



Kindertransport Workshop

Poignant memories were reawakened for members of the Kindertransport, who joined a group of academics at Sussex on 11-12 June for a research workshop organized by the Centre. The event attracted participants from far afield, including Irene Katzenstein-Schmied from New York, who delivered a paper on 'Kindertransport Children as Characters in Fiction'. A focal point was the novel *Austerlitz* by the late W. G. Sebald, partly inspired by the childhood experiences of Susi Bechofer, one of the Kinder who was brought up by a Christian family and only discovered her true identity in later life. The implications of this fictional reworking of refugee experience were discussed in a number of papers, including one by the novel's German publisher, Michael Krüger. Fortunately, Susi Bechofer was able to attend the workshop in person and present her own story.

A further focus was on ways of promoting a convergence between the position of Kinder who have recorded their personal memories and the approach of researchers who rely on archival records. This theme, introduced by Claudia Curio (Berlin), was further developed by Andrea Hammel, coordinator of the Centre's Kindertransport research. Reviewing previous projects in this field, Edward Timms argued that a sociological approach is unlikely to do justice to psychological complexities of the acculturation process. Another of the Centre's researchers, Iris Guske, suggested

that the gap may be bridged by means of models of narrative identity based on the closest possible communication between researchers and their subjects. During an open forum, members of the Kindertransport, led by Bertha Leverton, talked freely about the difficulties of coming to terms with their experiences. The forum



*Irene Katzenstein-Schmied
of the American Kinderlink*

was chaired by the journalist Hella Pick, herself one of the Kinder, who summed up the feelings of many of those present by acknowledging a persistent sense of insecurity.

A further aim was to publicize the database of Kindertransport related archives which the Sussex Centre is compiling. Anyone who can provide further information about published or unpublished memoirs, or the location of personal papers and archival records, is invited to contact Andrea Hammel, Centre for German-Jewish Studies, University of Sussex Library, Brighton, BN 1 9QL, email: a.hammel@sussex.ac.uk.

Nationalist Myths Conference

On 22-23 October 2003 the Centre will host a conference on 'Nationalist Myths and Modern Media' at 10, St James Square, London SW1. This conference marks the midpoint of the Centre's Arts and Humanities Research Board funded project. Over one hundred delegates will explore the mythologized histories being created by nationalists in an era of globalisation.

Plenary speakers will include Franziska Augstein, Editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, who will speak on 'Patriotism or Nationalism? German Notions of Political Normality Since 1990'; David Binder, former correspondent for the *New York Times*, on 'The Press: Taking Sides in Civil Wars' and Tanya Lokshina, Executive Director of the Moscow Helsinki Group, speaking on 'Ethnic and Religious Intolerance in Russian Mainstream Media'.

Panels on 'Holocaust Denial', 'Media and Prejudice', 'Religion and Nationalism', '*The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*' and other crucial topics have attracted participants from around the globe. Confirmed panellists include Antje Schuhmann (Germany), 'The Significance of the Israel-Palestine Conflict in National Identity Politics of the

Generation of 1968 in Germany'; David Weinburg (USA), 'The Shattering of Taboos: Anti-Semitic and Anti-Zionist Rhetoric in French Political Life'; Susan Tebbutt (Ireland), 'Contemporary Media Manipulations of the Fate of Austria's Romanies'; plus speakers from Israel, France, Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Bulgaria, Poland, Albania, Serbia, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic. With the support of the British Embassy in Moscow, the Consultative Council of Jewish Organisations, and the Shoshana Foundation, we have been able to fund a number of speakers from Russia and Eastern Europe. UK speakers will include John Klier, Martin Durham and Michael Berkowitz. Centre researchers Jan Herman Brinks, Stella Rock and Petru Weber will also be presenting papers.

This conference, which offers attendees the opportunity to socialize and network with internationally respected journalists and academics, should be both an intellectually stimulating and enjoyable event. There are a limited number of discounted places for Friends of the Centre - early booking is highly recommended

For further details contact Tiziana Tonna on (01273) 877344 or t.tonna@sussex.ac.uk

Obituaries

Rolf Schild who died on 14 April 2003, was one of the pupils from the Jawne Gymnasium in Cologne who escaped to England in 1939. He owed his survival to the foresight of his head teacher, Dr Erich Klibansky, who arranged for four groups of Jewish pupils to be transferred to British schools. Dr Klibansky, who stayed behind in Cologne, was deported and shot by the Nazis in 1942.

Rolf Schild never forgot his debt to the Jewish community in Cologne. Many years later he supported the research of Dieter Corbach, author of two substantial books which are now in the archive of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies: *Die Jawne zu Köln* (a history of the school, published in 1990 to accompany an exhibition); and *6.00 Uhr ab Messe Köln-Deutz: Deportationen 1938-1945*, a comprehensive documentation which lists the names of thousands of Jews deported from Cologne to their deaths, including Rolf's parents, Martha and Julius Schild.

Although he was not able to complete his formal education, Rolf Schild showed great flair as an engineer and entrepreneur, culminating in the creation of Huntleigh Technology, a firm producing sophisticated medical equipment. Fortunate were the visitors to the manufacturing plant in Luton who were taken on a tour in person and introduced to the latest design in hospital beds and the staff responsible for such high-quality products. Huntleigh Technology provides innovative designs to meet the needs of

people who may require long-term nursing care.

After being informed about the work of the Centre by the late Lewis Goodman, Rolf Schild became a generous supporter of research at Sussex, funding a four-year postgraduate project about the educational experiences of German-Jewish refugee children in Britain, undertaken by Monica Lowenberg. This provided the basis for an MA dissertation (based on the archives and experiences of another refugee, Gerda Sainer), followed by an ambitious programme of oral history interviews. The section of her research dealing with the Jawne Gymnasium in Cologne and the ORT School in Berlin has been published both in English (in the *Exile Studies Yearbook*) and in German (in *Die Kindertransporte 1938-39*). When this investigation is complete, it will enhance our understanding of one of the most remarkable episodes in refugee history.

Rolf Schild was both a successful businessman and a public benefactor, whose services were recognized by the award of the MBE. He maintained a lively interest in the Centre's activities, paying a special visit to Sussex in November 2002 to consult with the Director about work-in-progress and attend one of our seminars on 'Refugees from Hitler'. His own life can be seen as a significant chapter in the history of refugees who have made successful careers in Britain, while retaining contact with their own backgrounds and supporting historical research.

Manja Leigh who died on 2 July 2003, was a generous supporter of both cultural and academic endeavours. She came to Britain in the 1930s as a refugee from Germany, marrying (first) a fellow refugee named Charles Stockler. As a person with lively musical interests she became involved in the cultural life of London through her subsequent marriage to the bandleader, Geraldo (born Gerald Bright). Her final marriage was to the furniture manufacturer Morris Leigh, creator of the Morris Leigh Trust. After hearing about the work of the Sussex Centre from the late Lewis Goodman, she became especially interested in our research on the cultural achievements of German-Jewish refugees, sponsoring a two-year Research Fellowship in this field.

The Fellowship was awarded to Dr Ulrike Walton-Jordan, a historian from Germany who had already undertaken a study of the experiences in Britain of German-speaking refugee jurists. Ulrike's flair for archival research enabled her to unearth a rich range

of unpublished sources, including a list of supporters of the celebrated concerts at the National Gallery during the Second World War. The surprising number of names on this list with German-Jewish associations show how enthusiastically members of the refugee community became involved in British cultural life. A similar audience can still be found at today's Wigmore Hall concerts on Sunday afternoons.

It was the field of design that became the main focus of Ulrike's research, and the Manja Leigh Fellowship enabled her to spend many productive hours in the archives of the Victoria & Albert Museum. She presented her findings at the conference on 'Intellectual Migration' held at Sussex in September 2000, and they have been published under the title 'Designs for the Future: Gaby Schreiber as an Exponent of Bauhaus Principles in Britain' in our collection of conference papers, *Intellectual Migration and Cultural Transformation*. Manja Leigh had the satisfaction of receiving a copy of this volume, shortly before her final illness.

Events

Constructions of Jewish Identity

The Centre has appointed Lisa Silverman as a Research Fellow to undertake a two-year study of Constructions of Jewish Identity in Berlin and Vienna, 1870-1940. The processes of assimilation led many German-speaking Jews during the late 19th and early 20th century to distance themselves from Judaism, sometimes opting for baptism as a response to social pressures. But there was a second, more complex process which led German-speaking Jews to reaffirm their ethnicity, reconstructing their Jewishness in innovative ways as a response to the pressures of antisemitism and the rise of National Socialism. This 'reconstruction' of Jewish identity took the form of original cultural practices, such as Sigmund Freud's lectures on dreams at the Vienna B'nai B'rith, Else Lasker-Schüler's poetry on biblical themes, and Arnold Schoenberg's 'Moses and Aaron', generating new forms of non-confessional discourse which have continuing relevance for today.

Our new part-time Research Fellow, Lisa Silverman, is in the process of completing a doctoral dissertation at Yale University on 'The Transformation of Jewish identity in Vienna, 1918-38'. During the past year she has held a Junior Fellowship at the International Research Center for Cultural Studies in Vienna, and her work focuses particularly on innovative women from Jewish backgrounds, including the educational reformer Eugenia Schwarzwald and the authors Veza Canetti and Hilde Spiel. Her research also examines the ways in which Zionist, Yiddish and Catholic cultures affected and transformed Jewish identities in the interwar period through secular phenomena such as the establishment of the Salzburg Festival and the proliferation of Yiddish theatre.

The historical context of this new project is defined by the exceptional German-Jewish commitment to education, culture and science and the active patronage of the arts which were such a feature of Jewish life in centres like Berlin and Vienna, and which acquired an international dimension through processes of migration. The aim, during the first year, is to undertake a detailed study of German-Jewish cultural associations in Berlin and Vienna in the period 1870-1940, highlighting the interactions between creativity and patronage. Research during the second year will

Happy Birthday

Ralph Emanuel, a driving force behind the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, was eighty on 22 July 2003. Members of the University and of the Centre's Support Group (of which Ralph acts as joint Vice-Chair) celebrated the occasion in London at the home of Diana Franklin.



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, presented Ralph (pictured right) with a framed citation celebrating his birthday and recognising the tremendous support and encouragement he has given to the development of the Centre from its inception up to the present day.

In a short tribute the Director, Edward Timms, suggested that Ralph's devotion to the work of the Centre has a double source: 'pride in his Jewish heritage; and his experiences as a child, growing up in Brighton during the 1930s in a family actively involved with the rescue of Jewish refugees'.

involve in-depth case studies of specific individuals or families, documenting the diversity of ways in which Jewish identity was reconfigured under the pressure of events.

Lisa Silverman, who will work in collaboration with Edward Timms, takes up this new appointment in October 2003. The project is jointly funded by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and the Kohn Foundation.

News in Brief

- Lord Attenborough, Chancellor of the University of Sussex and Life President of the German-Jewish Centre, celebrated his eightieth birthday on 29 August 2003. The occasion was marked by a season of films on BBC 2, including a two-part Arena programme on 23-24 August, with footage of his visit to the University earlier this summer. His achievements were also celebrated with a party on campus inspired by 'Oh! What a Lovely War', the film he directed in 1967 with Sussex students as extras, which marked the beginning of his association with the University.
- Hans Brinks has represented the Centre at two conferences in the United States, presenting papers on 'Germany's New Right' at the Center for German and European Studies at Berkeley University, California, on 12 March 2003; and on 'Political Lutheranism and the German Nation' at the Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities at Columbia University, New York, on 5 April.
- On 1 June 2003 Raphael Gross delivered the opening address at a conference at the University of Haifa on 'Migration and Remigration: Jews in Germany after 1945'.
- At a conference on 'Austria and National Socialism: The Implications for Scientific and Humanistic Scholarship', held at the University of Vienna on 5-6 June, Edward Timms presented a paper on 'British Responses to the Intellectual Migration from Austria'. His aim was to show how it was possible, despite official restrictions, for an estimated 90,000 refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe to find sanctuary in Britain.
- Raphael Gross gave a lecture on "'Nationalsozialistische Moral" und Antisemitismus' in Berlin on 15 July as part of a lecture series at the Humboldt University. The problematic category of National Socialist 'morality' forms one of his research interests.
- The Centre's archivist, Samira Teuteberg, attended a conference on 'Digital Resources in the Humanities' at the University of Gloucester in September. This has enhanced her ability to design on-line teaching and archival programmes so as to make the Centre's holdings more widely available. Her work at Sussex is supported by a grant from the Association of Jewish Refugees.

Publications and Forthcoming Events

- The preliminary findings of Deborah Schultz's research on the work of Arnold Daghani have been published under the title 'Displacement and Identity: Arnold Daghani in Socialist Realist Romania' in *Centropa* (New York), Volume 3.2 (May 2003), pp. 116-131.
- The collection of papers published as a German paperback in July under the title *Die Kindertransporte 1938/39: Rettung und Integration* (Fischer Verlag) includes contributions by a number of researchers from the University of Sussex, including Andrea Hammel (co-editor), Sybil Oldfield, Monica Lowenberg, Susan Kleinman and Chana Moshenska, and Iris Guske (with Vernon Saunders). An English-language edition is scheduled for publication in 2004 in a special number of the journal *Shofar: International Journal of Jewish Studies*.
- In November 2003 Raphael Gross will deliver a series of visiting lectures in the United States. The themes will include 'Immoral Times: The Assessment of National Socialism in Discourses on Shame and Guilt in the Immediate Postwar Period' at Princeton University; 'Memory - Morality - Guilt: Relegating Nazism to the Past in Postwar Germany' at the German Historical Institute in Washington; and a further presentation of this same topic at Washington Rice University, Texas.
- The second Max Kochmann Memorial Lecture, jointly organized with the Leo Baeck Institute and the Wiener Library, is due to be delivered by Prof. Robert S. Wistrich on 26 November 2003 at the Wiener Library on 'The Last Testament of Sigmund Freud'. Friends of the Centre will be particularly welcome. (Tel: 020 7636 7247)
- Professor Sander Gilman (a member of the Centre's Academic Advisory Board) will deliver a lecture entitled 'German Jewish Identities at the Margins - 100 Years of Central European Jewry, 1889-1989' at the London Jewish Cultural Centre, 11 December 2003 7.30pm, Admission £8. (Tel: 020 7431 0345)
- Holocaust Memorial Day will be commemorated at the University of Sussex on Wednesday 28 January 2004. The theme will be *Genocides and Refugees: Lessons still to be learnt*. Events will include a talk by a Holocaust Survivor, educational films, and a discussion of current British policy towards Asylum Seekers.

For further information about the Centre, forthcoming events and joining the Friends please contact:

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