

Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School



For the Centre for German-Jewish Studies this tradition of summer schools is of great importance. It forms part of our endeavour to support the research of young international scholars and bring them together in an interdisciplinary atmosphere in the presence of experienced scholars of different disciplinary backgrounds. In planning this series of events in the coming years, the Centre commits to creating a growing network of young scholars from different countries and to providing an institutional setting for an ongoing scholarly exchange and debate that will build bridges between European institutions and enrich future research on European-Jewish history.

Sussex-Nanjing-Shanghai Research Network

During a visit to China in May 2009, Christian Wiese lectured on 'Religious Change in Nineteenth-Century German-Jewish Life' as well as on 'Modern Anti-Semitism in Europe' at the Universities of Nanjing and Beijing. Part of the programme was a workshop at the Glazer Institute for Jewish Studies at the University of Nanjing. Founded in 1992 by Prof. Xu Xin, one of the leading scholars in Judaic Studies in China, this research centre has contributed to an astonishing development of Chinese-Jewish Studies, with increasing numbers of doctoral students studying Hebrew in Jerusalem and researching the history of different Jewish immigrant communities in China. The experience of German-speaking Jewish refugees from Central Europe who fled to Shanghai between 1938 and 1941, joining the existing communities of Baghdadi and Russian Jews and establishing a rich cultural life under difficult circumstances in the Shanghai Ghetto, marks an important episode in this history that currently attracts increasing interest in Chinese academia.

In order to explore new material and unknown aspects of the social and cultural life in the Shanghai Jewish community during the Second World War, the Centre for German-Jewish Studies plans to establish a network of cooperation between Sussex, the Nanjing Institute for Jewish Studies and the Centre of Jewish Studies at the Academy of Social Sciences in Shanghai (led by Prof. Pan Guang). Funding is currently being sought for joint workshops and conferences in China and the United Kingdom, with the aim of preparing more comprehensive research projects on specific aspects of the Jewish experience in Shanghai, including the local Zionist movement and the Jewish economic and cultural contribution in China, as well as the history of the Shanghai refugees who emigrated to Israel and the

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Obituaries

Carola Grindea (1914-2009)

'You must speak to Carola,' said a voice on the telephone, 'if you want to find out about Arnold Daghani'. It was through this surprise phone call (from the Brighton-based journalist Mollie Brandl Bowen) that researchers at the newly founded Centre for German-Jewish Studies became aware of the Arnold Daghani collection, the most significant body of artistic and literary work by a Holocaust survivor at any British institution. After Daghani and his wife Nanino had died in Hove in the mid-1980s, the collection was presented to the University of Sussex by Miron Grindea and his wife Carola, who was Nanino's sister.

After Miron's death, Carola was the most important surviving witness to the life of the Romanian Jewish community from which this idiosyncratic artist came. At her home in London's Emperor's Gate, she welcomed visitors from the Centre and guided the research that has led to the rediscovery of the artist. She particularly welcomed the publication of *Arnold Daghani's Memories of Mikhailowka*, the illustrated edition of the artist's labour camp diary edited by Deborah Schultz and Edward Timms and published by Vallentine Mitchell. Carola generously donated further works to the Centre and as recently as April 2009 she attended the Daghani Exhibition at the Austrian Cultural Forum in London. She encouraged us to showcase not only his Holocaust-related paintings, but also Daghani's wide-ranging later work, not least on musical themes (including the tribute to Prokofiev reproduced here).

The piano was Carola's passion, and she was internationally celebrated for her method of relieving concert performers from the debilitating effects of anxiety and tension. Innumerable musicians have benefitted from her sensitive coaching, and her work will live on through the European Piano Teachers Association, which she founded and through publications such as *Great Pianists and Pedagogues in Conversation with Carola Grindea*.

Walter Ledermann (1911-2009)

The early development of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies enjoyed the enthusiastic support of Walter Ledermann, who taught mathematics at Sussex for many years and became a world authority in the field of algebra. Born in Berlin to assimilated Jewish parents, Walter came from a musical family, learning to play the violin at the age of eleven. His studies were brought to an abrupt end by the Nazi seizure of power, and in 1934 he moved to Scotland, having been awarded a scholarship created by students at St Andrews to support a refugee. He soon completed his doctorate and by 1940 had become a British citizen, teaching navigation to the RAF during the war. Through a fellow refugee named Erwin Freundlich he was introduced to the psychotherapist Ruth (Rushi) Stadler, whom he married in 1946.

After several years at Manchester, Walter was invited to join the University of Sussex in 1962, remaining there until his retirement. He will be remembered by generations of students both for congenial teaching and for expertly edited textbooks. Both he and his wife Rushi attended the seminars of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and contributed papers based on their personal experiences and cultural interests. Rushi spoke about modern painting under the title 'Genius and Narcissistic Disorder' while Walter's topic was 'Germany – From Inflation to National Socialism'. Sharing our concern to document the experiences of refugees, Walter composed his memoirs during retirement, published as *Encounters of a Mathematician*. In addition to an evocative account of childhood, the book celebrates the pleasures of chamber music which sustained him throughout his life.



Daghani, 'Symphonie Classique': Ballet de Prokofiev (1972)

Norbert Lynton (1927-2007)

Born in Berlin as Norbert Casper Loewenstein, Lynton was one of the most inspiring art historians of his generation. After his family settled in England in 1938, he developed a passion for modern art, making a name for himself as both critic and curator. During his period as Professor of History of Art, it was he who piloted through the gift of the Arnold Daghani Collection to the University of Sussex. 'Like Goya and Daumier,' Lynton wrote in 1987, 'Daghani had to tell the world what he saw and experienced. He did so in ways that are sometimes amazingly beautiful and sometimes ghastly. Everything he did questioned art and humanity, his own included'.

Among his many publications, Lynton is best known for *The Story of Modern Art*, a work he proposed to Phaidon as a counterpart to E. H. Gombrich's *The Story of Art*. Lynton was a well-loved teacher who enjoyed working in tandem with colleagues from other subjects at a time when such interdisciplinary seminars were a distinctive feature of Sussex. After his retirement in 1989, he remained active as a researcher, committed to subjects that ranged from Russian Constructivism to the English idiom of Bloomsbury. In 2006 he was awarded the OBE for his work as chair of the Charleston Trust, and the posthumous publication in 2009 of *Tatlin's Tower* has further cemented his reputation.

Conferences

The Kindertransport Seventy Years On: New Developments in Research

A workshop outlining new developments in research on the Kindertransport took place on 17 September 2009 at the Institute for German and Romance Studies in London. Organised by Andrea Hammel (Centre for German-Jewish Studies) and Bea Lewkowicz (Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies), the event brought together

Workshop

3 November 2009

‘70 Years Later: The German Invasion of Poland and the Outbreak of the Second World War’ (in cooperation with the Centre for Modern European Cultural History)

Seventy years ago, on 1 September 1939, the Nazi leadership finally unveiled their true intentions and, in attacking Poland, started Germany's second grab for world power in just one generation. Not even the last war had prepared European societies for the brutalities to come.

As Hitler informed his generals a few days before, his Death's Head squads were prepared “to send every man, woman, and child of Polish origin or language to death without mercy”. Radically new and expansive aims, i.e. the creation of German living space in Eastern Europe, translated into a radically new way of warfare and, later on, into an occupation policy that was ideologically driven and without pity towards the Christian and, even more so, the Jewish population.

This panel discussion will explore the invasion and its immediate aftermath by linking the German atrocities to the ideological aims of the Nazi regime and thus understanding the war against Poland as a prelude and first climax of Nazi genocidal warfare culminating in the war of annihilation against the Soviet Union and the Holocaust against the Jews.