# REPORT OF THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES

1994-1995

The Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies is an associated centre of St Cross College

# OXFORD CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES

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# Preface

THE academic year 1994–5 was one of unprecedented activity at the Centre. The academic programme was more full than in any other period in the Centre's history.

Of the programme in the Michaelmas term, special mention should be made of the weekly Modern History Seminar on 'Jewish Emancipation: State and Society in Nineteenth-century Europe' (which was addressed by scholars not only from the UK, but also from Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin and Pisa), and of the First Martin Goldman Memorial Lecture delivered by Professor Ezra Mendelsohn of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who took as his subject, 'The Ambiguous "Lessons" of Polish-Jewish History'. In Hilary term the Centre mounted its largest and most ambitious academic programme to date, including a successful series of special lectures. The Mason Lectures were delivered by eight distinguished speakers from Israel, France and the UK on the theme of 'Modern Jewish Mythologies'. The Lancaster-Yarnton Lectures for 1995 were given by Professor David Wasserstein of Tel Aviv University on the subject of 'The Jews and the World of Islam'.

The Jacobs Lecturer was Professor Jay Harris of Harvard University. His lectures and seminars on 'Midrashic Civilization and its Discontents' drew an appreciative audience. A special day-school on 'The Jewish-Christian Debate in the Twelfth Century: Paradigms and Perspectives' was addressed by speakers from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Cambridge and the University of Tennessee. The Centre hosted with Rewley House (the University's Extra-Mural Department) a day-school on the Dead Sea Scrolls. In March a workshop in the field of Muslim-Jewish Relations in the Modern Period, on the topic of 'Mutual Perceptions in Intellectual Traditions', was held in Yarnton. Over the summer the Centre mounted two major conferences, one on the 'Jews in the Graeco-Roman World' (organized jointly with the British Association for Jewish Studies) and one on 'Centres and Peripheries: Europe Between America and Israel after World War II'.

The programme of visiting fellowships was particularly successful. More scholars than ever before visited the Centre and they threw themselves with notable enthusiasm into its academic life. Twenty-four students from all over the world studied at the Centre for the one-year programme and were awarded the Diploma in Jewish Studies by the University of Oxford.

Publications associated with the Centre included *The Visual Dimension*, based on a conference on Jewish art held at Yarnton. The book was awarded a prestigious prize in the United States. Other volumes included the massive 800-page proceedings of the Rich Seminar on 'Israel in the First Decade', edited by Noah Lucas and Ilan Troen.

In the course of the academic year Dr Dovid Katz, Wolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Language and Literature, resigned his fellowship. Since Yiddish has been an integral part of the Centre's academic programme since 1973, when the first Yiddish classes were taken by the distinguished Yiddishist Professor Chone Schmeruk, the Centre decided to retain its strength in Yiddish by filling the vacant post immediately. Dr Dafna Clifford was accordingly appointed as Corob Junior Fellow in Yiddish Studies from October 1995.

The Centre mourns the passing of three loyal and gifted friends. Ted Carmi (Carmi Tcharney), a leading Hebrew poet and the translator of many of Shakespeare's plays into Hebrew, was a Visiting Fellow during the years 1974–6, when he worked on the completion of his famous *Penguin Book of Hebrew Verse*, as well as delivering a memorable course of lectures on *piyyut*. He graced the Centre for a second time in 1991. Learned and affable, erudite and witty, he attracted a wide circle of friends who mourn his loss.

Dr Raphael Sappan spent extended periods at the Centre in 1976, 1977, 1985, 1989 and 1991. He worked on the Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary in close cooperation with its editor the late Nakdimon Doniach. Each held the other in high regard, and each maintained meticulous and exacting standards. Raphael was a modest and retiring figure, but he had a good sense of humour, and over the years he made many friends here.

Dr Carl Hermann Voss was for many decades a leading Christian Zionist in the USA where he served as a Professor at an Afro-American College. An admirer of and authority on the life of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, to whom he devoted several books, Carl Voss remained a strong advocate of interfaith relations, and established a scholarship

## Preface

for the Centre's One-Year Programme. He helped found the American Friends of the Centre, and was a warm friend of the Centre until his death.

In December 1994 the President, Professor Philip Alexander, announced his intention to move to a research post in the University of Manchester from October 1995. The Centre is very grateful to him for all his achievements on its behalf. Dr Martin Goodman was appointed as Acting President from 1 October 1995, during the search for a new President. As a result of that search, Professor Bernard Wasserstein has been appointed as President from 1 May 1996.

April 1996

MARTIN GOODMAN

Acting President

#### MICHAELMAS TERM 1994

## Lectures, Seminars and Classes

Lectures on Jewish History, 200 BCE – 70 CE Dr Martin Goodman Introduction to Judaism Jeremy Schonfield Introduction to Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Introduction Dr Martin Goodman

The Bible and Biblical Hebrew Professor Hugh Williamson

Modern Jewish Sociology Dr Jonathan Webber

Jews in the Talmudic Period Professor Philip Alexander

Between Ishmael and Edom: the Jews in the Middle Ages Dr Daniel Frank

Muslim-Jewish Relations: Medieval and Modern Ronald Nettler

Modern Hebrew Literature Dr Glenda Abramson

Graduate Seminar on Jewish History in the Graeco-Roman Period (Convened by Professor Geza Vermes, Dr Martin Goodman and Professor Philip Alexander)

Psalm 51:17 (Heb.) and Jewish Morning Prayer: a Historical Reconstruction Dr Gregory Glazov

Aspects of Leisure-time Activities in Jewish Society in the Roman Period *Professor Joshua Schwartz* 

Josephus as Interpreter of Biblical Law Sarah Pearce

The Identity of the Teacher of Righteousness Dr Paul Rainbow

The Rise of the Synagogue and the Ideology of Community in Late-Antique Palestine Dr Seth Schwartz

The Qumran Forum

(Convened by Professor Geza Vermes and Professor Philip Alexander)

Excerpted Biblical Texts in the Dead Sea Scrolls

Professor Emanuel Tov

Enoch in Second Temple Judaism Professor Philip Alexander

Progress Report on the Editing of the Cave 4 Fragments of the Community Rule Professor Geza Vermes

Jewish-Christian Relations in the Ancient Near East Dr Alison Salvesen

Seminar in Medieval Jewish History and Literature (Convened by Dr Daniel Frank, Dr Martin Goodman, Dr Miri Rubin and Dr Adena Tanenbaum)

Rule and Religion: King Louis IX of France and the Jews Dr Margarita Stocker

Scholars and Scoundrels: Modern Jewish Forgery of the Talmud Professor Sid Z. Leiman

Aspects of Samaritan Archaeology: Facts and Legends Vered Shalev

The Jews of Medieval Spain Dr Daniel Frank

An Introduction to Jewish Mysticism Professor Philip Alexander

Seminar in Jewish-Muslim Relations

(Convened by Dr Daniel Frank and Ronald Nettler)

Jews and Muslims in Libya: Cultural Aspects Professor Harvey Goldberg

Stories about Biblical Personalities in the Qur'an and Early Islamic Tradition *Professor Haggai Ben-Shammai* 

Postgraduate Course in Muslim-Jewish Relations Ronald Nettler

Near East Discussion Group

(Convened by Ronald Nettler)

Muslim Architecture in Seville Heather Ecker

Urban Patterns in the Arab Provinces of the Late Ottoman Period Ruha Kana'an

Origins of Modern Literary Yiddish Dr Dov-Ber Kerler

History of Yiddish Dr Dovid Katz

Graduate Seminar in Yiddish Studies

(Convened by Dr Dovid Katz and Dr Dov-Ber Kerler)

Literature and History in Jewish Eastern Europe Dr Marcus Moseley

Introduction to Modern Jewish History in Eastern and Western Europe Dr Marcus Moseley

Modern Jewish History Seminar: Jewish Emancipation, State and Society in Nineteenth-century Europe

(Convened by Rainer Liedtke and Stephan Wendehorst)

France Professor Pierre Birnbaum

The Netherlands Odette Vlessing

Britain Dr David Cesarani

Austria-Hungary Professor Robert Evans and Professor Peter Pulzer

Poland Steve Paulsson

Germany Professor Reinhard Rürup

France 1789 and Russia 1804 Dr John Klier

Italy Professor Bruno Di Porto

Introduction to the Hebrew Literature of the State of Israel Dr Glenda Abramson

Speech and Silence: Aspects of Modern Hebrew Literature Dr Glenda Abramson

Yiddish Language Classes (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced Language and Literature) *Johannes Brosi* 

Biblical Hebrew Classes (Elementary and Intermediate)

Dr Jeremy Hughes

Modern Hebrew Classes (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced)

Lior Barshack and Robert Harris

# Seminar at Yarnton Manor

The Jews of Libya Professor Harvey Goldberg

# Wednesday Discussion Group, Yarnton Manor

The Jews of the Middle East: Their Place in History Professor Harvey Goldberg

Current Research on the Dead Sea Scrolls Professor Emanuel Tov

Excavating a Pre-Gentile, Judaic-Christian Redaction of the Gospel of Matthew Professor William L. Petersen

Messiah and Monotheism in the Second Temple Period Dr Paul Rainbow

An Australian in Palestine, 1877-8: James Hingston of The Argus Dr Ian Bickerton

When a Rabbi is Accused of Heresy: The Case of the Rebbetzin's Epitaph Professor Sid Z. Leiman

'Playing Around' in the Period of the Mishnah and the Talmud Professor Joshua Schwartz

When did Prophecy Cease in Judaism? Professor Philip Alexander

# Special Lecture

The First Martin Goldman Memorial Lecture in the History and Culture of Polish Jewry: The Ambiguous 'Lessons' of Polish Jewish History *Professor Ezra Mendelsohn*, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

#### HILARY TERM 1995

# Lectures, Seminars and Classes

Graduate Seminar on Jewish History and Literature in the Graeco-Roman Period

(Convened by Professor Philip Alexander, Dr Sebastian Brock, Dr Martin Goodman and Professor Geza Vermes)

The Problem of Midrash Professor Jay Harris

Midrash and the Fragmentation of Modern Judaism

Professor Jay Harris

Who is the 'Gentile' of Rabbinic Sources? Syrian or Greek? Professor Zeev Safrai

The Term Nasi and its Components Dr Ephrat Habas Samaritan Sects in the Graeco-Roman World Professor Alan Crown

The Oumran Forum

(Convened by Professor Philip Alexander and Professor Geza Vermes)

The Modification of Liturgical Forms in the Community Rule Daniel Falk

The Genre of 4Q252 Dr Timothy Lim

Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls Professor Geza Vermes

Jewish Liturgy Jeremy Schonfield

Readings in Ibn Al-Arabi: on Prophets and Prophecy Ronald Nettler Colloquium on the Jewish-Christian Debate in the Twelfth Century: New Paradigms and Perspectives (7 February)

(Convened by Dr Daniel Frank)

Jewish-Christian Polemics at the Turning Point: Jewish Evidence from the Twelfth Century Professor Daniel J. Lasker

The Dynamics of Exclusion of the Jews in the Jewish-Christian Debate of the Twelfth-century Renaissance

Dr Anna Sapir Abulafia

The Falsification of Scripture and Medieval Christian-Jewish Debate Professor Irven Resnick

The Near East Discussion Group (Convened by Ronald Nettler)

King Hussein and the West Bank Raad Alkadiri An Ottoman Governor in Jerusalem, 1906–1908 David Kushner

The Practice of Islamic Banking Muhammad Abd el-Haqq

The Arab-American Diaspora Yossi Shain

The Development of the Modern City of Alexandria Amr El-Sharif

Manuscripts of Shiraz: mid-14th to mid-15th Century Elaine Wright

A Discussion of Samuel Huntington's Thesis on 'The Clash of Civilizations' Dr Eugene Rogan

Workshop on Muslim-Jewish Relations in the Modern Period: Mutual Perceptions in Intellectual Traditions (20–2 March)

(Convened by Ronald Nettler and Suha Taji Farouki)

The Sociology of Yiddish Johannes Brosi

Readings in Modern Yiddish Literature: The Age of the Modern Classicists (1864–1917) Dr Dov-Ber Kerler

Modern Jewish Thought Before and After the Holocaust Dr Norman Solomon

Islam, the Jews and Israel: Jews and Muslims in the Middle East From the Nineteenth Century Until Today Ronald Nettler

Twentieth-century Israeli History and Politics Dr Martin Kolinsky

Talmudic Aramaic Dr Alison Salvesen

Yiddish Language Classes (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced)

Johannes Brosi

Biblical Hebrew Language Classes (Elementary and Intermediate)

Dr Jeremy Hughes

Modern Hebrew Language Classes (Elementary and Advanced)
Robert Harris

# Wednesday Discussion Group, Yarnton Manor

Codices and Scrolls: Jewish and Christian Uses Professor Irven Resnick

Music—a Socio-Cultural Expression in Jewish Liturgy Professor Uri Sharvit

The Prophet's Tongue in our Cheek: hebrew Poetry Seeking Vernacular Inspiration Dr Ruth Kartum-Blum

Parables and Parabolic Discourse: From Apples of Gold in Silver Settings to Imperial Messages Professor Gila Safran-Naveh

Postmodernist Trends in Contemporary Hebrew Fiction Professor Avraham Balaban

Jewish Studies and the Comparative Method in Folklore Professor Eli Yassif

The Jewish People and the Early Church Professor Moshe-David Herr

# Special Lectures

The Fourth Jacobs Lectures in Rabbinic Thought: Midrashic Civilization and its Discontents *Professor Jay Harris* Harvard University

You Say to Scripture, 'Be Silent Until I Interpret You': Midrash in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages

Could the Ancient Rabbis Read? Modern Rabbis Confront Their Past

The Second Lancaster-Yarnton Lectures on Judaism and Other Religions: The Jews and the World of Islam *Professor David Wasserstein* Tel Aviv University

Judaism and Islam

Islam and the Jews

What Kind of 'Mediterranean Society'?

Reconstructing the Past

The Mason Lectures: Modern Jewish Mythologies (Convened by Dr Glenda Abramson)

The Myth of Destruction and Redemption in Israeli Cultural Debate Dr Nurit Gertz

Mythologized Origins and the Ethnic Memory of British Jews Dr David Cesarani

Myth and National Identity: The Case Study of the Battle of Latrun *Professor Anita Schapira* 

The Myth of Jewish 'Healthy-Mindedness'

Dr Ada Rapoport-Albert

Lest We Forget! The Holocaust in Jewish Historical Consciousness and Modern Jewish Identities Dr Jonathan Webber

Hebrew Drama as a Maker and Breaker of National Mythology Dr Glenda Abramson

Was Judaism Always Concerned with Life More than Death? Dr Sylvie-Ann Goldberg

From Ancient to Modern Mythologies Professor Eli Yassif

#### TRINITY TERM 1995

# Lectures, Seminars and Classes

Graduate Seminar on Jewish History in the Graeco-Roman Period (Convened by Dr Martin Goodman)

Gospel Passages in the Light of Rabbinic Literature

Dr Menahem Kister

The Function of Heresy in Early Rabbinic Judaism

Dr Martin Goodman

Diaspora Judaism in the North Black Sea: Archaeological Evidence *Professor Douglas Edwards* 

Jericho as a Second Temple Priestly City

Professor Joshua Schwartz

and Dr Adena Tanenbaum)

Was the Hebrew Language Revived in the Third Century? Dr Nicholas de Lange

The Identification of the Qumran Sect in the Light of MMT Professor Moshe-David Herr

Seminar in Medieval Jewish History and Literature (Convened by Dr Daniel Frank, Dr Martin Goodman, Dr Miri Rubin

Arguing with God: the Autobiography of a Seventeenth-century Jewish Woman Professor Natalie Zemon Davis

Paradox in Ancient Hebrew Poetry: From Classical Piyyut to Andalusian Verse Professor Yosef Yahalom

An Urdu Manuscript in Hebrew Characters Brad Sabin Hill

Yiddish Language Classes (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced)

Johannes Brosi

Biblical Hebrew Language Classes (Elementary and Intermediate)

Dr Jeremy Hughes

Modern Hebrew Language Classes (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced) Lior Barshack and Robert Harris

# Wednesday Discussion Group, Yarnton Manor

Poetry Reading in Hebrew Yigal Ben-Arieh

Aspects of Samaritan Codicology Professor Alan Crown

Jewish Attitudes to Baths and Bathing in Palestine in the Hellenistic and Early Roman Period Dr Inge Nielsen

The Doctors' Plot: Non-Jewish Response in the Soviet Union Dr Aleksander Lokshin

Ben-Gurion and the Knesset: Not a Love Story Professor Giora Goldberg

# DIPLOMA IN JEWISH STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

At the end of the 1994–5 academic year, twenty-four students who had been taught at the Centre were awarded the Diploma in Jewish Studies of the University of Oxford.

# The Faculty

Courses and languages presented in the programme were taught by Fellows of the Centre and by visiting scholars and lecturers. Visiting scholars and lecturers included Dr Martin Kolinsky (University of Birmingham), Jeremy Schonfield (London) and Dr Norman Solomon (Koerner Visiting Fellow). Ronald Nettler was the Director of Studies, while Mrs Martine Smith, Student Registrar, was responsible for the administration.

#### Courses

Students studied Modern Hebrew, Yiddish or Biblical Hebrew at elementary, intermediate or advanced levels. In addition, they chose six courses from the list below and submitted dissertations on subjects of their choice. The following courses were offered:

- An Introduction to Jewish Mysticism
- Introduction to Judaism
- Introduction to Modern Jewish History in Eastern and Western Europe
- Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Islam, the Jews and Israel: Jews and Muslims in the Middle East from the Nineteenth Century until Today
- Jewish History, 200 BCE to 70 CE
- Jewish Liturgy
- Jewish Thought Before and After the Holocaust
- Jewish-Christian Relations in the Ancient Near East
- Literature and the History of East European Jewry
- Readings in Modern Yiddish Literature: The Age of the Modern 'Classicists' (1864–1917)
- Speech and Silence: Aspects of Hebrew Literature

- Talmudic Aramaic
- The Jews of Medieval Spain
- Topics in the Social and Linguistic History of Yiddish
- Twentieth-century Israeli History and Politics

#### The Students

The twenty-four graduates came from Australia, Japan, Lithuania, Poland, the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

Anne Amos, from Australia, has a degree in education and taught in a primary school for many years. She then studied theology and graduated with a BTheol. from Melbourne. She is an active member of the Council of Christians and Jews, and wished to pursue Jewish studies in order better to understand anti-Semitism in its historical context and contemporary life, and to recognise the significance of the Jewish heritage to the Christian confession of faith.

Ed Barker, a Doctor of Theology candidate at the University of Lund, has a PhD in Student Development from the University of Iowa. After moving to Sweden, he decided to pursue the study of Judaism and in particular the Hebrew language. He particularly wished to understand modern Judaism.

Jonah Bookstein graduated at the University of Oregon, and spent the following year in Poland on a Fulbright fellowship. He has been working in Jewish youth and student education for several years as an organizer and teacher, and intends to pursue advanced interdisciplinary Jewish studies.

Michael Cantor is a graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in Jewish studies and sociology. He is particularly interested in the Jewish community in Denmark on which he wrote his dissertation. He is moving to Australia and intends to continue postgraduate studies there.

Jessica Forman graduated in English literature from Bryn Mawr College, and one of her main interests is 'how language acquisition affects textual interpretation'. Her long-term goal is to be a 'Jewish educator'.

Grzegorz Galezia graduated from the Institute of English Studies at the University of Warsaw, with a Master's degree in literature and history. He teaches at a secondary school and his long-term aim is to

teach at a university. He is particularly interested in 'the ability of Jews to acculturate with other societies while, at the same time, preserving their unique tradition'.

Eve Grandfield, a theology and religious-studies graduate, wished to deepen her knowledge of Judaism. She would like to pursue a career in the field of Jewish studies and in particular to examine the relationship between culture and religion.

Bruce Griffin had completed a Masters degree in Biblical studies and wished to gain a stronger background in ancient Judaism. He in particular wanted to study Midrash and the ancient Jewish interpretation of Scripture, both rabbinic and Qumranic. Bruce has been accepted for a DPhil at Oxford University in the field of early Christianity.

Michael Hilton, a graduate in Near Eastern studies and archaeology, has participated in several archaeological excavations. He wished to obtain a better understanding of Hebrew culture and language and, in particular, to advance his knowledge of Biblical Hebrew. He is continuing his postgraduate archaeological studies at the University of California.

Timothy Horner, a Masters of Divinity graduate, postponed his DPhil studies at Oxford to read for the Diploma. He particularly wished to study Jewish mysticism and to improve his language skills. His long-term aim is to be involved in Jewish, Christian and Islamic dialogue. He wishes 'to be an informed, active voice calling for understanding and integrity'.

Yoshiji Hirose is an Associate Professor at Notre Dame Seishin University in Japan, where he teaches English and American literature. His main interest is Jewish American literature, and he has written two books on I.B. Singer, Saul Bellow, Sholom Aleichem and other Jewish writers. He particularly wished to study Yiddish language and literature.

Kelly Johnson graduated with a BA in history and global studies and was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of Cologne in the area of international relations. Kelly is interested in Yiddish language and literature, and in particular the writings of Itzik Manger, and the German-Jewish author, Franz Werfel. He has developed an interest in the Jewish-European experience of the past century.

Paul Kerry is an advanced graduate student of German at the University of Chicago. His main area of interest is late-19th-century German-Jewish literature, and he is now pursuing a DPhil at Oxford.

Jennifer Koosed is a graduate in religion of Swarthmore College. She is interested in Bible studies, specifically focusing on women in the Hebrew Scriptures, and found the Diploma programme helped her learn about different aspects of Judaism – history, mysticism, language, culture and literature.

Tod Linafelt is a PhD candidate at Emory University and a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary. One of his main interests is the 'interface between Holocaust studies and biblical interpretation'. He discovered that he lacked formal training in Jewish studies, which he considers necessary for a 'nuanced articulation of a post-Holocaust reading of biblical hermeneutics'. It was his hope in joining the programme that he could become more familiar with the Jewish tradition in order to facilitate interfaith dialogue.

Malgorzata Otmianowska is a Masters graduate of the University of Warsaw. She specialized in English studies and her thesis related Sholom Aleichem's 'Tevye the Milkman' to the musical 'Fiddler on the Roof'. Miss Otmianowska is a good linguist and took the opportunity of studying both Modern Hebrew at an advanced level and Biblical Hebrew at an intermediate level.

Fiona Parker is a graduate of theology and of library and information sciences. She has been closely associated with the ecumenical movement in Australia and with the Council of Christians and Jews in Melbourne. Her aim is to pursue an academic career. Her particular interest is the study of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Linas Rybelis graduated from the University of Vilnius with a Bachelor of Philology specializing in English language and literature. He works as an interpreter and translator in the Prime Minister's office, and applied to study at the Oxford Centre because he felt that there were 'considerable gaps' in his 'knowledge on important issues pertaining to Jewish history, culture, philosophy and religion'.

Yvonne Sherwood has a doctorate in biblical studies from the University of Sheffield. During her studies at Sheffield she became especially interested in Jewish literature and tradition, leading her to apply for the Diploma programme. She hopes to teach in a university, and 'to balance perceptions of "Old Testament" with an appreciation of the "Hebrew Bible", and to introduce students to a rich interpretative tradition with which most are unfamiliar'.

Rebecca Smith graduated from the University of North Carolina with a degree in Russian and East European studies. She is interested in ecumenical/interfaith dialogue and specifically the relationship between Eastern Orthodoxy (especially Russian Orthodoxy) and Judaism.

Barry Trachtenberg is a Master's graduate in History from the University of Vermont. He became deeply interested in the Holocaust, and was able to pursue that theme on the Diploma programme and in his dissertation research.

Angus Wells gained a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the University of St Andrews, after which he worked as a parish minister. An important aspect of his ministry was to stress the importance of interfaith dialogue. To this end, the Diploma offered him the opportunity to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of Jewish culture.

Dalia Yasharpour, who aspires to be a 'professor of Judaic studies at a reputable university', graduated from UCLA with a degree in English literature, and now wishes to continue in the field of Jewish studies to PhD level. Her particular interest is Iranian Jewry. She is now pursuing further postgraduate work at UCLA.

Anna Ziolkowska is a Masters graduate in English literature at the University of Warsaw. She wished to study Hebrew literature at the Oxford Centre and to concentrate on the study of Modern Hebrew in order to help her work as a translator.

# **End-of-Year Party**

An end-of-year party was held in the gardens of Yarnton Manor on 22 June 1995, at which the President, Professor Philip Alexander, addressed the students. Yvonne Sherwood was presented with a copy of *The Rylands Haggadah*, a facsimile of a medieval Hebrew manuscript, as the prize for the best dissertation.

## Other Activities

Students attended and participated in the weekly evening seminars, dinners and talks which were held in the Manor. During the first term, they made a tour of the Cotswolds.

# Acknowledgements

The Centre would like to record its gratitude to the Skirball Foundation for the generous provision of scholarships for this academic year.

# THE TEMPUS PROJECT: 'CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN EUROPE AFTER AUSCHWITZ'

This project, devised and directed by Dr Jonathan Webber on behalf of the Oxford Centre, completed its third and last year of activity. The main aim of the project, funded by the Tempus office of the European Commission in Brussels, was to develop educational programmes in Poland for the study of the Holocaust in the context of an understanding of ethnic identities and minority cultures (with particular reference to Jewish studies). The Centre's partners in this project were the Jagiellonian University, Cracow, the Auschwitz State Museum, and the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany.

This year the scope of project activities reached its maximum: sixtyfour travelling scholarships to and from Poland (nearly double the number awarded the previous year) were awarded to students and scholars for periods varying between one week and ten months. Among the guests from Poland who stayed in Yarnton during the academic year were Professor Zdzislaw Mach, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University, and Adam Bartosz, curator of the regional museums of the Tarnów district in southern Poland and author of a number of works documenting the history and culture of the Iews of the region. Other Polish guests whose stay in Oxford was funded by the project included Dr Marek Kucia, director of the School of Central and Eastern European Studies at the Jagiellonian University, and now responsible for promoting Jewish studies and Holocaust studies at the School; and senior staff of the Auschwitz State Museum, including Franciszek Piper, the Museum's senior historian, Krystyna Oleksy, the deputy director, and four other heads of department.

The project's main educational thrust this year, however, was aimed at stimulating public discussion of the Holocaust in Poland itself, both among the general public and in the academic world. This was achieved through a six-week thought-provoking exhibition on the

theme 'Representations of Auschwitz', mounted in Cracow's premier exhibition location in the centre of the city. This avant-garde mixedmedia exhibition was put together entirely by students from Britain and Germany whom the project funded to work in Poland for periods of up to six months under the direction of Professor Detlef Hoffmann of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg. The presence of this team in the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum over a protracted period, coupled with the evident success of the exhibition itselfwhich was truly innovative in the presentation of the topic—also helped to introduce the Museum's exhibition staff to the most modern techniques of museum display. During the same period the project also funded a classroom course for Polish students of the Jagiellonian University on how to put together a Holocaust exhibition. Additional financial sponsorship for the exhibition and these related educational activities, amounting to some £15,000, was received from the British Embassy in Warsaw, the German Foreign Ministry, the Austrian Consulate-General in Cracow, the Krupp Foundation, and the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft.

The exhibition itself opened in July in the presence of the British Ambassador to Poland and other dignitaries including the Centre's Acting President, Dr Martin Goodman. It was followed by a four-day conference on the same theme, attended by sixty scholars and students from a number of countries; the conference also functioned as a teaching course for Polish students, and thus tutorial sessions for these students were provided so as to explicate the subject-matter. The project also published a trilingual 150-page catalogue to accompany the exhibition, containing thirteen key articles on the subject and a large number of photographs.

The project's budget this year amounted to some £200,000, some 50 per cent more than in 1993–4. Annette Winkelmann continued as the project's administrator; she also had responsibility for three project assistants overseas.

# THE QUMRAN FORUM

The Qumran Forum, under the direction of Professor Geza Vermes, convened five meetings in the course of the year to discuss issues aris-

ing from recently available material in the Dead Sea Scrolls. The meetings were well attended and lively, and have had a significant impact on the published form of the papers presented to the Forum.

#### THE JEWS IN THE GRAECO-ROMAN WORLD

The Centre sponsored in July 1995 an international colloquium on the Jews in Hellenistic and Roman times as part of the annual conference of the British Association of Jewish Studies. The meeting was organized by Dr Martin Goodman, who was the Association's President for 1995.

The theme of the colloquium was the uniqueness of the Jewish experience in the Graeco-Roman world, and speakers were asked to consider the parallels and differences between the history of the Jews and that of other peoples, religions and groups in the same region and period. The underlying issue, addressed explicitly in many of the lectures, was the extent to which Jewish evidence can and should be used to illuminate the wider history of Hellenistic and Roman society. It may be that the common supposition that Jews were radically different from other people is derived not from the facts of the past, but from the exceptional survival of Jewish evidence from this time through the Jewish and Christian religious traditions, which, unlike all other such traditions in the ancient world, have been continuous since antiquity.

Over an intensive day-and-a-half, a group of some eighty scholars from many countries heard and discussed papers given by twenty-two speakers from Britain, Israel and the United States. Among the speakers were Professor Albert Baumgarten (Bar Ilan), Professor Lee Levine (Jerusalem), Professor Philip Alexander (Oxford), Harry Lesser (Manchester), Dr Michael Satlow (Virginia), Dr Sacha Stern (Jews' College, London), Professor Moshe-David Herr (Jerusalem), Professor Benjamin Isaac (Tel Aviv), Professor Erich Gruen (Berkeley), Professor John North (University College London), Dr William Horbury (Cambridge), Professor Joshua Schwartz (Bar Ilan), Professor Daniel Schwartz (Jerusalem), Dr Seth Schwartz (Cambridge), Dr Oded Irshai (Jerusalem), Dr David Noy (Lampeter), Dr Margaret Williams (Open), Professor Douglas Edwards (Puget Sound), Dr Tessa Rajak

(Reading), Professor Hannah Cotton (Jerusalem), Professor Aharon Oppenheimer (Tel Aviv), and Dr Martin Goodman (Oxford). The proceedings ended with a reception at Yarnton Manor. The participants included roughly equal numbers of experts in Classical studies and in Jewish history. The combination of such different skills, knowledge and assumptions provoked discussion of exceptional interest. It is expected that the proceedings should be published as a single volume in 1997.

#### THE RICH SEMINAR

# CENTRES AND PERIPHERIES: EUROPE BETWEEN AMERICA AND ISRAEL AFTER WORLD WAR II

The Oxford Centre hosted a week-long symposium, between 23 and 30 August, sponsored by the World Jewish Congress and the Marc Rich Foundation, and entitled 'Centres and Peripheries: Europe Between America and Israel After World War II'.

The seminar brought together a unique combination of scholars, senior community professionals, former diplomats and lay leaders from a variety of European Jewish communities in the East and West, as well as from Israel and the United States.

The Chairman of the symposium, Professor S. Ilan Troen of Ben-Gurion University, a Senior Associate Fellow of the Centre, described the conference as an attempt to engage in a systematic inquiry into the present state of European Jewish communities, and to develop patterns of possible relationships between them and the two great centres of Jewish life, Israel and America.

The seminar focused on whether European Jewry has 'returned to history' and, if so, how. At the beginning of this century European Jewry comprised about 83 per cent of world Jewry, whereas today it accounts for perhaps 17 per cent. Some scholars have denied the viability or even the desirability of Jewish life in post-Holocaust Europe, but papers delivered at the conference both by European Jewish communal leaders and by scholars indicated that Jewish life in Europe is going beyond mere survival, to the development of new

agenda addressing spiritual and cultural concerns.

It was widely agreed by the participants that in this new period of opportunity there had emerged unparalleled pluralism in the choices that Jews were making and that the crucial issue was whether pluralism would lead to fragmentation or whether a new order might emerge from apparent chaos.

It was not expected that any of the European communities, together or singly, could match the vitality and influence of American Jewry or Israel, and these are likely to continue to retain their role as the major generators of knowledge, influence and authority. Even ultra-Orthodoxy, once so firmly rooted in European soil, now looks to New York, Jerusalem and B'nai Brak for rabbinical leadership.

Secular Jews, who do not require or seek the authority of rabbinic leaders, are firmly tied to the distinctive cultures of their host countries and are likely to be shaped by interactions with local culture and civil society. Nevertheless, even as modern societies are moving to more individualist modes of personal freedom and behaviour, there is a sense of convergence in the choices being made throughout the Diaspora.

During the conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews cosponsored a public lecture by the former Israeli diplomat Dr E. Zev Sufott, on the relationships between Israel and European Jewry.

The conference participants included Professor Troen, Professor Yosef Gorny (Tel Aviv University), Dr David Clayman (Israel Director of the American Jewish Congress), Dr E. Zev Sufott (former Israeli Ambassador to the Hague and Beijing), Dr Rashid Kaplanov (Institute of General History, Russian Academy of Sciences), Dr Meir Rosenne (former Israeli Ambassador to the United States and France), Dr Avi Beker (Israel Director of the World Jewish Congress), Dr Irena Versaite (Atviros Lietuvos Fondas, Vilnius), Rabbi Morton Narrowe (Chief Rabbi of Stockholm), Mrs Sonia Lucas Misak (Vienna and St Antony's College), Dr Leon Volovici (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Ralph Goldman (formerly Executive Director of the IDC), Jean-Jacques Wahl (Directeur du Service des Ecoles, Alliance Israélite Universelle), Mrs Marlena Schmool (Board of Deputies of British Jews), Judge Israel Finestein, QC (former President of the Board of Deputies), Professor David Patterson (Emeritus President of the Oxford Centre), Professor Barry Kosmin (Graduate Centre of

CUNY), David Landau (Senior Editor, *Ha'aretz*), and Professor Gabriel Sheffer (Hebrew University of Jerusalem).

Guests and participants were welcomed on the first day of the seminar at a reception at Yarnton Manor, hosted by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the World Jewish Congress and the Oxford Centre.

# THE INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF MUSLIM-JEWISH RELATIONS IN THE MODERN PERIOD

The workshop, which was convened by Ronald L. Nettler (Oxford Centre Fellow in Muslim-Jewish Relations and Hebrew Centre Lecturer in Oriental Studies) and S. T. Farouki (Lecturer in Modern Islam, Durham University), took place between 28 March and 31 March. It was designed to examine Arabic and Hebrew texts on modern relations between the two religious traditions. Central to the concerns of the participants was the great influence of modern historical and political change on the formation of intellectual trends. Thus, while on both sides, Muslim and Jewish, ancient and medieval sources are invoked, their use is often a response to modern changes rather than an integrated part of an intellectual tradition. Participants came from the UK, Holland, Israel and the USA. The workshop papers will be published as a special volume edited by the convenors.

The workshop was made possible by a generous donation from the Rich Foundation to the Centre. The Middle East Centre, St Antony's College, provided academic support and cooperation, and made accommodation available for those sessions not held at Yanton.

# Continuing Activities

## THE LEOPOLD MULLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

In Dr Lucas's absence during the first half of 1994–5 the Library was ably run by Mrs Julia Shay, Jeremy Paton and Tessa Brodetsky, with student help in term-time to ensure the library remained open in the evenings and on Sundays. Mrs Irit Ben-Ezer returned to Israel and is much missed. In the summer of 1995 Mrs Mimi Huppert, Deputy Librarian of the Humanities Library at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was available for consultation. Acquisitions were stepped up, especially of the English-language publications, as a result of Dr Lucas's access to well-discounted books while in Israel and the United States.

Work was completed in the Barn at Exeter Farm, which, as soon as shelves are installed, will house the Archive and provide workspace for scholars. The Qumran Room has also been transferred to Exeter Farm Barn.

Books accessioned during the academic year included 618 in English and 71 in Hebrew, of which 46 in English and 18 in Hebrew were presented to the Library. A total of 2012 borrowings were recorded, all to residents of Yarnton Manor to whom lendings are restricted.

# THE OXFORD QUMRAN PROJECT

With the help of the Qumran Project in Yarnton, the publication of further volumes in the official series of the *Discoveries in the Judaean Desert* by Oxford University Press continued to accelerate. Three new volumes were published in 1994 and a further two in 1995. The new Qumran Room at the Centre, located in the Exeter Farm annexe to

# Continuing Activities

the Leopold Mueller Memorial Library, was furnished and the photographs transferred to it in the course of the year. The room is sufficiently spacious to allow for the Qumran books, computer equipment and other research materials to be housed in comfort and for small seminar groups to make use of the facilities. In February 1995 the three volumes published in 1994 (Vols X, XII and XIII) were launched at Yarnton Manor at a well-attended occasion addressed by Professor Emanuel Tov, Editor-in-Chief of the official series, and Professor Geza Vermes.

#### THE GALICIA PROJECT

The aim of this project is to produce a lavishly illustrated volume. entitled The Ruins of Jewish Civilization in Polish Galicia, based on the fieldwork carried out since 1988 by Dr Jonathan Webber, Fellow in Jewish Social Studies at the Oxford Centre. It will contain over 200 full-colour photographs of synagogue buildings, Jewish cemeteries, local Holocaust monuments, and other material remains of Jewish interest that survive today in Polish Galicia (that part of present-day Poland which prior to the First World War lay within the boundaries of the Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia). The photographs will have very detailed captions, and will be accompanied by a number of essays by Dr Webber further explaining the subject. The idea is to document the traces of a vanished Jewish world and relate them to the ethnography of Jewish memory fifty years after the Holocaust. It is intended that the book as a whole—though scholarly in character will be presented in such a way as to make this important subject accessible to a wide public.

In the autumn of 1994 Dr Webber joined forces with the eminent British photographer Chris Schwarz to produce a publisher's dummy of what the completed work will look like, containing one essay of 8000 words and 24 high-quality colour photographs with detailed captions. On the basis of this dummy nearly £20,000 was raised in the course of the year (just over half of the proposed budget). Chris Schwarz and Jonathan Webber then made several visits to Poland to plan the book in detail and take photographs.

Initial interest in publishing the book has been expressed by Indiana

# Continuing Activities

University Press and by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization. It is hoped that in addition to the publication of the volume the project will in due course also result in a photographic exhibition and the making of a television documentary on the same subject.

#### FELLOWS OF THE CENTRE

#### Dr Glenda Abramson

Dr Abramson completed two books during the 1994–5 academic year, one for Cambridge University Press and the other for Oxford University Press. They are, respectively, Zionism on the Israeli Stage and The Oxford Book of Hebrew Short Stories which she has edited, annotated and introduced. Both books are to appear in 1996. She has also been the editor of the Bulletin of the British Association for Jewish Studies for some years.

# Professor Philip Alexander

In addition to acting as President of the Centre, Philip Alexander continued to be involved in teaching and research. He gave a course on Jewish Mysticism for the Diploma Programme and supervised a number of dissertations. He also taught for the Oriental Institute and directed the work of three probationer DPhil candidates. His own research focused mainly on the Dead Sea Scrolls, particularly on the cave four fragments of the Community Rule, the publication of which had been entrusted by the Israel Antiquities Authority to him and to Professor Geza Vermes. He continued to work on his translation, introduction and commentary to the Targum of the Song of Songs for the Aramaic Bible series. He read papers at conferences in Berlin, Leeds, Cambridge, Oxford, Budapest, Prague and Tel Aviv. He was elected to the Committee of the International Organization for Targum Studies.

#### Dr Daniel Frank

During 1994-5 Dr Frank lectured on medieval Hebrew texts for the University's BA (Hons) in Hebrew, and taught 'The Medieval Jewish

Experience' for the Diploma in Jewish Studies. Together with Dr Martin Goodman, Dr Miri Rubin and Dr Adena Tanenbaum he convened the Seminar in Medieval Jewish History and Literature, and with Ronald Nettler the Seminar in Jewish-Muslim Relations. In May he lectured to the Oxford Branch of the Council of Christians and Jews on the life and times of Judah Halevi; and in July he presented a paper entitled 'Sadr al-Kitâb: Japheth b. Eli's Introductions to the Books of the Bible', at the Seventh International Conference of the Society for Judaeo-Arabic Studies in Strasbourg. In January he was named Reviews Editor of The Journal of Jewish Studies, which is published by the Centre.

#### Dr Martin Goodman

Martin Goodman continued to organize seminars and teach throughout the year. He was President of the British Association for Jewish Studies for 1995 and in that capacity organized an international conference in Oxford on the Jews in the Graeco-Roman World, of which the proceedings will be published during 1997. As secretary of the European Association for Jewish Studies he organized the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the Association in Yarnton.

Dr Goodman organized seminars on Jewish History in the Graeco-Roman Period and, together with others, a special series on religious apologetic of which the papers will be published in book form. He was joint editor of *The Journal of Jewish Studies* for 1995, and he continued his role as Reviews Editor of *The Journal of Roman Studies*.

Dr Goodman gave papers at the Jewish History Seminar in Oxford ('The Concept of Heresy'), University College Dublin ('Jews as Romans'), Birmingham Jewish Graduates (Presidential Lecture on 'The State of Jewish Studies'), University of Southampton ('Idumaeans as Jews'), Kings College Cambridge ('The Notion of Heresy'), and the British Association for Jewish Studies (Presidential Lecture on 'Jews and Romans').

# Dr Dov-Ber Kerler

Dr Kerler taught and conducted several courses and seminars for the University's Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages and the Centre's Diploma in Jewish Studies in 1994–5, including 'Eastern Yiddish in Old and Pre-modern Literature (16th–18th centuries)', 'Readings'

in Modern Yiddish Poetry', 'Origins of Modern Literary Yiddish (18th-early 19th centuries), 'Language Planning versus Yiddish Stylistics' and 'The Age of Modern Yiddish Classicists (1864–1917)'. Dr Kerler also supervised five Graduate students for the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, comprising three DPhil candidates in Yiddish linguistics, cultural history and literature, one MLitt in Yiddish and Hebrew bibliography and one MSt in Yiddish and general linguistics. In Trinity 1995 Dr Kerler set an examination on 'History and Structure of Yiddish' for the Modern Languages Faculty's MSt in general linguistics, and co-examined an MSt thesis on modern Yiddish syntax.

Together with Dr Dovid Katz he convened the University's Graduate Seminar in Yiddish Studies in Michaelmas (1994) and Hilary (1995). His own paper at the Graduate Seminar, 'On the Semiotics of the Mayse Bukh (1602) in Old Yiddish Literature' (Hilary 1995) is due to appear in the new Yiddish monthly magazine Di Pen (Oxford). Dr Kerler's other paper, 'The Soviet Yiddish Press: "Eynikayt" during the War, 1942–1945', which he presented in October 1995 at the Yeshiva University Conference on 'Journalism and the Holocaust' in New York, will be published in English. Its detailed summary in Yiddish is scheduled to appear in the forthcoming 25th volume of Yerushalayimer Alamanakh.

In May 1995 Dr Kerler was invited by the Lithuanian Parliament to present a paper on 'Yiddish Literature in its European Context' before the special Colloquy on Yiddish Culture in Europe, organized by the Council of Europe and the Lithuanian Government in Vilnius in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The paper was presented in the Lithuanian Seimas in Yiddish, with simultaneous translations into English, French, German, Italian, Lithuanian and Spanish.

In addition to his editorial input into the world's only literary Yiddish monthly magazine, Di Pen, Dr Kerler continued his work as the Associate Editor of Yerushalayimer Almanakh, Annual for Yiddish Literature and Culture, founded in 1973 and edited by his father, the Yiddish poet Josef Kerler in Jerusalem (volume 25 is currently in press). He also compiled and edited a selection of Yiddish poems entitled Shpigl-ksav, getseylte lider ('Words in a Mirror') by Josef Kerler and Boris Karloff, in which the same themes, motifs and images

find different poetic realization in the works of father and son. The collection is due to appear shortly in the Three Sisters Press.

#### Dr Noah Lucas

From 1 October 1994 to 31 March 1995 Dr Lucas was on sabbatical leave, during which he carried out preliminary research for a new political history of Israel, commissioned by Oxford University Press. In Michaelmas Term he was Inaugural Robert & Sandra Borns Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at Indiana University (Bloomington). He led a Faculty Colloquium on Israeli Historiography there and delivered a public lecture on Ben-Gurion at Indianapolis. In Hilary Term Dr Lucas was attached as Visiting Professor of Political Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dr Lucas supervised a DPhil in the Faculty of History (graduated June 1995), and acted as Examiner for an MLitt in International Relations, for the Faculty of Social Studies.

## Dr George Mandel

Dr Mandel was on sabbatical leave during the academic year 1994–5 and did no teaching, but he did serve as Fellows' representative on the Board of Governors at its meeting in Trinity Term. He continued his research into the activities of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, and particularly an early and previously unrecognized attempt by him to propose the revival of spoken Hebrew, and also into sociolinguistic aspects of the Revival itself. He wrote a paper on each of these subjects.

# Dr Marcus Moseley

Dr Moseley taught two courses for the Diploma in Jewish Studies: 'Introduction to Modern Jewish History in Eastern and Western Europe' and 'Literature and History in Jewish Eastern Europe'. He also provided an introductory course on modern Jewish history in tutorials to students taking the BA in Jewish Studies. He delivered a further tutorial course on the Haskalah Movement. In April, he gave a paper at a joint New York University/YIVO conference in New York City, entitled 'The Autobiographical Vision of Mikhah Yosef Berdichevsky'. He also gave a paper at the AJS Conference at Boston in December on 'Yiddish Literary Biography: Some Historical

Reflections'. An article was accepted for publication in the 1996 annual *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*, edited by Ezra Mendelsohn, entitled: 'Between Memory and Forgetfulness: The Janus Face of Mikhah Yosef Berdichevsky'.

#### Ronald L. Nettler

Ronald Nettler continued his research on the intellectual history of Jewish-Muslim relations, medieval and modern. He has worked in particular on the annotated translation of a partial commentary on Maimonides' Guide, by the 13th-century Muslim scholar al-Tabrizi, which he is preparing with Professor M. Mohaghegh, Tehran University; and on writing two chapters and the introduction to a book of proceedings of a workshop (March 1995) on Muslim-Jewish relations in the modern period. The subjects are modern Islamic conceptions of Judaic material in Islam and Jewish-Islamic inter-religious dialogue; the medieval Muslim mystic Ibn al-Arabi; and the interaction of modern Jewish and Islamic thought. He has continued his research on modern Islamic religious thought in the Arab world, and has edited a further volume of *Studies in Muslim-Jewish Relations*, which appeared in December 1995.

Ronald Nettler taught for the BA, MPhil, and DPhil degrees in the Faculty of Oriental Studies; continued to teach the paper on 'Religious Thought in the Modern Middle East' for the MPhil in Middle Eastern Studies; and taught for the University Diploma in Jewish Studies, for which he continued to serve as Director of Studies.

Ronald Nettler also organized (with Dr S. Taji-Farouki of Durham University) a three-day international workshop in March 1995 on the modern intellectual history of Muslim-Jewish relations. The papers will be made available in a forthcoming publication.

# Professor David Patterson

During Michaelmas term, Professor Patterson was again the Esther Levi Sosland Visiting Professor at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. He conducted three symposia at Amherst College, Amherst, and delivered the annual Klutznick Lecture at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. In 1995 he presented a paper at the Sixth International Conference on Humour at Aston University, Birmingham. He

attended a conference on European Jewry in Prague, and participated in a conference at Yarnton Manor entitled: 'Jewish Centres and Peripheries: Europe between America and Israel After World War II'. A volume of essays in his honour, *Jewish Education and Learning*, edited by G. Abramson and T.V. Parfitt, was presented to him in ceremonies at Yarnton Manor and the United Oxford and Cambridge Club, London.

#### Dr Alison Salvesen

Dr Salvesen again gave courses on Jewish-Christian Relations in the Ancient Near East, and on Talmudic Aramaic for the Diploma in Jewish Studies; but the major part of her teaching this year was carried out at the Oriental Institute, where she was standing in for Dr Sebastian Brock, the Reader in Syriac Studies, who was on sabbatical leave. She examined a doctoral thesis on the treatment of parables in the Syriac writers Aphrahat and Ephrem, and supervised a student working on the Syriac translation of Evagrius of Pontus.

In June Dr Salvesen delivered a paper entitled 'Typology in the Early Church and Rabbinic Exegesis' at the International Medieval Conference in Leeds. In July she delivered a report on the Rich Seminar on the Hexapla to the meeting of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies in Cambridge. Much of the year was spent editing the volume of seminar papers, to be entitled *Hexapla and Fragments*.

Dr Salvesen has been awarded a four-year Postdoctoral Fellowship at Wolfson College, Oxford, to run from April 1996.

## Dr Jonathan Webber

Dr Webber spent the academic year out of Oxford, as a Fellow of the Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung (ZiF) of the University of Bielefeld, Germany, where he was a member of an interdisciplinary and international research group, convened by Professor Jörn Rüsen of the University of Bielefeld, working on the general topic of Historical Consciousness. His stay at this research institute enabled him to devote himself to his ongoing work on Auschwitz and the representation of the Holocaust, and at the same time to benefit from close collaboration with a wide range of scholars working in related fields,

notably in art history, psychology, historical theory, ethnology and comparative literature. He participated in ZiF's extensive range of international conferences and workshops—on topics such as religion and historical consciousness, time and historical consciousness, and intercultural communication in historical thinking—and also organized one such conference in May, on 'History, Memory, Identity', together with Professor Aleida Assmann of the University of Constance.

He gave a series of papers in the course of the year. Two of them were about historical consciousness in the field of Jewish studies: the first, entitled 'Lest we Forget! The Holocaust in Jewish Historical Consciousness and Modern Jewish Identities', was delivered in Oxford during February as a contribution to the Centre's Mason Lecture Series on Modern Jewish Mythologies. The other, given in May at ZiF's official seminar at the University of Bielefeld, was entitled 'Remembering, Forgetting and Reconstructing the Past: The Fiftieth-Anniversary Commemoration Ceremonies at Auschwitz, January 1995'. He wrote two further papers on Holocaust themes: 'Auschwitz as Symbol, Auschwitz as Reality: Reflections on the Jewish World after the Holocaust', which he presented at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford, in October; and 'Do Jews See Their Holocaust Victims as Martyrs?', a paper which he gave at a conference on 'Das Opfer des Lebens: Bildliche Erinnerung an Märtyrer' ('The pictorial memory of martyrs'), held in March at the Evangelische Akademie, Loccum, and later published in the Akademie's transactions series. The papers he gave on modern Jewish sociology this year included one lecture at the Oriental Institute, Oxford, in October on 'Jews and Judaism in Contemporary Europe', another at a conference on 'Ethnic Minorities and Religion', held at the London School of Economics in May; 'Jewish Identities in the New Europe', given at the 1994 General Assembly of the European Council of Jewish Communities, held in Budapest in November; and 'Transformations of Jewish Identity in Europe', a cycle of lectures and classes—together with four classes on the Jewish liturgy—at the international Nachum Goldmann summer seminar held near Moscow in August by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. He delivered the kevnote address at a commemorative service held on 9 November 1994 at the synagogue in Essen, Germany, to mark the Pogromnacht ('Reichskristallnacht') of 9 November 1938.

During the year Dr Webber remained closely involved in directing the third and final year of the Tempus project on 'Civil Society and Social Change in Europe after Auschwitz', funded by the European Commission in Brussels. Because the project is principally an educational and staff-retraining programme for Polish benefit, Dr Webber made a number of visits to Poland, principally to direct the final activities of the project, which consisted in the staging of a major new avant-garde art exhibition in Cracow in July, on the theme 'Representations of Auschwitz', followed by an international scholarly conference at the Jagiellonian University, Cracow, that he convened on the same theme. At this conference, arranged in collaboration with ZiF but sponsored principally by the Tempus project, he also gave a paper entitled 'Towards a Jewish Representation of Auschwitz: The Ruins of Jewish Civilization in Southern Poland', and led participants on tours of Auschwitz-Birkenau and of sites of Jewish interest in Cracow.

As a consequence of the broader achievements of the Tempus project, the Rector of the Jagiellonian University, Cracow, invited Dr Webber in July to set about establishing a new research unit at the university, to be devoted to studies of Ethnic Identities in Europe after Auschwitz, with special reference to Polish–Jewish relations and the Holocaust. As a start-up, the Jagiellonian University will be providing funding for a small number of graduate studentships.

Dr Webber continued collaborating with the Auschwitz State Museum in its programme for restructuring its exhibitions and objectives. His main activity in this domain this year consisted in checking through and revising the 6000-word text of the trilingual captions (in Polish, English and Hebrew) to fifty historical photographs mounted on a new series of plaques that were installed in January in the territory of Auschwitz-Birkenau, in time for the major commemoration held there to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of the camp. In December he was appointed by the Polish Secretary of State to be a member of the Honorary Committee for Commemorative Events, concerned with preparing for the anniversary, and in this capacity he travelled to Poland in January to participate in the ceremonies. The anniversary attracted considerable attention from the media: published articles drawing on interviews Dr Webber gave to the press appeared in The Daily Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian, The Jewish Chronicle, La Croix (Paris), The New York Times

and elsewhere. He was interviewed on Australian and local Polish radio, and he took part in a panel discussion on BBC radio's 'The World Tonight' programme, as well as providing a series of television interviews on ITN Channel 4, Sky Television, Polish television, and two channels of German TV.

Dr Webber continued with his ethnographic field research in Poland, supported by the three-year grant he received in 1992 from the Economic and Social Research Council of the UK, and additional funding received from a number of charitable sources. These contributed towards the cost of photography in connection with his project, in collaboration with the photographer Chris Schwarz, to document the ruins of Jewish civilization still to be seen in southern Poland. He acted as consultant to two new Jewish museums in southern Poland: in Lesko (established in June 1995) and Tarnów (in preparation). During the year he spent in Germany he made a number of research visits to Holocaust-related museums and monuments, and in December made a three-day research visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC, and attended the annual conference in Boston of the American Association for Jewish Studies.

Dr Webber published two articles during the year and prepared for publication two further articles and one book review. His Auschwitz: A History in Photographs (Indiana University Press and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 1993) went into its second edition, having sold out its first edition of 10,000 copies; and his pamphlet Die Zukunft von Auschwitz: Einige persönliche Betrachtungen ('The Future of Auschwitz: Some Personal Reflections'), published by the Holocaust Learning and Documentation Centre in Frankfurt, went into its third edition. He continued as managing editor of JASO: Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford, which published as normal three issues over the year (thereby completing its twenty-fifth year of continuous publication); and he served as a member of the editorial board responsible for the exhibition catalogue Representations of Auschwitz, edited by Yasmin Doosry, that was published in July to accompany the Tempus exhibition in Cracow.

#### VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS

## Dr Meir M. Bar-Asher (Skirball Fellow)

Dr Bar-Asher continued his research into early Shiite views of Jews and Judaism while at the Centre. According to Shiite law, Jews (and Christians and Zoroastrians as well) are ritually unclean, an assertion with far-reaching implications for various aspects of Shiite-Jewish interaction, particularly marriage with Jews and the consumption of meat and other foodstuffs prepared by them. Marrying Jews and eating with them were permitted by Sunni but proscribed by Shiite scholars. emphasizing their feelings of superiority over Jews and, in fact, all non-Shiites. During his stay in Oxford he made important steps towards researching this issue, most significantly surveying and reading Shiite as well as Sunni codices of religious law, including relevant sections in the encyclopaedic Shiite works Bihar al-anwar of Muhammad Baqir al Majlisi and Wasa'il al-Shi'a of al-Hurr al-'Amili. Some Zoroastrian writings have also been consulted, the most important of which is the Vendidad, an integral part of the Zend-Avesta, which includes the Zoroastrian code of purity and reveals many points of resemblance to Shiite law. The question whether this resemblance attests to a some sort of direct or even indirect influence needs further research.

## Professor Avraham Balaban

During his six-month stay at the Centre, Professor Balaban completed editing the manuscript of his book entitled A Different Wave in Hebrew Literature: Postmodernist Israeli Fiction, which was published in the summer of 1995 by Keter Publishing House, Jerusalem. He also wrote the first two chapters of its second volume: the first dealing with Anton Shammash's Arabesques and the second with the transition from modernism to postmodernism in the fiction of Abraham Heffner. Professor Balaban also wrote a series of poems to be included in his fourth volume of poetry.

## Yigal Ben-Arieh

During his two month stay at the Centre, Yigal Ben-Arieh wrote a cycle of poems strongly inspired by the Yarnton environment, and by

drafts written in Jerusalem. The combination of the bustle of Jerusalem and the stormy silence of Yarnton helped him complete the manuscript, which will be submitted for publishing. During his stay he edited his fifth book, which was published in 1995, participated in the discussion groups and gave a reading of his poetry.

## Dr Ian J. Bickerton

Dr Bickerton used his three-month stay to continue writing his book on the history of relations between the United States and Israel since 1948. He used the Mueller Library and the Bodleian and attended the Middle East seminars at St Antony's College. He also delivered a paper to the Wednesday Discussion Group entitled 'An Australian in Palestine, 1877–1878: James Hingston of *The Argus*'.

## Dr Lubica Chorvathova (Skirball Fellow)

Dr Chorvathova researched East Slovakian Jewry during her two-month stay at the Centre. A scholar of social anthropology, Dr Chorvathova focuses on the period from the late-nineteenth century to the Holocaust, analysing Jewish economic and religious activities. She also attended classes in Biblical Hebrew and Yiddish, which are not currently taught in Bratislava.

## Dr Tuvia Friling

During Dr Friling's three months in the Centre, he was able to focus on researching, writing and editing his book entitled *Ben-Gurion and the Holocaust*, 1939–1945.

## Dr John Garrard

Dr Garrard carried out research on the newly opened Soviet archives generated by the Extraordinary Commission on Nazi Atrocities, and in particular the section on the town of Berdichev in Ukraine, as a test case for the value of the archives. During his stay at the Centre he was able to analyse this data, and an article describing this work has appeared in *East European Jewish Affairs*. His biography of Vasily Grossman, entitled *The Bones of Berdichev*, records his gratitude to the Centre.

## Professor Harvey Goldberg (Skirball Fellow)

Harvey Goldberg is Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at the Hebrew University and has concentrated his sociological studies on the Jewish communities of North Africa, especially Libya. He has amassed archival material on the life and customs of Jews of Libyan origin in Israel. During his tenure as a Skirball Fellow he completed his study of the interaction of Jews and Muslims in Libya during the Ottoman period.

## Professor Giora Goldberg

During his three-month stay at the Centre, Professor Goldberg completed his manuscript on the relations between David Ben-Gurion and the Knesset. In this work he made wide use of the Kressel Collection, which contains considerable archives on Ben-Gurion. In conjunction with his research, Professor Goldberg delivered a lecture at Yarnton entitled 'Ben-Gurion and the Knesset: Not a Love Story'.

#### Shulamith Hareven

Between mid-April and the end of June 1995, Shulamith Hareven wrote a novel entitled *After Childhood*, completing the trilogy which opened with *The Miracle Hater* and *Prophet*. It has since been published by Dvir in Israel.

## Dr Shmuel Huppert

Dr Huppert's two-month stay at the Centre gave him the opportunity to work on a number of literary projects including a novella whose protagonist, a middle-aged Israeli, visits a Hungarian town in a quest for his family roots and his Jewish identity, and an essay on the literary works of Imre Kertesz, one of the most important Jewish-Hungarian writers on the Holocaust.

He made use of the Kressel Library and the Bodleian, and was able to discuss Iris Murdoch's platonic play 'Acastos' with the author and to meet its director, Michael Kustow. He also benefited from meeting other scholars, and from the opportunity to discuss their research into Islamic culture, Hebrew literature, Talmud and Jewish history.

## Professor Sid Z. Leiman (Skirball Fellow)

During his stay at the Oxford Centre, Professor Leiman investigated the Sabbatian heresy and its aftermath in eighteenth- and nineteenthcentury Europe. The Frankist movement and the Emden-Eibeschuetz controversy are perhaps the prime examples of the impact of Sabbatianism on eighteenth-century Jewish thought and history. A key issue in the thought of Frank, Eibeschuetz and Emden was their attitude toward Christianity, and many Frankists converted to Christianity. It has been alleged that Eibeschuetz-despite his reputation as a distinguished rabbi and talmudist-was a secret believer in Christianity who helped found a Jewish-Christian sect that was still alive (if not flourishing) in Amsterdam in the late eighteenth century. Despite the allegation, no one has investigated Eibeschuetz' views on Christianity or on Sabbatian vis-à-vis normative Jewish views of Christianity in the eighteenth century. Professor Leiman was able to investigate this issue during his stay at the Oxford Centre, because the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Hebrew manuscripts in the Oppenheim and Michael collections at the Bodleian Library are central for such an investigation. The results of this research will appear in a series of scholarly articles.

## Dr Alexander Lokshin (Skirball Fellow)

Dr Lokshin has published studies of various aspects of Russian Jewish history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His major work while at the Centre has been on public reactions to the so-called 'Doctors' Plot', the great anti-Jewish show trial of the Stalinist era. His analysis is based not only on the published sources, but on archival material to which he gained access following Perestroika.

## Professor Shmuel Moreh (Skirball Fellow)

While at the Centre, Professor Moreh continued his research on Muslim attitudes towards Jews and Christians in Egypt between 1688 and 1820, according to the Egyptian chronicle written by 'Abd al-Rahman al Jabarti (1753–1825). This research will form a chapter of a book entitled Al-Jabarti's Background, his Cultural Activities and his Chronicles, which Professor Moreh is writing together with Professor David Ayalon of the Hebrew University. This will be an introductory volume to an edition of the Arabic chronicle in four volumes, based

on the Arabic autograph of 'Aja'ib al-Athar fi'l-Tarajim wa-'l-Akhbar, by al-Jabarti, held at the Cambridge University Library in three volumes, and on volume four at Leeds University Library as well as Berlin Library manuscripts.

The chapter on Islamic attitudes towards Jews deals with restriction on, and decrees (*Fatwas*) against Dhimmis, and the fate of Jews who converted to Islam.

## Professor Gila Safran-Naveh (Skirball Fellow)

During her six months at the Centre, Professor Safran-Naveh wrote the concluding chapters to her book-length manuscript on parables and parabolic discourse from the Bible to modern times, making wide use of the Muller Library, as well as the Bodleian and University College libraries. Concomitantly, she developed a project which focuses on the artistic representation of the role of Jewish women since the advent of the modern consumer society, and its codification in contemporary East European and Israeli literature. Utilizing models from semiotics, psychoanalysis and gender theories, this study brings to light for the first time the shaping of an 'ethic of dissatisfaction' and a stance of 'rejection' as the hallmark of the modern consumer, whose identity, established through consumption, is as fragile as fashion and therefore as unstable.

## Dr Henry Near

Dr Near spent most of his time at the Centre completing and revising the final draft of the second volume of his book *The Kibbutz Movement: A History.* Yarnton provided ideal conditions for uninterrupted work, and made it possible to maintain close contact with his publishers, including the editor revising the final text.

## Dr Inge Nielsen

During her stay at the Centre, Dr Nielsen worked on a book entitled Houses for the Foreign Gods: Reception and Further Development of the Oriental Cults in the West in the Hellenistic and Roman Period, Elucidated Through their Sanctuaries. This treats the integration of the Oriental cults (including Judaism and early Christianity) into Hellenistic and Roman society from an architectural point of view. She

focused on four subjects related to these sanctuaries: cultic theatres, initiation/assembly halls, banqueting halls and water installations. While at the Oxford Centre she presented work on the *miqveh*, which forms partof the section on water installations, and carried out research on the synagogue, that forms part of the section on initiation/assembly halls.

#### Dr William L. Petersen

During his four-month stay at the Centre, Dr Petersen began research for a new book on a Judaic-Christian version of the Gospel of Matthew. He corrected second page-proofs of a book which appeared during his residency, and wrote several reviews and two articles, one on a primitive deviating reading in the *Shema*, and the other on a Judaic-Christian gospel reading in a hymn of the sixth-century Byzantine hymnographer Romanos the Melodist. He gave a talk to the Wednesday Discussion Group entitled 'Excavating a Pre-Gentile, Judaic-Christian Redaction of the Gospel of Matthew'. He also delivered a talk at the University of Birmingham on the Judaic-Christian version of Matthew.

#### Dr Paul Rainbow

Between September 1994 and June 1995 Dr Paul A. Rainbow researched and wrote a monograph tracing the relationships between Jewish monotheism and messianism through the Second Temple period. His smaller projects included an article entitled 'The Last Oniad and the Teacher of Righteousness' appearing in 1996, and a paper read to the New Testament Seminar on '11Q Melchizedek as a Messianic Document'.

## Professor Irven M. Resnick

During his stay at the Centre, Professor Resnick delivered two papers: 'Scrolls and Codices: their Uses in Judaism and Christianity from Antiquity to the Middle Ages', and 'Falsification of Scripture and Medieval Christian-Jewish Polemics'. He also completed and submitted six articles for publication: 'Anselm of Canterbury and Odo of Tournai on the Miraculous Birth of the God-Man', 'Medieval Theology and Marriage Law: Could Mary have been an Unwed Mother?', 'Odo of Tournai, the Phoenix and the Problem of Universals',

'Anselm the Peripatetic (of Besate) and Humanism in the Eleventh Century', 'Albertus Magnus on the Talmud and the Jews', 'Falsification of Scripture and Medieval Christian-Jewish Polemics'.

He also worked on two other papers: 'Odo of Tournai and the Investiture Crisis in Cambrai' and 'Albertus Magnus on the Language of Animals', the latter having been published in 1995 in a volume dedicated to Albert the Great.

Professor Resnick's work focuses on the claims by Christian apologists in the Middle Ages that Jews had falsified for their own ends the text of Scripture. This claim was a standard element in the Jewish-Christian debate in the Middle Ages, and it impinged on Christian attitudes towards the Hebrew Bible. Professor Resnick's research throws important new light on the ongoing relationship between the Church and the Synagogue.

## Professor Nissan Rubin

During Professor Rubin's stay at the Centre he completed the second volume of a trilogy on the Jewish life cycle in Talmudic times from an anthropological point of view. The first volume, The Beginning of Life: Rites of Birth, Circumcision and Redemption of the First-born in the Talmud and Midrash (published in 1995) was also written partially at the Oxford Centre. The second volume, entitled The End of Life: Rites of Burial and Mourning in The Talmud and Midrash, is to be published in 1996. The third part will be a study of wedding ceremonies in Talmudic literature.

## Dr Rafael Sappan (deceased)

During the month Dr Sappan spent at the Centre he worked on rhetorical and semantic phenomena in modern Hebrew poetry. He was also engaged in research at the Oriental Institute concerning semantics, metaphor and the syntax of biblical poetry.

## Professor Joshua Schwartz

Professor Schwartz devoted most of the academic year to his continuing research on leisure-time activities in ancient Jewish society, completing a good deal of the research for the book, and writing a number of chapters. The long chapter on ball games in ancient Jewish society

appeared in a short version in *Zion*, and that on gambling was presented also in short form at the BAJS conference. The study of pigeon flying in ancient Jewish society was also begun in Oxford.

Research on various aspects of leisure-time activities in Jewish society was presented at Dr Goodman's Seminar on Jewish History and Literature in the Graeco-Roman Period at Oxford, at Dr de Lange's seminar in Cambridge, at University College London and at the Wednesday Discussion Group at Yarnton. Research on Babylonian immigrants in Roman Palestine was presented at a conference on Jewish identity in the University of Southampton. He also discussed Jericho at Dr Goodman's seminar. Research was also presented at popular forums such as the synagogues in Oxford, and in Bushey, Marble Arch and the community centre at Redbridge in London.

### Dr Norman Solomon (Koerner Fellow)

During his four months at the Centre, Dr Solomon was able to continue his ongoing research into the extent to which reflection on the Holocaust has modified Jewish thinking. In particular, he examined the way in which the conflict of tradition with modernity has, over the past few centuries, prepared the Jewish world for a radical re-examination of the traditional belief in a supreme deity who could and would intervene on behalf of Israel. He discussed his ideas on Jewish thought before and after the Holocaust with students of the Diploma in Jewish Studies, and presented aspects of his research in several public lectures, including the Sacks Lecture at the University of Essex, the Wilson Memorial Lecture for the World Conference on Religion and Peace at Birmingham Cathedral and at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Dublin. He prepared entries for his Historical Dictionary of the Jewish Religion, due to appear in 1996, as well as several occasional papers. He is also involved with Christians, Muslims and others in interfaith dialogue projects in several countries, including Switzerland, Argentina, South Africa and Jordan, in all of which responses to the Shoah are considered.

#### Dr Meir Zamir

While at the Centre Dr Zamir continued research for his forthcoming book, *Lebanon*, *Quest for National Identity*, due to be published in 1996 in Britain and the United States.

## **Publications**

#### CENTRE PUBLICATION

The Journal of Jewish Studies, edited by Professor Philip Alexander and Dr Martin Goodman, vol. 46 (Special issue to commemorate the twenty-fifth year of Geza Vermes's editorship)

#### FELLOWS' PUBLICATIONS

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- 'Bavli Berakhot 55a-57b: The Talmudic Dreambook in Context', Journal of Jewish Studies 46 (1995) 230-48
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- with S.I. Troen, 'Introduction', in Troen and Lucas (eds) *Israel: The First Decade of Independence*, Albany: State University of New York Press (1995) 1–28
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