

JERUSALEM Yad Vashem

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THE NEW
MUSEUM
COMPLEX

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Cover: Model of the New Museum Complex
(See article on pages 10-11)

*"We shall not forget our enemies,
We shall remember every friend;
Between our yesterdays and our tomorrows,
We shall tie an everlasting bond."*

(From the anthem of the Vilna Ghetto youth)

The "Yad Vashem 2001" masterplan, which includes the construction of the New Museum Complex, aims to sustain the bond between our yesterdays and our tomorrows. This bond is reflected in our commitment, and that of the generations to come, to ensure Jewish continuity, in all of its diversity—an existence that was almost eradicated by the instigators and perpetrators of the Holocaust.

In this issue we have tried to provide a glimpse of the plans for the New Museum Complex. Also included, is a special interview with Professor Deborah Lipstadt, whose victory in the lawsuit brought against her by David Irving has been recorded as an important landmark in the fight against Holocaust deniers and antisemites of his kind.

Yad Vashem welcomes the new heads of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Professor David Bankier and Professor Dan Michman, both of whom you can read more about in "New Faces at the Research Institute."

Between Our Yesterdays and Our Tomorrows is also the title of a new anthology for Holocaust memorial ceremonies. Further information about this collection and about new projects of Yad Vashem can be found in this issue.

The Yad Vashem Council

by Kobi Rivlin

The Public Council of Yad Vashem, 150 members-strong, includes former members of Knesset, retired judges, reserve generals, authors, academics, and thinkers, many of whom are Holocaust survivors.

The Council's ranks, under the chairmanship of Professor Szewach Weiss, have been recently expanded with new members. In order to strengthen ties among members of the Council, in addition to conferences, a series of workshops and guided tours are being organized for the councillors. One such workshop "The School: New Directions and New Approaches to its Educational Activity," took place in May.

Professor Szewach Weiss says that he intends to have more meetings with Council members in order to bolster their involvement.

■ ■ ■

Council Members:

Mr. Achituv Shlomo
Mrs. Almagor Gila
Mr. Amir Eli
Mr. Anolik Benjamin
Dr. Arad Yitzhak
Mr. Areav Minachem
Adv. Artzi Itzak
Mr. Atzmon Shmuel
Prof. Avineri Shlomo
Judge (Ret.) Bach Gabriel
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Mr. Gill Zvi
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Mr. Zeidel Hillel
Mr. Zelmanovicz Dov
Mr. Zimran David
Adv. Zyskind Shlomo

Members of the Yad Vashem Directorate are also included as members of the Council (see page 19)

The first memory Dr. Israel Singer, Secretary General of the World Jewish Congress, Chief Negotiator of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, Member of the Volcker Commission, and the new Vice-Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, has of the Holocaust, was as a three-year-old child in his family's kitchen in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. "My grandmother, who survived miraculously, was lighting 113 candles on this small table, on *Hoshana Rabbah*. I asked why she was making such a big fire and she said that the fire is for all the relatives in our family who were killed on that day, in their town, Galicia. All these children, brothers, sisters—113 people. So I

The Holocaust was always a very open issue in Singer's household. His parents never repressed their Holocaust memories. They always talked to their young son about their experiences in WWII Europe, unlike many of his classmates' parents, many of whom had gone through the camps.

"My parents, for a period of three years, were actually saving as many of my family's relatives as they could, and got them to America. They have absolutely no guilt whatsoever with regard to WWII because they were actually very active at the beginning of and during the war, when they were involved in saving people's lives, and not just themselves. I believe that most of my friends' parents didn't tell their children because they unnecessarily felt guilty or were embarrassed about their survival."

In the last 10 years, around 15 million American documents have come to light in the quest for the truth about what happened in the Holocaust. Singer sees as important, the work which the scholars will carry out over the next fifty years—investigatory work to ensure that the whole truth is exposed. His overriding interest, however, is in discovering why European Jewry was abandoned.

Singer believes that the Holocaust is a subjective, rather than an objective story and it is therefore the obligation of the Jewish people to tell it and not that of the Germans, Americans, or other groups, who inevitably recall events from their own perspectives.

He feels that the Holocaust is a

back their history. It is about finding out what happened and telling the truth."

In the World Jewish Congress, one of Dr. Singer's most important tasks was saving Soviet Jewry: "It was an opportunity to make sure that in this generation we are not going to make the same mistakes we made in the last. We wanted to show people that we weren't going to be victims, and that we were not going to allow other people to make us victims." Within the framework of his WJC activity, he made the first official visit by a representative of an international Jewish organisation to the Former Soviet Union. There, he negotiated with the highest authorities in Moscow and was instrumental in the release of well-known Prisoners of Zion.

Dr. Singer was recently named a vice-chairman of the Yad Vashem Council. Although Yad Vashem's home is in Israel, he feels it is also important to give the organization a non-Israeli orientation. "The Jewish people who live outside Israel also have a role in Yad Vashem. They, too, deal with the tragedy which affected the Jewish people, not just the Jewish people living in Israel. I plan to add various aspects, such as to take all the documents existing outside of Israel and bring at least a copy to Yad Vashem, where over 55 million pages of documents are stored in its archives. This will help make Yad Vashem the home of the Jewish people's history. The Holocaust was a Jewish event, about ideologically killing Jews, and this needs to be told by Jews. We need to protect the unique telling of this



113 Candles

An Interview with Dr. Israel Singer

always felt that the Holocaust was a kitchen table with 113 candles; that was my first association."

Singer's parents had been issued exit visas by the Chinese Consul General in Vienna, Dr. Ho Fengshan. "Their idea was to move west, and keep moving, and eventually they travelled to France and then to the US. They escaped and that is how I am alive. I don't forget that I could have been one of those candles. I don't live with terror, anger, or vengeance, but with a lot of memory because as a small child the first thing I remember was not a Jewish holiday or a *Seder*...but this table with the candles."

continuum of Jewish history, as Jews have to learn how to defend themselves. Consequently, the State of Israel is very important as a safe-haven for Jews in danger and as a safeguard for those in the Diaspora. As the head of a political organization, he says that his struggle for restitution is not about the past but about the present and the future, to enable Jews to realise their identity. Money for him is not the issue. "It is not about Jewish people getting back their material goods (with the exception of the 72,000 pensioners for whom I negotiated pensions in the last five years, giving them a more dignified way of life). It is about the Jewish people getting



history from a Jewish perspective and that's what I would like to do from the Diaspora. We have documents

not yet acquired by Israel and I have a *galut* perspective on how to get them. I hope to be the representative of the Jews, on the Yad Vashem Council, who thinks like Jews in Israel, but still lives in the Diaspora."

In the coming months, Professors David Bankier and Dan Michman will take up their respective positions as Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Chief Historian of Yad Vashem. Professors Yehuda Bauer and Israel Gutman, who currently hold these positions, will continue to play active roles at Yad Vashem, serving as scientific advisors.

This winter, the Institute is expected to move into its new home in the administration building, made possible by a donation from Danek Gertner.

The International Institute for Holocaust Research was established in 1993 as an autonomous academic unit that aims to expand the scope and depth of research work on the Holocaust and to promote advanced research projects. The Institute pursues this goal in various ways, including the awarding of eight to 10 annual research grants for advanced and post-doctoral researchers from Israel and abroad who specialize in the Holocaust era in its broadest sense. The recipients of the grants become Yad

persecuted in Nazi-occupied European countries during WWII, forming the "Last Letters Project." Other projects include formulating a comprehensive series on the history of the Holocaust, incorporating monographs that summarize the current state of Holocaust research in every country, and the publication of main topics about the Holocaust.

The Institute regards the publication and distribution of its studies as matters of the utmost importance. The Publications Department has recently expanded its activities and is concentrating on publishing scholarly volumes and memoirs (see back cover). The Institute also organizes symposia for the general public when new books or research studies are published. Symposia have also been held in honor of distinguished scholars and their achievements. International conferences of three to four days are organized to expand upon themes of Holocaust research.

Public funds and private donations, such as the Baron Friedrich Carl von Oppenheim Chair for the Study of Racism, Antisemitism, and the



New Faces at the Research

Vashem's research fellows for a four-month period, during which they may use archives and libraries all over Israel, foremost the Yad Vashem Library. They interact intensively with the Institute's research team, meeting for a scholars' forum every two weeks. In recent years, the Institute has hosted scholars from the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Israel. The Institute also promotes pre-doctoral research in Israel, by granting annual financial awards to masters' and doctoral candidates who write about the Holocaust. The awards come from funds created by various parties interested in commemorating the Holocaust and its victims and in promoting research about the period.

The Institute also encourages research projects on a wide variety of subjects that until now have not been researched in depth. One example, is an anthology of those recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. It will be produced in a series of volumes classified according to country, and will culminate in a *Lexicon of the Righteous Among the Nations*. Another undertaking will be to collect, analyze, and publish the last letters of Jews who were

Holocaust, and the Danek Gertner Center for International Holocaust Conferences support the Institute. The Social Research Center in Hamburg has provided special assistance for the most recent international conferences.

The author is the Administrative Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research



OPPENHEIM CHAIR

The Baron Friedrich Carl von Oppenheim Chair for the Study of Racism, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust was founded by the family of Baron von Oppenheim in 1997 with the aim of enhancing the research work of the International Institute for Holocaust Research (IIHR).

The recipients of the Oppenheim Chair are chosen by the Oppenheim family from a list of scholars approved by the IIHR's Executive Committee.

The recipients for the year 1999-2000 were Professor Inge Marszolek (a study of denunciation in Germany, 1933-1945) and Professor Szymon Rudnicki (the attitude of extreme right-wing organizations in Poland toward Jews).

The recipients for the year 2000-2001 are Dr. Michal Ungar (a reconsideration of the personality of Mordechai Rumkowski, the Judenälteste in Lodz, in light of recent research) and Dr. Sergei Kudryashov (Russian collaboration with the Nazis and the extermination of the Jewish population, 1941-1945).

The Impact of the Holocaust on Contemporary Society

By Irena Steinfeldt

Scholars from numerous disciplines and different countries gathered and discussions at a conference *Holocaust on Contemporary*

into the past and determine an agenda for held at Brandeis University on 26-29 International Institute for Holocaust Institute for the Study of European Jewry

Hamburg Institute for Social Research. It was held in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust, the Churches in Pennsylvania, and the Center for German and European Studies at Brandeis University. The conference was made possible by the support of the Danek Gertner Center for International Holocaust Conferences, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Mavis and Hans Lopater, and the Cecil and Ruth Greenwold Fund. This was the third conference in a series of such cooperative ventures. The previous two conferences were held in Jerusalem and in Warsaw.

Speakers at the conference were scholars from Israel, the United States, Canada, Germany, Poland and Britain. The various sessions were devoted to the influence the Holocaust has had since 1945 in the areas of history, law, theology, philosophy, literature, education, and the social sciences. Professor Israel Gutman, Chief Historian of Yad Vashem, discussed the crucial problems in Holocaust research. Also discussed was the impact of the Holocaust in comparison with other acts of genocide and crimes against humanity committed in the twentieth century. The debates focused on the unique, as well as the universal aspects of the Holocaust, and whether, in fact, there is a danger in universalizing the Holocaust to such an extent that its unprecedented nature might be overlooked.

The conference related to the academic dimensions of Holocaust study in the various disciplines. Also dealt with was the perception of memory, the relaying of the memory of the Holocaust to the coming generations, and education. Other issues

discussed were the restitution of Jewish property and the field of international law—subjects which continue to make headlines to this day.

Stuart Eizenstat, US Deputy Treasury Secretary, described the scale of property theft during the Holocaust as the greatest in the history of mankind. This theft, in which all countries participated, has remained an open wound that must be treated. He also spoke of the changes in procedure in debates currently being held—no longer in secret, but open to the public. Dr. Israel Singer, Secretary General of the World Jewish Congress and Vice-Chair of the Yad Vashem Council, addressed the moral and political issues of this ongoing debate.

In his concluding remarks Professor Yehuda Bauer, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, spoke of the increasing interest in the Holocaust the further away in time we are removed from the event. He underscored the importance of knowledge as the foundation for any social change, pointing to the role of the academics to equip the next generation with the knowledge it will need to make the world a better place in which to live.

The author is an educator at the International School for Holocaust Studies

DAVID BANKIER was born in 1947, in Germany. He attended the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he earned his doctorate degree in Jewish history. A Lady Davis fellow, he is the Solomon and Victoria Cohen Professor at the Hebrew University and heads the university's section for Studies in anti-semitism and the Holocaust at the Institute for Contemporary Jewry. Over the years, he has been a visiting professor at universities in London, the United States, South Africa, and South America.

Professor Bankier has also been involved in developing centers of Jewish studies in Latin America and has promoted academic publications in Spanish. His doctorate thesis was on German society and Nazi antisemitism in 1933-1938. In recent years he has focused on four main areas of research. In articles and lectures at scholarly conferences he has explored the relations between Jews and non-Jews in occupied Europe; the interaction between propaganda and political mobilization during the war; the emigration of Jews from Germany; the rebuilding of Jewish community life in Latin America; and the position taken by German anti-Nazi exiles on the "Jewish Question," on which he intends to publish a book.

Institute

DAN MICHMAN was born in 1947, in Amsterdam. He is a professor of Modern Jewish History at Bar-Ilan University. He came to Israel as a child in 1957, when his father, Dr. Yozeph Michman, was appointed Secretary General of Yad Vashem. After his military service, he studied Jewish history and Hebrew language at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he earned his doctorate in 1978 by writing a dissertation on Jewish refugees from Germany in Holland in 1933-1940. In 1976, he received an appointment from Bar-Ilan University to teach Holocaust-related subjects, and since 1983 he has headed the university's Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research. During that time, he devised a comprehensive academic course on Holocaust history for the Open University of Israel.

Professor Michman has published numerous books and articles in different languages on the history of Dutch Jewry, Israeli society, and various aspects of Holocaust research—historiography, problems of Jewish refugees and migration, religious life, Judenrat and leadership, resistance, Western Europe, the survivors, etc.

Professor Michman has been involved with Yad Vashem's scholarly and educational activities since the early 1980s, and for several years has been a member of the board of the International Institute for Holocaust Research. He is on the editorial board of *Yad Vashem Studies* and is a member of the advisory committee of the International School for Holocaust Studies.

An International Conference

for three days of lectures titled *The Impact of the Society* that attempted to look the future. The conference was March. It was organized by the Research, Yad Vashem; the Tauber at Brandeis University; and the



US Deputy Treasury Secretary, Stuart Eizenstat, at the International Conference

Prize-Giving Ceremony for Educational Projects by Dalit Denenberg

On Wednesday, 24 May, the Yad Vashem prizes for educational projects were awarded in the presence of Deputy Minister of Education, MK Shaul Yahalom; representatives of the donors' families; and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Avner Shalev. Also attending were Holocaust survivors, educators, and students.

Sixty-five students from all over the country submitted a variety of in-depth papers on the Holocaust. During the ceremony the writers were presented with gifts and certificates of participation in the competition.

The first prize for outstanding work, donated by the Luba Uveeler and the late Mark Uveeler Foundation, was awarded to Ada Campeneno from Neve Hannah Religious Girls High School in Allon Shevut. Her work *After Auschwitz, Poetry is Possible* was written under the direction of Rachel Opher.

Every year, the Bruno Brandt Prize for Literature for Children and Youth is donated by Sandra Brandt, in memory of her son, Bruno, who died in Auschwitz at the age of four-and-a-half. This year the prize was awarded to Dr. Yehudit Ronen for her book *Viski shel Haruvim (Carob Whiskey)*.

Three prizes, donated from the Chuno and Blima Najmann Foundation were also awarded: The Outstanding Study Unit Prize was presented to "Hame'orer," a center for alternative instruction and study at Kibbutz Ravid, for a variety of study units, which were designed to shape awareness of the memory of the Holocaust, and which are aimed at students, teachers, and professionals who deal with the subject. The Outstanding Educational Project Prize was awarded to Shaham Experimental Ulpna High School for Girls in Kiryat Ata, for its comprehensive and deep commitment to the study and teaching of the Holocaust. The Excellence in Holocaust Teaching Prize this year went to Leah Gannor, founder and director of the "Mashma'ut Center" in Kiryat Motzkin.

A special certificate was awarded to the Har v'Gai School from Kibbutz Dafna. This school, in partnership with Yad Leyeled at Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot, involved its pupils in the subject of the Holocaust by means of a special program commemorating 131 children from the Krakow ghetto. Twenty-three children from the ghetto who survived and who now live in Israel are participating actively in the project. This unique venture combines in-depth study, commemoration, and the establishment of warm ties between pupils and survivors. Yaacov Mariash, a representative of the survivors, accepted the prize, leaving the audience deeply affected by his moving speech.

Bat-Sheva Dagan, a psychologist and educator, was awarded a personal certificate of appreciation. Dagan has pioneered the development of a consolidated educational approach to Holocaust education and has designed a study program on the Holocaust for young people.



First prize winner, Ada Campeneno, receiving her award from Deputy Minister of Education, MK Shaul Yahalom

Between Our Yesterdays and Our Tomorrows: an Anthology for Ceremonies and Events

For many years, a variety of historical and other teaching materials have been produced and distributed to teachers on the theoretical side of Holocaust education, but when it comes to designing form and content for ceremonies relating to the Holocaust, there are not enough tools available to help teachers and pupils. This, despite the fact that solidarity ceremonies in Israeli educational institutions are customary in almost all schools in Israel, as well as in the IDF and other educational establishments in various sectors.

The increase in the number of young people visiting Poland over the last decade has made it even more important to have a supplementary educational resource that will enable pupils and teachers to design ceremonies and select their contents.

The purpose of the reader *Between Our Yesterdays and Our Tomorrows* (published in Hebrew) is to aid the teacher or group of pupils to plan ceremonies and events relating to the Holocaust. It has been devised in such a way as to enable them to create their own format, utilizing the wide selection of material available, according to subject, location, contents, age, and character of the audience for whom the ceremony is intended.

The collection includes a selection of texts, all of which can be found at the Resource and Pedagogical Center at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem. They are arranged chronologically, as follows: the period between the two World Wars; the rise of Nazism and the decree to wear the yellow star; the "Final Solution"; liberation; and Israeli society's encounter with *shearit hapleita* and the horrors of the Holocaust.

At the same time, the selection of texts concentrates on the following subjects: the Jewish victim and the image of the murderers; those who stood by, as opposed to the Righteous Among the Nations; children in the Holocaust; survival; resilience; spiritual and armed resistance; and how Israeli society remembers those who perished.

Also included in this anthology are poems, excerpts, letters, extracts of prayers, testimonies, and last wills powerfully expressing the feelings of despair and hope of those who perished and those who survived the Holocaust.

The reader was produced with the Youth and Society Administration of the Ministry of Education. It is comprised of 240 pages, and costs NIS 110.

by Kathryn Berman

First Seminar for Romanian Educators

A seminar for 25 educators from various parts of Romania took place at Yad Vashem during the first two weeks of May. The seminar, the first for Romanian educators, was coordinated by Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Romanian Ministry of Education, and David Saronga of the Israeli Embassy in Bucharest. This event came about due to the cultural agreement which exists between the two countries and the initiatives taken by Andrei Marga, the Romanian Minister of Education, who took a special interest in the development of the seminar.

Fittingly, the educators' first day at Yad Vashem coincided with Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. The group attended the commemoration ceremony at Yad Vashem that same evening, as well as ceremonies for Remembrance Day for Fallen Soldiers, and Independence Day. Their participation in these ceremonies enabled them to absorb first-hand the feeling of the country at this special time.

Dr. Leon Volovici of the Hebrew University Institute of Contemporary Studies and Dr. Rafi Vago of Tel-Aviv University, both Romanian speakers, were involved in the planning of the program. Lectures were given in Romanian and English. The seminar was based on three pillars: academic, pedagogic, and experiential, with emphasis on the Holocaust in Romania.

The participants met with seven survivors from Romania, Hungary, Poland, and Germany. Visits were made to the Israel Museum, the Museum of the Diaspora, Masada, and the participants took part in a three-day trip to the North with a full day's study at the Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz (Lohamei Hagetaot). In its free time, the group visited other sites in Jerusalem, including a school for specially gifted children.

by Safira Rapoport

Cooperation with a Catholic Center

“This has been one of the best workshops I have ever attended throughout my 22 years of teaching,” noted Danya Chlowski, a seventh and eighth grade parochial school teacher who attended a one-day Yad Vashem professional development seminar on 9 March 2000, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. This teacher-training seminar for approximately 300 educators, held two weeks before the historic visit of Pope John Paul II to Yad Vashem, was organized by the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education (NCCHE) at Seton Hill College.

Yad Vashem and Seton Hill College have established strong, special ties. Sister Gemma Del Duca, co-director of NCCHE, has been deeply involved with educational programming at Yad Vashem for many years. Since its establishment, NCCHE has recruited more than 128 Catholic educators to attend intensive seminars at the International School for Holocaust Studies. Thirteen participants from NCCHE are currently scheduled to participate in a 24-day seminar this summer.

Although the NCCHE has encouraged numerous Catholic educators to study at Yad Vashem, the March seminar marked the first time that a team of Yad Vashem educators held pedagogical workshops at Seton Hill. Wilda Kaylor, NCCHE coordinator, initially anticipated that 100 teachers would attend. However, approximately three times this number signed up for the presentations given by Shulamit Imber, Ephraim Kaye, and Bruce Saposnik. One third of the participants were elementary school teachers who were specifically interested in age-appropriate, didactic methods to teach the lessons of the Holocaust in their classrooms.

The evaluations of this program, sponsored by the Diocese of Greensburg, were overwhelmingly positive. Sister Brycelyn Eyler, principal of the Aquinas Academy in Greensburg, stated that, “This inservice [training seminar] was very thought provoking and challenging to me, as a person and as an educator.” In addition, Shawn Holup, a senior high-school teacher, commented, “I have not really had much of a background with the Holocaust until today and I have learned a lot. The program was outstanding and very informative. The speakers were terrific.”

Richelle Budd Caplan, coordinator for overseas programming at the International School for Holocaust Studies, and Wilda Kaylor are currently considering planning another Yad Vashem seminar outside of Pittsburgh in 2001 or 2002. Clearly, the Yad Vashem-Seton Hill connection has successfully promoted Holocaust awareness in Catholic schools, serving as a model for educational cooperation.

Anthology of the History of the Holocaust in Arabic by Irit Abramski-Bligh

“Judaism undeniably refers to a race and not to a religious community. Everything that drives men toward the exalted—religion, socialism, democracy—serves the Jews only as the means by which to achieve their end: to satisfy their lust for money and control. What the Jews do is going to infect other races with their ‘racial tuberculosis.’ This leads to the following conclusion: antisemitism, on purely emotional grounds, will ultimately find its expression in rioting. Rational antisemitism, on the other hand, will inevitably lead to a planned campaign against the Jews, by means of the law, and to the revoking of the over-abundance of rights that they enjoy and that are not enjoyed by other foreigners among us (the law on foreigners). However, the ultimate goal must be to get rid of the Jews altogether” (from Hitler’s first political essay, 16 September 1919, Munich).

This is one of the texts in the *Anthology of the History of the Holocaust*, published by Yad Vashem and the Lohamei Hagetaot Publishing House, compiled as a result of experience accumulated in the complex matter of teaching the Holocaust to the Arab sector. This experimental collection of texts is unique in that it is designed to teach Holocaust subjects to Arabic speakers in Israel. It contains documents in Hebrew and Arabic that record the planning and implementation of the Nazi extermination machine. Testimonies of victims and witnesses, and excerpts from literature showing the influence of the Holocaust on Israeli society today are included, as are a variety of documents including ideological leaflets, laws, instructions, journal entries, letters, testimonies from the Eichmann trial and the Nuremberg trials, excerpts from literature, and theoretical writings.

At the end of the anthology are extracts from articles written by Arab intellectuals describing the relevance of the Holocaust for the Arab public, as well as a special learning unit on Holocaust education through art.

The aim of the work is to provide Arabic-speaking students, trainee teachers, and high school students, who are beginning to study the subject, with a basic selection of documentation on all stages of the history of the Holocaust.



The Army Education Unit by Adi Loya

“I have visited Yad Vashem many times on various occasions, but coming here in uniform is a completely different experience—it gives me a feeling of pride. For the first time, I feel a great sense of identity with the Jewish heritage and the State of Israel. I gained a lot from the visit and, therefore, I believe that every soldier and every officer should visit Yad Vashem at least once during his military service” (Cadet from the Officer’s School, during a study day at Yad Vashem).

IDF soldiers have visited Yad Vashem since it was established in 1953. In recent years, a need has been identified to formalize these visits and give them clearly-defined goals, so that they will become an important part of the identity-shaping process of IDF soldiers.

On the joint initiative of the IDF Chief Education and Nahal Officer and the School’s administration, an Army Education Unit was established at the International School for Holocaust Studies during the months of January and February.

The role of the unit is to formalize the relationship between the IDF and Yad Vashem. Its purpose is to provide the soldiers who visit Yad Vashem with informational material and to ensure that their experience will strengthen their sense of Jewish identity and deepen their sense of pride in their heritage.

Together with the School’s Study Seminars Department, the unit is developing special programs for soldiers and study days for officers. It also trains officers and army educators for the soldiers’ visits to Yad Vashem.

Yad Vashem recently received a unique and important item—a Torah scroll from a Leipzig synagogue, which was saved from destruction on Kristallnacht. The scroll was found unscathed 60 years after the Nazi-instigated destruction of synagogues throughout Germany and Austria on the night of 9 November 1938. It was presented to Yad Vashem by the Association of Leipzig Jews in Israel, headed by Channa Gildoni.

The story of the scroll and its rescue unfolded in stages, beginning with the discovery of the scroll in 1998. The library at the University of Leipzig, which had been severely damaged by the WWII allied bombings, was renovated, exposing Torah scrolls, in an advanced state of disintegration, together with a number of rollers that had been hidden between the beams of the library roof.

The main questions were how, and by whom, had the scrolls been brought to the hiding place. Circumstances clearly indicated that the scrolls had been deliberately hidden, and therefore this would have had to have been carried out during the Nazi period. Not only was there no clue as to who had been responsible for the concealment, but it was also unclear from where the scrolls had been taken.

An examination of the cache revealed that the collection actually included a dozen scrolls, which, with the exception of one, were in an advanced stage of decay due to their prolonged stay in damp and humid conditions. The Association of Leipzig Jews in Israel was informed of the discovery which was reported by the local press. The heads of the Association in Israel contacted the Leipzig community in Germany and expressed their opinion that the rightful place for the scrolls was in Israel, which is now home to most of the surviving community of Leipzig Jews.

After consultations with various parties, it was decided to bury the remains of the scrolls in the city's Jewish cemetery according to the accepted Jewish custom for damaged holy books. With the conviction that it would be inappropriate to leave on German soil the only remaining scroll to have survived the ravages of time and climate, the heads of the Leipzig Jewish community decided to send it to the Association in Israel.

A short time after the story was published in the Leipzig community bulletin, the Association's secretariat in Tel Aviv received a letter from Issac Israel, a Canadian citizen, which solved, in part, the mystery of the scrolls'.

In the letter Issac Israel explained that his father, Chaim, (who perished in the Holocaust) told him that on the morning of 9 November 1938, a messenger from the post office came to advise him that there was a call for him at the telephone exchange. When Chaim arrived at the exchange, an anonymous caller from Stuttgart advised him that violence was planned to take place in every synagogue throughout Germany.

Deeply troubled, Chaim went to his synagogue, the Broder Shul (on Kailestrasse),

torn to shreds.

Chaim never knew what became of the scrolls that were removed. However, Issac Israel also mentioned in his letter that another collection of scrolls had been saved in Leipzig that same night, but that those scrolls had been removed individually and taken out of Germany. It therefore seems that the scrolls discovered in the university library were those that his father had rescued from the Broder Shul.

Apparently the mystery of the dozen scrolls that survived Kristallnacht has been solved. Yet, still unanswered are the questions: how were the scrolls transferred from the JNF building to their hiding place in the university, and who was able and willing, during those dark days in

THE TORAH THAT SURVIVED KRISTALLNACHT



The Leipzig Torah scroll

and related the information that he had received to those who had gathered to pray.

After debating the seriousness of the information, it was decided to remove a collection of a dozen scrolls from the synagogue and transfer it to a building belonging to the JNF, a building defined as the property of British subjects. One scroll was to remain in the synagogue for prayers.

That very night, the pogrom known as Kristallnacht took place, and the synagogues in the city were destroyed by fire. The building of the Broder Shul was not destroyed because the fire was extinguished by a non-Jew who happened to be in the vicinity (he paid for this act by being arrested as an enemy of the Reich). The contents of the synagogue were utterly destroyed, though, and the scroll that had remained in the ark was

Germany, to hide Torah scrolls?

The one Torah scroll that was found in relatively salvagable condition was sent to the Association of Leipzig Jews in Israel, which subsequently decided that its rightful place should be in Yad Vashem. It was presented to the museum staff in a ceremony held by Yad Vashem in May, together with two fragments of the rollers.

The scroll has already been fumigated against rodents and will soon undergo the necessary processes in the laboratory to preserve the parchment

The author is responsible for the Collection Room at Yad Vashem's Museum

by Lisa Davidson

The New Historical Museum broke ground in early March, at an emotional ceremony in the presence of Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, then Minister of Tourism and present Minister of Transportation; Shaul Yahalom, Deputy Minister of Education; the Wilf Family, major donors; Rabbi Dr. Israel Miller, President of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the main donor organization of the New Museum; Moshe Safdie, architect; Professor Szewach Weiss, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council; Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem; and Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate. The New Museum, to be constructed through the generous support and leadership of the Elizabeth and Joseph Wilf

Elizabeth; Leonard, son of Judith and the late Harry Wilf, Mark Wilf and family. Regretably absent were Judith Wilf and Zygmunt Wilf, wife and son of Joseph Wilf. All the members of the Wilf Family are active philanthropists and supporters of a number of Holocaust-related affiliations. At the ceremony, Joseph Wilf highlighted the importance of the preservation of memory: "Our generation, who witnessed the Holocaust, is now approaching the twilight of our lives, and we see it as our responsibility to establish a structure for perpetuating memory, and for the next generation to accept the mantle of leadership."

Minister Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, in describing the duty and importance of the New Museum, stated, "This is the greatest, most

objects that will tell the stories behind them. The museum, a linear structure, will be 175 meters long, and its triangular shape will disappear into the slopes, with only its uppermost edge, a skylight, protruding through the mountain ridge. The New Historical Museum is part of the Museum Complex, partly funded by the Government of Israel.

Over 100 invited guests attended the festive dinner on the occasion of the event at the Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel, including close friends from the American Society, members of the Yad Vashem Directorate, staff from the International Relations and Museum Divisions, and members of the New Museum's design and building team.



From left to right: Moshe Safdie, Mark Wilf, Elizabeth Wilf, Rabbi Dr. Israel Miller, Minister Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Joseph Wilf, Deputy Minister Shaul Yahalom, Leonard Wilf, and Avner Shalev



Eli Zborowski in attendance at the ceremony

Family and the Judith and Harry Wilf Family, will be erected in the framework of "Yad Vashem 2001" masterplan. Attending the ceremony were Joseph Wilf, Campaign Chairman for the masterplan; his wife,

powerful project of revival. Yad Vashem is a living organ of the Jewish State, in the soul of the Jewish people, an ongoing living memorial."

Eli Zborowski congratulated the Wilf Family and Yad Vashem on behalf of the American Society and the Yad Vashem Societies world wide. The New Museum, to be three times the size of the current Historical Museum, is being constructed in order to ensure active Holocaust commemoration in future generations, when there will no longer be survivors to tell their stories. It will have an exhibition reflecting the most up-to-date technologies and museum-techniques relating to the needs of the 21st century. Historical events will be presented through pictures, texts, multimedia, and personal

Groundbreaking

Ceremony

for the

New Historical

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by Yvette Nahmia-Messinas

“I face this task with humility,” were the opening words of Moshe Safdie, architect of the New Museum Complex at the groundbreaking ceremony for the New Historical Museum at Yad Vashem. “I felt that architecture as usual—of buildings and rooms—is inappropriate,” he said resonating in architectural language the famous statement by Theodor Adorno that after Auschwitz

poetry is no longer possible.

Architecture faces a challenge in the creation of buildings to house Holocaust history, art, and remembrance. In creating the New Museum Complex, however, one concept was dear to Yad Vashem: the mountain had to stand supreme.

Consisting of the Historical Museum, Hall of Names, Museum for Holocaust Art, Media Center, Learning Center, Temporary Exhibitions, and Square of Remembrance, the New Museum Complex will preserve the visitor’s indoor/outdoor experience of the site and will maintain the architecture/nature relationship, characteristic of Yad Vashem. The architect’s additions were designed so as not to compete with the remaining sites, but rather to be in dialogue with them, while the



landscape architects, Shlomo Aronson and Anat Sade, ensured to preserve and further add to the existing flora.

The New Historical Museum to occupy 4,447 square meters—three times the size of the existing Museum—will, for the most part, be situated below the ground. Its 175 meter-long linear structure in the form of a spike-line will cut through the mountain with its uppermost edge, a skylight, protruding through the mountain ridge. Divided into seven thematic exhibits beginning with *The World that Was Destroyed 1900-1933*, and ending with the post-Holocaust period, the Museum will offer the visitor a personal experience. The stories of individual Jews before, during, and after the Holocaust will be told by means of artifacts, photographs, texts, and computer assisted presentations devised and selected by a group of Yad Vashem curators, historians, and educators. Staff members leading this group are: Avner Shalev, Professor Israel Gutman, Yehudit Inbar, Avraham Milgrom, Haviva Peled Carmeli, and Yehudit Shendar, while Dorit Harel is in charge of design.

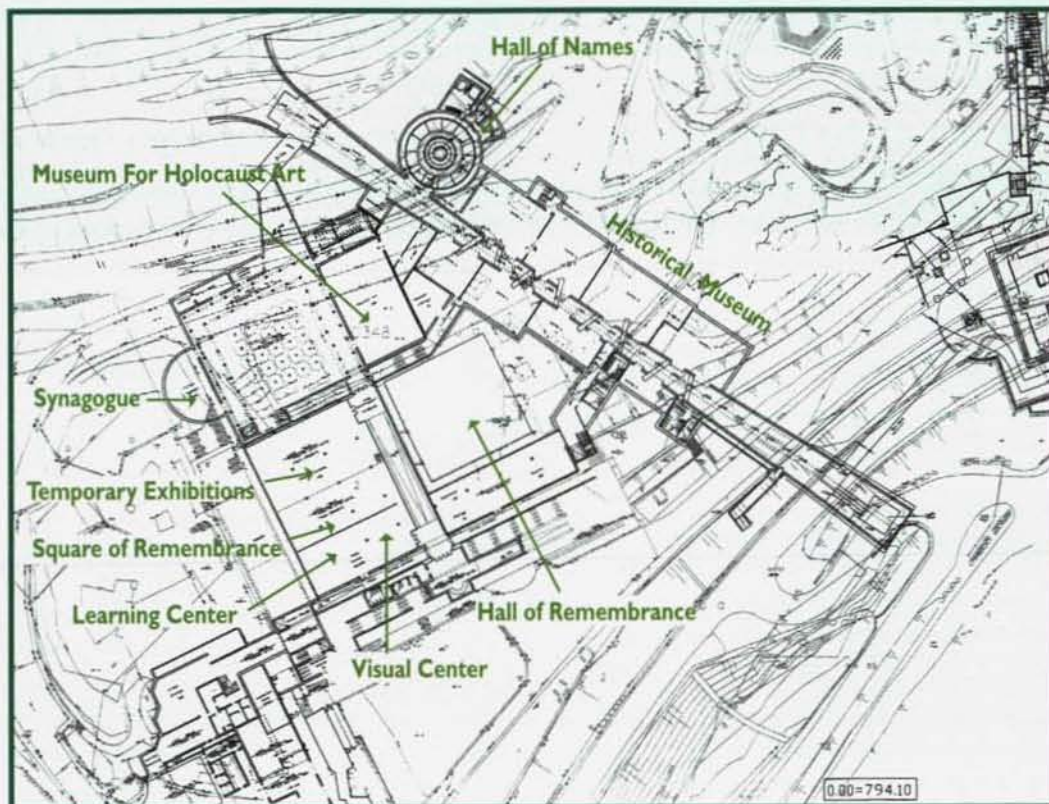
Walking past the pavilion in the Museum’s main spine, which depicts the end of the war, the visitor will encounter the new structure of the Hall of Names. In the Hall’s *genizah* (repository) millions of Pages of Testimony will be stored, and in an adjacent room visitors will be able to conduct name searches by way of computers.

Upon completing the underground walk through the Historical Museum, the visitor may proceed to an open courtyard. This is the place for the visitor to contemplate his tour of the Museum and plan the rest of his tour. He may choose to continue to the Museum for Holocaust Art, facing the courtyard, or proceed to the Pavilion for Temporary Exhibitions, on its right.

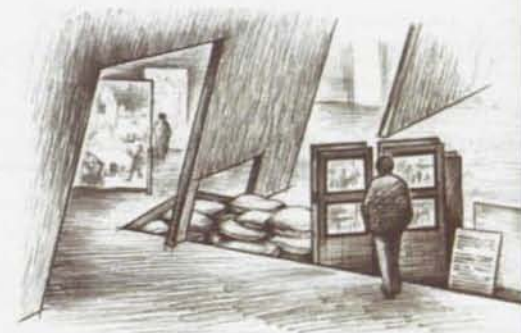
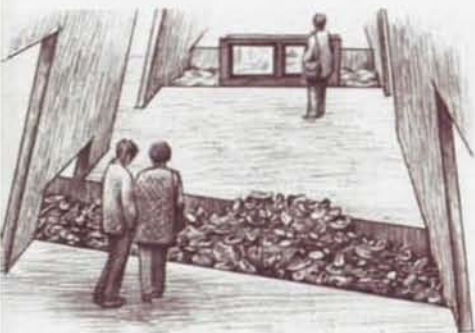
In the new Museum for Holocaust Art, covering 450 square meters, a permanent exhibit of the world’s most extensive collection of Holocaust art will be on display.

Walking upstairs the visitor will reach the Hall of Remembrance, marking the highest point on the mountain.

The addition of 9,000 square meters of concrete to the mountain will enable the more than two million visitors who reached Yad Vashem last year and the many more millions expected to visit over the years to come to be easily accommodated, which will certainly change the face of Yad Vashem. In the year 2004, the visitor will find himself in a modernized and expanded institution, with new historic and art exhibits, new services to the public, and a better infrastructure to present, from a Jewish perspective, the different facets of the Holocaust to the world.



C O M P L E X



Illustrations of the interior of the New Historical Museum by Tania Slutsky

Fifty crates of gold, another 50 full of golden coins, 1,560 crates of silverware, 100 highly valuable paintings, 30 crates of jewellery, 5,000 expensive carpets, expensive furs, cameras, stamp collections, Chinese porcelain, and ritual articles. These were the contents of the train carriages captured at the end of WWII in the American occupied zone, as described by Nahum Goldmann in his letter of 1946.

This booty is just a small fraction of the Jewish property plundered by the Nazis. Until recently, property seizure was given very little attention by researchers, and in fact, very little

examines the property plundered from Hungarian Jews. Her aim was to study the financial aspect of Hungarian antisemitism in the processes of the German "Final Solution," and in the relationship between Jews and non-Jews in post-war Hungary. The study was designed with the belief that without surveying the seizure and looting of Jewish property by Hungarians and Germans and their governments, one cannot fully understand the process of murder and collaboration carried out by the local population. The study includes a survey and an analysis of archive material and draws up orderly lists—as far as is possible—of property plundered during

investments in Palestine, in the form of buildings, urban and agricultural land, the purchase of shares and bonds, currency deposits in banks, etc. This was done for a variety of reasons, such as to support the Zionist cause, to prepare the ground for the investors' *aliyah*, to make an investment, or to export their capital from their own country. Subsequently it happened that many of the investors perished in the Holocaust.

Many of the investments were appropriated to the Custodian of Enemy Property or to the Administrator General. Other investments remained in the banks and with the land investment companies. The Jewish Agency attempted to transfer some of the land belonging to those missing to its own name in order to keep it in Jewish hands.

Katz's book is based on archive material from Israel and abroad, and relates this little-known chapter in the history of the pre-State community, Zionism, and the State, which has

Plundered & Forgotten

Yad Vashem Promotes Research on Stolen Property

methodical work was done on the subject. Now, with stolen property making its way to the public agenda, a change is also beginning to take place in research trends. In recent years, it has become acceptable to consider the subject of plundered Jewish property an integral part of the events of the Holocaust, and as such, it has begun to attract the attention of historians and economists. In a project initiated jointly by Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Avner Shalev, and Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Professor Yehuda Bauer, and supported by the Claims Conference, the International Institute has begun to research the subject. Various historians working for the Institute have been awarded financial grants from the Claims Conference or have received other support, in order to further their academic work in this important field.

Among these historians is Dr. Jean Ancel, who specializes in the conditions of Romanian Jewry during the Holocaust. Editor, Avi Ben-Ami, has selected the sections relating to the seizure of Jewish property from Ancel's comprehensive work on this subject (which will be published by Yad Vashem this year), and has compiled them into a focused study. The study presents, for the first time, a comprehensive picture of the scope of the seizure of Jewish property in Romania during the period of the Holocaust. The study details the different methods employed to confiscate property from Jews prior to their deportation and execution in the death camps of Transnistria, from house-breaking to looting.

Shari Reuveni conducted another study that

contemporary implications regarding justice for those who perished. In the last chapter of his book "Epilogue or Prologue," Professor Katz discusses what should be done by the Israeli establishment in regard to property in Israel belonging to those who perished. In the book he demands the appointment of an independent commission of inquiry that would, with the help of the authorities and based on the findings in the book and on other studies, make every effort to find the heirs. He further proposes that legislation determine the fate of property whose legal owners cannot be traced.

While the book was still in press, the Knesset decided to appoint a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry to find and return the property. Commission chair, MK Colette Avital, appointed Professor Katz as a special advisor to the commission and he now serves as a regular and active participant at meetings. Thus he is able to do what he says in his book: "We cannot remain indifferent to the subject of property belonging to those who perished in the Holocaust that is in the possession of the Administrator General, the banks, the JNF, realtors, and perhaps in the hands of other financial institutions."

and after the war, with the intention of publishing them and making them available to survivors.

Professor Yosi Katz of the Geography Department of Bar-Ilan University, who specializes in the history of modern Israel, has also joined in the Institute's work with the support of the Claims Conference. His study *Forgotten Property* and his book of the same name, published by Yad Vashem, represent a breakthrough in the study of the property in Israel of Holocaust victims. In the 1920s and 1930s, many European Jews made financial

Six hundred people filled Yad Vashem's auditorium and adjacent galleries beyond capacity on 29 May to hear the widely-admired new heroine of historical truth and justice, Professor Deborah Lipstadt of Emory University. Lipstadt, a polished and engaging lecturer who possesses a great deal of insight into history and the popular mind, says she went to trial for the memory of those murdered and for the survivors, as well as for historical truth. She is still visibly moved by the response generated by the trial. As one survivor wrote her after the trial (one of over 700 e-mails that she received), "My mother was killed in Auschwitz. If David Irving had won, she would have been killed again."

What did the trial achieve? The results were above and beyond the defense team's expectations. Justice Charles Gray dropped judicial restraint in his ruling in forthrightly calling Irving a Holocaust denier, an antisemite and a racist. It never occurred to Lipstadt's defense team that they might lose the trial on history, but rather that the judge might accept Irving's claim that sometimes he simply erred. Thus, the defense strategy was to stick to the subject—Holocaust denial—and expose Irving's deliberate falsifications of history by tracing his footnotes. The trial became a question of how Irving had used and abused historical evidence. A concluding remark relating to Irving by one of the expert witnesses, the renowned historian Professor Richard Evans, summed up the devastating evidence that was uncovered: "In no way can this man be considered a historian."

The trial "exposed all the tenets of Holocaust denial for the sham that they are," says Lipstadt. Irving and Holocaust deniers engage in "immoral equivalencies," such as equating the Holocaust with the Allied bombing of Dresden. Essentially, Irving and the other deniers seek to make Nazism acceptable again. They want to "resurrect...the reputation of Adolf Hitler." It also "exposed this man as the racist-antisemite that he is, and to some degree made him the object of ridicule." For the next few years, the deniers will have to scramble to be heard, she warns. However, we should not delude ourselves. Although this important battle dealt Holocaust deniers a serious blow, they will be back with new avenues and tactics of denial, even if it takes them a few years.

Lipstadt notes that no new findings of major historical importance emerged from the trial, but many new details and clarifications were exposed. For example, three separate sources on the structure of one Birkenau crematorium concurred—a painting by survivor David Olere, the Topf company's architectural plans, and an Allied aerial photograph. The exact match of

these three unconnected sources helped establish the reliability of the witnesses.

Regarding Irving himself, Lipstadt and her defense team were surprised to discover the extent of his connections with avowed neo-Nazis and white supremacists. The degree to which Irving tried to justify his antisemitism and racism was also surprising. According to Lipstadt,

In Defense of Truth and Memory



Professor Deborah Lipstadt touring the International School for Holocaust Studies, guided by Avner Shalev

An Interview with Professor Deborah Lipstadt

Irving's downfall resulted partially from his arrogance, which allowed him to drop his guard and expose his true colors. "I am not a racist. I just believe that God made the species

different," he insisted, betraying his bigotry. Comments such as this, together with his reference to today's Germany as "the Reich" and to the judge as "Mein Führer" were devastatingly revealing.

What could be, or should be, the role of Yad Vashem and similar institutions in confronting Holocaust denial? "Do exactly what you did before, and exactly what you would have done had you never heard of Holocaust denial. Disseminate information and knowledge on the Holocaust. But don't teach and study because of the deniers—that would be a *schande*... It gives the deniers too much credit," advises Lipstadt. Similarly, she says, Jews should not build identity based upon the Holocaust or other negative experiences in Jewish history that would cede control of Jewish identity to their oppressors.

And how can students confront denial on campus? Lipstadt refers them to chapter 10, "The Battle for the Campus" of her book *Denying the Holocaust*. It is not a question of free speech, she insists. "No one is saying these people don't have a right to speak, but there is no obligation to invite them to campus and give them a platform to publish... You don't get into a debate with them, [just as] you don't ask the people in Earth Sciences to get into a debate about the flatness of the earth. But you do give the students enough facts to answer... If we create enough of a population that knows about the Holocaust, that will be an important step."

When asked about her next project, once she can return to being a full-time historian, Lipstadt responds that she would like to examine the Holocaust in popular culture in America, and specifically how the Holocaust has been presented to the American people from 1945 until today.

The author is the Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Studies



by Yehudit Shendar

“For the children of Ilya and Natasha—for all the children in the world—so that they will never be forgotten.”

This is the dedication written by artist Zinovii Tolkatchev in his album *Pirhei Auschwitz (Flowers of Auschwitz)*, published in the spring of 1945. The album depicts the children of Auschwitz, “the flowers of life,” as the artist called them as he encountered them on entering the camp with the Red Army unit that liberated the prisoners in January 1945. He captured the children’s images on blank forms found in the camp headquarters. His empathy for the young inmates was so profound that, pointing to a sketch of two orphans, he felt compelled to exclaim: “Do

you see that girl? She’s my daughter!” Zinovii Tolkatchev, who had fought in the ranks of the Red Army, regarded the children—the sons and daughters of his fellow Jews—as his own.

The album was published in Poland shortly after the actual events took place. Some six months later, Tolkatchev was discharged from the army and he returned to his family. His work remains an extraordinarily powerful testimony. Neither the *Majdanek and Auschwitz Series*, nor the *Flowers of Auschwitz* are works which praise the victors or testify to the joy of the liberated. Rather, they constitute an indictment of the horror of the camps, which, even after they were liberated, remained sites of death and destruction.

In 1941, at the age of 39, already married,

and the father of two, Tolkatchev returned to the ranks of the Red Army, serving as his unit’s official artist until 1945. His task was to document the ongoing hostilities with his pen and sketchbook, for which he received a medal in 1968. The drawings themselves, however, remained in Poland.

One cold, snowy Ukrainian winter, 53 years after the war, in a Kiev apartment overflowing with books and paintings, this writer met Ilya and Annel (Natasha)—the artist’s children, to whom he had dedicated the album. At the meeting they agreed to transfer the drawings to Yad Vashem for safekeeping. “Father would have wanted to see them there,” they explained.

The works arrived at Yad Vashem in April

The FLOWE



The Liberator, 1945, pencil on paper



Today and Tomorrow, 1945, pencil on paper

2000. And there the story might well have ended, but for the appearance, a month later, of Anna Pikovsky at Yad Vashem. Clutching a colorful bag containing an object which she wanted to donate to the Museum, she met with Haviva Peled-Carmeli, director of Yad Vashem's Artifacts Retrieval Department. Pikovsky removed a small, black leather shoe from the bag and proceeded to tell its story.

She and her daughter had been students of Ukrainian Jewish artist Nahum Ostchinsky, who had mounted an exhibition of works by Ukrainian children on the subject of WWII at the studio where he taught. Zinovii Tolkathev visited the exhibition in Ostchinsky's studio and was so impressed by what he saw that he made the instant decision that this would be a suitable safe-haven for a child's shoe that he

had removed from the mountain of shoes in Auschwitz all those years ago. When Pikovsky decided to move to Israel, she went to bid farewell to her beloved teacher, Nahum Ostchinsky, who, on hearing her plans, told her that he had a farewell gift for her. He presented her with the child's shoe from Auschwitz, so that it would finally be kept in the appropriate place—Yad Vashem.

Meanwhile, on Peled-Carmeli's recent visit to the studio in Kiev, Ostchinsky presented her with a book in which he inscribed the goal of his

exhibition: "My students and I spent years working on this book about the war and human suffering, for the sake of peace on earth and on behalf of the goodness of people who fight against evil." Thus, within the space of a single month, Yad Vashem's Museum Division received Tolkathev's sketches and the shoe. The shoe arrived at its new home where it found its twin in the sketch drawn in the very place it had come from—that "other planet" called Auschwitz. With this a circle has been closed.

The writer is the Senior Curator of the Art Museum



The child's shoe from Auschwitz that inspired Tolkathev's sketches

R S of Life



Flowers of Auschwitz, 1945, chalk on paper



Preparations, 1945, pencil on paper

A Fitting Honor for the People of the Book

The Jews are a People of the Book—what could be more appropriate than to sponsor a home for books on the Holocaust?” The choice was simple for Jack A. Belz, who together with his wife Marilyn, and his parents, Philip, who is 96, and Sarah z”l, donated the Library Floor in Yad Vashem’s new Archives and Library Building. The Library Floor was dedicated at the end of June in the presence of Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau; Minister for Israeli Society and the World Jewish Community, Rabbi Michael Melchior; Mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert; and Campaign Chairman of “Yad Vashem 2001” masterplan, Joseph Wilf. Also participating in the ceremony were daughter and son-in-law, Jan and Andy Groveman; granddaughter, Ariel; grandson, Adam; and the Belz’s family and friends.



From left to right: Andy Groveman, Adam Groveman, Ariel Groveman, Jan Groveman, Jack Belz, Marilyn Belz, and Joseph Wilf

Jack and Marilyn Belz who live in Memphis, Tennessee, have five children: Marty, Ron, Gary, Jan and Lynn, and 13 grandchildren. Belz’s grandfather immigrated to the US at the turn of the century from Lancut, in the Lvov region, in Poland. Fortuity brought him to Memphis where, from small beginnings as a peddler, he gradually built a family business based first on a grocery store and later on real estate.

Jack A. Belz is the Chairman and CEO of Belz Enterprises, one of the largest real estate and development firms in the Southern US. He is an active member of the Memphis Jewish community and a former president of the Jewish Federation of Memphis. Belz is also a founding member of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission and a major supporter of leadership and welfare programs. Jack and Marilyn Belz have supported two collaborative projects between St. Jude Hospital in Memphis and hospitals in Israel: one project involves stem cell research in collaboration with Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, and the other involves the installation of a tele-medicine line between St. Jude and Sheba Hospital in Ramat Gan and the Gaza Strip. Other involvements in Israel include the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem and a clinic and youth center in Yeshuv Metsad. All the Belz children are also involved in Jewish and general community activity. Jan is involved with the American Society for Yad Vashem and participates in many educational activities. Her husband, Andy Groveman, is involved in absorption and education in Israel. Their daughter, Ariel, is continuing the family tradition and recently coordinated the “No Child’s Play” exhibition at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Yad Vashem and books are two subjects close to Jack A. Belz’s heart. “Even in this technological age, everything originates in the printed word. The printed word is the foundation of communication and it is my hope that the new Yad Vashem Library will become a center of learning and study whose goal is to ensure that the tragedy of the Holocaust never happens again.”

The Names Campaign Continues

Yad Vashem is continuing its International Campaign for the Collection and Commemoration of Holocaust Victims’ Names, which was instituted last Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day. The Campaign is being carried out both in Israel and abroad. It is supported by Yad Vashem societies worldwide and within the framework of the “Recitation of Names Project,” where the names of those who perished in the Holocaust are recited by Jewish communities throughout the world on Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day.

So far there has been a huge response to the campaign. During the 1990s about 27,000–30,000 Pages of Testimony were recorded each year, and since the launching of the Campaign in April 1999 until the eve of Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day this year, 350,000 Pages were received at the Hall of Names.

This year Yad Vashem again appealed to the general public in Israel via special television public service announcements. These were broadcast free of charge by Israel Television and the Reshet and Tel-Ad television companies on the eve of Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day, as well as on the day itself. Yad Vashem sent out 19,000 reminders to those who had requested a Page of Testimony but had not yet returned it. Representatives also visited old-age homes in Israel.

The staff at the Hall of Names, headed by Alexander Avraham, bolstered itself in readiness for the large number of inquiries. On Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day alone, over 1,000 telephone calls were received requesting Pages of Testimony. During the month of May, 24,000 Pages of Testimony were sent out to the general public and an additional 1,300 were downloaded from Yad Vashem’s website. In the same period, Yad Vashem received 11,600 Pages of Testimony mainly from Israel but also from the United States and the Ukraine. Included in this number were 1,000 Pages collected from Israeli old-age homes.

Further information on the campaign and Pages of Testimony is available from your local Yad Vashem society, large Jewish organizations, as well as Israeli embassies or consulates. More information can also be found on Yad Vashem’s website: www.yadvashem.org.il

Visitors on Remembrance Day 2000

On the eve of this year’s Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day and on the day itself, close to 36,100 people visited Yad Vashem. This represents an increase of more than seven percent in comparison with last year. Visitors included survivors, soldiers, youth, Israelis, and people from around the world.



Visits at Yad Vashem



Dr. Robert Rozett guiding the Canadian Prime Minister, Jean Chretien and wife Aline at the "No Child's Play" exhibition, April 2000



Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, in the Historical Museum, April 2000



President of Greece, Constantinos Stephanopoulos, guided by Dr. Robert Rozett, May 2000



Chairman of the Parliament of Rwanda, Vincent Biruta, June 2000

VE Day 2000

At the beginning of May, the state ceremony took place to mark the allied victory over Nazi Germany. Prime Minister, Ehud Barak; Minister of Immigrant Absorption, Professor Yuli Tamir; Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Avner Shalev; and representatives of the Jewish fighters, Avraham Cohen and Yevsei Paskover addressed the guests. Hundreds of Jewish WWII veterans of allied armies, partisans, disabled ex-servicemen, and volunteers from the *yishuv* who fought in the British army and the Jewish Brigade participated in the ceremony.

Wreaths were laid by the Prime Minister, by the Minister of Immigrant Absorption, by army, partisan, and veteran representatives, as well as by military attaches from countries that fought against the Nazis.

Evening in Memory of Chaim Herzog

by Keren Gal

Antisemitism and racism were the subjects of a study evening held in the Yad Vashem Auditorium in early April, in honor of Israel's sixth president, the late Chaim Herzog. Concurrently commemorated, were the third anniversary of his death and the 25th year since his struggle against the United Nations' resolution equating Zionism with racism.

The evening was conducted in conjunction with the Chaim Herzog Memorial Foundation in the presence of the Herzog family. Speakers for the evening were Knesset Speaker, Avraham Burg; Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, Professor Yehuda Bauer; and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Avner Shalev.

The evening also included a special video-screening of an interview conducted with Professor Deborah Lipstadt filmed immediately following her victory in the libel suit filed against her by Holocaust-denier, David Irving.

Dr. Alexander Bronowski's 100th Birthday

By Dr. Mordecai Paldiel

In mid-May Yad Vashem hailed Dr. Alexander Bronowski, at a special festive luncheon in Haifa, in honor of his 100th birthday. For many years, Dr. Bronowski served on the Yad Vashem Directorate. He was a member of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous since its inception in 1962 until his retirement in 1995, and also headed the Commission's Haifa branch.

During all these years, Dr. Bronowski remained committed to the research and honoring of gentile rescuers of Jews, under the Yad Vashem-sponsored program of Righteous Among the Nations.

Two of the persons who enabled him, his wife, and his daughter, to survive in Poland, were awarded the Righteous title. They were Kazimiera Sadzikowska, who facilitated his escape from Lublin, and Waclaw Nowinski. Nowinski was serving as a warden in a Polish jail when Bronowski was brought in by the Germans, following his arrest on the streets of Warsaw. Responding to Bronowski's plea, Nowinski arranged his release after members of the underground, with which Nowinski was affiliated, had bribed the German security police.

These and other stories of rescuers, honored as Righteous by Yad Vashem, appear in Bronowski's book, *They Were Few*, which was published in 1989 in Hebrew.

Hansi Brandt, a central figure in the Budapest Relief and Rescue Committee which worked to save Hungarian Jews in 1944, passed away on the eve of Passover.

An article on her life and work will be printed in the next issue of the magazine.

U.S.A.

During a pre-Pesach visit, close friends and long-time supporters of Yad Vashem, **Sheldon and Miri Adelson**, met with Chairman of the Directorate, **Avner Shalev**, and increased their commitment to Yad Vashem by announcing a meaningful contribution to the New Museum for Holocaust Art. The Museum will display the world's largest collection of art pertaining to the Holocaust and will include a computerized database center on Holocaust art worldwide.

Recent visitors to Yad Vashem included **Harry Karten**, son of **Julia** and the late **Isidore Karten**—Honorary Vice-Chairman of the **American Society** together with his wife **Danielle**, who came to view the progress of the Partisans' Panorama.

Among the recent visitors to Yad Vashem were **David and Fela Shapell** from Los Angeles. The **Shapells** were shown the progress in the construction work for the New Visitors' Center by architect **Irit Kohavi** and **Avner Shalev**. They visited the New Archives and Library and the International School for Holocaust Studies, and expressed great admiration for Yad Vashem's achievements.

Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the **American Society**; **Joseph Wilf**, Vice Chairman of the **American Society**; and **Felix Zandman**, benefactor of the Family Square and a torchlighter at this year's Remembrance Day ceremony, took part in the recent visit of **Pope John Paul II** to Yad Vashem, a historic event, the impact of which was felt world-wide. **Eli Zborowski** represented the **American Society** at the ceremony on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Arieh Halpern and **Sam Halpern**, of New Jersey attended the ceremony on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day and represented the **American Society** at the wreath-laying ceremony the next day.

Joseph J. Bukiet, Vice Chairman, of the **American Society** was a keynote speaker at an event at the Center for Holocaust Studies, Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ, in early June.

Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, National Vice Chair, NY, **American Society**, addressed the Yom Hashoah commemoration sponsored by the Social Security Administration for 700 federal Social Security employees in Baltimore, MD. The Education Department of the **American Society**, together with the Mount Sinai School of Medicine Specialized Treatment Program for Holocaust Survivors and their Families, held a Holocaust Remembrance Day event titled: "The Impact of the Holocaust on Survivors: Mental Health Consequences."

Benson Ford, great-grandson of the late **Henry Ford**, visited Yad Vashem with his wife, family, and close friends. They took part in an emotional tour and laid wreaths at the Hall of Remembrance.

Harold and Linda Gottschall were recent visitors to Yad Vashem. They took part in a Righteous Among the Nations ceremony which honored the **Hoogman** family who, during WWII, were instrumental in saving **Harold** by taking him into their home in the Hague and raising him as their own. Together with the children of his rescuers, **Wilhelmina De Vries**, **Petronella Herman** and **Antonius Hoogman**, they toured Yad Vashem. During their visit the **Gottschalls** announced their support of Yad Vashem.

Rochel Berman was named the new Executive Director of the **American Society**.



Benson Ford, the great-grandson of the late Henry Ford

ENGLAND

Yad Vashem congratulates **Ben Helfgott**, Chairman of the **National Yad Vashem Charitable Trust**, on being honored with an M.B.E. **Ben Helfgott** recently visited Yad Vashem with a group of 40 survivors now living in the U.K.

Simon Reiss, Vice-Chairman of the **National Yad Vashem Charitable**

Trust, was also a recent visitor to Yad Vashem. Together with his wife **Trudy**, he participated in the Remembrance Day ceremony and laid a wreath.

On their separate visits, **Helfgott** and **Reiss** discussed efforts to develop the Trust in the UK with the Yad Vashem management.

CANADA

The **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** held the inaugural event of its newly formed young leadership group under the leadership of **Shirley Smoskowitz**. Guest speaker was Righteous Among the Nations author, **Irene Gut Opdyke**. Four hundred people attended the highly successful event, which was held at the Ontario Science Center.

AUSTRIA

On his most recent visit to Yad Vashem close friend and benefactor, **Danek Gertner**, announced his intention to establish a foundation to support the development of the New Museum. He also took part in the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony.

On the initiative of **Danek Gertner** to establish a Chair in memory of the late **Dr. Josef Burg** at the International School for Holocaust Studies, **Keren Hayesod**, under the chairmanship of **Dr. Winter**, held a fund-raising dinner in Vienna. Participants included **Jacob Klein**, **Keren Hayesod** emissary to Austria, who coordinated the event, **Danek Gertner**, **R. Steindlung**, **Marian Gertner**, **Kom. Rat L. Böhm**, and **Imre Rosenberg**. Guest speaker on behalf of Yad Vashem was **Leah Rabin**, widow of the late Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin**. Together, Yad Vashem and **Keren Hayesod-Vienna** raised a considerable sum for the new Chair. Absent from the dinner was **Martin Schlaff**, a supporter of Yad Vashem who pledged a generous contribution.

SWITZERLAND

David Gol and brother **Shaya Gol** (USA), family and friends visited Yad Vashem in April in order to present Yad Vashem with a valuable Holocaust-era necklace donated by their family, to be exhibited in the New Museum. The presentation ceremony was attended by **Reuma Weizmann**, wife of the President of the State of Israel, and **Avi Pazner**, former Israeli Ambassador to France.

GERMANY

Paul Spiegel, Chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and Chairman of the **Freundeskreis** of Yad Vashem in Germany, paid an in-depth visit to Yad Vashem in mid-June. He met with **Avner Shalev**, Chairman of the Directorate, and **Benny Ilsar**, newly appointed Director of Yad Vashem's German Desk. They discussed Holocaust educational programs and new initiatives by the **Freundeskreis** in Germany.

Stephan Kramer, Executive Director of the **Freundeskreis** of Yad Vashem in Germany visited Yad Vashem during Hol Hamoed Pesach.

On Remembrance Day **Frank Kauwertz** participated in the ceremony "Unto Every Person there is a Name" at the Hall of Remembrance, reading out names of Holocaust victims from his home town, **Kaldenkirchen**, and laid a wreath. **Leo Heymann**, son of a survivor from **Kaldenkirchen**, also took part in Remembrance Day activities during his visit to Yad Vashem, when he recited the mourners' **Kaddish**.

HOLLAND

Paul Baan, co-founder with **Jaan Baan** of the **Noaber Foundation**, visited Yad Vashem in April and was informed of the completion of the computerization project, jointly sponsored by Yad Vashem and the **Noaber Foundation**. **Henk Keiviet** and **Jenny Floor**, representatives of the **Noaber Foundation**, laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day ceremony.

FRANCE

At the beginning of June, the **French Society for Yad Vashem**, in association with the Society of the Friends of OSE, held a successful concert, under the patronage of the Israeli Ambassador in Paris, **Eliahu Ben Elissar**.

Speakers at the event included **Michele Ramniceanu**, President of the Society of the Friends of OSE; **Eliahu Ben Elissar** and **Dr. Richard Prasquier**, Chairman of the French Society for Yad Vashem.

NORWAY

Herman Kahan, Chairman of the Norwegian Society for Yad Vashem, and wife **Esther** took part in the Remembrance Day ceremony. They also participated in the festive dinner in honor of the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the New Historical Museum.

GREECE

David Shaltiel, Deputy Head of the Salonika Jewish Community, visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the visit of **Pope John Paul II**.

LATIN AMERICA

On the occasion of the marriage of his son **Edgar** to **Meirav Bender**, daughter of **Dr. Sara Bender**, **Edmundo Safdie**, and his son, **Gabrielle**, together with **Paulo** and **Fortuna Prochan** visited Yad Vashem from Brazil. They were most impressed by the development program. During his visit **Safdie** pledged to sponsor the New Square of Remembrance.

Jorge Spunberg, of the Brazilian Society for Yad Vashem, visited Yad Vashem from Sao Paulo.

Recent visitors to Yad Vashem included Colombians **Jaime** and **Soly Glottman**, and **Salomon** and **Marlene Finvarb**.

Representative of the Costa Rican Jewish community, **Salomon Aisenman**, cousin of **Zisa Aisenman-Schwartz**, visited Yad Vashem. Their tour included the Reading Room of the New Archives and Library Building, which was donated by **Zisa Aisenman-Schwartz** in memory of **Rachmiel** and **Shaul Schwartz**.

Dr. Salomon Dondich and Family from Mexico visited Yad Vashem. They participated in a ceremony in the Valley of the Communities in memory of family members from Rostov. Also participating in the visit were **Enrique Grinberg** and family, the **Lichtinger Family**, and **Boris Gerson**.

Also from Mexico, **David Gorodzinsky**, donor and for many years a supporter of Yad Vashem, paid another visit together with his wife **Malka**.

Fifteen years after their first visit from Mexico, **Salomon** and **Michelle Davidson** paid an emotional visit to Yad Vashem.

The **Lusgarten Family**, who came to Israel from Venezuela to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Saul**, visited Yad Vashem together with **Anita Vaisberg**, **Joseph** and **Simona Goldfarb**, **Paquita Sitzer**, and **Carlos** and **Martha Lauger**.

Hilo and **Klara Ostfeld**, supporters for many years, visited Yad Vashem from Venezuela.

The **Kamhazi Family** visited Yad Vashem from Venezuela. They donated to the Spanish translation of **Professor Israel Gutman's** book, *The Holocaust and Memory*, in memory of their dear father, **Shlomo Kamhazi**.

Andrew and **Anabella Gutwirth** visited Yad Vashem from Argentina together with their daughter **Gina**.

David Feuerstein, Chairman of the **Chilean Society for Yad Vashem**—an Auschwitz survivor and loyal supporter of Yad Vashem—confirmed his continuing commitment to Yad Vashem, during the visit of **Pope John Paul II** to Yad Vashem, when he met the Pontiff.

ISRAEL

At the beginning of April, 2000, **Jacob Perry**, president and CEO of Cellcom Israel, Ltd., together with members of the company's board of directors visited Yad Vashem where they were given a tour of the complex. During their visit, they were shown Yad Vashem's expansion plans, "Yad Vashem 2001" masterplan. The visit ended with the dedication of the Online Communication Center, established with the support of Cellcom Israel, Ltd.

On Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, some 20 family members of the late **Aaron Gutwirth** and representatives of the trustees of the foundation in his name, visited Yad Vashem. The visitors came from Israel and abroad. During their visit, they took part in a number of events marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. They were given a guided tour of the complex and shown Yad Vashem's expansion plans. The family members and trustees' representatives pledged continued support for Yad Vashem's ongoing work, and to consider increasing their annual support.

David and **Rachel Weiner** made a donation toward the purchase of a special computer for the Information Systems Department.

Ruth and **Samuel Federman** have agreed to support the "Yad Vashem 2001" masterplan.



From left to right: Avner Shalev, Shaya Ben-Yehuda, Paulo Prochan, Perla Hazan, and Edmundo Safdie

Yad Vashem

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New Publication on the Pope's Visit

On 23 March 2000, Pope John Paul II made a historic visit to Yad Vashem. After the visit, Yad Vashem published a booklet titled *The Heart Feels an Extreme Need for Silence*, presenting the speeches made during and responses to the visit.

Included in the book are speeches made by Pope John Paul II and by Prime Minister Ehud Barak, a portrait of Pope John Paul II by Professor Israel Gutman, photographs and descriptions of the Pope's meeting with Holocaust survivors, the awarding to the Pope of Holocaust-era Bible illustrations as a gift from Yad Vashem, and the text of the note the Pope placed in the Western Wall and delivered to Yad Vashem. In addition, the booklet includes special words of greeting written in honor of the publication by Cardinal Edward Cassidy and by the Apostolic Nuncio in Israel, Archbishop Pietro Sambi.

The booklet, produced with the generous support of the American Society for Yad Vashem, consists of 40 pages of text and photographs and is priced at \$10.

The Visit of Pope John Paul II to Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

March 23, 2000



The Heart Feels an Extreme Need for Silence...

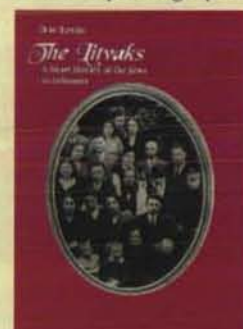
Probing the depths of German anti-Semitism - German Society and the Persecution of the Jews, 1933-1941, Edited by David Bankier, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, 2000—585 pages, \$39.



The question of antisemitism in German society during the Nazi period has become the focus of re-examination following the publication of Daniel Jonah Goldhagen's celebrated book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*. This book sheds new light on the attitude of the Nazi establishment and all levels of German society, towards Jews and Judaism. The book examines the attitude of the German elite towards the Nazi racial doctrine, the attitude of the

Church in Germany, the atmosphere among the working class, and the responses of the man in the street. This is an important, scholarly, and up-to-date work based on the study and analysis of new findings made available in East German archives.

Dov Levin, *The Litvaks - A Short History of the Jews in Lithuania*, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, 2000—284 pages, text and photographs, \$39.



The Jewish community of Lithuania was a major cultural and spiritual center in the Jewish history of Eastern Europe, and the Jews of Lithuania, taking a practical approach to life, benefited from a very organized social life.

This book, which is an updated version of the *Encyclopaedia of the Lithuanian Jewish Community* (Yad Vashem, 1996/7), deals extensively

with the history of the Jews of Lithuania from the Middle Ages up until the Second World War. About 94 percent of Lithuania's Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.

The publication of the English version of this book has been made possible thanks to the generosity of Yehoshua Trigour, who was born in Lithuania and is a retired member of Israel's Foreign Ministry. In his book, Professor Levin underscores the leadership of the Jewish community, the development of the large *yeshivot*, the development of the Jewish national movements and Jewish-Lithuanian relations during the Holocaust. The book presents a comprehensive picture of a flourishing and vital Jewish community.

Yad Vashem Studies 28

In this volume of *Yad Vashem Studies*, the geographic and temporal scope of its examination of the Holocaust is extended to include the period from the 1920s to the 1950s. The volume includes many stimulating articles, including: Jacob Borut's "Antisemitism in Tourist Facilities in Weimar Germany"; Avraham Altman and Irene Eber's article titled "Flight to Shanghai, 1938-1940: The Larger Setting"; and Yehiam Weitz's article on the 1950s reparations negotiations between Germany and Israel. This volume focuses on one of the troubling puzzles of the Holocaust—the death marches (authors include Daniel Blatman, Eleonore Lappin, Zvi Erez, and Joachim Neander). Thus, *Yad Vashem Studies 28* combines a broad scope with an in-depth focus in the study of the Holocaust.

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