Calls For Papers
17th Annual AAJS Conference
13–14 February 2005

The 17th annual AAJS conference will be convened at University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. The conference theme, “Jews as a Minority; Minorities Amongst the Jews” may include any variation on this theme from ancient times to the present day. This is an interdisciplinary conference and papers relating to history, literature, the arts and political science are welcomed. Papers on other topics will be considered, but preference will be given to those bearing directly on the conference theme.

Submissions to present papers must be made by 10 September 2004. Acceptance of papers will be notified by email no later than 15 October.

Abstracts should not exceed three hundred words and must include title, author’s name, postal and email address. The program committee will referee all abstracts.

Papers of particular merit and significance may be selected for publication in the conference proceedings.

The AAJS encourages students who are engaged in academic research to submit proposals based on their work to the program committee. Authors should clearly indicate their student status with their submission.

Proposals should be sent either electronically or by post to:
Peta Jones Pellach
The Shalom Institute, Shalom College
UNSW
Sydney NSW 2052
Australia
Email: peta@shalom.edu.au

PROPOSALS MUST ARRIVE BY 10 SEPTEMBER 2004

Antisemitism in the Contemporary World
Monash University
6–7 February 2005

We invite papers to be presented at the “Antisemitism in the Contemporary World” conference, February 2005. While this is an open call for papers, preference will be given to papers on the following themes:

* The incidence and impact of antisemitism in contemporary western societies
* The language of antisemitism
* Left-wing attitudes to Jews and Zionism
* Radical Islamic antisemitism
* Standards applied in the critique of Israeli government policies
* Evaluating Australian developments in an international context
* A paradigm shift? Conceptualisation of ‘the new antisemitism’

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS:
Friday 10th September 2004
NOTIFICATION:
Friday 15th October 2004*

* Earlier consideration of abstracts may be requested by those attending from overseas and requiring notification of acceptance.

Please submit abstracts to:
Ms Susan Grist
susan.grist@arts.monash.edu.au

Inquiries to:
Ms Margaret Taft
margaret.taft@arts.monash.edu.au

Conference convenors:
Professor Andrew Markus
Dr Philip Mendes
AAJS Conference Registration

13–14 February 2005

Conference fees:
Two days including lunch: $160/$120 AAJS Members/$80 Students
One day including lunch: $90/$75 AAJS Members/$40 Students
Residential rates, including an optional Shabbaton, are available on request.

Payments can be made by cheque or international money order made out to THE AAJS CONFERENCE.

Questions should be made directly to:
Peta Jones Pellach
Tel: +612 99319629
Fax: +612 93137145
peta@shalom.edu.au

Recent Reports

“Yidishe mitn kop arop”: Yiddish in the Southern Hemisphere

Mandelbaum House, University of Sydney

Australia’s first international academic conference on Yiddish took place on July 11–13 at Mandelbaum House and was convened by Dr Jennifer Dowling, Yiddish lecturer at the University of Sydney. “Yidishe mitn kop arop” was warmly opened by University of Sydney’s Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof. Tim Hirst and Dr Shani Berrin of the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies.

On Monday, the focus was on education. Leon Poddebski and Chaim Oppermann presented a biography of Sydney educator and activist, Moshe Alexander. Bobbi Zylberman (Shalom Aleichem College, Melbourne) mapped the history of Yiddish Education in Melbourne from the ground-breaking pre-war schools to the recent implementation of VCE Yiddish and the renaissance of tertiary Yiddish education in Melbourne’s universities. Freydi Mrocki (Mount Scopus College, Melbourne) complemented Ms Zylberman’s presentation with a discussion of the practicalities of teaching Yiddish to a growing number of secondary students. The day concluded with a roundtable designed to foster further developments in Yiddish education.

Following on the heels of his enthusiastically received talk on South African Yiddish literature for the Australian Friends of Yiddish on Wednesday, July 7, Professor Joseph Sherman (University of Oxford) provided an in-depth look at Yiddish literature as it found itself wedged between two emotionally charged political issues—apartheid and Zionism. Poet and educator, Hinde Ena Berstin dramatised, in Yiddish and English, Yiddish poetry from Argentina, Australia and South Africa.

Confrontation between old and new was the focus of two papers on the second day. Dr Gil’ad Zuckerman (University of Cambridge) analysed the ideological processes that linked the historical development of Modern Israeli Hebrew with the politics of national revival. In “Her shabbos goy was an Aborigine: Yiddish Mamas on the Frontier”, doctoral candidate, Felicity Newman (Murdoch University) examined the minutiae of Jewish life on the Australian frontier as revealed in conversations with Perth members of the National Council of Jewish Women.

Surveys of Yiddish culture in Australia demonstrated the invaluable contributions made by Yiddish speakers to the fabric of our multi-cultural society. Archivist Dr Marianne Dacy outlined the history of the Australian Yiddish press; Alex Dafner (SBS Radio, Kadimah) discussed the history of the Kadimah; and Ruth Leiser (SBS Radio) summarised SBS’s Yiddish programme. Lastly, Dr Jennifer Dowling (University of Sydney) looked at Pinhas Goldhar’s Der pioner, one of the seminal stories of Australian Yiddish literature. Prof. Alan Crown (Mandelbaum House) closed the conference.

It is hoped that the papers presented at the conference will be published in a proceedings, to be made available early next year. In light of the success of the conference, plans are afoot for a second event, tentatively scheduled for the end of June 2005, on the topic of Yiddish education. Members interested in participating in the event should contact Dr Jennifer Dowling at jennifer.dowling@arts.usyd.edu.au.
The meeting of the International Council of Christians and Jews was in Aachen, a border town in the northwest of West Germany, where Charlemagne was crowned. This town, the former Aix La Chapelle, has been at the centre of cross-cultural contacts and interreligious, Christian-Jewish-Muslim encounters in Western Europe for many centuries.

Some borders that once separated countries and peoples from each other are no longer borders that divide, but have become borders that connect. An apparent reverse development has also occurred. The traditional borders did not only not disappear, but have been replaced by new ones between countries, cultures, religious traditions, communities and civilisations. Today we are experiencing a re-discovery of difference, distinctiveness and borders. Sometimes borders are needed. It was these issues that the four day conference sought to address.

The official opening was in the historic Coronation Hall of Aachen Town Hall with the presentation of 2004 ICCJ International Sir Sigmund Sternberg Award to Dr Mustafa Ceric, Sarajevo, Grand Mufti of Bosnia on Sunday 18th July. This award is given to individuals whose efforts at interfaith in society have reached beyond the borders of their own countries. Mufti Serec was optimistic in his approach, saying that although today had been the worst of times in some ways, it could be made the best of times if all peoples cooperated together for peace and harmony.

Over the next few days the assembly was addressed by a Palestinian, who spoke of the pain of marginalisation to a mixed audience of Jews, Christians and Muslims, and an Israeli Jew, Daniel Rossing, who spoke of Israel’s dilemma in the current climate of suicide bombings and hostility. Christians also added their voices to the views expressed, speaking of cooperative efforts for harmony, the problems encountered and the progress made.

Rosenthaliana Library, Amsterdam

On the way to the second conference in Groningen, in the north of the Netherlands, I passed through Amsterdam and visited the Rosenthaliana Librarian F. J. Hougwood, who had studied at ‘Ratisbonne’, Jerusalem where I had run the Judaica library in the late seventies and early eighties.

Today the collection of printed works consists of more than one hundred thousand volumes (from the fifteenth century onwards), including some fifteen hundred periodical titles and about five hundred broadsides. The manuscript collection consists of around one thousand items from the thirteenth to the twentieth centuries. In spring 1993 it was suggested that the two hundredth anniversary of Leeser Rosenthal’s birth in 1794 be marked by reproducing some of the treasures of the collection in an attractive form. Some fifty specialists from Holland and abroad were invited to contribute short articles to the proposed illustrated volume. My friend F. J. Hougwood was one of the editors, and the resulting book will soon be on the shelves of the Fisher Library. I also visited the Portuguese synagogue in Amsterdam and saw the Etz Hayyim library which has many bound books in vellum.

International Organization for Qumran Studies Fifth Meeting
Groningen NL 27-28 July 2004

The conference in Groningen in my second week away was the Fifth International Congress of the International Organisation of Qumran Studies and had attracted about eighty scholars including Deborah Diament, Emmanuel Tov and Hanoeh Eshel as well as scholars from Europe, America and Canada. The meeting, entitled ‘Images of the Other’ over two days was part of the SBL conference which was being held for five days. Garcia Martinez addressed us on the first evening on developments in Qumran studies, presenting a different system from Tov of classifying the scrolls.

The topic of ‘We, You, and the Others’ was designed to explore issues of self-definition of Jewish groups in relation to, or in reaction towards other groups within Judaism (‘sectarian’ identity, inner-Jewish discourses and polemics), but also to inquire into the development of Jewish identity vis-à-vis other non-Jewish persons, groups or peoples as reflected in the Scrolls. On leaving Groningen I visited the synagogue which was built for 5000. After the war there were only a few hundred remianign in the Congregation, a story that gets repeated all over Europe, bringing home very powerfully the devastation of the Sho’ah.

~Dr Marianne Dacy
Membership Fees For 2004

Membership fees for the Australian Association for Jewish Studies (ABN 1653824946) are current from 1 January – 31 December 2004.

Membership includes the Australian Journal of Jewish Studies published annually, the AAJS Newsletter, book discounts, and discounted registration fee for the AAJS annual conference.

Fees for 2004 (AUS)
- Regular: $50
- Full-time Student/Pensioner: $15
- Institutional: $60
- Overseas: $60

Send fees to:
Dr Marianne Dacy
PO Box 233
Holme Building
University of Sydney
Sydney, NSW 2006

The Association is dependent on its subscriptions to defray current expenses, so it is vital that membership fees be paid. Please support our Association.

The AAJS does not pay GST due to insufficient income.

AAJS Journal ~ Past Issues

While available! Past issues of the AAJS journals are available at $10 per copy.

All purchases and inquiries are to be directed to:
Dr Marianne Dacy
PO Box 233
Holme Building
University of Sydney
Sydney NSW 2006

Appeal For New Members

If you have not joined the association or know of potential members, please encourage them to join. We rely on your support.