



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

Constructions of Jewish Identity

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

Our new part-time Research Fellow, Lisa Silverman, is in the process of completing a doctoral dissertation at Yale University on 'The Transformation of Jewish identity in Vienna, 1918-38'. During the past year she has held a Junior Fellowship at the International Research Center for Cultural Studies in Vienna, and her work focuses particularly on innovative women from Jewish backgrounds, including the educational reformer Eugenia Schwarzwald and the authors Veza Canetti and Hilde Spiel. Her research also examines the

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