

YIDDISH STUDIES

at

Oxford

1990

Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies
45 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LP

Reprinted from the Annual Report of
The Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies,
Oxford, 1990.

Published by
The Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies
45 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LP
(0865 – 511869 and 311030)

YIDDISH STUDIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Fourth Annual Winter Symposium

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Eighth Annual Oxford Summer Programme

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

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

The Faculty

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

The Students

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

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

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

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

Supplementary Lectures

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Support

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

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

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

Seventh Annual A. N. Stencl Lecture

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

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

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

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

Launch of *Oksforder yidish*

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

Library Facilities

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

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

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

Contributions to Yiddish Studies Internationally

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Campaign for Yiddish at Oxford

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

YIDDISH FACULTY

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

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

In the area of academic development, Dr Katz developed a new BA option in Yiddish Linguistics in the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages to supplement the existing option in Modern Yiddish Literature. Dr Katz saw the proposal through a meeting of the German Sub-Faculty and prepared a draft outline for the course requirements as they will appear in the University's *Examination Decrees and Regulations*. Dr Katz participated in a series of meetings in Trinity term designed to enhance the language courses which form part of the One Year Programme. In this connection, he prepared a memorandum in support of his proposal that language classes be taught four hours per week, with no more than one hour on any one day.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr Katz delivered a paper entitled 'Di politik fun yidish in amolikh Ashkenaz' (The Politics of Yiddish in Early Ashkenaz) at the December 1988 Winter Symposium. In it, he applies methods of sociolinguistic reconstruction to the often oblique comments on Yiddish made by

medieval Ashkenazic rabbinic authorities, in their Hebrew and Aramaic legal treatises.

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

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

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

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

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

In May Dr Kerler spoke before the Centre's Yarnton Discussion Group, chaired by Dr Martin Goodman, on his future project to research the

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

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

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

PUBLICATIONS

Dr DOVID KATZ

(Ed.) *Dialects of the Yiddish Language. Winter Studies in Yiddish, Volume 2. Papers from the Second Annual Oxford Winter*

Symposium in Yiddish Language and Literature, 14–16 December 1986 (Pergamon and OCPHS, 1988).

Preface: 'On the Second Winter Symposium' in *Dialects of the Yiddish Language*, pp. 1–5.

'Origins of Yiddish Dialectology' in *Dialects of the Yiddish Language*, pp. 39–55.

(Ed.) *Oksforder yidish. Yearbook of Yiddish Studies*, vol. 1. (Harwood Academic Publishers and OCPHS, in press).

'Yidish beyidish' in *Oksforder yidish*, vol. 1, pp. 1–2.

'Di eltere yidishe leksikografye: mekoyres un metodn' in *Oksforder yidish* vol. 1, pp. 161–232.

(Ed.) Schneier Levenberg, *From Czar to Glasnost: Yiddish in the Soviet Union. The Sixth Annual Avrom-Nokhem Stencl Lecture in Yiddish Studies delivered before the Seventh Annual Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish Language and Literature on 15 August 1988* (Oxford Programme in Yiddish) (1989).

'Yiddish Historical Linguistics and "Jewish Interlinguistics"' in D-B. Kerler, ed., *History of Yiddish Studies* (Harwood and OCPHS, in press).

Contributions to *Blackwell Companion to Modern Jewish Culture* (Basil Blackwell, 1989).

Dr DOV-BER KERLER

'East Meets West: the Dialectal Climate of Two Early Eastern European Yiddish Prints' in Dovid Katz, ed., *Dialects of the Yiddish Language. Winter Studies in Yiddish, Volume 2. Papers from the Second Annual Oxford Winter Symposium in Yiddish Language and Literature, 14–16 December 1986* (Pergamon and OCPHS, 1988), pp. 69–84.

'Di haskholes fun der moderner literatur-shprakh (1771–1798)' in Dovid Katz, ed., *Oksforder yidish. Journal of Yiddish Studies*, vol. 1. (Harwood Academic Publishers and OCPHS, in press).

together with Hadassa Shy 'Di reshtlekh fun yidish in Shopflok' in Dovid Katz, ed., *Oksforder yidish. Journal of Yiddish Studies*, vol. 1. (Harwood Academic Publishers and OCPHS, in press).

(Ed.) Bernard Mendelovitch, *Memories of London Yiddish Theatre. The Seventh Annual Avrom-Nokhem Stencl Lecture in Yiddish Studies delivered before the Seventh Annual Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish Language and Literature on 14 August 1989* (Oxford Programme in Yiddish, in press).

CAMPAIGN FOR YIDDISH AT OXFORD 1990

- Endowment of an *Institute of Yiddish Studies* at Oxford, named in perpetuity for the donor, at \$2,000,000/£1,000,000.
- Endowment of Fellowships, named in perpetuity for the donor, at \$1,300,000/£650,000 each.
- Endowment of the annual Summer Program in Yiddish Language and Literature, named in perpetuity for the donor, at \$1,000,000/£500,000.
- Endowment of a Lectorship in the Yiddish Language, named in perpetuity for the donor, at \$600,000/£300,000.
- Endowment of the Winter Symposium in Yiddish Studies, named in perpetuity for the donor, at \$400,000/£200,000.
- Endowment of Scholarships, named in perpetuity for the donor, at \$200,000/£100,000.
- Named scholarships at \$25,000/£12,000 per year for three or five years.
- Research publication grants at \$20,000/£10,000.
- Soviet Student scholarships to enable a Soviet student to attend a Yiddish course at Oxford at \$5,000/£2,500.
- Summer course scholarships at \$2,000/£1,000 per year.

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