish History seminar organized by Martin Goodman, Geza Vermes and Sebastian Brock. I presented a paper in the latter seminar entitled 'Religion and Power: Josephus and the Greek East in the First Century CE'. Finally, my deepest appreciation is reserved to Dr David Patterson and the staff at Yarnton Manor and 45 St Giles' who were gracious and helpful to my family and me throughout our stay. I look forward to returning in the not-too-distant future.

Dr JOHN P. FOX writes: For the academic year 1990-91, I was in residence at Yarnton Manor as the Maxwell Fellow in the Study and Teaching of the Holocaust. As part of my formal duties, I delivered the second Maxwell Lecture on 30 April 1991, entitled 'Auschwitz, Nazi Ideological Imperatives, and Rational Historization'.

During Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, I taught an invigorating sixteen-week course of my own design to students on the One-Year Programme entitled 'The Nazi Holocaust of the Jews: Its Genesis, History, and Historical Interpretations'. The course consisted of one lecture and one seminar meeting per week.

I also participated in the corporate life of Yarnton Manor in other ways throughout my stay. During Michaelmas Term 1990, I contributed to the regular Wednesday evening discussion groups in the Manor with a short presentation on the 'The Trials and Tribulations of a Gentile Scholar of the Holocaust'. During the same term, I was invited by Dr and Mrs David Patterson to be the guest speaker at one of the established Thursday dinner evenings. The title of my presentation on

1 November 1990 was 'German Unification in the Light of Twentieth-Century European Jewish History'.

In Hilary and Trinity Terms, I was also responsible for organizing the Wednesday evening discussion groups. In both terms, I contributed short presentations, the first on 'Documents and the Third Reich's Anti-Jewish Policies', and the second on 'Was Jack the Ripper a Jew?'

My stay at Yarrnton enabled me to write an extremely complex and fully documented piece of work, a chapter for a Festschrift in honour of Professor D. C. Watt of the London School of Economics and Political Science, edited by Professor Michael Fry of the University of Southern California. My contribution is entitled 'The Paris Embassy of Otto Abetz 1940-44 and the Nazi *Endlösung der Judenfrage in Europa*. German "Bureaucratisation" or Nazified Ideologues?'

For the journal of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, *International Affairs*, I reviewed W. Desit, M. Messerschmidt, H.-E. Volkmann and W. Wette, *Germany and the Second World War*. Volume I: *The Build-Up of German Aggression* (Oxford, 1990). On behalf of the United Kingdom Yad Vashem Academic and Educational Sub-Committee to which I belong, I also organized, in my function as editor and review editor, the first edition of a new journal to be published by Frank Cass publishers, *The British Journal of Holocaust Education*. The books I reviewed for the first edition were as follows: M. Marrus (ed.), *The Nazi Holocaust. Historical Articles on the Destruction of European Jews* (15 vols., Westport, CT, and London, 1989); M. Marrus, *The Holocaust in History* (Hanover, US, and London, 1987); A. J. Mayer, *Why Did the Heavens Not Darken? 'The Final Solution' in History* (New York, 1988); Z. Garber (ed.), with A. L. Berger and R. Libowitz, *Methodology in the Academic Teaching of the Holocaust* (Lanham, New York, London, 1988); J. Bridgman, *The End of the Holocaust: The Liberation of the Camps* (London, 1990); and two volumes from the eighteen-volume series entitled *Archives of the Holocaust. A Facsimile Series of Key Documents and Photographs from International Archives* (New York, London, 1990): F. R. Nicosia, *Volume 4: Central Zionist Archives, Jerusalem 1939-1945*; and G. J. Lankevich, *United Nations Archives, New York, United Nations War Crimes Commission*.

In Hilary Term I was invited to give two outside presentations. The first was at the seminar on modern Jewish history organized by Dr David Sorkin at St Antony's College, when I spoke on the subject of the Nazi mass murder of the Gypsies. The other, in London, to the Leadership Programme initiated by the Central Council for Jewish Social Service, when I spoke about the role of the modern state and bureaucracy in the Nazi mass murder of the Jews during the Second World War.

Dr ARNON GOLAN writes: The Rich Seminar gave me the opportunity to meet and listen to the lectures and comments of some of the leading scholars in the different fields of research dealing with Israel's first decade. I gave a lecture entitled 'The early stages of the transfer to Jewish control of the lands abandoned by the Arabs during Israel's War of Independence' (December 1947-January 1949, i.e. the period of actual fighting). I discussed the process of the redistribution of land abandoned by the Arab rural population of Palestine during the war among different Jewish agents and institutions, and the inner conflicts that emerged among the Jewish community in Palestine and later on, in the State of Israel, over this issue. I found the Kressel Library and Archive very useful for me; the accessibility to books and newspaper extracts saved me a great deal of time and effort. I would also like to pay tribute to the Centre's administrative staff for their kindness and assistance.

Professor YOSEF GORNY writes: I would like to express Genlah's and my gratitude to the academic and administrative staff of the Centre for the delightful 'intellectual vacation'. The Rich Seminar that was organized by Dr Lucas and Professor Troen was a unique academic endeavor. The idea and the courage to maintain for two months a multi-disciplinary seminar, with the participation of scholars from three countries, should be appreciated by itself. But above all, in my opinion, the seminar was a great success from the academic and social point of view. And it might be a methodical example and a precedent for further discussions on Jewish subjects in the future.

Professor HENRY GREEN writes: As the Skirball Fellow in American Jewish History I had the privilege to lead a tutorial on the transformation in American Jewry over the last century and to air ideas on postmodernity and the future of American Jewry. The time spent working with students from Britain, the United States and Europe was challenging and helped me to translate the American experience into a European historical context.

During my stay at Oxford I was able to write two papers and finish a draft of a book on an American rabbi, Leon Kronish. The first paper, 'Ethnic Minorities and Multiculturalism: The Future of American Jewry' was delivered at the Sorbonne. The second, 'The Untold Story: Zionism, Miami and the Birth of Israel' was presented to the Third Canada Israel Conference on Social Scientific Approaches to the Study of Judaism at Bar-Ilan University.

The Oxford Centre has an excellent library on Zionism and the various libraries in Oxford provide many resources for research.

Several Visiting Scholars' research areas at the Centre complemented my own and resulted in many fruitful exchanges. Their critical eye in reading drafts was greatly appreciated.

I am grateful to Dr David Patterson and the Yarnton staff for welcoming my family and providing them with all the necessities to make their stay most enjoyable. They are leaving with cherished memories and friends.

Dr ELEAZAR GUTWIRTH writes: During my stay at the Centre I gave a number of lectures to various institutions. At the Institute for Jewish Studies, University College, London I spoke on 'Hispano-Jewish Women's Culture'; at the Centre for Medieval Studies, Queen Mary College, on 'Judeo-Spanish Geniza Fragments'; and at the Warburg Institute, University of London, on 'Hispano-Jewish Attitudes to Latin'. I also spoke at the International Congress on Iberian Jewish History under the auspices of the Centre for Renaissance and Baroque Studies of the University of Maryland in April 1991 and at the Congress on Jews in Mediaeval Sciences at the University of Granada in September 1991.

I carried out research at the Magyar Tudományok Akadémia Könyvtára, Budapest; the Archivo Histórico Nacional, Madrid, and the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

Other activities included reviewing books for the *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*, and acting as external examiner for a doctoral thesis on Jewish Studies at the University of London. I was also consulted on Judeo-Spanish manuscripts by the University Library, Cambridge.

Dr JOSHUA O. HABERMAN writes: My stay at the Centre during July and August was highly productive. I used the Centre's valuable library for research in preparation of my new book, *The Condition of Jewish Belief: Dialogues with Jewish Notables*, and gathered material on the history of the Jews of Vienna, especially Nathan Birnbaum, in connection with a public lecture given in Vienna in October 1991 on the topic of 'The God Idea and the God Experience'. I also attended several sessions of the Rich Seminar on Israel and had many stimulating discussions with noted Israeli scholars in and outside the seminar sessions.

Finally, I have initiated with Dr David Patterson a two-week study seminar jointly sponsored by the Oxford Centre and the Foundation for Jewish Studies of which I am president, for people in the Greater Washington area. It is hoped that the venture will be implemented in late 1992.

Dr Y. HADARI-RAMAGE writes: The Rich Seminar was a fascinating experience. The interaction was relaxed and the discussion was in the main balanced and considered. The easy interaction was partly a consequence of the relaxing conditions that a place like the Manor ensures. To be away from day to day cares, which maybe, are more burdensome in Israel, for two months in a quiet secluded spot with the unreal beauty of Yarnton Manor, you are both within and outside of reality at one and the same time. The excellent conditions allowed me clearer contact with the research materials. And thus a subject so loaded and problematic, that most of the participants are involved with emotionally and not just intellectually, went off not only peacefully and pleasantly but also at a high level of serious debate. The papers and the ensuing criticism and discussion were to the point and on the whole kept to research criteria of objectivity.

The Library and Archives are virtually indispensable to the Centre. The Library served us in different ways. Firstly for the needs of our research; I, for instance, discovered treasures such as books that I would not have found anywhere else and certainly not with such ease. Perusal of the files of newspapers and periodicals was essential for my work. Just as important a function of the Library is its social-intellectual one. Leaving your cottage, meeting people, exchanging opinions over the catalogue, browsing through books, files and periodicals, all these are intellectually and spiritually fruitful and refreshing.

Finally, our meeting with each other, people with different opinions and in different areas of research, was of the greatest importance. In Israel we could not have come together in a comparable situation. This was a social and cultural as well as a human encounter, which will yield its fruits of cooperation in various cultural and even hopefully creative ways.

Dr MOSHE ISH-HOROWICZ writes: The beautiful and tranquil surroundings of Yarnton Manor, the help and courtesy of the administrative staff and the congenial stimulating company of the Centre's lecturers, Fellows and Visiting Scholars, were ideal for my study and research. The Kressel Library and the other Oxford libraries greatly facilitated the examination of the biblical and rabbinic material needed for expanding my work on 'The Animals as Dealt with on the Basis of Early Rabbinic Midrashim on the Biblical Flood'. The story of this cataclysm provides an introduction and insight into some major issues, especially the prevention of cruelty to animals and the concern for their welfare.

At a review addressed to the Yarnton evening discussion group, I outlined various themes of my study, many of which raise problems also from the standpoint of theodicy. Some of the topics mentioned

were: divine goodness to all creatures, animal sacrifices, vegetarianism, animal suffering in the biblical deluge, the relation of men to animals and the application of Jewish principles and rules to ecological, environmental and medical issues relevant to modern society.

During my stay at Yarnton I also added some final touches to the Hebrew edition of my essay 'Halakha – Orthodoxy and Reform' which has now been published in Jerusalem.

My wife and I enjoyed and benefited from the wide range of stimulating seminars and lectures organized by the Centre.

Professor STEVEN T. KATZ writes: I spent the summer of 1991 primarily working on Volume II of my three-volume study entitled *The Holocaust in Historical Context* which will be published by Oxford University Press in the beginning of 1992. Most of my research was done in the Bodleian Library, with supporting trips to other Oxford collections. I would like to thank the Centre for the opportunity to concentrate on my research.

Mr YITZHAC LAOR writes: During the six months I spent at Yarnton, I worked on the first draft of a novel, provisionally entitled, *Da'at ha-Makom*, in which I try to describe a forgotten military base during the first six months of 1967. I also worked on some cycles of poems which are called Yarnton poems.

I gave an informal lecture at the Rich Seminar on 'State, Narrative and Modern Hebrew Prose' and the material for it had been prepared during the wonderful time I had spent in Yarnton as a visiting writer.

Rabbi ARTHUR LELYVELD writes: During the summer of 1991, I completed the editing of my book *Social Values in Jewish Thought and Practice* now ready for publication. Most of my time was spent in the library of the Oriental Institute checking the notes and references which accompany the text. I also participated once again as a 'resource leader' at the annual Jewish-Christian Bible Week at Bendorf in the Rhineland. I enjoyed and am grateful for the splendid scholarly ambience of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies.

Professor MOSHE LISSAK writes: The Rich Seminar was very well organized and the selection of participants was indeed very successful. It was a good team both in terms of academic quality and personal characteristics. Moreover, most of the papers were very interesting and even more so the discussions that followed.

I personally presented two papers: the first was about the relationship between sociology and history in general and in the context of Israeli

society in particular. The second presentation was about the civilian components of the Israeli National Security Doctrine in the Fifties.

While staying in Yarnton, I visited the library almost every day and found it very useful for my purposes.

Dr BENJAMIN I. NADEL writes: During my stay at Yarnton in Hilary Term I continued my research on the ancient history of the Jews in the Crimea, and especially on Greek colonization of the Black Sea area in conjunction with the beginnings of Jewish life in Eastern Europe. A paper on the same subject will appear in *Revue Historique de Droit Français et Etranger*. I also delivered a lecture entitled 'Jews and God-Fearers in Ancient Crimea', attended a number of seminars organized by the Centre and participated in the Yiddish Winter Symposium.

Dr ILAN PAPPÉ writes: The Rich Seminar was the best seminar on Israeli affairs I have ever attended. Its long duration allowed the participants to engage not only in formal discussions but also to pursue the debate later in informal and direct meetings. The beautiful surroundings of Yarnton Manor and the skilful chairmanship of both Professor Troen and Dr Lucas generated a very academic but nevertheless thought-provoking discussion about Israel's past. I was particularly impressed by the way touchy subjects, such as one I presented to the seminar – the attitude of the State towards the Israeli Arabs – were handled. Although the participants differed with many of my findings, the discussion was none the less carried out in the most cordial and honest manner. I doubt whether we could have had a similar experience in the charged atmosphere usually prevailing in seminars held in Israel itself. I used extensively the Kressel Library and Archives for the preparation of my talk as well as for other interests of mine. I found it most useful and undoubtedly one of the best, if not the best, collection of Hebrew books in the United Kingdom.

Dr ABRAHAM J. PECK writes: During the month that I researched at the Centre I used the Kressel Collection of newspaper clippings almost exclusively in my continuing research on the history of the Jewish Displaced Person after 1945. The Kressel Collection was especially important in highlighting the post-DP camp experiences of several important leaders of Jewish Displaced Persons in Eretz Israel.

Professor MARC LEE RAPHAEL writes: During my stay at Yarnton Manor, I wrote a biography of Rabbi Leo Jung entitled *The Americanization of Orthodox Judaism*, which will be published by Jason Aronson Publishers in 1992.

Dr RAPHAEL SAPPAN writes: During my stay in Trinity Term, I worked chiefly on completing my second volume of *The Syntax of Biblical Poetry (Verbal Clause)*, which will be published shortly. I also examined a sixteenth-century manuscript of an Aramaic-Hebrew-Greek glossary of God's attributes.

Mr YUVAL SHAHAR writes: While a Visiting Scholar at the Centre from May until June 1991, I worked mainly on my doctoral thesis entitled 'The Historical Geography of Eretz-Israel in the Writing of Flavius Josephus and its Relationship to the Talmudical Traditions and the Hellenistic-Roman James'. I was able to make great progress and concentrated on studying the development of geography – theory and practice – in the classical world, particularly in the writings of Strabo, Olinius the Elder and Claudius Ptolemaeus.

I presented a paper entitled 'The Underground World of Judean Shephela and the Bar Kochba Revolt' to the Jewish History seminar as well as to the discussion group held at Yarnton Manor. Due to the marvellous atmosphere, the kind and helpful staff, and the many libraries, it was a period of truly mixing 'business with pleasure'.

Professor HADASSA SHY writes: During the summer of 1991 I examined manuscripts of Tanhum-ha-Yerushalmi's lexicon to Maimonides' Mishne Torah which are located in the Bodleian Library. These manuscripts are written in Judeo-Arabic and I compared them to each other and to photocopies of manuscripts which are kept in other libraries.

Professor EZRA SPICEHANDLER writes: The peace and quiet and the wonderful facilities of the Centre's library were ideal for my researches. I am completing research for a biography of the Hebrew poet Hayyim Nahman Bialik (1873–1934). While at the Centre, I taught two courses for the One-Year Programme and participated in the Hebrew Literature seminar chaired by Dr Glenda Abramson.

I also participated in the Rich Seminar on 'Israel in the 1950s' which has been one of the more exciting academic experiences of my life. The very concept which underlay this seminar guaranteed its success. Gathering together a mix of senior and junior scholars specializing in a variety of disciplines: history, sociology, anthropology, political science and literature, and drawn from a wide geographical spectrum, created a fecund climate for creative thinking and discussion.

The individual lectures were on a very high level. The exchange of ideas coming, as they did, from variegated angles of vision, was enriching and stimulating.

The organizers are to be congratulated not only on the boldness of this interdisciplinary project but on the sensitivity to the social ambience in which it was held, not the least part of which were the beautiful grounds of Yarnton Manor, its excellent accommodation, and its competent and courteous staff.

Almost all the participants made frequent use of the Kressel Library and Archives – a collection which is particularly well stocked with rare volumes and pamphlets, and with detailed newsclipping files covering the decade of 1950–1960.

The projected volume which will include the papers delivered at the seminar promises to be a significant contribution to the understanding of the achievements and the problems of the early years of the State of Israel.

Professor ILAN TROEN writes: In August 1990 Noah Lucas and I began preparing for the Rich Seminar. We identified our theme as ‘Israel: the First Decade of Independence’, since we felt there was growing interest and the need for the study of Israeli society in its formative years. By November we had announced by public and informal means that the first Rich Seminar was being organized. We were soon overwhelmed with applications. The participants included leading researchers, talented young scholars and promising postgraduates from a variety of disciplines – Hebrew literature, history, geography, sociology, anthropology and political science.

Discussions were very lively and could not be contained within the three hours allotted each meeting. Consequently, there were scheduled and unscheduled additional meetings where we continued the topic of the seminar or pursued related issues. Our discussions were enhanced by visitors from Oxford University, Birmingham University and a variety of Israeli and American universities who attended particular sessions by special invitation. The consensus is that we created a unique learning experience from which all profited and that the fruits of our research and deliberations should make an original and significant contribution to the study of Israel. We are now preparing the seminar papers for publication.

The Centre’s unique resources were essential for our work. The Manor provided a beautiful and functional setting. The facilities and residences were excellent. The Library’s collections for the topic of the seminar were superb, intelligently arranged and readily accessible. The Kressel Archive was of special value since it contains many unique materials that are difficult to find even in Israel. Proximity to the libraries of Oxford University also contributed to the quality of the research. We look forward to continuing with next summer’s seminar and anticipate bringing together a similarly outstanding group of scholars.

Dr ELI TZUR writes: Each participant in the Rich Seminar read a lecture dedicated to a specialized topic, and in this way the seminar dealt with the different aspects of mass immigration, settlement and cultural history of the period. In my lecture I presented the different attitudes towards the immigrants from Eastern Europe and the Arab states, as those attitudes were projected by the absorption organs of the main opposition party of the early 1950s. I relied heavily on material gathered from the Kressel Collection Library and Archives. I believe that the seminar marks a new beginning in the historiography of this period and its success was dependent on the organizational skill and support of the Centre. I feel personally obliged to the Centre and its personnel.

Professor ALEX WEINGROD writes: Having become a veteran of quite a few conferences and seminars, let me say that the Rich Seminar on 'Israel in the 1950s' was a unique experience. It is unusual to have such an excellent mix of scholars from different disciplines, of varying age and experience, all taking part in what were well-prepared presentations. Everyone did their homework, papers were well thought out and the discussions constructive and to the point. Coming from different fields of study, I think that we were all surprised to find that we had a common language and so much to say to one another. I certainly learned a great deal from my colleagues, and I am certain that the volume based on the seminar will set high standards in Israeli studies. The fact that we were able to devote adequate time to each presentation – a full morning of discussion – meant that the papers were presented in their complexity, and also that the discussions got down to fundamental issues. Happily, there was not always agreement, and I am sure that we learned from that too.

I spent quite a bit of time in the Kressel Library, and was pleased to find many of the books and journals that I needed to prepare my own work. Of course the Manor provided a marvellous setting – serene and lovely in summer, and close as well to Oxford – and the staff did everything needed to make things go smoothly.

It has been a productive seminar and I am sure that it will set good standards for continuing work in the years ahead.

Dr YECHIAM WEITZ writes: My stay at Yarnton Manor and my participation in the Rich Seminar was a fascinating experience in that it enabled me to meet with a select group of scholars in Jewish studies in an atmosphere which encouraged a mingling of thought, research and discussion. During my stay, I made extensive use of the Kressel Collection, which was extremely valuable to me in my study of the Kastner trial and its impact on Israeli society. I now understand why

the Centre has made itself a world renowned name as a haven for Jewish studies scholars seeking a fruitful and congenial atmosphere for research and writing.

Dr HANNA YABLONKA writes: The Rich Seminar in which I took part was indeed a unique experience; serious scholars assembled for two intensive months researching a completely new subject. The seminar was, in all respects, a tremendous success. What started as an experiment ended up almost as a model of how such things should be done.

There was a very fine choice of people both professionally and personally which resulted in an excellent social atmosphere both in work and after. The interdisciplinary framework of the seminar was indeed very important. The many-faceted representation of topics was enlightening. The papers were well presented and were followed by very important discussions.

On top of all these stands the fact that we had all the local facilities to pursue our work. Of utmost importance in this respect was the Kressel Collection, without which a great deal of our research could not have been done. I would like to thank the organizers for a perfect performance and the great staff who made my stay at Yarnton an unforgettable experience.

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Dr DOV-BER KERLER

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