

BULLETN  
of the  
Arnold and Leona Finkler

Institute of  
Holocaust Research

No. 9  
September 2000/Elul 5760



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## Table of Contents

### English Section

From the Editor's Desk	3
Research and Projects	4
Administration and Library	10
The Interdepartmental Seminar	12
The Joseph Carlebach Institute	15
The Braun Chair for the History of the Jews in Prussia	18
The Sal Van Gelder Fund for Teaching and Research of Holocaust Literature	19
Holocaust Studies in Israel	21
Research Spotlight: Spotlight on a Project: Interview with Dr. Pnina Meizlish about the Inter-bibliographical Lexicon of Rabbis from Poland and the Baltic Countries Who Perished During the Holocaust	27
In Memoriam: Dr. Yehuda Ben-Avner	30
Book Surveys	
Prewar Europe	31
Prewar Germany	32
Wartime Germany	38
Czechoslovakia	44
Poland	45
France	48
Greece	51
Romania	52
Hungary	54
The Righteous Among the Nations	55
Art and the Holocaust	55
Gender	56
Genocide and Gypsies	61
The Yishuv and the State of Israel	64
The United States	66
Displaced Persons and Survivors	68
Postwar Germany	71
Postwar Eastern Europe	73
Holocaust Historiography	74
Holocaust Representation	77
Holocaust Education	87
Theology	88
Students' Studies:	
Dan Zhits, "The History of the Minsk Ghetto (In Light of the New Documentation)"	89
Institute Publications	94

**Hebrew Section:**

From the Editor's Desk	2
From The Historian's Desk:	
Dr. Sara Bender, Was There or Was There Not a Ghetto Uprising?	3
Dr. Roni Stauber, Holocaust and Heroism in Israeli Public Thought of the 1950's	13
Dr. Yehuda Ben-Avner, Did the Persecution of Jews by the Nazis Affect the Creation and Activities of the German Resistance?	22
Students' Studies:	
Summary of Milka Zalmon's Doctoral Dissertation: "The Community of Deutschkreutz (Zelem) in Burgenland (Austria) a Small Central European Community Struggle for Perseverance and Preservation of its Unique Character in the Early Modern and Modern Era (1672-1938)"	36
Seminar Paper by Asi Kaniel, "The Role of Antisemitism in the Rise of Nazism - A Historiographical Study of the writings of Bracher, Yahil, Goldhagen and Heilbrunner"	40
Book Survey: "To Dispose or Not to Dispose of the Holocaust Heritage? A Problem which Can Not Be Solved or Disposed Of: Two Germany's, a united Germany and Germans vis-à-vis the Jewish World Since 1945 - by Prof. Dan Michman	74

**From the Editor's Desk**

This issue of the Bulletin of the Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research covers the academic years of 1998-2000. In addition to our regular reports and spotlight, this Bulletin continues the tradition begun in previous publications, providing readers with an extensive section devoted to book reviews and surveys.

Since the publication of our last Bulletin, the Institute has continued its wide variety of public activities. Information regarding the Institute's research activities appear in the "Research and Projects" section of the Bulletin. We also include descriptions of the activities of various bodies at Bar-Ilan University which deal with Holocaust-related projects and cooperate with our Institute. These include the Joseph Carlebach Institute, the Braun Chair for the History of the Jews in Prussia and the Sal Van Gelder Center for Teaching and Research of Holocaust Literature.

Our Hebrew section includes three articles under the heading "The Historian's Craft". The first essay, written by the late Dr. Yehuda Ben-Avner, examines whether Nazi persecution of Jews affected the creation and activities of the German *Widerstand* (Resistance movements). The essay by Dr. Roni Stauber of Tel-Aviv University is devoted to the topic of Holocaust and Heroism in Israeli Public Thought of the 1950's. The third article by Dr. Sara Bender of the University of Haifa, discusses whether the Ghetto Uprising can actually be termed as such.

In late spring 2000 we were saddened by the sudden passing of one of our veteran researchers, Dr. Yehuda Ben-Avner. For many years Dr. Ben-Avner stood at the forefront of research regarding orthodox and ultra-orthodox Jewry in inter-war Germany and his demise is a loss to scholars and researchers alike. He will be sorely missed by all members of the Institute and all those who were privileged to have personal or professional contact with him.

Dr. Judith Tydor Baumel  
Editor, The Bulletin

### Research and Projects

- Prof. Dan Michman, Chairman of the Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research was invited, in addition to his other duties, to become the chief historian at the Yad Vashem International Institute for Holocaust Research in Jerusalem, gradually taking over this position from Prof. Israel Gutman during 1999 and 2000. As of August 1, 2000 Prof. Michman assumed this position, in addition to remaining Institute Chair and serving as a full professor in the Department of Jewish History at Bar-Ilan University. Prof. Michman was promoted to the rank of full professor as of 1998.

During the past two academic years Prof. Michman participated in numerous international conferences and also delivered public lectures. These included delivering a lecture about "The Place of the Holocaust of Dutch Jewry in Larger Historical Fabrics: Approaches of Dutch and other Historians", at the Eighth International Symposium on the history of the Jews in the Netherlands at the Center for Research on Dutch Jewry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (Nov. 1998); "The Causal Connection Between the Holocaust and the Birth of Israel: Myth and Reality" at a conference on New Records – New Perspectives: World War II, the Holocaust, the Middle East and the Rise of the State of Israel, held under the auspices of the Defence Ministry and IDF archives in cooperation with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University, University of Haifa and Ben-Gurion University (Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, Ramat-Gan and Sdeh Boker, December 1998); "Integration of the Holocaust in the Broader Context of Modern Jewish History: Approaches of Leading Historians" at the Holocaust in Jewish History, Yad Vashem International Scholars Conference (Jerusalem, January 1999); a special lecture on "Memory and Commemoration of the Holocaust Within Religious Jewish Circles", at the Wolfgang Goethe Universitaet, (Frankfurt, January 1999); "Il Judenrat. Il consigli ebraici sotto la dominazione nazista", at the Universita di Napoli Federico II, (Napoli, May 1999); delivered a response to Yfaat Weiss' paper on: "Borderline Case in Nazi Germany: Mixed Marriages, "Mischlinge" and "Racial Disgrace", at a conference on History

and Culture of German Jewry, The 20<sup>th</sup> German-Israeli Foundation for scientific Research and Development's Meeting, (Schloss Elmau, June-July 1999); "Problematic National Identity, Outsiders and Persecution: Jews in Belgium and the non-Jewish Population 1940-1944", at the conference on Europe under Nazi Rule and the Holocaust, held under the auspices of Yad Vashem in cooperation with the University of Warsaw, the Institut fuer Sozialforschung (Hamburg) and the ZIH (Warsaw), (Warsaw, August-September 1999); "West European Jewry Between the Two World Wars", at the conference on The Holocaust and Education, The Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Education, (Jerusalem, October 1999); "Wisliceny's Recollections and Research on the 'Final Solution': Rereading a Well-known Document", at the conference on National-Socialism and the "Final Solution". Colloquium in Honor of Eberhard Jaeckel's 70<sup>th</sup> Brithday, The Hebrew University and Yad Vashem, (Jerusalem, October 1999); "Leadership and Headship: the Judenraete in the Nazi Administration and in Jewish Life", at the conference on Daily Life in the Polish Ghettos, (Haifa University, December 1999); "Teaching and Research on the Holocaust at the University Level", at the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust, Swedish Prime Minister's Office/International Task force on Holocaust Education, (Stockholm, January 2000); "The Shoah and the State of Israel: A Historical View of their Impact on and Meaning for the Understanding of the Behavior of Jewish Religious Movements", at the conference on Impact of the Holocaust on Jewish Theology and Thought, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, (Ashkelon, May 2000); comments on several papers at the conference on New Trends in Holocaust Research: The Israeli Aspect, Workshop of German and Israeli Researchers, (Freiburg University, May 2000); "The Holocaust as History" at the conference Remembering for the Future 2000 (Oxford, July 2000).

Among Prof. Michman's publications are the following: "Judenrate' und 'Judenvereinigungen' unter nationalsozialistischer Herrschaft: Aufbau und Anwendung eines verwaltungsmaessigen Konzepts", *Zeitschrift fuer Geschichtswissenschaft* 46/4 (1998), pp. 293-304; "Research on the Holocaust in Belgium and in General: History and Context", *Belgium and the Holocaust*;

Germans, Belgians, Jews (D. Michman, ed.), Jerusalem 1998, pp. 3-38; "Preparing for Occupation? A Nazi *Sicherheitsdienst* Document of Spring 1939 on the Jews of Holland", *Studia Rosenthaliana* 32/3 (1998), pp. 173-189; "Zionism is not just 'Nationalism'", *Panim* 6 (July 1998), pp. 61-67; "Memory, Commemoration and Interpretation of the Sho'ah in Religious Jewry", *La Sho'ah Tra Interpretazione E Memoria* (P. Amodio, R. de Maio e G. Lissa, eds.), Napoli 1998, pp. 89-108; "Jewish Leadership During the Holocaust" [Hebrew], *Bishvil Hazikkaron* (February 2000), 8p. Forthcoming publications include: "The Rabbinical Seminary in Amsterdam and the Spirit of the Mizrahi: The background of Rabbi Dr. J.J. Neubauer's Moving to Holland", [Heb.] *The Zorach Warhaftig Festschrift* (E. Don Yehiya and M. Halamish, eds.), BIU, Ramat-Gan, 27pp.; "The Causal Connection Between the Holocaust and the Birth of Israel: Historiography Between Myth and Reality", *Journal of Israel Studies* (2000) 27pp. [English; French, Italian and German versions are included in the translations of his book *The Holocaust and Holocaust Research*, forthcoming - 2000]. Hebrew version: *Iyunim Bitkumat Yisrael* (2000); "How to Integrate the Holocaust Within the Broader Context of Modern Jewish History? Approaches of Leading Historians", *The Holocaust and Jewish History* (Y. Bauer and D. Michman, eds.), Yad Vashem, Jerusalem 2000 23pp. [Hebrew, English]; "Back to Diaspora Experience in the Rebuilt Jewish Homeland? Post-Zionist Ideology in Contemporary Israeli Society", in: (D. Cesarani and J. Milfull, eds.), *The Culture and Politics of the Jewish Diaspora in Modern Times*, London: Berg publishers [2000], 20pp. [English]; "The Holocaust of Dutch Jewry in Larger Historical Fabrics: Approaches of non-Dutch Historians", in Y. Kaplan (ed.), *Dutch Jewish History IV* Jerusalem [2000] 20pp. [Hebrew version, in *Dapim Leheker Tekufat Hashoa* 16 [2000], 19pp.; "Problematic National Identity, Outsiders and Persecution: Jews in Belgium and the Non-Jewish Population During World War II", in: I. Gutman and Y. Bauer (eds.), *Europe Under Nazi Rule and the Holocaust*, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem [2001], 12pp.; "The Holocaust as History", *Remembering for the Future - 2000*, Macmillan Reference [2000] 18pp.; "West European Jewry Between the Two World Wars", in *Holocaust and Education*, Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Education, Jerusalem [2000] 10pp.; "One

Topic, Different Voices: The Role of Language and Culture in Holocaust Research", in French, German and Italian versions of my book *The Holocaust and Holocaust Research* [Hebrew version to be published in a Festschrift] 29pp.

Prof. Michman's book *The Holocaust and Holocaust Research: Conceptualization, Terminology and Basic Issues*, published in Hebrew by Moreshet/Sifriat Poalim, Yad Vashem and Ghetto Fighters' House (Tel-Aviv 1998) was reprinted during the summer of 1999. During 2000-2001 translations are scheduled to appear in German (Doelling und Gralitz, Hamburg), French (In Press Editions, Paris), Italian (Alfredo Guido Editore, Naples) and in English (Valentine Mitchell). Prof. Michman's book *Headship or Leadership/ Judenrate and Judenvereinigungen during the Nazi Period* will be published by the Fischer Verlag, Frankfurt, (the "Schwarze Reihe" series, Walter Pehle, ed.) after submitting his manuscript in 2000. He also edited the second volume of *Post-Zionism and the Holocaust (2): The Role of the Holocaust in the public debate on Post-Zionism in Israel, 1997-2000*, A collection of clippings, Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, (forthcoming).

• Dr. Judith Tydor Baumel continued her two research projects, the first dealing with Women During the Holocaust and the second with Religious Commemoration of the Holocaust. In December 1998 her book *Double Jeopardy: Gender and the Holocaust* was published by Valentine Mitchell with the assistance of the Institute of Holocaust Research. In January 1999 her book *Between Ideology and Propaganda: The IZL Delegation in the USA 1939-1948* [Hebrew] was published by the Magnes Press. Among the articles she published during this period are: "Right-wing Ideologies among American Jews: The Seductive Myth of Power in Crisis", *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 4:4, Winter 1998, pp. 75-109; "Women's Agency and Survival Strategies During the Holocaust", *Women's Studies International Forum* 22:3 (1999), pp. 329-347.; "Kahane in America: An Exercise in Right-Wing Urban Terror", *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 22:4 (1999), pp. 311-329.; "You Said the Words You Wanted Me to Hear But I Heard

"The Words You Couldn't Bring Yourself To Say": Women's First Person Accounts of the Holocaust", **Oral History Review** 27/1 (Winter/Spring 2000), pp. 17-56.

During the academic year Dr. Baumel delivered the following lectures: Issues in Revisionist-Zionist History, University of Haifa, June 1999 (lecture topic: "The Irgun Delegation in the United States Between Ideology and Propaganda"); The Impact of Women's and Gender Studies on Jewish Studies, The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, July 1999 (lecture topic: "Gender and Holocaust Studies in Israel and Abroad"); The Interdepartment Seminar of the Institute of Holocaust Research, Bar-Ilan University, April 1999 (lecture topic: "Gender and the Holocaust: Research Worthy or Politically Correct?"); Gedaechtnis und Geschlecht. Zum Umgang mit der Geschichte der Konzentrationslager in beiden deutschen Nachkriegs-gesellschaften, Ravensbrueck, October 1999 (lecture topic: "Women's Commemoration in Israeli Shoa Memorials"); The Jewish Community: Historical and Cultural Perspectives, Haifa, January 2000 (lecture topic: "Jewish Women's Communal Agency During the Holocaust.")

In October 1998 Dr. Baumel began teaching at the Department of Jewish History at Bar-Ilan University. Among the courses she has taught during her first two years in the Department are: "From Antisemitism to Holocaust", "From Nuremberg to Auschwitz: Studies in the Development of the Final Solution", and "Refugees, DP's, and Immigrants in the Jewish World of the Twentieth Century".

- Dr. Chava Eshkoli continued her project on "The Mizrahi and the HaPoel Hamizrachi Facing the Holocaust". During the period covered by this bulletin she completed five additional chapters in the book, thus completing its preparation. During the spring of 2000 Dr. Eshkoli began to prepare a new research project dealing with "The Alaska Project – a Paradise for Jewish Refugees during the Second World War?". She also began exploring different possibilities of publishing a sourcebook about religious Zionism facing the Holocaust.

Dr. Eshkoli delivered lectures at a symposium held in memory of the late Prof. Yehoshua Kaniel, as part of the interdepartmental seminar of the Institute of Holocaust Research, at Yad Vashem teachers training seminars, and at various other popular forums. She also continued organizing the inter-departmental seminar of the Institute, whose lecture series is listed further on in this bulletin.

During the past two years Dr. Eshkoli published the following articles: "Yishu Zionism: Its Attitude to Nazism and the Third Reich Reconsidered", **Modern Judaism** 19 (1999), pp. 21-40; "About HaPoel HaMizrachi's Mission to Istanbul (1943-1945)", (Heb.) **Dapim Leheker Tekufat Hashoa** (forthcoming); "Religious Zionism in Eretz Yisrael and the Issue of Rescue and its Financing During the Holocaust", (Heb.) in A. Sagi, D. Schwatz (eds.), **One Hundred Years of Religious Zionism**, Bar-Ilan University (forthcoming); "The Zionist Aspect within Religious Zionist Policy in Eretz Yisrael During the Holocaust", **Yad-Vashem Studies** 29 (forthcoming), "On A Zionist Mission In Geneva at the Beginning of the Second World War: About a Lesser Known Period in the Life of Dr. Joseph Burg", (Heb.) **Gesher** (forthcoming); "Zionist in Eretz Yisrael and their Attitude Towards Nazism and the Third Reich", (Heb.) D. Bankier, D. Ofer, D. Kulk (eds.), **Festschrift for Prof. Yehuda Bauer and Prof. Yisrael Gutman**.

- Dr. Penina Meizlish continued her project dealing with the bibliographical lexicon about Rabbis from Poland and the Baltic States who lost their lives during the Holocaust (see spotlight on a project). Under the direction of Prof. Yehud Friedlander, Rector of the University, Dr. Meizlish met with Naomi Lazar from the Jewish museum in Vienna and assisted her in obtaining materials which will be part of the museum exhibition about Jewish youth movement in Europe. Dr. Meizlish' book **Both Jew and Pole – the Diary of Wiktor Chajes** was exhibited at the President's residence during the Israeli book week in June 2000 and she participated in the exhibition ceremony. Dr. Meizlish delivered lectures at the Yad Vashem Teacher's training symposium in Hadera (about Rabbis during the Holocaust) and at the Orot College in Elkana (about Israeli Society and the Holocaust).

Dr. Meizlish's article "Hassidic Derashot about the Portion of the Week which were Delivered in Auschwitz as cited in Rabbi Zvi Hirsch Meizels' book **Mekadshei Hashem** was published in **Hadoar** (December 10, 24, 1999) and she assisted in editing and publishing Dov Kornblum's book – **The Last Surviving Member, Memoirs of a Child in the Warsaw Ghetto**.

- Mrs. Rivka Knoller has continued collecting source material and polemics on the subject of Holocaust Denial. The basic aim of her project is to bring the topic of Holocaust Denial to the forefront of research and to bring it to the attention of scholars and students alike. The material which she collected was sorted and classified according to the different subjects of argumentation with sources being periodicals, books and the greatest volume coming from the internet. Mrs. Knoller has downloaded an enormous amount of Denial material from Revisionist webs based in North America and Europe whose material is in English, German and French. The Institute's library now contains books, articles, reviews and news items which are up to date and deal with the latest developments in legal and judicial matters along with antisemitic publications, which are often intertwined with Holocaust denial.

Mrs. Knoller's article, "The Phenomenon of Holocaust Denial" appeared in two publications. In addition to an historical survey she argued that Holocaust Denial should be publicly answered by presenting authentic historical facts as well as by exposing the motives of the deniers.

#### **Administration and Library**

- Mrs. Zippi Berman has continued coordinating the Institute's office administration.
- The library, coordinated by Mrs. Esther Drenger, and with the assistance and direction of veteran librarian Ruth Berkeley, has grown considerably during the past two years. The Information Center dealing with Holocaust Denial has expanded to include material about neo-Nazis and antisemitism as well as

Holocaust and Holocaust Denial. Part of the material is sent to the Central Library for binding and cataloguing and then returned to the Institute. The library will soon begin to computerize the regular catalogue dealing with Holocaust Denial material and it will then be possible to find the material one is searching for with greater ease.

This year the library has also completed computerising the regular catalogue containing communal memorabuchs in Hebrew, in cooperation with the Central Library. We are not computerising the non-Hebrew language memorabuchs, also in cooperation with the Central Library. Many students are availing themselves of the library's services and researchers from inside and outside the university have also made use of our collections. The library offers folders with bibliographical materials for the Holocaust courses taught at Bar-Ilan University and students save time and effort by being able to come to our library and read their course's bibliography without having to search out individual articles on the library shelves. As in previous years the library continues to receive books about antisemitism and Jews in the diaspora, particularly from institutes in Germany and has also received donations of books from private collections and legacies.

- New Institute projects include a Collected Sourcebook about the Holocaust in Belgium (original and English translation) being carried out by Dr. Richard Millman.

The Institute also prepared a list of life insurance policies of Holocaust victims which were found in the files of the British Mandate and are kept in the Israel State Archives. (**Victims, Heirs and Insurance: A Study of the Palestinian Enemy Debts Registrar's Forms, 1946-1947**) The list was prepared in accordance with the request of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Policies in New York and presented to the Commission.

### The Interdepartmental Seminar

During the 1998-2000 academic years the Interdepartmental Seminar coordinated by Dr. Chava Eshkoli, hosted the following lectures.

December 15, 1998 – Mr. Pierro Mono, Swiss Ambassador to Israel spoke in English about “The Swiss Banks and the Deposits of Holocaust Victims” (Dr. Avi Becker, Manager of the World Jewish Congress, Jerusalem, respondent)

January 19, 1999 – Dr. Chava Eshkoli spoke about “The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and Religious Zionism in Eretz Yisrael: Admiration or Negation” (Prof. Eliezer Don-Yehiye respondent)

February 16, 1999 – Dr. Roni Stauber, Tel-Aviv University, spoke about “The Holocaust and Israeli Society During the 1950’s”. The lecture was delivered in connection with the annual Award given in memory of Sarah Pfleger-Ziskind.

April 26, 1999 – Dr. Judith Tydor Baumel spoke about “Gender and the Holocaust: Research Worthy or Politically Correct?” on the occasion of the appearance of her book: **Double Jeopardy: Gender and the Holocaust**.

May 25, 1999 – the Artist Andre Elbaz, winner of the “Memory and Holocaust” Prize in France, spoke about “The Holocaust in My Art: Three Decades”. The lecture was delivered in French and accompanied by slides.

June 15, 1999 – Prof. Henry Cukier of the New School for Social Research in New York spoke in English about “Why Germans? Why Jews? The Roots of the Holocaust and the Growth of Evil. (respondant – Prof. Zwi Bacharach)

November 3, 1999 – Dr. Tuvia Friling spoke about “Rescue Plans During the Holocaust: New Documentation” (respondant – Dr. Chava Eshkoli)

December 1, 1999 – Dr. Yehuda Ben-Avner spoke about “The German Underground and the Holocaust” (respondant – Mr. Haim Rosen).

January 12, 2000 – Dr. Michal Unger spoke about “Women in the Lodz Ghetto” (respondant – Mrs. Sara Stern-Katan)

February 23, 2000 – Prof. Haim Genizi and Dr. Shlomo Bar-Gil spoke about “Rehabilitation and Rebirth – Child Holocaust Survivors in European Orphanages”.

May 5, 2000 – Prof. Arie Kochavi spoke about “The Politics Behind the Formation of Policy vis a vis War Criminals” (respondant – Prof. Shlomo Aronson).

### Lectures and Conferences

An evening symposium was held at Bar-Ilan University on April 28, 1999 in cooperation with Yad Vashem following the publication of **Belgium and the Holocaust: Jews, Belgians, Germans**, edited by Prof. Michman and published by Yad Vashem in 1998. The symposium was attended by the Belgian Ambassador to Israel.

On December 21-22, 1999 an international conference entitled “Remembering the Holocaust in Germany 1945-1999: the Public Debates as Viewed from Within and from Without”, was held in conjunction of the Braun chair for the History of the Jews in Prussia, the World Jewish Congress and the Faculty of Jewish Studies. The two day conference included lecturers from Germany, Holland, the United States and Israel.

To commemorate the Tenth of Tevet a joint symposium was held on December 28, 1998 in cooperation with the Department of General History, the Department of Jewish History, the School of Education and the Sal Van Gelder Center. The symposium was devoted to the topic of “A Minute Before Sunset” – Holocaust Testimonies and Commemoration. Among the participants were Yitzhak Mais who spoke about the worldwide commemoration efforts of Steven Spielberg, Eitan Oren who spoke about traveling to search for roots in Eastern Europe, Michal Lev who led a workshop about the pros and cons of youth trips to Poland and Prof. Hanna Yaoz who led a workshop about methods of teaching Holocaust memoirs and prose.

On December 15, 2000 the commemorative symposium held for the Tenth of Tevet was devoted to the topic of “Jewish Women During the Holocaust - Unknown Chapters”. Dr. Judith Tydor Baumel delivered a lecture about new trends in researching the topic of Women During the Holocaust, and afterwards the movie “the attic” about Anne Frank’s family, was shown. Chana Pik, a history teacher and childhood friend of Anne Frank, led a workshop for history teachers and Literature

workshops were led by Dr. Dorit Orgad and Neta Gatenyu who was interviewed by Shalhav Refael about her Holocaust memoirs.

In December 1999 the Institute, together with the Abraham and Edita Spiegel Family Chair in Holocaust Research, the Samuel Braun Chair for the History of the Jews in Prussia and the World Jewish Congress hosted a two day international conference entitled "Remembering the Holocaust in Germany 1945-1999: The Public Debates as Viewed from Within and from Without". At the opening session, following greetings from Prof. Michman, the Rector Prof. Friedlander, Dr. Israel Singer, Secretary-General of the World Jewish Congress and Dr. Roman Skoblo, of the Berlin Jewish Community, Prof. Jeffrey Herf of Ohio University in Athens spoke about the Memory of the Holocaust in Divided and Unified Germany, with Prof. Robert Wistrich of the Hebrew University acting as discussant.

Other sessions included talks by Prof. Inge Marszolek of the University of Bremen, Dr. Gilad Margalit of the University of Haifa, Prof. Michal Bodemann, of the University of Toronto, Prof. David Bankier of the Hebrew University, Prof. Chris Lorenz of the Free University in Amsterdam, Prof. Dan Diner of Ben-Gurion University, Prof. Steve Aschheim of the Hebrew University, Prof. Michael Brenner of the University of Munich, Dr. Shlomo Shafir the Editor of Gesher (Journal of Jewish Affairs), Dr. Avi Beker, Director of International Affairs at the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Yehuda Ben-Avner of Bar-Ilan University, Dr. Yfaat Weiss of the University of Haifa, Mr. David Witzthum, of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, Prof. Dan Michman of the Institute and Prof. Zvi Bacharach representing the Braun Chair.

The conference was a big success drawing attendance from all over the country as well as from abroad. The conference proceedings will be published by Peter Lang in 2001. (See Institute publications section).

### The Joseph Carlebach Institute

During the end of 1998 the Joseph Carlebach Institute was transferred from the School of Education/ Faculty of Social Sciences to the Department of Jewish History/ Faculty of Jewish Studies. Consequently, the subject of the annual seminar, directed by Prof. Miriam Gillis-Carlebach, was changed accordingly. The change mentioned above was very well accepted in the Universities and academic institutes, in Israel and abroad, which are connected to the Joseph Carlebach Institute.

The Memorial evening on the "Jahrzeit" of Rabbi Joseph Carlebach in March 1999 was opened by Prof. Gershon Bacon, Chair of the Department of the History of the Jewish People, and the main lecture was delivered by Prof. Bat-Sheva Albert from the Department of General History at Bar-Ilan University on: "The Status of Jewish Women in their Society in Spain and Provence during the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Century". The Beck auditorium was filled to capacity by the participants on this memorable evening, partly by former students of Rabbi Carlebach and members of the Hamburg congregation. At the same occasion a stipend in the name of the late Mr. Henry Leir was awarded to M.A. student Yaron Na'im for his research work about "Jewish Education in Nazi Germany (1933-1943) and the Influence of the Religious Leadership on its Principles".

Scientific Conference in cooperation with the University of Hamburg, devoted to the memory of Rabbi Joseph Carlebach, are held every two years. In October 1998 the fourth Carlebach Conference was held in Hamburg on the subject of "The Family Between Tradition and Modernity". The conference was held in the "Aby Warburg House", in its specially designed library creating an atmosphere of culture, enhanced by Dr. Ingrid Warburg-Spinelli, who opened the conference. Lecturers from Hamburg, Bar-Ilan and additional universities participated in the scientific, bi-cultural dialogue as well as a delegation of young researchers from the Carlebach Institute who had been invited to the conference by Dr. Juergen Luethje, president of the University of

Hamburg. The papers presented at the conference will be published during spring 2000. The fifth Carlebach Conference will be held in the beginning of the year 2001 in Israel, at Bar-Ilan University, on the proposed subject: "Unaccomplished Life – its Tragedy and Highlights." A joint preparatory seminar of Bar-Ilan students and Hamburg University students on the subject is being considered.

Already a tradition, a three day seminar for students of the Otto-von-Guericke University in Magdeburg, was held in August 1999 at the Joseph Carlebach Institute. The seminars, programmed specially for those groups, deal with various aspects of Judaism, such as: Jewish Tradition, Jewish history and the State of Israel. The students who participated in the seminars showed genuine interest in the lectures, which were given by members of the Carlebach Institute and lectures from Bar-Ilan University, and by the visiting students themselves. This was the fifth time that Dr. Frey and twenty students from Magdeburg's university attended the seminar, which was incorporated into an educational excursion in Israel. Like the first time, Prof. Klaus Pollman, Rector of the Otto-von-Guericke University, participated actively in this seminar. The main topic of the seminar was: "Jewish Tradition – the Hebrew Language".

Initiated by Military chaplain Mr. Martin Zamei (Heide, Schleswig-Holstein) a two day seminar was given at the Joseph Carlebach Institute for officers from the German Bundeswehr and their wives. The central subject, proposed by Mr. Zamei was: "Historical Guilt – Future Responsibility". The various lectures were well received and followed by lively discussions. Special interest was aroused by the lecture of a spokesman of the Israel Defense Forces and the open panel.

About twenty M.A. students participated in the annual seminar given at the Institute by Prof. Miriam Gillis-Carlebach about "Problems of Jewish Education in Nazi Germany". These seminars are part of the regular program of the Department of Jewish History. Among the Bar-Ilan students was a guest student from Germany, showing not only genuine interest in the subject, but also helping the Israeli students to cope with the German written sources. Some very interesting studies have already been submitted this year. With the students' permission their essays are integrated in the Joseph Carlebach Institute's library.

In June 1999 Prof. Gillis-Carlebach was invited by Prof. Dr. Renate Drucker, Head of the "Ephraim Carlebach Stiftung" in Leipzig to lecture about "Tora im Derech Erez – as accomplished by the two rabbinical brothers, Dr. Ephraim Carlebach and Dr. Joseph Carlebach." Being in Germany, Prof. Gillis-Carlebach also lectured at the University of Hamburg, in the Department for the Study of the Old Testament about: "Isaac's Binding – a Text Analysis". In November 1999 Prof. Gillis-Carlebach was invited to Hamburg as a member of the committee for Education after Auschwitz to serve as academic adviser. Within this framework, reports were submitted about conferences, activities and research projects and lectures were held concerning this subject. Together with the Israeli psychologist Mrs. Bat-Sheva Dagan, a joint lecture was held, mainly for educators and parents, and lectures were held at an elite High School. This activity was most important – according to the questions asked by the students and the genuine interest that was aroused.

Prof. Gillis-Carlebach was also invited to meet with Dr. Luethje to discuss further cooperation between Hamburg University and Bar-Ilan, including joint activities with the Carlebach Institute. Dr. Luethje expressed his intention to take part in the forthcoming Carlebach conference.

Research on Joseph Carlebach's writings progresses according to expectations. Selected articles will be published as a third volume in addition to the two former ones. The work, which has already been accepted for publication, is done by research assistants Gillian Goldman and Rachel Verliebter under the scientific supervision of Dr. Alfred Bodenheimer, and will hopefully be finished by 2000. Translation of the book "Jewish Life in Nazi-Germany as Human Resistance" (from German into English) as already completed. Work on additional scientific chapters for the book and its final edition are being continued (supported by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture). Mrs. Heleny Lipsky, the institute's librarian, continues her work of computerization and organization of the Joseph Carlebach and the Ephraim Carlebach collections.

Judentum in Internet, is the Institute's Internet web-site project, which is supported by the "Stiftung zur Foerderung von Wissenschaft und Kultur" in Hamburg. The main idea is to provide accurate, scientific explanations of Jewish/Hebrew concepts in the German language. Along with the glossary which contains about 300 concepts, an archive for "Questions and Answers" is being built in. The site also provides articles about Jewish Holidays and an original overview of the Hebrew Alphabet. Other pages of the web-site contain introductions to Bar-Ilan University and the Carlebach Institute, its activities, as well as a biography about Rabbi Joseph Carlebach and an updated bibliography of his writings.

Among the Institute's publications are: Joseph Carlebach, **The Bible** (Translated by Michal Barkan, edited by Abraham Gottlieb), Ramat-Gan, ORA-JCI Publications, 1999 (Hebrew); and Miriam Gillis-Carlebach, "Sephardi Jews in Jerusalem – their Image and Their Tradition as Reflected in Letters, 1905-1907", in **Zion and Zionism in the Sephardi Jewish Communities**, Proceedings of Misgav Yerushalayim's Fifth International Congress (preliminary title). Eds. Z.W. Harvey, G. Hazan-Rokem, H. Saadon and A. Shiloah (in press).

#### **The Braun Chair For the History of the Jews in Prussia**

The Braun Chair hosted two public lectures: the first by Prof. Lillian Weissberg from the University of Pennsylvania who spoke about Henrietta Hertz and the "Salon" women and the second by Prof. David Meyers of UCLA who spoke of new trends in Jewish Historiography. The Chair hosted an international conference on the topic of Jewish Intellectuals in the Weimar Republic" in which Prof. Peter Pulzer, Prof. Steve Ascheim, Prof. Paul Mendes Flohr and Prof. Zvi Bacharach participated. The Braun Chair also supported Meir Seidler's research pertaining to the correspondence between Rabbi Hirsch and Hildesheimer regarding the Orthodox decision of separation in 1877.

The Braun Chair participated in the publication of **New Perspectives on the Haskala** edited by David Sorkin and Shmuel Feiner by the Littman Library of Jewish

Civilization at Oxford, and in the publication of the Berlin Freischule collection of documents, a project of the University of Hamburg under the direction of Ingrid Loehmann. It also assisted in publishing a translation of Prof. Mordechai Eliav's book on Jewish Education during the Haskala and the Emancipation and supporting Prof. Shlomo Spitzer's research regarding tombstones of German Jews in Vienna. In addition, the chair hosted an international workshop about New Methodology in researching the Haskala and supported both Prof. Zvi Bacharach's collection of articles about Antisemitism and Holocaust and Prof. Shmuel Feiner's research about the Haskala during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Finally, the Chair participated in the international conference devoted to the topic of "Remembering the Holocaust in Germany 1945-1999". (see above)

#### **The Sal Van Gelder Center for Teaching and Research of Holocaust Literature**

The Sal Van Gelder Center participated in several symposia and assisted in publishing pamphlets and study booklets for teachers and students. It assisted in preparing and funding the annual symposia commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> of Tevet, hosted a symposium about Holocaust Literature and Testimony on May 5, 2000 in which the poets and writers Ansrash Mazai, Itamar Yazo-Kest and Caroline Elli participated, and published a booklet of poems about the Holocaust written by Holocaust survivors from Rumania. The Sal Van Gelder Center is also planning a new multimedia project dealing with teaching Holocaust literature. The project will include video interviews with Holocaust survivors who are poets and writers and a study packet for teachers and students. The project received the approval of Dr. B. Van Gelder who will transfer sums to the Sal Van Gelder Institute during the next three years in order to underwrite the project's costs.

Among the publications of the "Van Gelder" Fund and later the "Center" are:

- 1) The Holocaust in Modern Poetry - anthology for high school students
- 2) Teaching the Works of A. Appelfeld - teacher's handbook.
- 3) Teaching the European Holocaust Novel - teacher's handbook.

- 4) Collected Articles about Teaching Holocaust Literature - for teachers.
- 5) Out of the Darkness - textbook, result of the work of a team of senior teachers under the supervision of Prof. Dov Landau.
- 6) Art and the Holocaust - teacher's booklet of lesson plans + slides prepared by Dr. Bracha Yaniv.
- 7) The Holocaust in Children's Poetry - anthology for teaching in junior high and grade schools. Editor: Dr. Ziva Feldman.
- 8) The Holocaust in Children's Literature - chapters of research, Mrs. Nechama Ne'eman.
- 9) Holocaust Poetry: Ballads and Sonnets. Teacher's handbook, by Prof. H. Yaoz.
- 10) Holocaust Poetry: Epic Poems. Teacher's handbook, by Prof. H. Yaoz.
- 11) Modern Poetry - and the Holocaust in Modern Poetry, by Prof. H. Yaoz.
- 12) Polish Holocaust Poetry - Anthology, translated into Hebrew with an in-depth introduction. By: A. Brauner. The booklet is intended for teachers and students.
- 13) The Holocaust in Rumanian Jewish Poetry, edited by Prof. H. Yaoz (forthcoming)
- 14) The Holocaust in Hungarian Jewish Poetry, edited by Prof. H. Yaoz (forthcoming)
- 15) Hillel Barzel, World Drama in War and Holocaust, Tel-Aviv, Sifriyat Hapoalim in conjunction with the Sal Van Gelder Institute.

### **Holocaust Studies in Israel 1999- 2000**

Various Holocaust related topics are presently being taught in six Israeli universities: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Haifa University, Tel-Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the Open University of Israel. Courses on the Holocaust are also being taught at various colleges and teachers training seminars throughout the country. The previous issue of the Bulletin contained information regarding Holocaust studies in Israel between 1996-1997. In this issue we present the continuation of this survey, covering the academic years 1998-2000. Our survey includes a listing of course titles, names of lecturers teaching these courses, type and length of course, and the framework in which it is taught. Unfortunately, enrollment numbers were only partially submitted; consequently they do not appear in all cases.

## Key to tables

BA	Bachelors Degree	BEd	Bachelors of Education
CJ	Institute of Contemporary Jewry		
ED	Education	EYS	Eretz Yisrael Studies
F	Folklore	FR	French Department
GH	General History		
HS	Holocaust Studies		
HL	Hebrew Literature		
IHS	Institute of Holocaust Studies		
JH	Jewish History		
JP	Jewish Philosophy		
JS	Jewish Studies		
L	Lecture		
MA	Masters Degree		
PS	Political Science		
Ps	Proseminar		
PSY	Psychology		
S	Seminar		
s	semester		
SW	Social Work		
T	Tutorial		
t	trimester		
TT	Teachers Training		
u	unknown		
W	Workshop		
Y	Yiddish		
y	yearly		
s	semester		
t	trimester		

For example: a course listed as: S/2hr.y CJ/MA  
is a Seminar given for two hours a week as a yearly course at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry in the Master's Degree program.

## Bar-Ilan University

lecturer	topic	type/length	dept.	no.
<b>1998-1999</b>				
Dr. H. Nissimi	The Struggle over Mastery in Europe	L/2hr.y	GH/BA	30
Dr. J. Baumel	From Hatred to Annihilation	L/2hr.y	JH/BA	68
Dr. J. Baumel	From Antisemitism to Holocaust	L/2hr.y	JS/BA	60
Dr. A. Halamish	Jewish Immigration in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	S/2hr.y	JH/BA	25
Prof. M. Gillis	Jewish Education in Nazi Germany	L/2hr.y	JH/BA	20
Prof. E. Meir	The Hol. and Jewish Philo.	L/2hr.y	JP/BA	
Dr. A. Tal	Yiddish Lit. and the Hol.	L/2hr.y	Y/BA	

(Prof. Michman was on sabbatical leave)

## 1999-2000

Prof. Z. Bacharach	Man's Image in Nazi Thought	L/2hr.y	GH/MA	7
Prof. H. Genizi	America and the Holocaust	L/2hr.y	GH/MA	5
Prof. D. Michman	From Hatred to Annihilation	L/2hr.y	JH/BA	33
Prof. D. Michman	Rescue of Jews from Nazi Persecution	L/2hr.y	JH/BA	20
Dr. J. Baumel	From Nuremberg to Auschwitz	T/2hr.y	JH/BA	21
Dr. J. Baumel	Immigrants, Refugees, DP's	S/2hr.y	JH/MA	32
Prof. D. Michman	The Holocaust in Jewish Identity	S/4hr.s	JH/MA	13
Prof. M. Gillis	Daily Life in the Third Reich	S/2hr.y	JH/MA	11
Dr. J. Baumel	From Antisemitism to Holocaust	L/2hr.y	JS/BA	60
Dr. N. Cohen	Yiddish Compositions during the Hol.	L/2hr.y	Y/BA	
Dr. Garry Mol	Poetry in the Concentration Camps	L/2hr.y	FR/BA	

## The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## 1998-1999

Dr. Y. Schwartz	Second Generation Hol. Lit.	S/2hr.s	HL/BA	25
Prof. S. Aharonson	Holocaust Politics	S/2hr.y	PS/MA	30

Prof. D. Bankier	European Public Opinion and The Holocaust	S/2hr.y	CJ/MA
Prof. D. Bankier and	Genocide and Holocaust		
Prof. Y. Bauer	Comparative Aspects	S/2hr.y	CJ/MA
Dr. D. Blattman	Jewish Youth Movements in Eastern Europe during the Hol.	S/2hr.y	CJ/MA
Dr. D. Blattman	Auschwitz: Historiography and Memory	S/2hr.y	CJ/MA
Dr. S. Ezrahi	Holocaust War and Remembrance In Literature	S/2hr.y	CJ/MA
Prof. H. Lavsky	From Hol. To Statehood	S/4hr.s	CJ/MA
Dr. D. Blattman	History of the Holocaust	S/4hr.s	CJ/MA

## 1999-2000

Prof. R. Wistrich	Antisemitism to Holocaust	S/4hr.s	GH/MA 34
Prof. S. Aharonson	Holocaust Politics	S/2hr.y	PS/MA 30
Prof. D. Kulka	Historical Memory and Research	S/2hr.y	GH/MA 8
Prof. M. Altschuler	Hol. In the Soviet Union	S/2hr.y	CJ/MA
Prof. Y. Bauer	A Jewish Community in Poland Before and During the Holocaust	S/2hr.s	CJ/MA
Dr. D. Blattman	Jewish Leadership During the Hol.	S/2hr.y	CJ/MA
Dr. D. Blattman	Hol. Of Lithuanian Jewry	S/2hr.y	CJ/MA
Prof. D. Ofer	Individual and Community in Eastern European Ghettos	S/2hr.y	CJ/MA
Prof. D. Ofer	How Much to Remember the Hol.	S/2hr.y	CJ/MA
Dr. D. Blattman	History of the Holocaust	L/4hr.s	JH/BA

## University of Haifa

## 1999-2000

Prof. A. Kochavi	Nazi Germany	L/4hr.s	GH/BA 35
Prof. A. Kochavi	Western Powers and the Jews During the 30's and 40's	L/2hr.y	GH/MA 15

Prof. A. Kochavi	Innovations in Holocaust Research	S/2hr.y	GH/MA20
Dr. G. Margalit	Nazi Annihilation Policy	L/4hr.s	GH/MA30
Dr. S. Bender	The Holocaust in Underground Writings	S/2hr.y	JH/MA 26
Dr. A. Ronen	Intellectuals and the Holocaust	S/2hr.y	JH/MA 31
Dr. G. Margalit	Antisemitism in Germany	S/2hr.y	JH/MA 39
Dr. H. Saadoun	Jews under Islam in WWII	S/4hr.s	JH/MA 23
Dr. S. Bender	Jewish Politics in Interwar Poland	S/2hr.y	JH/MA 17
Dr. G. Ben-Dror	Immig. and Rescue during the Hol.	S/4hr.s	JH/MA 29
Dr. G. Ben-Dror	Fascism and Jews in Latin America	S/4hr.s	JH/MA 40
Dr. S. Bender	Ghettos and Jewish Leadership	S/4hr.s	JH/MA 31
Dr. Y. Weiss	Nazi Germany and the Jews	S/4hr.s	JH/MA 42
Dr. E. Domke	German J. from Emancipation to Hol.	S/4hr.s	JH/BA 10
Mr. Z. Segev	From Antisemitism to Zionism	L/4hr.s	JH/BA 38

## Ben-Gurion University

## 1998-1999

Dr. H. Yablonka	Holocaust Survivors in Israeli Society	S/2hr.y	JH/BA 25
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## 1999-2000

Prof. A. Appelfeld	The Holocaust in Our Literature	L/2hr.s	HL/BA 20
Dr. S. Goldstein	Memoirs of Women during the Hol.	L/2hr.y	HL/BA 46

## The Open University of Israel

Prof. D. Michman/	Days of Holocaust and Reckoning L+T/y		BA
Dr. Y. Weitz/	(self study from booklets, 1800 pages,		
Dr. J. Baumel/	symposia, movies).		
Mr. G. Greif			

## Oranim Seminar

## 1998-1999

Dr. J. Baumel	Dilemmas of the Holocaust	S/2hr.y	JH/BA
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**Orot Teachers College****1998-1999**

Prof. D. Michman	Antisemitism and Holocaust	L/2hr.y	BEd
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**1999-2000**

Prof. D. Michman	Antisemitism and Holocaust	L/2hr.y	BEd
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**Tel Aviv University****1998-1999**

Dr. Y. Oppenheimer	Holocaust Literature	S/4hr.s	JL/BA 7
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Prof. D. Laor	Writing the Holocaust	L/2hr.s	JL/BA 110
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**1999-2000**

Ms. I. Milner	Transgeneration in Second Gen. Lit.	L/2hr.s	JL/BA 48
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Ms. I. Milner	Family Biography in Second Gen. Lit.	L/2hr.s	JL/BA 45
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**Spotlight on a Project: Interview with Dr. Pnina Meizlish about the Inter-bibliographical Lexicon of Rabbis from Poland and the Baltic Countries Who Perished During the Holocaust**

Q.: Dr. Meizlish, tell us about the Inter-bibliographical Lexicon.

A. The lexicon's purpose is to chart the history of Rabbis from Poland and its periphery – areas which are today part of the Ukraine and Beloruss, the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – who were murdered during the Holocaust or who died during the first weeks following the end of the war. I also included Rabbis who were born in these areas and later moved to Central and Western Europe and were murdered there or in Eastern Europe and those Rabbis who were deported to the Soviet Union and were murdered there. I decided to include Rabbis, rabbinical teachers, judges and Hassidic leaders who led communities and held official positions. These included Rabbis from small towns and larger communities, those about whom we have scant information, making it difficult to find out more about their lives.

One of the things I attempted to do was to cover the broader spectrum of the Jewish world: The hasidic world, the mitnagdic world, the orthodox and the ultra-orthodox, although in inter-war Poland the word "orthodox" was rarely used, and thus I prefer to use the word "haredi" in my work. There were few neolog Rabbis in Eastern Europe, and we know little about them as most of the studies done about Eastern European Rabbis has concentrated primarily upon orthodox Jews, neglecting those Rabbis from other movements who considered themselves religious in one sense or another.

Q. Tell us more about your sources.

A. Communal memoirs contain a plethora of information about religious Jews – Zionists and non-Zionists – and about the various Zionist movements, but not about the enlightened, the assimilated, the communists and the Bund. I think that this is because the Jews who belonged to these circles and survived did not move to Israel after the war and those who did move were not interested in speaking about their past because, at that time, it was not part of the public-national consensus. For example, I found no material in the Krakow memorial book about a figure such as Rabbi Dr. Shmuel Shmelkis, who in 1936 replaced the Zionist Rabbi Dr. Joshua Thon as leader of the "Enlightened Temple" in Krakow. However I did find something about him in the Memorial book of the Kolomea community, in an essay written about his father Rabbi Gedalia Shmelkish.

A friend who was born in Bielsko-Biala told me about the existence of the neolog synagogue there. She also gave me a Polish booklet printed in Bielsko in 1996 that dealt with the history of the Jews of that city. In the same booklet I found material about Rabbi Marcus Steiner who came to Bielsko from Budapest, and I compared it to material about him which I found in the Pinkas Hakehilot of Western Galicia published by Yad Vashem. I received additional material about his fate during the Holocaust from the landsmanschaft of that city.

My study also included people who were ordained as Rabbis but who worked in other fields. In fact, they were the majority. One of these was Rabbi Baruch Epstein, author of the "Torah Temima", who rejected all offers to take up a

rabbinical position in Pinsk, Peterburg and Moscow and preferred to make his living from banking. Due to testimony which my late father gave to Yad Vashem in 1956 I was able to include information about my grandfather Aharon Yosef Mandelboim, who was a scholar, teacher and businessman, and died in the Krakow ghetto during the spring of 1942.

The sources I used were not equal in their stature. Most of the books that I consulted were originally directed towards a very narrow audience and people who were not familiar with the unique terminology they used would not be able to understand the true meaning of what was written there. Much of the material was written by religious authors for a religious audience, with a large part of it coming from ultra-orthodox circles. These books are often apologetic, tending towards a particular political angle, and blur the details pertaining to pre-Holocaust public life: for example, the reasons for appointing specific Rabbis and Hassidic leaders in specific communities or Hassidic sects, and the reasons for their leaving or being replaced. Some of the material written in the communal memorial books was not written from a historical angle and is often nostalgic and impressionist. Consequently, it is often difficult to utilize it as a historical source regarding the persons about which I was seeking information.

Many of the books I used refer to certain Rabbis either only by their first name or only by their surname. By comparing the various sources I tried to fill in the gaps but I also mention those about whom I did not find additional material, in the hope that in the future I would be able to fill in those gaps. There were ultra-orthodox Rabbis about whom I found material in the various memorial books and lexicons, but also those who were mentioned only in passing as the sons, sons in laws, friends or students of those being written about in depth. We therefore have very little information about them except for the fact of their death at some point. At times I found contradictions between the various sources regarding their dates of birth, central events in the public life and their fate during the Holocaust. In those cases I tried to present all the information at hand.

All the Rabbis appear alphabetically by family name, and when possible according to their father's name. This was particularly important with regard to Hassidic dynasties where even today it is common to name sons after the founding fathers of the dynasty.

Regarding geographical location, I noted both the local names of towns and the Jewish names that were often used. In many cases it was difficult to correlate both names as in Eastern Europe it is not uncommon to find towns whose local and Jewish names differed greatly from each other. Other towns had Jewish and local names that were similar. For example "Tarna" = Tarnow, "Reisha" = Rzeszow; but also "Yanov" = Janow in the Kielce district, Jonow Podlaski in the Lublin district, or possibly Janow Poleski or Janowa. The same held true for "Tomashow" which could have been Tomaszow Mazowiecki or Tomaszow Lubelski. These problematics are examined in the book **Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust**.

As I proceeded in my study I came across another problem, one pertaining to the wives of the Rabbis and hassidic leaders. Most came from a similar background

and were the "daughters of..." and in certain cases the leadership of a community was actually part of the "dowry" which they received upon marriage. Many of these women played a central role in their community and some also had a broad secular education as well as a Jewish one. A well-known case was that of the women in the Ba'abad family in Eastern Galicia who had great knowledge of Judaism. Those women whose brief biography appears in my study were usually well known in their communities. Such was the wife of Rabbi Shimshon Stockhammer who was a clerk in the Warsaw community (in those days!) or Rebbetzin Shifra Frankel-Teomin (of the Ba'abad family), who assisted her husband (Rabbi Elimelech Teomin Frankel) in educating their children, in the Rabbinate, in connections with the people of the city, and the communal government. Unfortunately in most cases we do not have information about these women's first names, only the names of their fathers. I don't consider this to be a slight, it was part of the custom of those days. Even today in ultra-orthodox circles it is not customary to write women's names on invitations to celebrations, only "Mr. So and so and his wife", without mentioning the woman's first name as a form of modesty.

The basis for my study was a card catalogue that I had created in the past, together with the late Menachem Eldar, when we worked on the project entitled "Religious life during the Holocaust according to the Communal Memorabuchs". Throughout this study we examined 322 out of about 1000 communal memorabuchs which were made known to us by Yad Vashem. However, as that card catalogue was actually a byproduct of our main research, its listings were general and it did not contain the material necessary for a lexicon such as the one in question. As a model I used the booklet "The Soviet Rabbis between the two World Wars 1917-1939 - material for a bio-bibliographical lexicon, by Abraham Greenbaum, published by the Center for the Study of Eastern European Jewry of the Hebrew University, 1994. My listings are more detailed than those of Greenbaum, and deal with the Rabbis' activities before the war in order to present the reader with a broader picture of the world which was lost.

Until now I have listed 2,500 entries, some still needing clarification and additions. I hope that by the time I finish the project I will have almost 10,000 entries.

### In Memoriam

The Institute of Holocaust Research is greatly saddened by the death of one of its veteran researchers, Dr. Yehuda Ben-Avner, in May 2000. Dr. Ben-Avner was born in Breslau, Germany in 1922 and came to Palestine at part of the Youth Aliya Movement during the late 1930's. Dr. Ben-Avner completed his high school education at Kfar Hanoar Hadati and then lived for a year on Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu in the Beth She'e'an Valley. In 1941, while serving in the Jerusalem branch of the Hagana, Dr. Ben-Avner was awarded a one year scholarship to the Hebrew University, however he was forced to leave his studies due to financial pressures and worked first as a youth leader and later as a teacher during which he completed his teaching degree.

For many years Dr. Ben-Avner worked in the Israeli educational system, as a school principal and also as area director of extra-curricular studies for history teachers. Along with his educational activities Dr. Ben-Avner completed his academic education at Bar-Ilan University, completing his Ph.D. in Jewish History in 1979. During his studies Dr. Ben-Avner began a research project within the Institute for the Study of Religious Jewry, and continued his work within the Institute for the Study of Diaspora Jewry.

In 1981 Dr. Ben-Avner retired from the Ministry of Education and apart from his research projects at Bar-Ilan University began to work at the Open University of Israel, first as course coordinator and later as a volunteer for the Friends of the Open University. In addition, Dr. Ben-Avner served as a member of the joint Israel-Germany schoolbook's commission to examine the presentation of Jews and Jewish history in German schoolbooks. Dr. Ben-Avner was also active in teaching religious studies and Holocaust within the framework of the study circles of the Protestant Church in Wuertemberg, Germany.

Dr. Ben-Avner was the author of numerous articles dealing with the history of German Jewry and particularly the Orthodox rabbinate in Germany during the inter-war period, a topic about which he also published a book. His sudden death in the late spring of 2000 is a loss to all of those who knew him.

### Survey of Holocaust Literature

Prewar Europe  
Prewar Germany  
Wartime Germany  
Czechoslovakia  
Poland  
France  
Greece  
Romania  
Hungary  
The Righteous Among the Nations  
Art and the Holocaust  
Gender  
Genocide and Gypsies  
The Yishuv and the State of Israel  
The United States  
Displaced Persons and Survivors  
Postwar Germany  
Postwar Eastern Europe  
Holocaust Historiography  
Holocaust Representation  
Holocaust Education  
Theology

#### Prewar Europe

Luisa Passerini, Europe in Love, Love in Europe: Imagination and Politics between the Wars, New York: NYU Press, 1999, 358p.

In this book Luisa Passerini explores the emotional basis of the idea of a united Europe between the world wars, uncovering the meaning of European identity and European unity. She begins by investigating the idea of a united Europe in connection with a discourse on love which had been developing in the West since the seventeenth century. These ideas were debated by literary scholars, novelists and poets, who focused on the theme of courtly love and its connections with romantic love. In a tour de force of political and cultural exploration, Luisa Passerini rediscovers the points of convergence between these two strands of thought, finding one of the symbols of their encounter in the myth of Europa.

In chapters on single texts Passerini explores the political and social implications of her theme, ultimately coming to rest in Nazi Germany during the late 1930's and early 1940's, charting the relationship between a German and his English wife who has renounced her nationality and come to live with him in Germany. Through their love letters she focuses on how the Second World War is a moving factor in their relationship but how the Holocaust is totally eclipsed by the desire "not to know". This is part of a wider canvas where her chapters follow the idea of Europe, from the Fascist version to that of the Spanish civil war's pro-Republican fighters, and views the crisis of European culture as analyzed by historians, politicians, psychoanalysts, psychologists and esoteric groups.

J.B.

#### Prewar Germany

Michael Brenner and Derek J. Penslar, In Search of Jewish Community: Jewish Identities in Germany and Austria 1918-1933, Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1998, xv + 251p.

The history of Jews in inter-war Germany and Austria is often viewed either as the culmination of tremendous success in the economic and cultural realms and of individual assimilation and acculturation, or as the beginning of the road to Auschwitz. By contrast, this volume demonstrates a reemerging sense of community within the German-speaking Jewish population of these two countries in the two decades after World War I.

The fresh research presented here shows that although Jew may have experienced a deepening sense of impending crisis and economic decline, a renewal of Jewish communal life was taking place, as new groupings sprang up, including organizations for youth, for rural Jews, and for political groups such as Zionists and Bundists. Several chapters consider the impact of economic and political crises on German Jewish family life. Together, these essays form a complex mosaic of German Jewry on the eve of its demise.

J.B.

Victor Klemperer, I Will Bear Witness: A Diary of the Nazi Years 1933-1941, New York: Random House, 1998, 519p.

The publication of Victor Klemperer's secret diaries brings to light one of the most extraordinary documents of the Nazi era. I Will Bear Witness is a work of literature as well as a revelation of the day-by-day horror of the Nazi years.

A Dresden Jew, a veteran of World War I, a man of letters and historian of great sophistication, Klemperer recognized the danger of Hitler as early as 1933. His diaries, written in secrecy, provide a vivid account of everyday life in Hitler's Germany.

What makes this book so remarkable, aside from its literary distinction, is Klemperer's preoccupation with the thoughts and actions of ordinary Germany: Berger the greengrocer, who was given Klemperer's house ("anti Hitlerist, but of course pleased at the good exchange"), the fishmonger, the baker, the much-visited dentist. All offer their thoughts and theories on the progress of the war: Will England hold out? Who listens to Goebbels? How much longer will it last?

This symphony of voices is ordered by the brilliant, grumbling, Klemperer, struggling to complete his work on eighteenth-century France while documenting the ever-tightening Nazi grip. He first loses his professorship and then his car, his phone, his house, even his typewriter, and is forced to move into a Jews' House (the last step before the camps), put his cat to death (Jews may not own pets), and suffer countless other indignities.

Despite the danger his diaries would pose if discovered, Klemperer sees it as his duty to record events. "I continue to write," he notes in 1941 after a terrifying run-in with the police. "This is my heroics. I want to bear witness, precise witness, until the very end." When a neighbor remarks that, in his isolation, Klemperer will not be able to cover the main events of the war, he writes: "It's not the big things that are important, but the everyday life of tyranny, which may be forgotten. A thousand mosquito bites are worse than a blow on the head. I observe, I note, the mosquito bites."

Klemperer's diaries were thought for many years to have been lost or suppressed by the communist authorities of East Germany, where Klemperer lived after the war. His wife deposited them after his death in the Dresden Landesarchiv, where they remained until they were uncovered by Victor Nowojski, a former pupil, who edited and transcribed them for publication in Germany. Their reception there was a national event. The diaries have been translated into twelve languages.

J.B.

David F. Crew, Germans of Welfare: From Weimar to Hitler, New York and Oxford: Oxford UP, 1988, 287p.

The welfare state was one of the pillars of the Weimar Republic. The Weimar experiment in democracy depended to no small degree upon the welfare system's ability to give German citizens at least a fundamental level of material and mental security in the face of the new risks to which they had been exposed by the effects of the lost war, revolution, and inflation. But the problems of the postwar period meant that, even in its best years, the Weimar welfare state was dangerously overburdened. The onset of the Depression and the growth of mass unemployment after 1929 destroyed republican democracy and the welfare state upon which it was based. On the ruins of Weimar's social republic, the Nazis built a murderous racial state.

Existing work on the Weimar welfare state concentrates largely on the discussions of social reformers, welfare experts, feminists, and the laws and institutions that their debates produced. Yet the Weimar welfare state was not simply the product of discourse and discursive struggles; it was also constructed and reproduced by the daily interactions and hard-pressed officials and impatient, often desperate clients. Adopting a "history of everyday life" perspective, Crew's book shows how welfare discourse and policy were translated into welfare practices by local officials and appropriated, contested, and re-negotiated by millions of welfare clients.

Crew pays special attention to various groups which show the problematics and richness of Weimar society - women, the elderly, schoolchildren - and through an

examination of the welfare state's policy towards them sheds light on a hitherto unexplored facet of German inter-war history.

J.B.

Peter Fritzsche, Germans into Nazis, Cambridge, Mass. and London: Harvard UP, Eng., 1998, 269p.

Why did ordinary Germans vote for Hitler? In this dramatically plotted book, organized around crucial turning points in 1914, 1918, and 1933, Peter Fritzsche explains why the Nazis were so popular and what was behind the political choice made by the German people.

Rejecting the view that Germans voted for the Nazis simply because they hated the Jews, or had been humiliated in World War I, or had been ruined by the Great Depression, Fritzsche makes the controversial argument that Nazism was part of a larger process of democratization and political invigoration that began with the outbreak of the war.

The twenty year period beginning in 1914 was characterized by the steady advance of a broad populist revolution that was animated by war, drew strength from the Revolution of 1918, menaced the Weimar Republic, and finally culminated in the rise of the Nazis. Better than anyone else, as the author claims, the Nazis twisted together ideas from the political Left and Right, crossing nationalism with social reform, antisemitism with democracy, fear of the future with hope for a new beginning. This radical rebelliousness destroyed old authoritarian structures as much as it attacked liberal principles. The outcome of the dramatic social revolution was a surprisingly popular regime that drew on public support to realize its horrible racial goals. Within a generation, Germans had grown increasingly self reliant and sovereign, while intensely nationalistic and chauvinistic. They had recast the nation, but put it on the road to war and genocide.

J.B.

Michael A. Meyer (ed.), Avraham Barkai and Paul Mendes-Flohr (volume eds.) German-Jewish History in Modern Times: Volume 4 - Renewal and Destruction: 1918-1945, New York: Columbia UP, 1998, 479p.

German-Jewish History in Modern Times is a comprehensive historical survey of the Jewish presence in Central Europe from the seventeenth century to the present. The four volume collective project is sponsored by the Leo Baeck Institute and written by a team of leading scholars who offer a vivid portrait of Jewish history. The first portion of volume 4 examines the ambivalence experienced by Jews in the Weimar Republic, where political, economic and cultural equality induced a profound sense of being German at the same time that a resurgent antisemitism, which associated Jews with the despised postwar order, helped to maintain Jewish consciousness. German Jews, though divided by different political preferences, religious orientations, and social status, upheld a sense of their own identity even as they participated to an unprecedented degree in the intellectual and cultural life of the Republic, in its belles lettres, film, music and theater. This volume also traces the extraordinary flowering of German-Jewish communal, religious and cultural life in Germany during a period of upheaval and experimentation.

This "renaissance of Judaism" persisted and became more tenacious in the face of National Socialist moves to reverse emancipation and "ghettoize" Jewish culture. The institutions and ideas of the 1920's helped the Jews to resist Nazi isolation and tyranny through a remarkable commitment to their own communal organizations as well as to the values of both German and Jewish culture. Yet finally the process of economic impoverishment, forced emigration, and physical violence during the Nazi era put an end to the rich historical experience of German Jewry.

J.B.

Hagit Lavsky, Before Catastrophe: The Distinctive Path of German Zionism, Jerusalem and Detroit: The Magnes Press, The Leo Baeck Institute, Wayne State University Press, 1997, 292p.

Hagit Lavsky's book is a first attempt to analyze German Zionism in a global Zionist context and sheds new light on the role of German Zionism in the German-Jewish community. It traces the emergence of a small component of the Zionist movement which regardless of size played a distinctive part in both German-Jewish and Zionist history on the eve of the Second World War. In examining German Zionism within the context of the World Zionist Organization she claims that such an examination helps illuminate the history of both German Zionism and that of the World Zionist organization.

Positioned strategically between East and West, German Zionism was open to influences from both sides. Although post-assimilationist, it was affected by the encounter with East European Jewry. The product was a unique form of Zionism that combined Western ideas with radical "Palestinocentrism".

The German Zionists belonged to the university-educated middle class, and their beliefs and opinions were those of this circle. Thus they played a decisive role in shaping the socio-economic policy adopted by the world Zionist leadership for the building of the Jewish national home. On the other hand, German Zionism was the cradle of the bi-national idea promoted by the pacifist Brith Shalom group. In this matter, the German Zionists had less influence on Zionist policy, although their political views could not be entirely ignored.

Thanks to its emphasis on Palestine, the German Zionist movement became the instrument of rescue for large numbers of German Jews as the community veered towards catastrophe.

J.B.

Steven E. Aschheim, Brothers and Strangers: The East European Jew in German and German Jewish Consciousness, 1800-1923, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1982, reprint 1999, 331p.

Brothers and Strangers, originally published in 1982, has now appeared in a new and revised edition. In this new edition, author Steven Aschheim attempts to place it within the wealth of German-Jewish studies which have appeared since the book was originally published. The book traces the history of German Jewish attitudes, policies, and stereotypical images toward Eastern European Jews, demonstrating the ways in which the historic rupture between Eastern and Western Jewry developed as a function of modernism and its imperatives.

By 1880's most German Jews had inherited and used such negative images to symbolize rejection of their own ghetto past and to emphasize the contrast between modern "enlightened" Jewry and its "half-Asian" counterpart. Moreover, stereotypes of the ghetto and the Eastern Jew figured prominently in the growth and disposition of German antisemitism. Not everyone shared these negative preconceptions, however, and over the years a competing post-liberal image emerged of the Ostjude as cultural hero. Brothers and Strangers examines the genesis, development, and consequences of these changing forces in their often complex cultural, political, and intellectual contexts.

J.B.

#### Wartime Germany

Paul Lawrence Rose, Heisenberg and the Nazi Atomic Bomb Project: A Study in German Culture, Berkeley; Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 1998, 352p.

No one better represents the plight and the conduct of German intellectuals under Hitler than Werner Heisenberg, whose task it was to build an atomic bomb for Nazi Germany. The controversy surrounding Heisenberg and his colleagues still rages, because of the nature of their work and the regime for which it was undertaken. What precisely did Heisenberg know about the physics of the atomic bomb? How deep was

his loyalty to the German government during the Third Reich? Assuming that he had been able to build a bomb, would he have been willing? These questions, the moral and the scientific, are answered by Paul Lawrence Rose with greater accuracy and breadth of documentation than any other historians has yet achieved.

Digging deep into the archival record among formerly secret technical reports, Rose examines early thinking about the atomic bomb not only on the German side but also among Allied scientists. He finds that the early history of fission bomb physics had no shortage of false starts and fumbles in both camps. But, whereas the Allied physicists' ideas crystallized into a realistic prospect for a bomb toward the end of 1940, Heisenberg's basic misconceptions persisted, influencing the German leaders not to push for atomic weapons. In fact, Heisenberg never had to face the moral problem of whether he should design an actual bomb for the Nazi regime.

From his analysis of the recently declassified Farm Hall transcripts -- the German scientists were interned in an English country house and their conversations recorded in 1945 -- Rose concludes that only after Hiroshima did Heisenberg realize his calculations had been misconceived. He began at once to construct an image of himself as a "pure" scientist who could have built a bomb but chose to work on reactor design instead. Neither assertion was true, as Rose demonstrates: in reality, Heisenberg blindly supported and justified the cause of German victory.

Rose's exploration of the German mentality that made it quite reasonable for "unpolitical" scientists to support the regime in power, whatever its form, shows the extent to which Heisenberg and others could devote themselves to research they regarded as patriotic. Science was sacred, but service to the state was the guiding political principle. Even after the war, Heisenberg's words and actions revealed the depth of his moral corruption in working for the Third Reich. Rose provides a thoughtful blending of cultural and scientific contexts; his analysis of the problems of delusion and self-delusion contrasts with the polemics that often characterize the Heisenberg debate. His fascinating study is a profound effort to understand one of the twentieth century's great enigmas.

J.B.

Eliyahu Kuti Selinger, In Spite of Everything: Zionist Pioneering Youth Movements in Germany 1933-1945 (in Hebrew), Givat Haviva: Yad Ya'ari and the Leo Baeck Institute, 1998, 302p.

The history of the Zionist-pioneering youth movements in Nazi Germany as told by Eliyahu Selinger, is the story of a triumph of spirit in the face of adversity. Based on the author's doctoral dissertation, this volume details both political policy of the various such movements in Germany and daily life on their training farms. Using a combination of personal memoirs and historical documentation Seligman reconstructed the problems which the various non-religious movements under the "Hechalutz" umbrella organization, and the religious-pioneering movements such as "Bachad" and "Ezra", faced during the Nazi era. Which categories of youngsters should receive priority treatment in view of their family situation? What should be done about youth too young to emigrate within the framework of a pioneering movement but too old for "Youth aliyah"? Using a lively narrative style Seligman deals with these and other issues and details the history of these movements until their dissolution and their member's deportation to the East in 1943.

J.B.

Lewis H. Carlson, We Were Each Other's Prisoners: An Oral History of World War II American and German Prisoners of War, New York: Basic Books, 1997, 258p.

We Were Each Other's Prisoners is the first book ever to compare the experiences of American and German POW's in the Second World War. Based on over 150 interviews with surviving prisoners, Lewis Carlson brings the stories of these men to life. From the anti-Nazi German soldier who surrendered rather than fight for Hitler, to the American prisoner who thrice escaped his German captors - the last time to join Russian troops in the Battle of Berlin - to the Jewish-American prisoner sent to a slave labor camp, these moving accounts reveal the terror and anguish of being captured and celebrate the resilience that kept these soldiers alive.

Through all the gut-wrenching details, the larger political and psychological issues are addressed: What does it mean to be a prisoner, especially for men whose cultures glorify individual heroism? How were these men received upon return to their homeland? And how have they coped with the long-term effects of incarceration? Revealed for the first time, these are the stories of men whose singular courage testified both to their own fortitude and to the human will to survive.

J.B.

Theodore S. Hamerow, On the Road to the Wolf's Lair: German Resistance to Hitler, Cambridge, Mass. and London, Eng.: Harvard UP, 1997, x+442p.

"On the Road to the Wolf's Lair" demonstrates how a small group of people in the military, in bureaucracy, and in the clergy came to extricate themselves from the hold of Nazism over their own world views and ambitions. In the beginning, they rallied behind Hitler in the national interest of Germany; in the end, they sacrificed their lives to assassinate him. A history of German resistance to Hitler in high places, this book offers a glimpse into one of the most intractable mysteries. Why did high-ranking army officers, civil servants, and religious leaders support Hitler? Why did they ultimately turn against him? What transformed these unlikely men, most of them elitist, militaristic, and fiercely nationalistic, into martyrs to a universal ideal?

The resisters in the book are not the singular souls doomed to failure by the massive Nazi machinery, but those who emerged from the Third Reich itself -- those people whose cultural, administrative, and military positions allowed them, ultimately, to form a systematic, organized opposition to the Nazi regime. These were people with a vested interest in the Third Reich, and their slow and painful awakening to its evils makes a dramatic story, marked as much by temporizing and compromise, vacillation and reluctance - a resistance to conscience - as by the intrigue and heroics of political resistance that finally emerged. Hamerow follows these men as, one by one, they find themselves overwhelmed by guilt and contrition over their support of a murderous regime. He shows how their awakened moral reckoning and higher interests overrode lifetime habits and disciplines on the road to "the wolf's lair."

The result is a history of the German resistance to Hitler where the players are portrayed as real people with complex motives and evolving characters.

J.B.

Goetz Aly, "Final Solution": Nazi Population Policy and the Murder of the European Jews, London: Arnold, 1999, 305p.

How did it come about that a modern European state in the middle of the twentieth century planned and carried out the industrially organized mass murder of six million Jews, male and female, adults and children?

Making extensive use of Russian, German and Polish archives, Aly has provided what he claims as an exact and detailed reconstruction of the "Final Solution", policy and practice. As well as looking at the ideological imperative in the Nazi state to "solve the Jewish question" and at Hitler's own role, Aly investigates the actions of those running the Reich Security Headquarters in Berlin and of those numerous lesser figures on the ground who were in the eye of the storm, grappling with the planning failures inherent in Nazi resettlement plans and experiencing mounting difficulties in trying to be rid of "their" Jews. Aly illustrates, through the evidence he builds into an overall mosaic, the lunacy of Nazi race policy, and the variety of agencies that went into the gradual shaping of a policy of all-out genocide.

J.B.

Jurgen Herbst, Requiem for a German Past: A Boyhood among the Nazis, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1999, 234p.

Jurgen Herbst's account of growing up in Nazi Germany from 1928 to 1948 is a boy's experience of anti-Semitism and militarism from the inside. It is also a compelling tale of moral awakening.

Jurgen Herbst was a middle-class boy in a Lutheran family that saw value in Prussian military ideals and a mythic German past. He recalls his confusion as some of his classmates are no longer welcome at his school, and his consternation as he tries to

reconcile what he learned from his favorite teachers and what was subsequently taught by their Nazi party replacements. His description of walking to school the morning after Kristallnacht is clear and chilling.

At age ten Herbst joins the Jungvolk and slowly becomes aware of the real nature of the National Socialist regime. The story of that evolution -- a unique, insider's view of the Nazi youth movement - is inspired by young Jurgen's deep friendships with his fellow students and their dedication to a military code of personal honor and loyalty. His devotion to those young men allowed him to endure scorn and deprivation and to risk personal well-being, even life, in the face of a brutal evil that demanded unquestioning allegiance.

J.B.

Robert N. Proctor, The Nazi War on Cancer, Princeton: Princeton UP, 1999, 380p.

As part of Hitler's warped quest to create a German master race it is known that Nazi doctors carried out murderous and torturous medical experiments, killing hundreds of thousands of people through "euthanasia" and sterilizing the "unfit". Robert Proctor recently made the discovery that Nazi Germany was also decades ahead of other countries in promoting health reforms that we today regard as progressive and socially responsible. Most startling, Nazi scientists were the first to definitively link lung cancer and cigarette smoking. Proctor explores the controversial and troubling questions that such findings raise: Were the Nazis more complex morally than we thought? Can good science come from an evil regime? What might this reveal about health activism in our own society? Proctor argues that we must view Hitler's Germany more subtly than we have in the past. But he also concludes that the Nazis' forward-looking health activism ultimately came from the same twisted root as their medical crimes: the ideal of a sanitary racial utopia reserved exclusively for pure and healthy Germans.

Author of an earlier groundbreaking work on Nazi medical horrors, Proctor began this book after discovering documents showing that the Nazis conducted the most aggressive antismoking campaign in modern history. Further research revealed that Hitler's government passed a wide range of public health measures, including

restrictions on asbestos, radiation, pesticides, and food dyes. Nazi health officials introduced strict vocational health and safety standards, and promoted such foods as whole-grain bread and soybeans. These policies went hand in hand with health propaganda that, for example, idealized the Fuehrer's body and his nonsmoking, vegetarian lifestyle. Proctor shows that cancer also became an important social metaphor, as the Nazis portrayed Jews and other "enemies of the Volk" as tumors that must be eliminated from the German body politic. It is only by appreciating the connections between the "normal" and the "monstrous" aspects of Nazi science and policy, Proctor reveals, that we can fully understand not just the horror of fascism but also its deep and seductive appeal even to otherwise right-thinking Germans.

J.B.

### Czechoslovakia

Renata Polt (tr. and ed.), A Thousand Kisses: A Grandmother's Holocaust Letters, Tuscaloosa, Ala and London: University of Alabama Press, 1999, 210p.

Henrietta Pollatschek was 69 years old when the Nazis marched into Prague where she and her daughter had sought refuge after fleeing their German-held homeland in northern Bohemia. Henriette's son and his family had already escaped to Switzerland and later to Cuba and the United States. At each step of the way, her family urged Henriette to join them. But in the face of what was then only a vague and, to many, unbelievable threat of danger, she was unwilling to abandon her financial independence, her accustomed way of life, and the familial objects she had gathered over a lifetime. As living conditions for Jews worsened in Nazi-occupied Prague Henriette began to have second thoughts. Her letters to her son and his family in Havana reveal an increasingly desperate situation as the obstacles to escape mounted while living conditions eroded. Ultimately both Henriette and her daughter perished.

Henriette Pollatschek's letters provide a detailed picture of the lives of Jews in Prague during the war years: the evictions, the food shortages, the worries about livelihood, and the increasing prohibitions and regulations, as well as the brave and cheerful attempts to maintain a normal life and bear hardships. Henriette's letters also help

explain why more Jews did not escape. As Renata Polt, Henriette's granddaughter, concludes, "Who could imagine a Holocaust?"

J.B.

Raya Czermer Schapiro and Helga Czermer Weinberg, One Family's Letters From Prague 1939-1941, Chicago: Academy Chicago Publishers, 1996, 218p.

In May 1939, in Nazi-occupied Prague, a Jewish family of five traded their luxurious apartment to a German officer for five exit visas to the United States. At the last possible moment, the officer produced only three exit visas. Because the father's prominent position at Shell Oil put him in immediate danger, he used the three precious visas for himself, his wife and his infant son, leaving his two little girls in Prague in their grandmother's and uncle's care for what they all assumed would be only a matter of weeks.

This is the actual correspondence between the girl's grandmother and uncle in Prague and their mother and father in the United States, over a two-year period: first about the terrible difficulties of getting the two small sisters out, and then about the grandmother's and uncle's own unsuccessful efforts to escape. Set in Prague, the story's tension comes from the letters' tone of growing desperation and longing, coupled with the reader's knowledge of what is to come. Historical notes flesh out a vivid portrait of life within the ever-tightening noose of Nazi laws. The book includes an appendix with facsimiles of some of the correspondence and relevant documents from the period.

J.B.

### Poland

Halina Nelken, A Yet, I am Here!, Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1999, 276p.

When Germany invaded Poland in 1939, Halina Nelken was a precocious teenager, living a middle-class life in Krakow. Like other girls her age, she recorded her personal observations and feelings in a diary. As conditions in Krakow deteriorated and her

family was forced into the Jewish ghetto, she continued to write, eventually smuggling her diary out with a Catholic friend.

This book tells the story of Nelken's experiences in the ghetto and later in eight Nazi concentration camps, including Plaszow, Auschwitz, and Ravensbrueck. Her diary entries, written between 1938 and 1943, form the core of the volume and are supplemented by recollections written shortly after the war, and by later commentaries and explanatory notes which she added in the mid 198's. Although there exist numerous published and unpublished memoirs by Holocaust survivors, Nelken's book presents one of the few extant diaries written at the time. Already released in Polish and German editions, it has been hailed as one of the finest works of its kind. Now it is available in English for the first time.

J.B.

Michael C. Steinlauf, Bondage to the Dead: Poland and the Memory of the Holocaust, Syracuse: Syracuse UP, 1997, xiii + 189p.

Michael C. Steinlauf focuses on Polish witnessing of the Holocaust. This experience amounted, he argues, to a mass psychic and moral trauma unprecedented in history. This trauma, moreover, was preceded by centuries of coexistence with Jews and followed by forty-five years of Communist manipulation of the past.

Steinlauf begins with a summary of Polish-Jewish relations up to and during the Holocaust. He then investigates issues such as the postwar violence against Jewish survivors; the anti-Zionist campaign of 1968-70, which drove 20,000 Jews out of Poland; and the appropriation of Holocaust memory in the struggle between the Solidarity movement and the Polish government. The anguished struggle to integrate the image of the murdered Jew into Polish national memory emerges as a crucial feature of postwar Polish history and consciousness.

J.B.

Jack Kugelmass and Jonathan Boyarin, From a Ruined Garden: The Memorial Books of Polish Jewry (second expanded edition), Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana UP, 1998, 353p.

In this newly revised version of a classic study Kugelmass and Boyarin explore the vast memorial book literature and have selected the most revealing accounts of Jewish life in interwar Poland. Combining history and anthropology, the authors have produced a compilation which shows us the human experience in history. For the memorial book writers, the act of writing was a re-creation of a world which had been lost. For the readers, it is one of the few volumes which emphasizes the true culture of the Polish Jews, Orthodox and secular, radical and conservative, all variations of the human spectrum.

This new edition has been published in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and is an important contribution to our understanding of modern Jewish history of the twentieth century.

J.B.

Jack Pomerantz and Lyric Wallwork Winik, Run East: Flight from the Holocaust, Urbana and Chicago, University of Illinois Press, 1997, 210p.

Jack Pomerantz fled east from his home in Radzyn, Poland, when the German planes attacked, walking by night and hiding in the forest of eastern Europe by day. He was just twenty-one years old when this odyssey began. His flight took him on a harrowing dangerous path through Siberia, to Tashkent, to Siberia again and then, in Polish uniform, back to his home as liberator. Run East is the product of a remarkable collaboration between an award-winning writer and a man with an extraordinary story to tell.

A peddler's son who had known only poverty throughout his childhood and adolescence, Pomerantz provides a poignant picture of the many Jewish refugees who had to escape not only Nazi terror but also the forces of Stalin and the NKVD, the