

LEOBAECK
INSTITUTE

2008
overview

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INTRODUCTION

A wide and diverse spectrum of cultural forces can be discerned in the development of a national identity, especially in the politically volatile atmosphere of modern (1600-2000) Europe. The library and archives of Leo Baeck Institute offer the most comprehensive documentation of what it means to be a “German-Jew” – a citizen of Central Europe whose universe was largely defined by religion, even as exposure to secular opportunities continued to expand.

The writers, scientists, artist, musicians, scholars and others who use Leo Baeck Institute materials are provided with documents that attest to the importance of German Jewry to the development of 20th century culture. For example, there are papers on pioneers in journalism, banking, theatre arts, and gender studies. There are collections of architects, fashion designers and publishers, rabbis and lawyers. And all Leo Baeck Institute collections are accessible on microfilm, and increasingly, in digitized form.

As the original Leo Baeck Institute constituency of survivors passes on, it is up to us to construct a bridge from personal experience to collective memory. There is enormous interest from young Germans and other Europeans in learning more about their own history, especially about contributions of those who were marginalized or eliminated by the Nazis. That legacy can only be found at Leo Baeck Institute New York, and at the branch of Leo Baeck Institute archives at the Jewish Museum Berlin.

As the torch is passed from the survivor generation to the generations who were not eyewitnesses, the importance of the documents catalogued here continues to grow. Access to this record of accomplishment, of tragedy, and of reconstruction is a vital mission of Leo Baeck Institute.

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2008 REPORT OF THE LIBRARY OF THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

LIBRARY STAFF

Renate Evers, Head Librarian

Tracey Beck, Assistant Librarian for Acquisition and Cataloging

Allan Chin, Assistant Librarian (Periodicals Collection)

Jennifer Feldman, Assistant Librarian for Technical Services (until March 2008)

Judy Fixler, Hebrew Cataloger, part-time

Eva Goldschmidt, Cataloger, part-time (until October 2008)

Margot Lauchheimer, Library Assistant, part-time (until August 20, 2008)

Albina Leibman-Klix, Assistant Librarian for Acquisition and Cataloging (as of August 2008)

Rita Marschall, Library Assistant, part-time (until February 2008)

Lauren Paustian, Assistant Librarian for Technical Services (as of July 2008)

1. THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

The Library of the Leo Baeck Institute is internationally recognized as the most comprehensive repository for books documenting the history and culture of German-speaking Jewry. Over 80,000 volumes and 900 periodical titles, including rare and complete collections of various publications, provide important primary and secondary material for an ever increasing number of researchers and the general public. While most of the collection deals with central European Jewry during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it also encompasses important earlier publications some from as far back as the 16th century, as well as material on contemporary Jewish life in German-speaking countries.

2. ACQUISITIONS

Over 4,800 new books were acquired in 2008, an increase of more than 37 % in comparison to the previous year. The majority of these new acquisitions were books which were donated to the library of the Leo Baeck Institute.

Especially noteworthy among these donations are 2 outstanding book collections. We received a very rare collection of about 50 Renaissance books from the collection of Frank L. Herz. The German historian Dr. Sibylle Quack had inherited the books and generously donated them to the Leo Baeck Institute. The collection focuses on the famous 1509/1514 controversy between the Christian Hebraist Johannes Reuchlin and the anti-Jewish agitator Johannes Pfefferkorn, who was trying to lobby for the destruction of all Jewish books and prevent the publication of all Jewish tracts.

We are also thankful for receiving the scholarly library of Prof. Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, Professor Emeritus of Jewish History, Culture and Society at Columbia University, and past president of Leo Baeck Institute N.Y. The books were Prof. Yerushalmi's resource material for his renowned book "*Freud's Moses: Judaism*

terminable and interminable". Both collections are described in more detail later in this report.

New purchases account for about a fifth of new acquisitions in 2008. These publications cover all aspects of German-Jewish history: Jewish identity, gender studies, Antisemitism, German-Jewish exile communities, autobiographies, biographies, company histories, community histories, studies about the fate of professional and social groups during the 19th and 20th centuries, contemporary Jewish life by Jewish authors in Germany, Austria, and other German-speaking areas. A few topics of special interest are listed here.

ARCHITECTURE

Beginning in the 1920s, and especially after the Nazis introduced the Nuremberg Race Laws in the 1930s, more than 130 Jewish architects chose to leave their native Germany and begin afresh in Palestine. Many of them, including Alex Baerwald and Harry Rosenthal, left behind significant buildings that were already central to the urban image of Berlin. Upon arriving in their new desert home, and completely unaccustomed to the climate, the culture, or the language, these Bauhaus-era repatriates set about laying the foundations of a new society with amazing vigor. During the last years several new books were published on these pioneering German-Jewish architects.

- **Warhaftig, Myra: *They laid the foundation*** : lives and works of German-speaking Jewish architects in Palestine 1918-1948. 2. ed., rev. and enl. Tuebingen : Wasmuth, 2007.
This volume, assembled by the Israeli architect Myra Warhaftig, provides comprehensive documentation of works by this first generation of Jewish-Palestinian architects, including kibbutzim, villages and cities with housing developments, hospitals, schools, universities, theaters, administrative buildings, etc. It also includes documentation of the lives and works of many of the most entrepreneurial individuals to escape in the diaspora, who, along with their descendents, laid the foundations of modern-day Israel. It is the English translation of "Sie legten den Grundstein" (1996).
- **Warhaftig, Myra: *Deutsche juedische Architekten vor und nach 1933*** - das Lexikon : 500 Biographien. - Berlin : Reimer, 2005.
Biographical dictionary of 500 German-Jewish architects.
- ***Siegfried Kracauers Blick*** : Anstoesse zu einer Ethnographie des Staedtischen / Christine Holste (Hrsg.). Hamburg : Philo & Philo Fine Arts, 2006.
Kracauer's role in the cultural discussion of contemporary architectural and city development.
- **Menzel, Dana: *Der Architekt Adolf Wollenberg*** : Leben und Werk. Tuebingen : Wasmuth, 2007.

Dissertation about the life and work of the successful Berlin architect Adolf Wollenweber (1874-1951 who constructed many villas in Grunewald and Westend as well as office buildings in Berlin-Mitte between 1908 and 1928. In 1933 he emigrated to Great Britain, never regained the prominence he enjoyed in Germany.

- **Josef Frank 1885-1967** : eine Moderne der Unordnung / Hg. Iris Meder ; mitherausgegeben von der Oesterreichischen Gesellschaft fuer Architektur, OGFA. - Salzburg : Anton Pustet, 2008.
The Austrian architect and designer Josef Frank moved with ease from architecture and furniture design to glassware, lighting and metalwork. Originally from Vienna, he lived from 1933 almost continually until his death in 1967 in Stockholm and worked for Stockholm's Svenskt . Franks's designs defied contemporary sensibilities by offering a contrast to the linear, grid-like restrictions that defined modernism, the Bauhaus and others.

The “Society of Friends of Bet Tfila,” founded in 2003, published several books on the architecture of synagogues. They promote the work of the “*Bet Tfila – Research Unit for Jewish Architecture in Europe*” with its two locations at the Department of Architectural History in Braunschweig/Germany and the Center for Jewish Art in Jerusalem/Israel.

- Bd. 1: **Kessler, Katrin: *Die Bauwerke der jüdischen Gemeinde in Schwedt/Oder*** = The buildings of the Jewish community in Schwedt. Petersberg : Imhof ; [Braunschweig] : Bet Tfila, 2007.
- Bd. 2: **Kessler, Katrin: *Ritus und Raum der Synagoge*** : liturgische und religionsgesetzliche Voraussetzungen für den Synagogenbau in Mitteleuropa . Petersberg : Imhof ; [Braunschweig] : Bet Tfila, 2007.
- Bd. 3: **Knufinke, Ulrich. *Bauwerke jüdischer Friedhöfe in Deutschland***. Petersberg : Imhof ; [Braunschweig] : Bet Tfila, 2007.
- Bd. 4: **Paulus, Simon: *Die Architektur der Synagoge im Mittelalter*** : Überlieferung und Bestand. - Petersberg : Imhof, 2007.
- Bd. 5: ***Synagogenarchitektur in Deutschland*** : Dokumentation zur Ausstellung " - und ich wurde ihnen zu einem kleinen Heiligtum - " ; Synagogen in Deutschland. - [3. Aufl.]. - Petersberg : Imhof, 2008

NEW ACQUISITIONS – GERMAN-JEWISH HISTORY

- **Alicke, Klaus-Dieter. *Lexikon der juedischen Gemeinden im deutschen Sprachraum***. - Guetersloh : Guetersloher Verlagshaus, 2008. 3 volumes (viii, 4680 p.)
Comprehensive summary overview of the historical development of Jewish

communities; their synagogues, cemeteries and other places, demographic developments, the Nazi era, memorials today. Based on 3000 source publications on Jewish communities.

- **Reinke, Andreas: *Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland 1781-1933.*** - Darmstadt : Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 2007. 151 p.
Compact and textbook-style overview of German-Jewish history from the late 18th century to 1933. Andreas Reinke works at the Institute for History at the University of Halle-Wittenberg.
- ***Die Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland*** / herausgegeben von Arno Herzig und Cay Rademacher. Hamburg : Ellert & Richter Verlag, c2007.
Comprehensive, illustrated overview of the history of Jews in Germany.
- **Wilhelm, Cornelia: *Deutsche Juden in Amerika*** : buergerliches Selbstbewusstsein und juedische Identitaet in den Orden B'nai B'rith und Treue Schwestern, 1843-1914. Stuttgart : Steiner, 2007.
History of German Jews in America, especially with regard to secular organizations such as B'nai B'rith which was founded in 1843 or 'Treue Schwestern' which was founded in 1846 in New York.
- **Goldschmidt, Hermann Levin, 1914-1998: *The legacy of German Jewry*** / Hermann Levin Goldschmidt ; translated by David Suchoff. New York : Fordham University Press, 2007.
Hermann Levin Goldschmidt was the founder and director of the Juedische lehrhaus in Zurich from 1952 to 1962. This is his first book translated into English. In 1957 he wrote "Vermaechtnis des deutschen Judentums, a brilliant analysis of what he called a dialogue between the universality of German cultural aspirations and the particularity of Jewish cultural experience. He believed that emancipation and the demand for equality, must not lead to an assimilation that submerges ones identity.
- **Hertz, Deborah Sadie. *How Jews became Germans*** : the history of conversion and assimilation in Berlin. - New Haven : Yale University Press, c2007.
Account of Jewish conversion to Christianity in Berlin from the 17th century through the middle of the 19th century, written by Deborah Hertz, Professor of Modern Jewish studies at UC at San Diego.
- **Wiesemann, Falk: *Judaica bavarica*** : neue Bibliographie zur Geschichte der Juden in Bayern /Falk Wiesemann. Essen : Klartext, 2007.
Falk Wiesemann published a new improved bibliography for the history of Jews in Bavaria. The predecessor in 1989 had 3000 entries, this new revised bibliography about , 12.500 entries, with a special emphasis on periodical articles. The entries are systematically arranged , with a a large section dedicated

to local histories, arranged by place and also by organizations, it also contains comprehensive chapters on literature on displaced persons in Bavaria.

NEW ACQUISITIONS - *RESTITUTION*

The debates on restitution and memory continue and are reflected in many recent publications. They address e.g. the restitution of art works and book collections and discuss the historical background and legal issues.

- **Rudolph, Sabine: *Restitution von Kunstwerken aus juedischem Besitz* :** dingliche Herausgabeansprueche nach deutschem Recht. - Berlin : De Gruyter Recht, 2007.
Sabine Rudolph's dissertation at the Law Faculty of the University of Dresden addresses the legal background of restitution cases.
- ***Displaced books* :** NS-Raubgut in der Universitaetsbibliothek Marburg / herausgegeben von Eckart Conze und Bernd Reifenberg. Marburg : Universitaetsbibliothek Marburg, 2006
The university library in Marburg documents its continued efforts to identify books from Jewish collections which were confiscated and added to its collections. In some cases former owners were identified, found, and books were returned. The efforts of the university library in Marburg were initiated by a joined declaration of the Federal government, the various states, and communities in 1999.
- ***Eine Debatte ohne Ende?* :** Raubkunst und Restitution im deutschsprachigen Raum / Julius H. Schoeps, Anna-Dorothea Ludewig (Hg.) ; [eine Publikation des Moses Mendelssohn Zentrums fuer europaeisch-juedische Studien, Potsdam]. - Berlin : Verlag fuer Berlin-Brandenburg, 2007.
The book focuses on the restitution case of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's "Berliner Strassenszenen." The painting was part of the collection of the Bruecke Museum in Berlin, it was returned to its previous owners after a prolonged process. The book addresses general questions of restitution from the perspective of museums, previous owners, the role of the US in restitution cases and addresses other EU cases and cases in Switzerland.
- **Kirchmayr, Birgit: *Geraubte Kunst in Oberdonau* /** Birgit Kirchmayr, Friedrich Buchmayr, Michael John. Linz : OEULA, Oberoesterreichisches Landesarchiv, 2007.
A comprehensive documentation of the "Sonderauftrag Linz," one of the largest systematic attempts of the Third Reich to confiscate art works in Austria in order to build the so-called "Fuehrermuseum," a planned museum of art works of German, Austrian, French, Italian and Dutch painters.

- ***Raubgut in Berliner Bibliotheken*** : Workshop des Regionalverbands Berlin-Brandenburg des Vereins Deutscher Bibliothekare am 12. Juni 2006 / [Redaktion: Michael Duerr, Annette Gerlach]. Berlin : Zentral- und Landesbibliothek, 2007. *This report of a workshop of the German library association addresses various issues related to confiscated Jewish Book collections in libraries in Berlin. The book also includes a chapter of the discovery of several volumes of the former library of Leo Baeck at the Staatsbibliothek Berlin which were returned to the family in 2006.*

NEW ACQUISITIONS – JEWISH LIFE IN GERMANY

Jewish life in Germany today is the subject of many new publications – from personal memoirs to general observation:

- **Tauchert, Stephanie: *Juedische Identitaeten in Deutschland*** : das Selbstverstaendnis von Juden in der Bundesrepublik und der DDR 1950 bis 2000 . Berlin : Metropol, 2007. *Comparison of Jewish identities of Jews in the Federal Republic and in the former GDR between 1950 and 2000.*
- **Sinn, Andrea. *Und ich lebe wieder an der Isar*** : Exil und Rueckkehr des Muenchner Juden Hans Lamm / Andrea Sinn ; mit einem Geleitwort von Charlotte Knobloch. Muenchen : Oldenbourg, 2008. *Hans Lamm, President of the Israelitisches Kultusgemeinde Muenchen, was one of the few Jews who decided to return to Germany after 1945. Andrea Sinn's biographical study addresses questions like his motivation and how Jews were perceived in Germany after the war.*

NEW MULTI-VOLUME WORKS:

- **Benjamin, Walter:** Werke und Nachlass: kritische Gesamtausgabe. – Frankfurt am Main : Suhrkamp, 2008ff
The Suhrkamp Publishing House is publishing a new critical edition of the collected works of Walter Benjamin in 21 volumes. The source material is located at the Walter Benjamin Archiv at the Akademie der Kuenste in Berlin. This new edition documents the process of his writing as well as the reception of his texts. The first published volume (vol. 3) is Benjamin's dissertation „Der Begriff der Kunstkritik in der deutschen Romantik,“ edited by Uwe Steiner, Rice University, Houston.
- **Kuehntopf, Michael: *Juden, Juden, Juden*** : juedische Chronik zu Juden, Judentum, juedischer Geschichte und Geschichte des Heiligen Landes, der

Heiligen Schrift(en) sowie zur Geschichte Israels, des Antijudaismus, Antisemitismus, der Shoah und des Zionismus von den Anfängen bis in die Gegenwart, vermehrt um allerlei Wissenswertes und Kurioses aus der juedischen (und nichtjuedischen) Welt - teilweise ergaenzt um Angaben zu geschichtlichen Ereignissen von allgemeiner Bedeutung / zusammengestellt und herausgegeben von: Michael Kuehntopf. 1. Aufl. Norderstedt : Books on Demand, 2008-.V.1-3, *Chronology of Jewish history from the earliest times up to 2006*.

The predominant languages of new book publications on German–Jewish history are German and English, which are reflected in our continued choice of major book vendors.

A consortium agreement is in place with Harrassowitz, our main European vendor, and Yankee Book Peddler (YBP), our main US vendor. We also continued to use Amazon for US books. For books published in Israel we continued to order from Gefen Publishing House, Inc / Israelbooks and Rubin Mass Ltd. Titles which were not available from our main vendors (other languages, titles published by very small presses, institutions, or museums), were purchased directly from those sources.

An excellent source of information about new publications are acquisition lists of related institutions in the field – besides sources such as vendor profiles, publisher catalogs, book reviews, national bibliographies, inside tips of historians and genealogists, etc. For this reason we monitor the acquisition lists or exchange information about new publications with the Wiener Library in London, the Germania Judaica in Cologne, the Institut für die Geschichte der Deutschen Juden in Hamburg, among others.

We also send our new acquisition lists to Barbara Suchy, the bibliographer of “*Publications on German-Speaking Jewry*,” the most comprehensive bibliography of German-Jewish publications, which is published annually as part of the Leo Baeck Institute *Year Book*.

Special contributions to the LBI Library Fund provide some of the funding for newly purchased books. In this respect we are especially grateful to Eric and Lili Zielenziger. Bookplates were inscribed with the donor information and placed in the volumes.

NEW ACQUISITIONS – *DONATION OF BOOK COLLECTIONS*

In addition to the books bought by LBI in 2008, we expanded our holdings through a large number of donated books – 4000 volumes, almost double the amount of 2007, were given to the Library by individual collectors, authors, publishers, museums, and other libraries.

Among the highlights of the donations in 2008 were two outstanding donations as mentioned in the introduction:

- The Freud Library of Prof. Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi:**
 A comprehensive collection of more than 800 books, periodicals, serials and other materials from the scholarly library of Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, Professor Emeritus of Jewish History, Culture and Society at Columbia University. Prof. Yerushalmi collected these materials to support his research for his renowned book *“Freud’s Moses: Judaism terminable and interminable”* (Yale University Press, 1991). Prof. Yerushalmi’s library is a cohesive and comprehensive collection on the subject of Freud and his relation to Jewish identity. It covers the entire psychoanalytical movement as well as the situation of Jews in Germany and Austria and the question of the “Jewish science.” Prof. Yerushalmi’s groundbreaking work on Sigmund Freud’s Moses caused a wave of excitement among scholars and prompted an important renewal of interpretations on Freud’s relationship to Judaism. It was translated into several languages. The collected materials illustrate the intellectual process in the formulation of interpretations of texts important in the history of ideas and cultures.
- The Renaissance book collection of Frank L. Herz:**
 In 2008/2009 the library collection of the Leo Baeck Institute has been greatly enriched by a collection of exceptionally rare and important books from the early 16th century (1502-1540) from the library of Frank L. Herz. The German historian Dr. Sibylle Quack had inherited the collection and generously donated it to the Leo Baeck Institute. The collection focuses on the famous Renaissance controversy between the Christian Hebraist Johannes Reuchlin and the anti-Jewish agitator Johannes Pfefferkorn, who was trying to lobby for the destruction of all Jewish books. The collection includes writings of Reuchlin’s humanist contemporaries such as Sir Thomas More, Ulrich von Hutten and Erasmus of Rotterdam. It is an exceptional exposition for the defense of tolerance and freedom, rationalism, and the overcoming of superstition, anti-semitism, and century-old doctrinal thinking. The books are especially important to the Leo Baeck Institute because they were used by Mr. Herz in preparing his manuscript *“Johannes Reuchlin’s ‘Opinion on Jewish literature,’ a landmark on the road to toleration”* which is part of our archival collections.
 Frank L. Herz passed away in 2006. He was born in Heilbronn in 1908. His mother was the sister of Paul Levi, a close friend and lawyer of Rosa Luxemburg. Frank L. Herz, who was also a lawyer, arrived with his family in New York in 1935, where he and his brother worked in the family owned business of leather goods. When he retired he became devoted to humanism, especially Renaissance humanism, and started to study the Reuchlin-Pfefferkorn controversy.

Here are descriptions of 2 of the outstanding books from the collection:

Reuchlin, Johann, 1455-1522.

[Augenspiegel] Doctor Johannsen Reuchlins der K. M. als Ertzhertzogen zu Osterreich auch Churfürsten vnd fürsten gemainen bundtrichters inn Schwaben warhafftige entschuldigung gegen vnd wider ains getaufften Juden genant Pfefferkorn vormals getruckt ussgangen unwarhaftigs schmachbüchlin

Augenspiegel ... Warhafftige entschuldigung gegen und wider ains getaufften
Juden genant Pfefferkorn vormals getruckt vssgangen unwarhaftigs
schmachbüchlin Augenspiegel ... Wahrhaftige entschuldigungen ... eines getaufften
Juden genant Pfefferkorn ... unwarhaftige schmachbüchlin Augenspiegel
[Tübingen] : [Anshelm], [1511].

[6], XLI, [1] Bl.; 21 x 16 cm. German, Latin.

Very good condition; woodcut on title page depicting eyeglasses; 2 woodcut
initials; modern vellum binding with the "eyeglass" from the title-page
reproduced on front cover; small paper repairs on verso of leaf [2], and verso of
leaf X and XI; small tear on leaf XXIII; pages yellowing, some stains.

The "Augenspiegel" is the famous defense of the Christian humanist scholar
Johannes Reuchlin against the attacks of the anti-Jewish agitator Johannes
Pfefferkorn, a convert from Judaism. Pfefferkorn had gained access to the Holy
Roman emperor through the support of the Cologne Dominicans and in 1509 was
empowered to confiscate and burn Jewish books as part of the plan to undermine
the status of Jews within the empire. When the archbishop of Mainz, the Frankfurt
city council, and various German princes intervened on behalf of the Jews, the
emperor ordered the appointment of an investigating commission. The
commission was headed by the archbishop of Mainz and Johannes Reuchlin,
whose aid Pfefferkorn had tried in vain to enlist earlier. When Pfefferkorn learned
that Reuchlin's opinion would be favorable to the Talmud he assailed him in his
Handspiegel wider und gegen die Juden ("Hand Mirror," 1511). Reuchlin replied
in his Augenspiegel ("Eye-glass," 1511), strongly attacking Pfefferkorn and his
backers, and thereby starting one of the great literary controversies of history, in
reality a battle between the reactionary and the liberal parties within the Church.

The controversy occurred at a time when the tide of humanism was rising, and
most German humanists rallied to Reuchlin's side. Erasmus, the Rotterdam
humanist, termed Pfefferkorn "a criminal Jew who had become a most criminal
Christian." In September 1511 Pfefferkorn preached against the Augenspiegel
outside a Frankfurt church, but the main battle was now fought between Reuchlin
and the Cologne theologians. When the emperor visited Cologne in 1512,
Reuchlin's enemies obtained from him an interdiction against the Augenspiegel,
and in the same year Pfefferkorn issued his Brandspiegel ("Burning Glass"), an
even more vituperative attack on Reuchlin and the Jews. Reuchlin submitted a
further defense and appealed for the support of the pope. As a result of this appeal
Reuchlin stood trial before the bishop of Speyer, who acquitted him in 1514. The
battle resumed when Reuchlin published "Clarorum virorum Epistolae Latinae,
Graecae, et Hebraicae" (1514). In 1520 the pope finally decided against Reuchlin
under the threat of the reformation movement, although by this time the
proceedings were so far removed from the original controversy against Jewish
literature that the decision did not interfere with David Bomberg's first printing of
the Talmud in Venice. However, since Reuchlin's publications were, at least
temporarily, banned, not many copies of the Augenspiegel survived. (Source: EJ;
E. Carlebach: Divided souls, 2001).

Reuchlin, Johann,1455-1522.

Defensio Joannis Reuchlin Phorcensis LL. Doctoris Contra calumniatores suos Colonienses.

Tubingae : Apud Thomam Anshelmum Badensem.,Anno 1514.

[108] p. (final leaf blank) ; 21 x 15.5 cm

Imprint from colophon. Printer's device on verso of leaf [53]

Modern blue paperboard binding with small stylized fleurs-de-lis design; spine title: "Reuchlin: Defensio, 1514"; some water stains; some ink inscriptions in the margins; former owner stamps: "S.B."; "Groot-Seminarie, Hoeven Bibliothek 23-8-20"

Part of the famous Renaissance controversy between Johann Reuchlin and Johann Pfefferkorn. It is a reply to Johannes Pfefferkorn's attack on the author's "Gutachten über das Jüdische Schriftum" which was published as part of Reuchlin's "Augenspiegel" (1511)). Pfefferkorn published his answer in the "Brandspiegel" in 1512 in which he not only repeated his personal attacks on Reuchlin, but also propagated the expulsion of Jews from Frankfurt and the cities of Rhineland and forced baptism of children. Reuchlin answered with " Defensio Joannis Reuchlin Phorcensis LL. Doctoris Contra calumniatores suos Colonienses." It was addressed to the emperor and contained his reply to Pfefferkorn and the faculty of Cologne and especially to Arnold von Tungern whom he calls "the slanderer and liar of all times." The tone on both sides of this battle of pamphlets was rough and often more temperamental than to the point. The emperor thereupon issued a mandate silencing both parties. (Source: Herz, Frank L.: Johannes Reuchlin's opinion on Jewish literature, MS 262 at the Archives of the Leo Baeck Institute).

Many more works were donated to the LBI, which cannot all be listed here, but it must be said that we are grateful to be the beneficiary of these extraordinary donations. Duplicate books that we received were offered for exchange to related institutions. Non-German-Jewish Judaica titles were also exchanged with other institutions, primarily partners at the Center for Jewish History. Duplicates which could not be exchanged and out of scope books were sold to book dealers and in auctions, generating revenue which was used for the acquisition of new books. All donations were accessioned by Ruth Hirtenstein and Albina Leibman-Klix and individually acknowledged. All donors were listed in the LBI newsletter.

3. CATALOGING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

We are able to report that all new acquisitions underwent initial accessioning and initial stabilization work where necessary. LBI professional staff, volunteers, and interns attend to these very time-consuming tasks at the same time as they serve readers and information requests on a daily basis. An intense acquisition program during the last 4 years and a large number of new donations created a daunting backlog of more than

15,000 books which still await cataloging, processing, preservation and more extensive conservation work. However, we do have online records of all our monograph donations and purchases which will facilitate the setting of priorities during the next years.

During 2008 we also prepared for the migration of our cataloging system from version 15 to version 18 together with our IT department. We had several intense test phases and training sessions throughout the year. The system was finally successfully migrated in March 2009.

CATALOGING OF MONOGRAPHS (BOOKS): Cataloging our ever-expanding book collection is one of our core activities. Eva Goldschmidt, Tracey Beck, and Judy Fixler, our Hebrew cataloger, are primarily responsible for these entries. Albina Leibman-Klix joined the cataloging team in August 2008. Eva Goldschmidt left for health reasons at the end of the year. She had been with the institute for a long time, and been the only cataloger for years. Her thoroughness and knowledge are legendary, and we miss her.

Cataloging entails a significant amount of authority work for personal and corporate name entries, subject headings, and geographical terms. Eva, Judy, Albina, and Tracey contributed new entries to our authority file, and revised existing entries. Our authority database is a well-maintained and consistent collection of more than 60,000 controlled terms, which are used as access points for cataloging and retrieval.

MELLON CATALOGING PROJECT: In 2007 the Center for Jewish History was awarded a major grant from the Mellon Foundation for cataloging hitherto uncataloged holdings. For LBI we had applied to fund the cataloging of approximately 4,000 uncataloged books related to the collection area “*Wissenschaft des Judentums*.” In fall 2007 a German cataloger, and a Hebrew cataloger started working on our collection. Thus far, 693 titles were catalogued and 117 authority records enhanced. The Mellon Project will continue until October 2009.

CATALOGING AND PROCESSING OF PERIODICALS: Periodicals Librarian Allan Chin has continued to upgrade maintenance of the Periodicals Collection throughout 2008, involving standardizing the MARC records for non-current periodicals in the ALEPH catalog, and maintenance of periodicals currently received, including processing of new issues, subscription payments, and upgraded and proper housing of those issues. An estimated 60% of the currently received periodicals have been re-housed, and will continue as a priority in 2009.

We began subscriptions to two new periodicals in 2008. They include:

- ***Familienmentsch : Das Jüdische Elternmagazin.***
A new quarterly published in Berlin for Jewish parents and families.

- ***Der Schild : Bund Jüdischer Soldaten (RjF) e.V.***
A new semiannual published by the newly reconstituted Bund Jüdischer Soldaten, incorporating the Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten from the First World War.

CATALOGING OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL: A modest number of Audio-Visual material, about 40, entered the Library in 2008. Many of the CDs and DVDs are on Jewish communities, an interesting new publication is the documentation of the Auschwitz process, published by the Fritz Bauer Institut in Frankfurt.

- ***Der Auschwitz-Prozess*** : Tonbandmitschnitte, Protokolle, Dokumente ; / Herausgegeben vom Fritz Bauer Institut, Frankfurt am Main und dem Staatlichen Musuem Auschwitz-Birkenau.
Berlin : Directmedia Publishing, 2007. 1 DVD-ROM

BARCODING THE MONOGRAPH AND PERIODICALS COLLECTIONS: Our database system ALEPH, which was introduced in 2006, requires barcoding of all 80,000 volumes in our monograph collection and all bound volumes and microfilm reels in the periodicals collection. Our volunteers Sarah Wind and Jerry Brotman had started to barcode the monograph collection in 2006. More than 34,000 volumes in the monograph collection are physically barcoded, almost all the microfilmed periodicals are barcoded, and about half of the bound periodicals are barcoded by now. Of these barcodes almost 10,000 barcodes are already entered into the database system.

In 2008 two library students started working on updating all the multivolume works in our collection in order to be able to scan in the barcodes. So-called item records must be created manually for each volume of a multivolume sets in the monograph collection (such as collected works of an author or annuals) or in the periodicals collection. 665 monograph titles with a total of 1986 volumes were updated, 346 periodical titles with 1447 volumes were updated in 2008.

4. PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS continues to be a high-priority concern of the LBI Library. Our long-time bookbinder Ocker and Trapp Bindery continued to do all conservation/restoration work for LBI including enclosures such as portfolio cases, preservation cases, and book-boxes. Book binding is done by Bridgeport National Bindery. In 2004 the Library had decided to do less re-binding work on new acquisitions, opting instead for maintaining as much of the original integrity of the material as possible. 90 % of the books which need re-housing or stabilization will thus be housed in acid-free preservation cases and book boxes. This means that we will continue using the Ocker and Trapp Bindery for the majority of our preservation needs.

Our new colleague Lauren Paustian is responsible for the conservation and preservation of Library materials.

REFORMATting: DIGITIZATION: The LBI Library was awarded a new **METRO Digitization Grant** in 2008. We successfully completed this project by the end of the year with the help of the **Gruss Lipper Digital Laboratory at the Center for Jewish History**.

An important part of our rare books collection is a collection of mostly illustrated 16th to 18th century books on Jewish customs, written by Christian Hebraists as well as a beautiful collection of limited editions of art books and artists' portfolios of early 20th century artists. The Metro Digitization Grant 2008 enabled us to digitize 33 illustrated and art books from this collection (about 6000 pages).

This project is accessible from this website: <http://www.lbi.org/lbirarebooks.html>, or together with the other digitization projects at the Center via <http://digital.cjh.org/>.

Up to now the LBI library has digitized 126 of its rare books, among them 57 art and illustrated books, in total about 20,000 pages are digitized. Among the digitized publications are also decrees, royal prayer services, rare sermons and other pamphlets.

5. OUTREACH: REFERENCE SERVICE, INTERLIBRARY LOAN, EXHIBITIONS, PUBLICATION SALE, CONTINUING EDUCATION

ON- AND OFF-SITE REFERENCE SERVICE, INTERLIBRARY LOAN: LBI librarians and archivists share duty serving as reference librarians in the reading room at the Center on a rotating schedule. A detailed reference report and statistics for the reading room and off-site reference activities can be found in a separate chapter of this annual report.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN: Jennifer Feldman and later Lauren Paustian were responsible for interlibrary loan requests, which averaged one book per month in 2008. Most requests are now being made online.

EXHIBITIONS: Quite a number of books from our collection were used in various exhibitions:

Yeshiva University Museum located this prayer book in our collection and used it for the exhibition "**Erfurt : Jewish treasures from medieval Ashkenaz**" (September 2008 – January 2009):

- *Seder Selihot `im pesukim u-ma`aravot ve-yotsrot...a.p. seder u-minhag K.K. Vermeiza /asher liket ve-asaf...Aharon ha-Levi mi-Vermeiza. Zultsbakh : Meshalem Zalman ben Aharon , 497 [1736 or 1737]. The prayer book contains a prayer for the Jewish community of Erfurt who was subject to a massacre in 1221.*

The following books were displayed in the exhibition “**Objects of our past: highlights from the Leo Baeck Collection**” at the German Embassy in Washington:

- Mendelssohn, Moses, 1729-1786:
Phaedon; oder, Ueber die Unsterblichkeit der Seele, in drey Gespræchen /von Moses Mendelssohn ...Berlin und Stettin : Bey Friedrich Nicolai,1767.
One of Mendelssohn's major religio-philosophical works. *Phaedon*, or On the Immortality of the Soul, the work which made him famous throughout Europe as the "German Socrates," was a novel effort at translation and commentary on the *Phaedo* of Plato.
- **Kirchner, Paul Christian: Juedisches Ceremoniel**, oder Beschreibung dererjenigen Gebraeuche, welche die Juden so wol innals ausser dem Tempel, bey allen und jeden Fest-Taegen, im Gebet, bey der Beschneidung, bey Hochzeiten ... in acht zu nehmen pflegen. Aufgesetzt von Paul Christian Kirchner. Nuernberg: Verlegts Peter Conrad Monath, 1724. Added engr. t. p. reads: Juedische Ceremonien, welche sowol in- als auser der Synagog ... beobachtet werden
A beautifully illustrated description of Jewish religious ceremonies, rites of passage and feast days, which first appeared in 1716, here in its second edition of 1724. This work was written by Paul Christian Kirchner, a Christian Hebraist, who had converted to Christianity. He was born in Frankfurt and worked as a Hebrew teacher in Hall., Heidelberg, and Breslau.
- Reizenstein , Wolf Ehrenfried, Freiherr von, 1712-1778: *Der vollkommene Pferde-Kenner ...*:
Uffenheim : gedruckt bey Joh. Simon Meyer, 1764.
What is extraordinary about this veterinary work designed for equestrians, is the "Anhang" or Appendix, which consists of 36 pages of Hebrew words and phrases which were used by Jewish horsetraders, transliterated into Gothic letters and provided with German definitions

LBI curator Renata Stein used various books from our collection for the LBI in-house exhibition “**Hermann Struck: Artistic Wanderer from Berlin to Haifa**” (April 2008 – September 2008):

- Struck, Hermann, 1876-1944: *Die Kunst des Radierens* : ein Handbuch
Berlin : P. Cassirer, [1920].
- Luschan, Felix von, 1854-1924:
Kriegsgefangene ; ein Beitrag zur Voelkerkunde im Weltkriege / Einfuehrung in die Grundzuege der Anthropologie von Dr. von Luschan. 100 Steinzeichnungen von Hermann Struck.

Berlin : D. Reimer, 1917.

The following books were used for the in-house exhibition „**Fighting for the Fatherland: The Patriotism of Jews in World War**” (September 2008 - January 2009):

- *Militarismus, Krieg und Arbeiterklasse* : Rosa Luxemburg vor der Frankfurter Strafkammer. Ausfuhrlicher Bericht ueber die Verhandlungen am 20 Februar 1914.
Frankfurt am Main: Maier, 1914?
- *Warum Krieg?* Albert Einstein und Sigmund Freud.
[Paris]: Internationales Institut fuer Geistige Zusammenarbeit, Voelkerbund, 1933.
- *Feldgebetbuch fuer die juedischen Mannschaften des Heeres*. Hrsg. vom Verband der Deutschen Juden.
Berlin: Druck: H. Itzkowski, 1914
- Rathenau, Walther: *Probleme der Friedenswirtschaft*
Berlin: S. Fischer, 1917
- Walter Rathenau und seine Verdienste um Deutschland.
Muenchen: Pacus, 1922?

PUBLICATION SALE: In 2008, the Leo Baeck Institute Library sold approximately 276 in-house publications and duplicate books. These book sales generated \$5,532.41 in funds for the library, which were used for the purchase of new books.

Here are our “bestsellers” in 2008:

- *Jewish Daily Life in Germany, 1618 – 1945* (edited by Marion A. Kaplan)
- *From Dachau to D-Day: a Memoir* (by Werner Kleeman)
- *Assimilation and Racial Anti-Semitism* (by Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi).
(LBI Memorial Lecture #26:)

A comprehensive list of Leo Baeck Institute publications is available online via our website <http://www.lbi.org/publications.html>. This website also indicates which publications are still available. We also offer our publications through [abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com).

ABEBOOKS (<http://www.abebooks.com>) With our Internet account on Abebooks we created a new venue for selling our own publications, duplicate books, and out-of-scope titles. Abebooks.com offers more than 60 million new, used, rare and out-of-print titles of more than 12,500 independent bookstores via the Internet. We currently have over 500 titles listed for sale on Abebooks’ website. In 2008, we sold 34 books and

publications using the website, which actually generated the largest revenue among our various sales' venues.

IN HOUSE SALES: Another avenue for book sales is through the Center for Jewish History (CJH) bookstore. The *Fanya Gottesman Heller Book Store and Gift Shop* offers publications of the five partner organizations as well as a selection of other Judaica titles. In 2008, 63 LBI books and publications were sold at the CJH Book store. We currently have about 95 other titles listed for sale at the bookstore.

OTHER BOOK SALES: The LBI library also generated additional revenue by offering out-of-scope titles and duplicate books to antiquarian book dealers and auction houses. In 2008, the LBI library sold 101 books in this manner.

CONTINUING EDUCATION, CONFERENCES, LECTURES, TOURS, WORKSHOPS:

Aleph Systems Training: Renate attended various systems trainings for the scheduled upgrade of our cataloging system to version 18: Jan 28: general overview of changes, May 27: Search and Indexing, May 28: cataloging Tables, June 3: Acquisition Tables, June 5: Circulation Tables, June 6: Serials Tables, August 15, 2008: Reports and Printing, December: WebOpac

Aleph Training: Between October and December 2008 all staff members attended a number of hands-on Aleph version 18 training sessions for cataloging, acquisitions, serials, and circulation.

Hebrew Cataloging: Our Hebrew cataloger, Judy Fixler, attended the 8th Annual Manfred R Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, May 11-12 (Sunday-Monday), 2008, at Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The subject of this year's Workshop was "From Manuscript to Print: Reading Colophons, Title Pages, and Other Paratexts." The workshop was led by Professor Menachem Schmelzer of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Professor Schmelzer, former Director of the JTS Library, is one of the foremost experts on the Jewish book in the world. The workshop focused on medieval Hebrew manuscripts and books printed before 1700.

Metro Bibliographic Instruction Special Interest Group (November 19, 2008): Tracey Beck attended a discussion on instructional strategies. The discussion provided examples on educating library patrons in the use of both public and subscription electronic resources. The discussion emphasized the use of advanced search strategies. An additional presentation focused on instructing library patrons in authenticating scholarly research.

AJL-NYMA: AJL-NYMA is the New York Metropolitan Area Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries. Judy, Tracey, and Renate attended the Spring conference "Digital Libraries: Building, Collaboration, and Effectiveness."

Allan, Tracey and LBI archivist Hermann Teifer attended the 2008 Cataloging workshop “Expanding the Cataloger’s Role in the Era of Global Digital Libraries.” Tracey, Judy, and Albina attended the 2008 Fall conference: “Celebrating the Jewish Book,” December 2, 2008.

(ACRL/NY): Albina attended the Archives Special Collections Discussion Group (ACRL/NY) meeting. ACRL/NY is focused on archives and rare books and includes in its program lectures, discussions and exhibitions. The goal of ACRL is to learn about projects and experiences of other archives and rare book libraries, to visit each other and collaborate with each other.

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books): The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the American Libraries Association held a workshop at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. Tracey Beck attended. It focused on new national standards instituted by RBMS. These new standards are meant to capture the uniqueness of rare materials more precisely. The instructor, Deborah J. Leslie from the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., discussed how the new methods of transcription can aid researchers of rare materials in a variety of methods. Greater detail in rare book transcription allows for improved authority work for research in areas such as publishers, printers, authors and provenance.

American Library Association 2008 Midwinter Conference & Exhibition, January 12-14, 2008, Philadelphia: Tracey Beck attended programs on network level cataloging and Worldcat, new roles for acquisitions for selecting and harvesting for institutional repositories, and the best online references resources for history students and researchers. She also attended two task force presentations on the revision of national cataloging standards. These new cataloging standards will replace the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR2) with a new protocol called Resource Description Access (RDA), and are expected to be implemented in 2009. The RDA is expected to have a heavy impact on all libraries.

6. THE LBI LIBRARY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

CJH COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

The Collection Development Committee, which has been chaired by the LBI Head Librarian since 2001, was founded in 2000 as a standing library sub-committee of the CJH Public Services Committee in order

“to formulate an overall collection development policy, and address issues of duplication, collection overlap, large purchase items, selection of electronic publications, central fund purchases and other issues as they arise, such as building an integrated reference collection (print & electronic).”

Joint purchases, participation in Center-wide joint grant proposals were discussed and prepared, and order suggestions for the Reading Room and for the stacks were decided on.

In 2008 the Center received for the seventh time a generous donation from the **Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund** totaling \$50,000 to acquire important electronic resources for the reference, research, and cataloging services of the Center. New internet-licensed subscription services and CD-ROM databases were purchased or licensed on recommendation of the CJH Collection Development Committee, in close cooperation with CJH Managers of Foundation Relations.

7. LBI LIBRARY STATISTICAL OVERVIEW FOR 2008

Acquisition / Collection Development

Purchases	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Books ordered	1008	1736	2130	1922	1364	1046
Books received	727	1687	1830	1565	1131	883
<i>Special Book Purchases</i>						
Antiquarian book purchases	27	1034	1143	1045	502	7
Number of standing orders of continuations (yearbooks, collected works, etc.)	59	78	89	93	62	88
New standing orders established	11	19	11	4	4	11
AV material (CDs, Videos, DVDs, etc)				25	40	40
Donations						
New donations	1812	2885	6284	2141	2432	3933
Donations accessioned (includes Leschnitzer estate)						5105
Total number of new acquisitions (purchases and donations)	2539	4572	8114	3706	3563	4816
Periodicals						
Total number of active current periodicals	70	60	60	71	50	52
Total number of new issues received	500	350	365	415	275	303
Total number of new periodicals	4	5	2	11	0	2

B) CATALOGING

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
New books cataloged	787	836	585	154	515	744
Book records revised						1500
AV material cataloged (Cds, Videos, DVDs, Microfiche, microfilm, etc.)			96	22	10	10

C) Cataloging backlog

	2008
Accessioned donations, awaiting decision	1078.5 lin ft.
Accessioned donations, decision: to be cataloged	84 lin. Ft.
Accessioned purchases, to be cataloged	180 lin. ft
Accessioned Scott Offen Fund purchases, to be cataloged	171 lin ft.
Total	1513.5 lin ft. about 15,000 books

D) BARCODING

	Number of titles 2008	Number of volumes 2008
Barcodes physically attached to books (work was done between 2006 and 2008)		34,000
Barcodes read into the system	7812	9546
Item records created for multivolume monograph sets	665	1986
Item records created for multivolume periodical sets	346	1447

E) PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION, DIGITIZATION

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Pamphlet bindings	493	261	97	20	23
Book boxes and preservation cases	92	253	663	296	230
Special conservation treatment	75	28	148	171	131
Preservation Photocopies	51	9	7	6	2
Book Digitization			51	27	48

F) OUTREACH: REFERENCE SERVICE, INTERLIBRARY LOAN, EXHIBITIONS, PUBLICATION SALE

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Reading Room visitors for the LBI Library **					195
Number of visits (counted daily)	476	423	449	350*	383
Books paged for the reading room	1543	2156	1496	887	983
Periodicals paged for the reading room (hard copy, films)	55	41	25	35	89
Wiener Library microfilms accessed	30	28	17	45	
Total number of items paged from the Library Collection	1628	2225	1538	967	1072
Interlibrary Loan requests (local and international)	20	10	21	18	7
Books lent for exhibitions	0	19	2	0	11
Publication sale	180	180	225	283	276

**The reduction in numbers mirrors an increase in users at the LBI Archives in the Jewish Museum Berlin.*

*** starting in 2008 we differentiated between visitors and visits*

8. LBI LIBRARY PERSONNEL

We had several staff changes in 2008:

Longtime staff member Rita Marschall retired in February 2008. Eva Goldschmidt and Margot Lauchheimer, who had also been with the LBI for decades, left for health reasons by the end of the year. We are grateful for their dedicated work and we do miss them greatly.

Lauren Paustian started working as the new Assistant Librarian for Acquisition, Preservation, and Technical Services on July 1, 2008. Lauren had previously worked in technical services at the Pratt Library, Francis A. Drexel Library, and at the Shadek-Fackenthal Library, Franklin & Marshall College. She graduated from Pratt with a dual degree in Library & Information Sciences and in History of Art & Design.

Albina Leibman-Klix started working as a new Assistant Librarian for Cataloging and Acquisitions in August 2008. She used to work as a Cataloger of West European and Slavic Languages at the University of Southern California, LA, and prior to that as an Assistant to the Librarian for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies at Columbia University Libraries. Albina Leibman-Klix has a BA in German Studies, an MLS (Pratt 2002), an MA in Slavic Studies, and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature.

Three library students, Magda Cupidon, Angela Lawrence and Dahlia Wisner, worked on our barcoding project.

The following table gives a brief overview of the staff members of the Library as of December 31, 2008 and briefly lists their various tasks and responsibilities. This work of the Library team is reflected in the statistical overview in Section 7.

Staff and volunteer list of the LBI Library as of December 31, 2008

Renate Evers	full-time	Head Librarian; Acquisitions; ALEPH System, Chair of CJH Collection Development Committee
Tracey Beck	full-time	Cataloging of Monographs, Acquisitions (Purchases), Reading Room
Allan Chin	full-time	Periodicals Collection, AV Material, Reading Room
Lauren Paustian	full-time (started 07/2008)	Preservation & Conservation, Technical Services, Interlibrary Loan, Publication Exchange and Sale, Reading Room
Judy Fixler	part-time (4 days / week)	Acquisition and Cataloging of Hebrew Publications, bibliographical research for acquisition, reading room
Albina Leibman-Klix	full-time (started 08/2008)	Cataloging of Monographs, Acquisitions (Donations), Reading Room
Ruth Hirtenstein	Volunteer (2 days / week)	Accessioning of Book Donations
Margot Karp	Volunteer (1 day / week)	Bibliographical Research for New Acquisitions
Sarah Wind	Volunteer (1 day / week)	Barcoding Project
Jerry Brotman	Volunteer (1 day / week)	Barcoding Project
Walter Karger	Volunteer (works from Houston, TX)	Transliterations & Translations for the Library and the Archives

LBI Library Interns in 2008

Magda Cupidon Graduate student of library studies at C.W. Post Long Island University	January 22 – July 31, 2008 Part-time 3 days per week	Barcoding Project: creating of item records in our database system Aleph, reading in Barcodes
Angela Lawrence Graduate student of library studies at Queens College	January 28- December 31, 2008 2 days per week, as of August 2008: 4 days per week	
Dahlia Wisner	August 12, 2008 – December 31, 2008 one day per week	

THE FRED W. LESSING MEMORIAL ARCHIVES

ARCHIVAL STAFF

Dr. Frank Mecklenburg, Chief Archivist
Emily Andresini, Assistant Project Archivist for Digitization
Chris Bentley, Data Entry Specialist
Molly Hazelton, Project Archivist for Digitization
Miriam Intrator, Assistant Archivist (Photographs)
Dianne Oumma, Processing Archivist
Michael Simonson, Assistant Archivist (Microfilms)
Yakov Sklar, Project Archivist (Jan.- April 2008)
Hermann Teifer, Archivist

1. OVERVIEW

Each year this section on the Fred W. Lessing Memorial Archives at the Leo Baeck Institute begins with the observation that it is internationally recognized as the outstanding repository of the written and visual legacy of German-speaking Jewry. The observation bears repeating because it continues to be true – more than ever, the Institute receives material from the aging survivor population or their heirs, knowing that our archivists will process them and make them available for research. The donors are anxious to ensure that their documentary heritage is preserved, and confident in the expertise of the Leo Baeck Institute. The steady flow of new archival acquisitions in 2008 reflects this trust.

The Leo Baeck Institute attracted almost 800 researchers in 2007. The number of visitors to the reading room at the Center for Jewish History held steady, as did the rate of satisfaction with the services provided. Researchers can access collections of LBI, the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, the American Jewish Historical Society, and the American Sephardi Federation. LBI archivists and librarians are always available for reference. (For more information about reference services see the separate section in this report).

The archival collections of the LBI were of continued interest to researchers from other institutions including the Jewish Museum and the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and the Jüdisches Museum in Berlin. In addition, LBI archival materials are loaned for exhibits to smaller organizations throughout Germany, Israel, and the United States.

2. ACQUISITIONS, CATALOGING AND PROCESSING

In 2008, the LBI archives continued to receive donations of every kind, ranging from family trees and other genealogical material to travel-related emigration documents; clippings and official documents pertaining to Jewish communities throughout Germany,

both pre- and post-Second World War; and business and public records that date back centuries and touch upon virtually every phase of German-Jewish life. A steady flow of new donations is also generated by the work of the LBI's Austrian Heritage Project Gedenkdiener. A large number of Austrian émigrés provide biographical information that is entered into our database, and often send a variety of archival materials as well.

Each donor receives an acknowledgment describing the donation and providing the accession number, which is reflected in our online catalog. Unpublished manuscripts, family histories, memoirs and other (auto) biographical writings are cataloged separately, since these items are often of special interest to researchers and may be requested individually. Important photographs are removed from the archival collection and cataloged in a separate photo database.

After the initial acknowledgment and cataloging process is completed, experienced volunteers under the supervision of LBI professional staff produce a box inventory for most collections. They sort the materials into topics and categories, or, depending on the documents, alphabetically and chronologically. Documents in old German script are sometimes transcribed, translated or summarized by our older volunteers, who are familiar with this writing style that is no longer used or taught. Finally, the collections are processed by our professionals with the assistance of interns, many of whom are young Germans who come here at their own expense. Finding aids are attached to the bibliographic record.

Acquisition and cataloging statistics:

- 188 acknowledgements were sent to donors of archival material
- 25 new titles were added to the Manuscript Collection
- 96 new titles were added to the Memoir Collection
- 154 new archival collections were cataloged
- 500 records were added to the photograph database

Among the many donations we received in 2007 were the following:

- **Het Onderwater Cabaret**

AR 25326

The handwritten and bound diaries, satirical poems and scrapbooks reflect Curt David Bloch's observation of events during his hiding from the German occupation in the Netherlands. Curt David Bloch (1908-1975) was born in Dortmund, the son of a sculptor. He went into exile in The Netherlands, where he survived the German occupation in hiding in the countryside. During that time he created the journal "Het Onderwater Cabaret" which was secretly circulated among friends and fellow refugees at great risk by members of the Dutch underground. Curt David Bloch came to the United States in 1948 where he worked as an antique dealer in New York City.

(Donated by Simone Bloch)

- **Helen and Eva Hesse Family Collection** **AR 25327**

The Helen and Eva Hesse Collection holds material on the Hesse family of Hamburg. Most notable in this collection are the diaries of Helen and Eva Hesse, created by their father Wilhelm Hesse, which document the sisters' childhood (Helen was born in 1933 and Eva came three years later). In addition, the collection includes scrapbooks and photograph albums, some of Wilhelm Hesse's educational papers, and correspondence related to immigration. Following the events of Kristallnacht, on December 7, 1938, Helen and Eva Hesse were sent via Kindertransport to Holland and eventually to London. They immigrated to New York, where Eva Hesse became a renowned artist and sculptor.

(Donated by Helen Charash)

- **Weekend at Scharmuetzelsee.** **MS 742**

An 8mm home-movie depicting summer life at a lake resort, around 40 miles from Berlin: The Korngold family, owners of the Richard Hecht and Company furniture businesses in Berlin, owned an estate which they used for their summer vacations: Landgut Waldfrieden on Scharmuetzelsee. – When public beaches were closed to Jews in 1935, the Jewish community board in Berlin asked the Korngolds to open their estate to the Jewish public; the Korngolds moved from their mansion to the servants' quarters and opened the estate to Jewish paying guests for the summers of 1935-1938.

(Donated by Jean Gossett)

- **Christopher Jeffrey Collection** **AR 25348**

Christopher Jeffrey is a descendent of the Edgar Jaffé and Else von Richthofen/Jaffé family who were very close to Max Weber and are a classic example of the German Jewish and non-Jewish society during the Kaiserreich and the Weimar Republic.

Else von Richthofen/Jaffé and Marianne Weber corresponded for many years, as did Edgar Jaffé and his coeditor Max Weber on editorial matters and legal advice during and before the couple's separation. The first extant item in the present collection is the draft of a letter in which Else asked Marianne Weber and indirectly Max Weber for help in her personal and professional quandaries (spring of 1900). - The correspondence between Else and Edgar also covers the birth and early years of their four children, of whom Friedel and Hans emigrated after 1933 (Peter, Else's son from Otto Gross died in 1915, Marianne Jaffé/von Eckardt did not manage to emigrate, but survived.) The bulk of the Jeffrey collection deals with the correspondence between Else and her emigrated sons during and after the Nazi period.

(Donated by Christopher Jeffrey)

- **The 2007 Selfhelp Home Interviews**

AR 25343

This collection of thirty video interviews with residents of the Selfhelp Home of Chicago represents an “archive of memories”. It was created in order to preserve the testimony of 30 individuals who had been the victims of Nazi persecution. Each of these residents grew up in a European environment, which encouraged strong family ties and values, hard work, education, and in many cases participation in Jewish traditions. Now in their “golden years”, they reached adulthood by the mid 1930s and had to experience the horrors of concentration camps; ghettos; hiding; or survival as refugees. They clearly describe their experiences in Europe, their lives in third countries (e.g. China; Palestine/Israel) where they have found refuge, and their rehabilitation in the United States.

(Donated by Ethan Bensinger)

- **Hirschland Bank Collection**

AR 25342

Together with the older Simon Hirschland Family Collection (AR 766) and the manuscript “100 Jahre Simon Hirschland, Essen” (ME 321), these newly acquired documents and manuscripts constitute an in-depth depiction of this old established banking company, its demise during the Nazi-era and its consequent restitution.

(Donated by Edward C. Hirschland)

3. MICROFILM PROJECTS

The microfilming of archival material remains a very high priority as the most effective standard for the preservation and access / sharing of collection material. At present, over 4,300 reels of microfilm are available to researchers in New York and in Berlin. The microfilming project serves the dual purpose of providing access and preserving archival material. One of the main purposes of the microfilming program at the Leo Baeck Institute is to create a mirror archive of our New York Collections for researchers visiting the Leo Baeck Institute at the Jewish Museum in Berlin. In addition, microfilm is also easier and faster to page and researchers may print their own photocopies in the reading room. Microfilm also serves to reduce the wear and tear on the original material.

In 2008 a total of 550 archival collections were microfilmed, which resulted in 695 new reels. Each of these reels was duplicated and the copies sent to LBI Berlin. In addition, master negatives and other standard film duplications for each of the generated microfilms was stored at the Iron Mountain / The Underground Storage Facility, located in Boyers, PA. This location ensures preservation, and Iron Mountain can make copies for researchers and academic facilities interested in purchasing material open to the public.

In terms of preparing collections for microfilming, we distinguish between small collections, which generally consist of a few folders and can be filmed together on a single reel, and large collections, which are filmed individually and can consist of many

reels for one collection. LBI interns are of special assistance in preparing both types of collections for microfilming. Their workflow includes checking the inventory of the material in the collection with the description in the online catalog; re-organizing and labeling the folders, and writing a finding aid, all in accordance with present archival standards (DACS, or the Descriptive Archival Content Standard). The finding aid is then encoded following the EAD (Encoded Archival Description) standard. These finding aids are linked to the collection record in the electronic catalog and are also posted on the internet for research access (via Google, for example). Often there is no complete inventory list for the collections, and staff archivists together with interns need to process material that arrives at the Institute without any organization.

It should be mentioned that the work of accessioning microfilmed collections into the catalog is part of the process. Many hours are spent by trained archival staff in updating and creating new records (in multiple cataloging modules) to ensure that the microfilmed material is correctly entered into the catalog and that data about user use and location are accessible for the archival staff as well as for the researcher who wishes to use the item(s).

Money for the support of preservation microfilming comes from various grants in Germany, including the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, as well as the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, the Jewish Philanthropic Fund, and the New York State Library Program on Preservation and Conservation. Private sponsorship for the microfilming of archival material has also been valuable. The bulk of the program is funded by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* and the *Zukunftsfond*. How to prioritize the grant money, deciding what material should be filmed and how the filming should be organized, is decided on by both the staff of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York and the staff of the Leo Baeck Institute in Berlin.

We have been using three vendors for our microfilming projects. These three vendors are Archival Microfilming in Hamden, CT, Hudson Microimaging in Port Ewen, NY, and Praxess in White Plains, NY. All three of these vendors operate on a small and personal level, which we feel helps ensure the protection of the material regarding both security of the original documents and bibliographic control of the documents in their reformatted version.

Collections microfilmed in 2008 include the following:

- **The Guido Kisch Collection / MF 793**

Born in Prague in 1889, Guido Kisch was the son of Alex Kisch, a scholar and rabbi who became the first rabbi of Zurich in the 1870's. Guido became a teacher, researcher, and scholar of legal history. After teaching at a number of universities in German-speaking Europe, Guido Kisch immigrated to the United States in 1935. He returned to Switzerland later in life and taught at Basel University. His work shows a growing interest throughout his life with the humanistic aspect of jurisprudence, and on German-Jewish history with a special focus on the medieval period. In all these subjects he published heavily. He died in Basel in 1985. Collection material includes original manuscripts he authored,

and correspondence with many notable academic, literary, and political figures from throughout his life.

- **Werner and Gisella Cahnmann Collection / MF 797**

This collection contains material pertaining to the sociologist Werner Cahnman and his wife, the biophysicist Gisella Levi Cahnman. It primarily documents the early years and immigration of Werner Cahnman in Germany, as well as his and his wife's careers in the United States. It also illustrates the immigration of family members. Papers in this collection include a large number of photographs, correspondence, diaries, some writings, official papers, and restitution files.

- **Adolf Leschnitzer Collection / MF 897**

Adolf Leschnitzer was born in Posen, Germany (now Poznan, Poland) in 1899. Upon completing his university studies in Heidelberg and Berlin, he became a professor at various municipal high schools in Berlin. In 1933 Leo Baeck asked him to serve as the Director of Education on the Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland (National Federation of Jews in Germany). Over the following six years he organized and supervised Jewish education in Germany. In 1939 he immigrated to England and the following year to the United States. He became an instructor of German and Slavic languages at City College in New York, a position he occupied until his retirement in 1966. During his professional career he served as President of the New York Society Teachers of German (Verein deutscher Lehrer von New York, 1950-1956) and was a founding member and a member of the Board of Directors of the Leo Baeck Institute. The collection includes brochures, booklets, clippings, correspondence, financial, vital, and immigration documents, minutes, notes, photographs, printed materials, and writings, by Adolf Leschnitzer as well as other authors.

4. DIGITIZATION PROJECTS

In 2008, the Archives at the Leo Baeck Institute embarked on a new, exciting project – “DigiBaeck”, which is destined to put all LBI archival holdings onto the World Wide Web, allowing researchers anywhere on the globe to benefit from our resources. This ambitious, pioneering project was made possible by the financial support of LBI Trustee, and now LBI President, Bernie Blum.

DigiBaeck is designed to be a two-phase digitization project, with Phase 1 being the digitization of our extensive microfilm collection (3,500 reels), and Phase 2 to be the simultaneous digitization and microfilming of our non-microfilmed collections (approx 2,500 linear feet).

The DigiBaeck staff – a Project Archivist; an Assistant Project Archivist; and a Data Entry Specialist – started the project with two rounds of vendor evaluations, comparing the offers of various companies from New York to California, and settling (upon the

recommendation of a consultant) on a vanguard company in the field of digitization, The Internet Archives. This company will digitize LBI archival holdings on microfilms beginning in 2009. At the same time, the DigiBaeck staff developed a second workflow to digitize valuable, original material and make it accessible via the internet on DigiTool, the portal to the world wide web at the Center for Jewish History.

Developing such a technologically innovative process demands high attention to detail and the solving of many problems, like ordering and shipping of microfilms from our vaults in Pennsylvania to the proper processing of the images after digitization. Another technique that has to be developed in-house is the electronic enrichment of LBI's collection finding aids, which will assist researchers in finding and using the desired digital material.

Other Digital Projects conducted by the LBI Archives in 2008 included

- **The digitization of oral history interviews, conducted by the Austrian Heritage Collection**

This included the digitization of interviews that were stored on cassette tapes; the ingest of new digital interviews onto DigiTool; and creating a secure website for the AHC transcript program. In 2008, the digital holdings of the Austrian Heritage Collection has grown from 30 online interviews to 114 interviews by the end of the year.

- **Digitization on Demand:**

During 2008, the LBI has digitized and ingested 9 collections, which had to be done quickly, because the donor has requested that the material be returned after digitization. These collections were sent to our in-house digitization and microfilm labs and prepared by project staff to be ingested into DigiTool. In addition, we have digitized and ingested over 300 individual images, mainly for the development of companion websites for LBI Art Exhibitions

- **Online Web Exhibits:**

DigiBaeck staff has worked closely with the LBI Art Department to create extensive companion websites for two 2008 exhibitions, "Hermann Struck: Artistic Wanderer from Berlin to Haifa" and "Fighting for the Fatherland: The Patriotism of Jews in World War I". These web exhibits remain online even after the original exhibitions have been dismantled at <http://www.lbi.org/Archived.html>.

5. LBI ARCHIVES AT THE JEWISH MUSEUM BERLIN

In 2008 the branch of the Leo Baeck Institute Archives at the Jewish Museum Berlin was able to continue its steady growth, thanks to the grant provided to the LBI by the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" (EVZ) and to the grant received by the LBI archives at Jewish Museum Berlin from the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG). More than 500 further microfilms arrived in

Berlin in 2008, bringing the total number to well over 4000, which now comprise reproductions of more than half of the original material housed in New York.

Within the framework of the EVZ grant more than 200 reels of film with collections pertaining to women in academic and professional life and to artists and writers were transferred to Berlin, while the DFG funding was used to film a wide range of material on scholars, politicians, lawyers and businessmen, family collections and over 300 smaller collections. Among the many newly available collections are the papers of the historians Eva Reichmann, Adolf Leschnitzer and Herbert Strauss, the Germanist Frida Ilmer Grosser, the musicians Alfred Lichtenstein and Arthur Willner, the writers Uri Felix Rosenheim and Alfred Schirokauer, the lawyer Hans Heinz Altmann and the physician Hermann Selzer.

The number of users in the reading room in 2008 once again exceeded 300 individuals and included researchers from numerous European countries, from Israel, Canada and the United States. Among the many topics worked on by users of LBI material were the correspondence between David Baumgardt and Ernst Cassirer, biographical sketches of Ismar Boas and Hermann Strauss, a study of Ludwig Philippson, the biography of Betty Hirsch, director of a school for the blind in Berlin, the fate of Jewish dentists from 1933 to 1945, and the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe. A great number of outside queries continue to be directed to and answered by the Berlin branch of the archives.

6. MEMOIRS AND ORAL HISTORY

A special part of the LBI archives is a unique collection of more than 1500 unpublished memoirs which offer rare insights into the lives of German-speaking Jews from all walks of life from 1790 to the present. The ongoing literary and sociological interest in narrative and textual studies, such as autobiography and memoir, refocuses the interest in such texts, which until now have primarily been treated as historical documents. This trove is important both for reconstructing everyday life in the 19th and the first half of the 20th century as well as for listening to the rich and varied voices of people whose existence in their homeland was ultimately destroyed, and in many cases rebuilt elsewhere.

Some of these voices can be literally listened to since 1996, when the LBI Austrian Heritage Collection was established---a rapidly growing oral history collection encompassing more than 220 interviews conducted with Jewish immigrants originally from regions throughout the Austro-Hungarian Empire. These oral histories provide a unique collection of life stories documenting a legacy that historians, sociologists and genealogists can mine for information in many special fields of research.

Although the Holocaust inevitably informs the thinking about German and Austrian Jews, the collections of life stories in the form of memoirs and oral history provide a great many accounts of Jewish lives over the past two hundred years that took place before this

tragic chapter, and increasingly, also afterwards. Leo Baeck Institute has more material on German-Jewish life in the pre-Holocaust decades than any other organization.

The collections permit study of such social and cultural processes as:

- changing family structures of minority cultures in a rapidly changing society;
- occupational adaptations, including the professionalization that paralleled changes in the dominant society;
- ways in which German-speaking Jews succeeded in establishing themselves through identification with or in opposition to the dominant German and Austrian culture and civilization;
- illumination of the variety of patterns of assimilation, adaptation, and resistance to change over time in the religious attitudes and practices of German-speaking Jews (e.g., with regard to Christian holidays such as Christmas);
- accounts of childhood experiences of Jews beginning in the *Kaiserreich* and how they altered over time;
- ways in which anti-Semitism was encountered, ignored, or overcome at various times during the past 200 years;
- German and Austrian Jewish patriotism as it was displayed before and during World War I.

Written memoirs and audio-taped interviews are cataloged individually to provide researchers with the information necessary to decide whether they want to pursue further research on a particular life story. The LBI catalog offers detailed biographical notes, summary content information and relevant subject headings facilitate access to appropriate materials.

The memoirs describe the often endless routes of emigration that led the refugees to places as remote as Shanghai, Australia, or South America. They also provide important eyewitness accounts of persecution suffered in Nazi Germany and Austria. In addition to expressing the need to document the atrocities they personally endured during the Nazi era, nearly all writers display an interest in keeping family traditions and genealogical knowledge alive for future generations.

In 2008, the large-scale effort to digitize full text memoirs as well as interview tapes of the Austrian Heritage Collection was continued in collaboration with the Gruss Lipper Digital Laboratory at the Center for Jewish History, ensuring preservation of the fragile tapes, facilitating cataloging efforts and giving wider access to the public. The first batch of digitized memoirs is now available via our [online catalog for electronic resources](#); accordingly, our oral history interviews can be listened to via our [online catalog](#), and corresponding transcripts will be added to further enhance the research options.

The LBI recognizes the growing importance of oral history, which is frequently used in museums, galleries and heritage displays to inform and bring exhibitions to life. Oral history has emerged as an important source for those interested in history, and is a salient resource for radio and television programs. Moreover, it brings a new dimension to local and family history, bearing in mind that these memories have been filtered by time and

circumstance and remain therefore subjective accounts of history. Nonetheless, they are clearly useful as an added dimension to historiography.

7. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2008, LBI archivists made use of a wide variety of professional development opportunities. These included, among others, the monthly meetings of the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, which as in previous years focused on such issues as digitization, copyright and metadata.

In addition, various staff members attended several workshops, organized by the Metropolitan New York Library Council and other professional organizations.

In June of 2008, LBI microfilm archivist Michael Simonson was elected as president of the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (ART). Founded in 1979, this is a not-for-profit organization representing a diverse group of more than 330 archivists, librarians, and records managers in the New York metropolitan area. It is one of the largest local organizations of its kind in the United States with members representing more than 160 repositories.

8. PERSONNEL

The staff in the LBI archives consists of highly trained library and information science professionals which constantly allows us to concentrate on streamlining workflows and focus on maintaining the collections. It also allows for a wider awareness of patrons' needs, which in turn leads to quicker and more thorough responses to the varied archival requests received on a daily basis.

Of special importance is the work of volunteers and interns for the archives of the Leo Baeck Institute. Ten volunteers worked for the archives in 2008; most of whom have been with the LBI for many years.

The archives also trained a record twelve interns from Germany, mostly students of history and related subjects, in archival work in 2008. Our interns commit to several months of unpaid work and are an asset to the smooth operation of the archives.

Both volunteers and interns worked with great dedication, reliability and diligence on our collections. Volunteers and interns, as well as the staff, profit from each others' knowledge, patience, and experiences.

Staff as of December 31, 2008

Dr. Frank Mecklenburg	Chief archivist and Director of Research
Dr. Hermann Teifer	Archivist; Acquisitions/Donations, Databases, Reading Room, Web Master, Digitization Project Head
Michael Simonson	Assistant Archivist; Microfilm Collection, Interns, Reading Room, Manuscript Rights, Online Reference

Miriam Intrator	Photo-Archivist; Photo Rights, Registrar
Dianne Oummi Ritchey	Processing Archivist
Yakov Sklar	Project Archivist (Jan. - April 2008)
Molly Hazelton	Project Archivist for Digitization; Reading Room, Audio-Visual Collection, Copyright Issues
Emily Andresini	Assistant Project Archivist for Digitization; Web Design
Chris Bentley	Data Entry Specialist; Assistant Cataloging

Volunteers

Eva Englander	1 day / week	Transcriptions from old German script; translations and summaries
Gabriele Glueckselig	3 days / week	Photo collection: preparation and cataloging of photos
Ruth K. Heiman	1 day / week	Synopsis of letter collection and memoirs
Ernest Kahn	1 day / week	Processing, arrangement, and descriptions of archival collections
John Kallir	(works from home)	Translations and transcriptions from old German script
Jerry Lindenstrauss	1 day / week	Processing, arrangement, and descriptions of archival collections
Irene Miller	(works from home)	Synopsis of letter collection
Arthur Rath	2 days / week	Processing, arrangement, and descriptions of archival collections; transcription of Hebrew texts, etc.
Marianne Salinger	2 days / week	Processing, arrangement, and descriptions of archival collections
Peter Wolf	1 day / week	Processing of archival collections

Interns in 2008:

Elisabeth Schoener Frey	January 2008	General archival work; Processing and arranging of the <i>Hans Froehlich Collection</i>
Anne-Kathrin Distler	January 2008	General archival work; Processing and arranging of the <i>Leon Kane Collection</i> and others
Rebekka Rueegsegger	February to April 2008	General archival work; Processing and arranging of the <i>Hugo Knoepfmacher Collection</i> and others
Anna Rathkopf	March to May 2008	General archival work; Processing and arranging of the <i>Gertrud Kurth Collection</i> and others
Rywa Salamander	June 2008	Translations of memoirs; arranging of

		the <i>Howard and Jenny Hall Collection</i> and others
Julia von Turk	June 2008	General archival work; Processing and arranging of the <i>Hannah Busoni Collection</i> and others
Laetitia Lenel	July to September 2008	General archival work; Processing and arranging of the <i>Raphael Straus Collection</i> and others
Anja Wiegand	July to September 2008	General archival work; Processing and arranging of the <i>Kate Wallach Collection</i> and others
Claudia Keller	August to September 2008	General archival work; Processing and arranging of the <i>Max Rieser Collection</i> and others
André Junghaenel	August to September 2008	General archival work; Processing and arranging of the <i>Ehrenberg-Rosenzweig Family Collection</i> and others
Linda Selma Oberndorfer	October to December 2008	General archival work; Processing and arranging of the <i>Clara Michelson Collection</i> and others
Anya Quilitzsch	October to December 2008	General archival work; Processing and arranging of the <i>Hans Froehlich Collection</i> and others

ART DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT – 2008

Renata Stein, Curator

1. EXHIBITIONS, 2008

Hanns Wolters Emigré Impresario: Berlin/Palestine/New York

October 30, 2007 – March 10, 2008

When Hanns Wolters died in 2000, he left behind a distinguished legacy in the American entertainment industry. Born Hanns Wollsteiner in 1907, Wolters was expected to become a banker like his prominent father, Max Wollsteiner, owner of the Kuczynski Bank in Berlin. However, Hanns preferred “show biz” and succeeded in bringing over a number of popular British orchestras, including Jack Hylton and Marek Weber, for Berlin engagements. These presentations signaled the start of his career as an impresario. He further established his reputation after “discovering” Marlene Dietrich and after becoming her agent, a relationship that proved very important when Ms. Dietrich helped him and his wife Mitzi Bera flee Nazi Germany in the 1930s.

After a brief stay in Paris, the Wollsteiners fled to Palestine, where Hanns joined the British army and spent the rest of the war years finding talent to entertain the troops, while Mitzi Bera performed for them. After their immigration to the U.S. in the 1950s, Hanns Wollsteiner once again started over and established a successful talent agency that included Sylvester Stallone, F. Murray Abraham and many others.

The exhibit included documentation of cabaret and other entertainment in Berlin in the 1920s as well as rare photos, posters and documents of life in Palestine during the 1930s and 1940s that had never been shown before. Also included were original posters and other archival material from the LBI collections. We are grateful to Oliver Mahrtdt for his cooperation and support of this exhibit.

Hermann Struck: Artistic Wanderer from Berlin to Haifa

March 31 to August 29, 2008

Hermann Struck (Chaim Aaron ben David, 1876-1944) was born into a prosperous Orthodox family in Berlin and originally planned to pursue a rabbinical career. When his extraordinary artistic talents became manifest, he enrolled at the Berlin Academy of Art and, in 1900, continue his education with the renowned Dutch Jewish painter Josef Israels in Holland. Israels' close friend was Max Liebermann, who became a mentor and close friend of Struck. At Liebermann's suggestion, Struck joined the Berlin Secession in 1906, an association of contemporary artists cofounded in 1898 by Liebermann, who also served as its first president. The Secession represented modern artists opposed to the academic style promoted by the conservative art establishment of the time. Among its members were Max Beckmann, Lovis Corinth, Käthe Kollwitz, and Max Slevogt.

Struck became known for his portraits of prominent Europeans as well as for landscapes encountered during his numerous travels. An early Zionist, Struck was among the founders of the *Mizrachi* movement in Germany, an organization that considered the Torah the focal point of Zionism. After his first trip to Palestine in 1903, Struck created a likeness of Theodor Herzl that became the signature piece of the Zionist movement. Struck was among the first German Zionists to move to Palestine in 1923, settling in Haifa. He subsequently joined the faculty of the Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem, where he taught a new generation of Israeli artists the art of printmaking.

During the First World War, Struck served on the Eastern front as the liaison officer of the German army with the Jewish communities of Lithuania and Belorussia, a task for which he was uniquely qualified as an Orthodox Jew and a member of the *Mizrachi* movement which had its origins in Eastern Europe. During his military service he documented the East European *shtetl* life in hundreds of lithographs and etchings that introduced assimilated Western Jews to the lifestyle of their Eastern coreligionists.

Throughout his life, Hermann Struck not only gained international renown as an artist, but also excelled as a teacher: his book, *The Art of Etching*, published in 1908, became a standard work in its field. Struck taught etching to Marc Chagall, Lesser Ury, and Jacob Steinhardt, among others.

This exhibit presented Struck's work in the context of the emerging modern art movements in Germany and Palestine. On display were also works by Max Liebermann, Josef Israels, Lesser Ury and Jacob Steinhardt. A rare collection of oil paintings and watercolors depicting Palestine in the 1920s and 1930s was also on display along with photos, letters and publications by and about this modern master whose influence on 20th century art is only now beginning to be recognized.

Fighting for the Fatherland: The Patriotism of Jews in World War I

September 16, 2008 to January 19, 2009

Ninety years ago one of the deadliest military confrontations in human history took place in Europe. Ten million soldiers fought in World War I on the Eastern front alone, leaving in its wake unimaginable destruction and huge numbers of displaced East European civilians. World War I changed what was thinkable about human brutality and violence. It opened a door for the destruction of European Jewry only two decades later.

Support for the First World War was practically unanimous among Jews of all persuasions. Certainly at the beginning, German and Austrian Jews welcomed the opportunity to gain fuller social equality by displaying their love of country. Such a show of loyalty, it was thought, would help end discrimination and further emancipation. However, this dream would not come true: not only did Jews encounter discrimination in the army every step of the way, the high command even went so far as to conduct a "Jewish census", allegedly to counteract widely held rumors that Jews were shirking their patriotic duty as soldiers. When it transpired that Jews were, on the contrary,

overrepresented in the military, the findings were suppressed. Many Jews came out of World War I wondering about whether Germany truly was their “fatherland.”

Among many items, the exhibit featured photos from the vast LBI archival collection of Bernhard Bardach, a Viennese physician, who volunteered to serve in the Austrian army in 1914. He served on the Eastern front where he took more than 900 photos depicting not only the military operation, but also the culture and everyday lives of *shtetl* Jews. Also displayed were many archival items relating to the Western front, including a map and a vast array of photos.

Objects of Our Past: The Legacy of German-Speaking Jewry

November 5, 2008 -April 2009

The Leo Baeck Institute presented a special exhibit titled, Objects of Our Past: The Legacy of German-Speaking Jewry in the library of the German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth’s private residence next to the German Embassy in Washington, DC. The exhibition featured material related to the intellectual history as well as everyday culture of German Jewry. The High Culture section included artwork by Max Liebermann and Lesser Ury and documents and photos showcasing some of Germany’s most prominent representatives, Franz Kafka, Heinrich Heine, Albert Einstein, and Sigmund Freud, as well as a publication by Moses Mendelssohn, *Phaedon: or On the Immortality of the Soul*, 1767.

Under the rubric, Popular Culture, were displayed samples of Jewish ceremonial art and an extraordinary book titled, *Der vollkommene Pferde-Kenner* (The complete Horse Connoisseur) of 1764, that includes tips on how to buy a horse from a Jewish cattle dealer, replete with sample dialogues in Judaeo-German. Personal papers belonging to George Wolfe, professor at the University of Idaho in Caldwell, Ambassador Scharioth’s teacher, were also displayed. Professor Wolfe was a Jewish lawyer in Vienna who was admitted to the Austrian bar and excluded from it within the span of barely half a year. Subsequently, he was forced to flee his homeland after the Nazis marched into Austria. When he arrived in the U.S., he attended Yale University and eventually found a job teaching political science at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, where he taught from 1946 until 1970. AS an exchange student in the U.S., Ambassador Schariot was one of his students. The *Haigerloch Liederkrantz* served as an example of Jewish life in small towns: the *Liederkrantz* was a German choir that focused on German songs, nourishing “patriotic sentiments”. But the *Liederkrantz* in the town of Haigerloch was an all-Jewish club, and was expelled from the Swabian Association of Singers in 1933. It was officially dissolved in 1938.

2. DONATIONS

Richard Koch,
Lynbrook, NY
Artist Unknown
Portrait of Madalena Mack Rau
Oil on canvas, circa 1850

Artist Unknown
Portrait of Isaac Rau
Oil on canvas, circa 1850,

Rachel Lippman
Portrait of Louisa Dreyfus Rostenberg
Oil on canvas, 1894

Lewis Koch,
Madison, WI
Conrad Thiem
Portrait of Wolf Hirsch Mack
Oil on canvas, circa 1850,

Conrad Thiem
Portrait of Justine Mack
Oil on canvas, circa 1850,

Gary Menkel,
Floral Park, NY
Hermann Struck
A Son of the Ancient Race
Etching, 1907
(after a painting by Jozef Israels of 1889)

Fred Howard,
New York, NY
Si Lewen
Portrait of Anne Frank
Oil on canvas, late 20th century

Si Lewen
The Dirty War
Oil on canvas, late 20th century

**Ruth Gans,
New York, NY**

A commemorative silver tray for Carl H. Gans, 1970 and a birthday cup for Leopold Landsberger, 1888

**Gladys Preuss,
Hackensack, NJ**

Paraphernalia pertaining to the Kartell-Convent deutscher Studenten Juedischen Glaubens (cap, ribbons, buttons)

**Elizabeth Johnson,
Missoula, MT**

Spice towers; Kiddush cup; handwritten Megilath Esther; Challah cover

**Stephen M. Sachs,
Albuquerque, NM**

Charcoal portrait of Arnold Gottlieb

3. INQUIRIES

Dr. Christian Fuhrmeister, a scholar at the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich requested information on the painting, Portrait of the Wronker Children, by the notorious Nazi painter and functionary Adolf Ziegler, who organized the 1936 exhibit Degenerate Art.

Miriam Visaczki and Katharina requested information on artist Norbert Troller for a film project on artwork created in concentration camps.

Rabbi Tom Kucera of the Liberal Jewish Community of Munich asked for scans of Hugo Steiner-Prag's design for a *machzor* for a Czech Reform *siddur*.

Chana Schütz of Centrum Judaicum, Berlin, requested information on the artist Julie Wofthorn and a list of her artwork in the LBI collection.

AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION

Philipp Rohrbach (2007/2008)

Valerie Bosse (2008/2009)

Klaus Fiala (2008/2009)

The Austrian Heritage Collection (AHC) of the Leo Baeck Institute is a special project established more than ten years ago to document the history and culture of Austrian-Jewish immigrants in the United States. As of December 31, 2008, there are 3994 files in the AHC's archives, each one documenting an individual history of Jewish life, persecution and emigration. Over the years more than twelve thousand people have been contacted, many of whom subsequently filled out an extensive questionnaire. In addition, 334 Austrian Holocaust survivors have granted oral-history interviews with the AHC. The materials gathered in this project have made the LBI's Austrian Heritage Collection the largest database on Austrian-Jewish emigration to the United States.

The Austrian Heritage Collection was set up in 1996 by the Leo Baeck Institute in cooperation with the Austrian Gedenkdienst, an organization that permits young Austrians to perform civil service rather than military duty in Holocaust-related institutes and museums around the world. Since then, 24 Gedenkdiener ("Volunteers of Remembrance") have come to the LBI to research Austria's vibrant prewar Jewish community. The work done for Gedenkdienst is acknowledged as an alternative to Austrian military service; in 2008 women as well as men were offered the opportunity to volunteer for a one-year assignment to Gedenkdienst, which is supported by the European Voluntary Service, EVS.

INTERVIEWS

In 2008, the AHC interns conducted 47 oral history interviews – more than in any other previous year. AHC and LBI felt a certain urgency to reach former Austrian Jews: 2008 marked the 70th anniversaries of the Anschluss, the Nazi's triumphal march into Austria (March 1938) and the subsequent Kristallnacht, the Nazi's first pogrom (November 1938). Survivors of these events who still remember them are elderly; most interviewees were 80 to 90 years old. Their age influences their recollections and their paths of immigration to the USA. Hence, immigrants who were born in the 1930s experienced the persecution of the Nazis from the perspective of a child or a teenager: In a matter of hours, former friends turned against their neighbors and participated in riots. All immigrants of this age could remember their expulsion from schools and their transfer into Jewish schools. All of them were torn out of their educational and social environments and forced to assimilate into a strange environment, which is an especially difficult task for children.

On the other hand, the recollections of the older immigrants (born in the 1920s or earlier) remain clearer and more distinctive about the everyday terror of the Nazis in Austria. Most vividly remembered are political events of the 1930s, such as the civil war in Austria, and the assassination of Chancellor Dollfuss in 1934.

The respondents come from different backgrounds and represent a wide variety of Jewish life from religious families to assimilated ones; from poverty to highly privileged. These memories, in all their diversity, make the Austrian Heritage Collection a prime resource about Jewish Austria, emigration, and family history.

Whereas in previous years most of the interviews had been conducted in the metropolitan New York area, the AHC's interns started to venture out.* Immigrants living in California or in Florida had been interviewed in late 2007, and in 2008 the interns visited mostly those living in the area around Washington DC. They also tried to find survivors, who could tell about Jewish life outside of Vienna.**

Throughout the years, many Austrian immigrants had been eager to share photographs, personal and educational records, letters and postcards with the Leo Baeck Institute. These documents tell a vivid tale of family history and Austrian Jewish Life before and under the Nazis.

Many documents include accounts of the emigration and dispossession of homes and family businesses. It is terrifying and fascinating at the same time how meticulously the National Socialists documented the persecution of Jewish citizens, and how resourceful the Austrian Jewish population was in the face of this brutality. The LBI collection contains many documents from the 19th century as well as the 20th, and includes information on Austrian Jewish life today.

**Supported by generous travel grants from the Austrian National Fund*

***With a grant from the Austrian Future Fund, transcription fo interview tapes started in 2008.*

READING ROOM AND REFERENCE SERVICES 2008

REFERENCE STAFF

Allan Chin, Assistant Librarian
Tracey Beck, Assistant Librarian
Renate Evers, Head Librarian
Judy Fixler, Hebrew Cataloger
Molly Hazelton, Project Archivist
Miriam Intrator, Assistant Archivist
Albina Leibman-Klix, Assistant Librarian
Michael Simonson, Assistant Archivist
Hermann Teifer, Archivist

1. READING ROOM

In 2008, most librarians and archivists at the Leo Baeck Institute spent several hours each week serving as reference librarian for LBI collections in the communal reading room of the Center for Jewish history.

Researchers, genealogists, museums, and research institutions turn to the LBI for reference assistance in very specific, narrow subjects as well as much broader historical themes. A sample of topics:

- Catholic responses to Kristallnacht
- Child rearing advice in German literature, 1871-1945
- Dachau and the method of dehumanization
- Deportations of Jews from Northern Bavaria
- Diary writing in NS Concentration Camps, 1933-45
- Displaced Persons Camps in Post-Holocaust Germany
- Displaced scholars at the New School for Social Research
- Drawings and illustrated books by Else Lasker-Schueler
- German Jewish Bible Translations
- German Jewish Exile Publishing, 1933-1950
- German Jews who emigrated to Palestine between 1933-1939
- German-Jewish cookery in New York, 19th century
- German-Jewish immigrants and the Cold War
- Gluckel of Hameln

- Jewish children in Post-war Germany
- Jewish Music in Germany
- Jewish Self Defense in the Weimar Republic
- Hans Kohn and "the West"
- Literary culture of German-Jewish immigrants in Palestine/Israel
- Literature about the Kindertransport
- Rabbinic Jurisdiction in Hamburg, 18th century
- The regiment in which Hitler served in the First World War
- Revolutions of 1848
- Nelly Sachs and her play "Eli"
- Franz Werfel and the First Austrian Republic
- Wissenschaft des Judentums

LBI reference staff also provided assistance with translating German and Hebrew documents, for example, vital records and names on photographed headstones.

2. READING ROOM STATISTICS 2008

During 2008, 344 researchers consulted materials from the LBI; they made 789 visits to the Reading Room

Origin

167 researchers came from the New York metropolitan area; 83 researchers visited us from other places in the USA, and 94 researchers came from abroad:

Visitors by country	
Australia	3
Austria	4
Belgium	2
Brazil	1
Canada	5
France	4
Germany	37
Israel	8
Italy	2
Japan	2

Netherlands	3
Poland	1
Sweden	1
Switzerland	2
United Kingdom	5

LBI Archives

238 researchers made 494 visits to the LBI Archives, consulting the following materials:

Original Collections	520
Collections on microfilm	318
Memoirs	243
Manuscripts	25

LBI Library

195 researchers made 383 visits to the LBI Library, consulting the following materials:

Books	983
Periodicals	52
Microfilms	37

The 983 books used by our researchers came from the following library collections:

Auxiliary Sciences, Family History	18
Bibliography	17
Education	7
Fine Arts, Architecture	13
General Works, Almanacs	3
Geography, Anthropology, Cemeteries	15
German History	24
German Literature	106
History	6
History - Holocaust	45
Jewish History	243
Law	3
Medicine	2
Music	4
Philology and Literature	24
Philosophy, Psychology	19
Political Science, Restitution	13
Religion	26
Religion - Judaism	57

Science	1
Social Sciences	46
Technology	9
USA, Western Hemisphere	15
Wiener Library	11

Over the years the most requested literature in the reading room has remained consistent. Researchers come to the LBI primarily for Literature related to Jewish history; to obtain information on Jewish communities, German-Jewish literature, religion including Judaism, and Holocaust related topics.

3. REMOTE REFERENCE SERVICE

In addition to serving patrons in the reading room, the LBI archivists and librarians also provide reference services via telephone, mail, fax, and e-mail. We continued in 2008 to receive general inquiries at lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org, over and above emails directly to individual archivists and librarians. Many emails are also forwarded to other departments (Genealogy, Administration, Art, etc.). Additional inquiries were made through mail, fax, and by phone. Questions ranged from general inquiries about the holdings of the library and archives to questions about specific collections and books.

FELLOWSHIPS

The LBI is proud to offer several fellowships to assist students and faculty of German-Jewish history with their research:

- **Career Development Fellowship**
- **David Baumgardt Memorial Fellowship**
- **Fritz Halbers Fellowship**
- **LBI/DAAD Fellowships**
- **Fred Grubel Fellowship**

Guidelines and application forms are available on LBI web page: <http://www.lbi.org>
Applications may be made by e-mail.

For information about the **LBI/DAAD Fellowships**, see

<http://www.daad.org/page/onlineapp/>

For research study during the year 2008, the Leo Baeck Institute awarded its

Career Development Fellowship to Lily Hirsch

David Baumgardt Memorial Fellowship to

Abigail Gillman for her project:

A History of the German Jewish Bible, 1780-1937

The Fritz Halbers Fellowship was awarded to

Daniel Jütte for his project:

**Jewish Musicians in Germany and Austria as Forerunners of Acculturation;
and the Rise of Anti-Semitic Discourses in Music. A Study in the Social and
Cultural History of Music (1750-1900)**

The LBI / DAAD Fellowships, sponsored by **Deutscher Akademischer
Austauschdienst (DAAD)** were awarded to

Olga Kirschbaum and Kerry Wallach

The Fred Grubel Fellowship went to **Claudia Keller**