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THE EDITOR'S THOUGHTS ON ANNIVERSARIES

The year 1938 was the year when the dark clouds of war were gathering in strength over Europe. Austria was annexed by Hitler in March, the Munich 'Agreement' was signed in September and the Kristallnacht happened in November. Those Jews who fell under Nazi rule were in a desperate rush to secure visas, landing permits and passage to any country willing to accept them.

We are all familiar with the stories of refugees. They were the people on the run, looking for a safe haven and it did not matter so much whether it was a temporary refuge as long as they were out of harm's way. One was hoping that sometime in the future it might perhaps be possible to return home or to find a new one to put roots down again.

History taught us how countries worldwide reacted to the refugee avalanche. Reluctantly some countries let a trickle in. However, more often than not, the doors remained bolted and the refugees were left to their own devices to find their way through mountain passes, to squeeze onto overloaded river boats, to take their chances on overcrowded trains, to endure the heat in refugee holding pens or the cold of an inhospitable environment. All of them faced a very uncertain future which, more often than not, ended in tragedy.

I used the phrase ...'the cold of an inhospitable environment' intentionally. We have heard of so many cases of people trying to escape certain death, but who has heard the stories of Jews who escaped to Iceland? These refugees had found themselves in one of the coldest places on earth during the months preceding the outbreak of the Second World War.

Iceland is rarely in the news. Nobody knows much about this small island on the northernmost fringe of the Atlantic Ocean and certainly nothing is known about its history. Iceland never had any affiliation with Jews. There were no Jewish communities, yet antisemitism, still mediaeval, was rife there. The notion of 'a pure Nordic race' was appealing to Icelanders and the authorities saw to it that Jewish refugees were not welcome. The few who reached Iceland in the hope that the island's isolation and its distance from the continent would secure survival, were bitterly disappointed. Unable to sustain themselves by doing menial jobs in the harsh climate, both physical and political, they were expelled from

Iceland and sent back to Denmark. Some of them were later returned by Danish authorities to Germany and Austria where they perished in the Holocaust. Only very few Jews, those who married Icelandic citizens, were permitted to remain. All of them, however, saw to it that their Jewish origins remained concealed. The story of Iceland's attitude towards Jewish refugees is deplorable. It is surprising that it is never recalled.

Seventy years have now passed since Jews were running for their lives with no place to go to, while the world stood idly by. And sixty years have now passed since a safe place for us had been created. To provide shelter should clouds, once again, gather in strength. **Anna Rosenbaum**

REMINDER

Do not forget the Australian Association of Jewish Studies 21st Annual Conference

Thinking Jewish – Jewish Thinking

The Conference will take place at the Shalom College, University of NSW
15 - 16 February 2009.

The deadline for submitting your paper is 8 SEPTEMBER 2008.

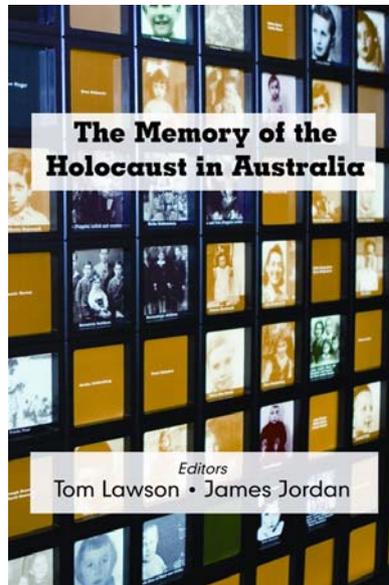
Book Review

The Memory of the Holocaust in Australia

Tom Lawson and James Jordan (Eds)

This collection of essays considers the development of Holocaust memory in Australia since 1945. Bringing together the work of younger and more established scholars, the volume examines Holocaust memory in a variety of local and national contexts from both inside and outside of Australia's Jewish communities. The articles presented here emanate from a variety of different disciplinary perspectives, from history through literary, cultural and museum studies. This collection considers both the general development of Holocaust memory, engaging historically with particular moments when the Shoah punctuated public perceptions of the recent past, as well as its representation and memorialisation in contemporary Australia. A detailed introduction discusses the relationship between the Australian case and the general development of Holocaust memory in the Western world, asking whether we need to revise the assumptions of what have become the rather staid narratives of the journey of the Shoah into public consciousness.

James Jordan is Ian Kartern Research Fellow and lecturer in English at the University of Southampton. His current work examines the impact and representation of Jews and Jewish identity in post-war British television, beginning with an analysis of Rudolph Cartier's 1952 version of 'The Dybbuk' for the BBC. He is the co-editor of *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History*.



Tom Lawson is Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Winchester. He is the author of *The Church of England and the Holocaust: Christianity, Memory and Nazism* (2006). He is also the co-editor of *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History*. He is currently working on a new study of Holocaust historiography and on an unrelated project on the idea of Europe after the Great War.

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ORDERS FOR DISCOUNT

20% discount for AAJS Bulletin readers - £45 £36 hb and £18.95 £15.16 pb. P&P £3.50 first book, and £1.50 each subsequent book. Please contact Toby Harris – toby.harris@vmbooks.com, fax 0044 208 952 9526 – for orders quoting MOH08. Offer ends 30/09/2008.

Second Sydney Jewish Writers' Festival to Feature International Guests

Former NSW Premier, Bob Carr, who has recently published *My Reading Life* a book about books, has agreed to be the patron of the second Sydney Jewish Writers' Festival, which will be held 17th-19th August, 2008, and will appear to speak about his love of reading and writing. The Festival will feature American author Daniel Mendelsohn, whose novel *The Lost* has received international acclaim. Also featured on the program is Israeli novelist, Shifra Horn, whose works include *Four Mothers*.

Daniel Mendelsohn was born on Long Island in 1960 and received his B. A. summa cum laude in Classics from the University of Virginia and his M. A. and Ph. D. in Classics from Princeton University, where he was a Mellon Fellow in the Humanities. After completing his Ph.D. in 1994, he began a career in journalism and since then his articles, essays, reviews and translations have appeared frequently in numerous national publications.



In September, 2006, Mr. Mendelsohn's international bestseller, *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million*, the story of his search to learn about the fates of family members who perished in the Holocaust, was published by HarperCollins to extraordinary critical acclaim in publications from People (four stars, critic's choice) to *The New York Review of Books* ("the most

gripping, the most amazing true story I have read in years"); from *O, the Oprah Magazine* ("stunning...beautiful and powerfully moving") to the *Los Angeles Times* ("magnificent and deeply wise"). Front-cover reviews were featured in the *Chicago Tribune* ("a work of major significance and pummeling impact"); the *New York Times Book Review*, which declared THE LOST "a powerful work of investigative empathy" that "draws us more deeply into the experience of [the Holocaust] than we might have thought possible," "a new way of telling a story we thought we knew"; and the Washington Post Book World, in which Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel called THE LOST "a vast, highly colored tapestry...a remarkable personal narrative, rigorous in its search for truth, at once tender and exacting."

Shifra Horn lives in Jerusalem and has a BA in Biblical Studies, Archeology and Communication. She is a journalist, lecturer and has worked as a spokesperson for the Ministry of Absorption. Horn has received many prizes both in Israel and other countries, among them the Book Publishers Association Golden and Platinum Prizes for all her books, the WIZO -Israel prize and the Prime Minister's Prize for Literature 2004. In 2006 she was awarded the Brenner Prize in Israel - one of the most prestigious prizes in Israeli literature- for *Ode to Joy* as well as an important Italian prize (ADEI)for Jewish writers for the same title. The Festival is honoured that Shifra Horn will be able to participate and she will be interviewed about her life, her views and, of course, her writing.



Daniel and Shifra will join Australian guests including Tom Keneally, Diane Armstrong, Agnes Walder and Serge Liberman, representing a range of genres including poetry, drama, novels and short-story.

The Sydney Jewish Writers' Festival aims to celebrate the richness of Australian and world-wide Jewish writing. It will showcase writers who embrace their Jewish identity as well as those who write on Jewish themes. They need not all be Jewish writers, as can be seen from the some of the big names featured. Over forty writers will present at the Festival, covering a wide variety of topics, including children's writing, Holocaust, humour, religion and spirituality, science, history, Israel and identity.

Visit www.sjwf.org.au to see the program and for booking information.

Call for Papers

First International Graduate Student's Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Conference Dates: 23 – 26 April 2009

Location: Massachusetts, United States

Deadline: 15 August 2008.

Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University, U.S.A.

Deadline: 15 August 2008. The Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University will host the First International Graduate Students' Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies on 23 to 26 April 2009. The conference will provide a forum for graduate students to present original research papers to peers and established scholars. Participants will be able to forge scholarly ties from which further cooperation and research may evolve. This interdisciplinary conference will reflect the full range of issues, concepts and methods in current Holocaust and Genocide Studies; accordingly, we invite pertinent applications from all fields and from countries around the world. Interested applicants should submit the following material for consideration:

- your name, address, e-mail and telephone number
- the title and an abstract of your paper (a maximum of 250 words in English)
- a brief letter from your advisor indicating your enrolment in a graduate program
- a curriculum vitae.

Applications for complete panels are also acceptable and may consist of three to four papers. Such submissions should also include a panel description of approx. 500 words.

Participants are encouraged to seek financial support from their home institutions. Limited funds for travel and accommodation may be available but can not be guaranteed in advance.

The application deadline is **15 August 2008** and email submission are preferred. Please forward materials to:

Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Clark University
950 Main St.
Worcester, MA 0160
U.S.A.
chgs@clarku.edu

Call for Papers

The German Rabbinate Abroad: emigration and exile in the 19th and 20th centuries

Oct. 18-20, 2009

Akademie für Politische Bildung in Tutzing near Munich, Germany

PD Dr. Cornelia Wilhelm, (Historisches Seminar, LMU München and

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ) and Tobias Grill, M.A. (Historisches Seminar, LMU München).

In the 1830s, in wake of the Haskalah, a religious reform movement emerged within German Jewry that was to pave the way for Judaism to embrace modernity. In this context a new type of rabbi developed, one with a distinct modern identity. This new identity reflected changes within the Jewish world brought about by the so-called emancipation of the Jews and the Haskalah. This identity resulted from the engagement of Southern German states in the professional training of the rabbis and new legislation that required the emerging rabbinate to attend a secular university, which connected it these men with currents of the non-Jewish intellectual sphere. As a result, this new Jewish elite had to define itself intellectually and socially as representatives of a “modern Judaism.”

The role of the German rabbi thus began to change. He became a leadership figure within civil society, and his influence and image were widely visible outside his community, even conveying the community's identity. Given the influence of the Christian environment, the rabbi's professional identity was increasingly shaped by his duties as pastor and preacher. His extensive secular knowledge, usually obtained while earning a Ph.D., became a central feature. His status was closely related to the complete re-organization of rabbinical training between 1854 and 1873. This shift created new academic centers of Jewish learning that reflected the zeitgeist and were instrumental in shaping a new generation of the German rabbinate: the *Jewish Theological Seminary of Breslau*, and in *Berlin the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums* and the *Orthodox Rabbinical Seminary*. These schools institutionalized and professionalized a modern rabbinate that embraced the “spirit of critical reason.”

With this systematic modernization of the German rabbinate, German rabbis soon became a significant emigrant group. As early as the 19th century they officiated in Denmark, Sweden, England, the USA, Italy, Russia, Galicia, and other regions. With their academic background and new thinking, they often became deeply involved in reshaping Jewish life in their new homelands, thereby restructuring Judaism and establishing a lasting intellectual and social relationship with German Jewry. This relationship often served as a link for the second large wave of emigration of German rabbis that occurred after 1933. Especially outside Europe, these refugees from Nazism did not arrive as strangers, but were often supported by individuals, congregations or seminaries with strong German-Jewish background connections abroad.

The proposed conference seeks to shed light on the activities of this sociological cohort, which was preserving a German-Jewish legacy outside Germany after 1945. We would first like to examine reasons for their migration, the process of migration, the formation of networks, and their settlement in a new place of activity. Likewise, the social context of their settlement, the composition and character of the communities, as well as their professional development within their new cultural and political context is of great interest for our project.

Sydney to Host Top Israeli Scholars and Journalists

Four of the outstanding scholars visiting Australia for Limmud-Oz in Melbourne will be participating in the Shalom Institute's 'Yom Limmud' on Sunday, 29th June.

Anat Saragusti, Uzi Dayan, Tamar Dayan and Yaacov Lozowick will be joined by local scholars to present a full day of learning about Israel and the Jewish world.

Anat Saragusti is a senior TV journalist at Channel 2 News in Israel, and a director of documentary films. She is currently the TV correspondent in Sderot – the southern town that suffers from Kassam rockets. Anat was the first woman TV correspondent in the Gaza strip during the implementation of the Oslo agreement and covered the first steps of the Palestinian Authority. She started her career as a news photographer, one of few women at the time to hold such a position. She is a lawyer by training and is active in human rights organizations. Her current focus is the implementation, locally and internationally of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which addresses the impact of war on women and calls for increased representation of women at all decision-making levels.

Uzi Dayan was born in Israel in 1948. He formerly served as Deputy Chief of the IDF and Head of the Israeli National Security Committee. Uzi is Chairman of a new political movement called Tafnit (Turning Point), founder and President of the annual Israel Conference for Social and Economic Policy in Sderot and the chairman of the Hagey Sayarut youth movement. He holds a BSc in mathematics and physics from the Hebrew University (Jerusalem) and MSc in Operations Research from Stanford University. Uzi is married to Professor Tamar Dayan, a faculty member at Tel-Aviv University's Department of Zoology. They have three children: a son (Ittai, 24), and two daughters (Ayah, 18 and Zohar, 13).

Tamar Dayan is a Professor of Zoology at Tel Aviv University. She studies the ecology and evolution of communities with special interests in the

evolution of human interactions with their environment, the evolution of body size and the evolution of activity patterns. In recent years Tamar has shifted much of her research program into conservation biology, in an attempt to help meet the huge environmental challenges that the State of Israel faces. Among her public activities, she has served on the Board of Directors of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, and she chairs Israel's UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Committee. She is now developing Israel's first natural history museum.

Currently engaged in his third professional career, Yaacov Lozowick has been a teacher, the Director of Archives at Yad Vashem, and now owns LeverEdge (Ltd). Concurrently he is a historian of Nazism, an author on Israel, and a blogger on things Jewish.

These four scholars will be joined by local presenters including Immanuel Suttner, Wendy Sinclair and Don Perlgut, all of who have fascinating topics to present, from the portrayal of Jesus by Mel Gibson to the Jews in India, to those from South Africa.

The day concludes with a panel discussion on the future of Israel-Diaspora relations, featuring Israeli and Australian participants.

For bookings, contact Gallia 02 9931 9659.

University of Auckland Jewish Studies Forum

The Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) is holding its annual International Meeting in Auckland New Zealand, 6 - 10 July 2008. It is hoped this will be an international gathering of all those who are interested in Theology and Religion as well as Biblical studies. Some years ago, the SBL held its 1992 congress in Melbourne along with nine other organizations. The meeting, which has attracted some international scholars will be enriched by the participation of several theological associations from Australia and New Zealand, and some members of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies will attend. In addition, a Jewish Studies Forum has been convened for 13-14 July, 2008. This Forum offers New Zealand and Australian scholars of Jewish Studies an opportunity to meet, discuss common issues and share research. Papers will be on any aspect of Jewish Studies, including ancient and modern texts, history, language, theology, art, philosophy, etc. Participation with SBL meeting is in planning. It is expected that the refereed proceedings will be published (see *Anafim*, Mandelbaum Publishing, University of Sydney, 2006). Any enquiries, to suzanne.faijan@anu.edu.au and h.brotsky@auckland.ac.nz.

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REMINDER

Have you paid your membership subscription for 2008 or even 2007? Now it is time to pay for 2008. Our Association depends on members' support.

- \$50 AU regular membership
- \$60 AU institutional and overseas
- \$15 AU full-time student/pensioner

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Newsletter edited by Anna Rosenbaum and Marianne Dacy