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A COLLECTION OF THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE OF JEWISH STUDIES IN CANADA

In October of this year, the general membership of the ACJS was invited to comment on the future of Jewish studies in Canada. Some of the results of this informal survey appears below. If you should wish to add your voice to this question, please send your comments to Howard Gontovnick – 4351 Notre Dame, Suite#101, Chomedey, Laval, Qc, H7W 1T3 or via e-mail to: howardg@alumni.concordia.ca

"As a medievalist I'd like to see a thriving venue for the presentation of work on the rich legacy of Jewish culture, from early biblical times on: Talmudic, medieval, renaissance, enlightenment, etc. The exclusive concentration on Jews in Canada that has characterized your organization to date certainly yields interesting work (within its narrow parameters); yet it also suggests a parochialism and an exclusivity that can't do Jewish Studies any good. The inaugural session at the last Learned's of a broader-ranging JS group (to which I contributed a paper) is a healthy sign, bringing Canadian scholarship into line with international developments: the establishment of JS departments at many universities worldwide, of JS series at prestigious presses, and the openness of mainstream publications to the influence and variety of Jewish culture down the ages."

From: Dr. Sheila Delany

Editor, *Chaucer and the Jews* (Routledge, 2002) & 'Turn it again' (Pegasus, forthcoming).

"A number of years ago, the CJC considered setting up a Jewish Speakers Bureau in order to offer cultural and intellectual programs to Jewish communities across Canada. Would it be useful for the ACJS --in cooperation with Congress -- to set up such a Bureau so that participating members of our Association may be available to serve as guest speakers at community centers, libraries, synagogues, and other institutions and organizations?"

From: Seymour Mayne

"I am happy to see the growth of Jewish Studies Programs and Centres at Canadian universities (York, U of T, Queens, etc). To my knowledge, McGill is the only university with a "Department" of Jewish Studies. Establishing more departments would be a great asset to Jewish Studies in Canada. This would allow for more direct hiring of Jewish Studies scholars in various specialties. As it stands now, most Jewish Studies centres and programs do not have power to hire faculty; this is done through host departments. More departments of Jewish Studies would also likely serve as a catalyst for the establishment of more graduate programs in Jewish Studies. I am optimistic that these changes are coming in the not-so-distant future."

From: Randal F. Schnoor York University / ACJS Vice-President

Do you have something to say? Send your comments to HowardGontovnick – howardg@alumni.concordia.ca

ACJS 2005 CALL FOR PAPERS – MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 8

A MEMORABLE MOMENT

Abe Arnold (right) with Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada on the occasion of Arnold's recent appointment to the Order of Canada (Ottawa, January 2004).

CURRENT NEWS & INFORMATION

*Call for Contributors - Dictionary of Literary Biography
Modern Hebrew Writers, Beginnings to 1973*

We are seeking contributors for a volume on "Modern Hebrew Writers, Beginnings to 1973," to be published in the Dictionary of Literary Biography, a reference series widely available, on shelves and online, at academic and other libraries. Entries should combine a biographical overview with a critical analysis of the author's major publications in Hebrew, and must include a bibliography of primary and selected secondary works. For more information on the format of the entries, please refer to the Dictionary of Literary Biography web site at <http://www.bcl-manly.com>. Deadlines for submission of entries will be staggered, beginning 1 March 2005. Contributors will receive an honorarium for each entry, as well as a copy of the volume, on its publication. Contact: Dvir Abramovich -The University of Melbourne Centre for Jewish History and Culture - email: dvir@bigpond.net.au

"Bar Mitzva" - An issue of Parchment: Contemporary Canadian Jewish Writing

For those on the list who are interested in Canadian Jewish literature, I'm very pleased to announce that the "bar mitzva" issue of "Parchment: Contemporary Canadian Jewish Writing", the only Canadian periodical devoted to Jewish literature in Canada, is now available. The issue is dedicated to Miriam Waddington (1917-2004), z"l'o. Contents include poetry by D.Adler, G.I.Bernstein, R.Charach, E.S.Jaffe, C.H.Leckner, R.Mass, S.Mayne, M.Nudelman, P.A.Saban, J.J.Stinfeld and E.Wolf); fiction by S.Carmenietzki, A.Dublin, A.Mandelman, R.Mass, D.Mingail, B.G.Rotchin, and B.Shainbaum; an essay by M.Greenstein; and a short memoir by S.Mayne. Copies are \$12.00 from: The Centre for Jewish Studies, Vanier 260, York University 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

A Canadian Jewish Perspective in Spain

I recently returned from Argentina where I was invited to give a series of lectures and readings on the occasion of the publication of *El Viejo Sofá Azul: Cuentos Canadienses*, a selection of my short fiction translated into Spanish. Set in Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto, most of these humorous stories draw on Jewish themes and motifs. When I was in Buenos Aires I also conducted a colloquium with the rabbinical class at the Masorti Seminario Rabinico on the subject of Canadian Jewry and the Conservative Movement. Seymour Mayne - mayne@uottawa.ca

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President's Message – Fall 2004

From Norm Ravvin

Dear Members,

As these are my final months as President of the Association, this will be my final message to you in this venue.

The good news, which may not be news to some of you, is that we have new young blood on the scene, taking executive positions and administrative roles.

Events across the country -- whether at Jewish Book fairs, conferences, or at publishing houses -- suggest a continuing increase in the output of scholars and creative workers in the area of Canadian Jewish Studies.

Though Concordia University's representations in the press is largely bleak, the actuality is an ever-increasing number of projects, publications, and partnerships with other institutions related to Canadian Jewish Studies. The outlook is bright on all fronts.

I wish all of you success in your work and any other pursuits.

Best,

Norman Ravvin

Pres. Assoc for Canadian Jewish Studies

A Busy Summer at Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives ...

By Janice Rosen

With four contract projects running at the same time over the past months, this summer at the Archives was not only busy but also multilingual in character.

CLAIMS CONFERENCE FUNDS GUIDE TO GERMAN RECORDS IS UNDERWAY

Our first project, funded by the Material Claims Conference in New York, is using the expertise and German language knowledge of former United Restitution Organization caseworker **Charlotte Freedman**. Charlotte is working with us to produce an interpretive guide to the URO records and restitution Claims procedures. An important part of her work is the creation of a database driven German to English glossary, which we are organizing using "Filemaker". The results of this project, which are expected to benefit survivors and their heirs in many countries, will be posted on the CJC website.

OBITUARIES TRANSLATED WITH OTTAWA JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FUNDING

With 2/3 of the project completed as of this moment, over 1000 Yiddish obituaries from the Montreal Yiddish daily ***Keneder Odler*** (*The Canadian Jewish Eagle*) have already been translated and added to our growing information bank. Project worker **Eiran Harris** painstakingly extracts each detail from the notices, uncovering many poignant facts along the way. Often included along with the deceased's address and family members' names are mentions of their synagogue affiliation, burial society membership, and important facts about the person. Once this stage of the project is completed in mid October, the complete project to date will make available translated obituaries from 1908 to the early 1930s.

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD...

The information generated by the various project workers provided considerable additional data-entry work for Archives technician **Hélène Vallée**, who has also continued to update a burials register for **Canadian Jewish service personnel** in the World Wars and other major conflicts. This document will also soon be available on the CJC website – www.cja.ca

EDITORIAL NOTE

Avi Hyman and Randal Schnoor, co-editors of the Canadian Jewish Studies Bulletin since 1998, will be stepping down from their positions. We were proud to rejuvenate our ACJS bulletin over the last several years and we are confident that in the capable hands of the new editor, Howard Gontovnick, the bulletin will remain a vibrant and useful document disseminating information about the ACJS and the wide range Canadian Jewish Studies.

Avi and Randal

NEW BOOKS

The Jews in Canada (In North America) - By Y.E. Bernstein

Announcing a New Publication in Canadian Jewish History from The Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. Introduced and translated by Dr. Ira Robinson of the Concordia University Religion Department, this document is an early Hebrew-language portrait, published in Russia, portraying Montreal Jewish life in the late 1800s. Entitled "The Jews in Canada (In North America)" and written by Y.E. Bernstein, the document details religious, educational, social and political concerns that were relevant in the late nineteenth century. The author is particularly interested in the role of Zionism and anti-Semitism in Jewish life.

Dr. Ira Robinson also provides an informative introduction, which situates the author and contextualizes the period in which Bernstein wrote. Historical photographs, as well as a reproduction of the original Hebrew text illustrate the chapbook. This publication initiates an ongoing series devoted to the publication of translations, documents, and scholarly essays on Canadian Jewish history. Although the Institute's other publications are for sale, this one is available free of charge to interested readers, scholars and institutions.

For further information or to receive a chapbook; please contact;
The Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.
[E-mail: cjs@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:cjs@alcor.concordia.ca)

Contemporary Jewish Writing in Canada: An Anthology - Edited by Michael Greenstein

Contemporary Jewish Writing in Canada brings together important and innovative works from modern Jewish writers living in Canada. This anthology presents a variety of male and female voices, both established and new, some translated from French or Yiddish. Caught between a conservative British tradition and an aggressive American influence with a long immigrant history, Canadian Jewish literature has charted a unique, intermediate course.

The largest community of Jewish writers in Canada can be found in Montreal, where a vibrant Yiddish culture has flourished, surrounded by a Francophone majority. Beginning with A. M. Klein and carrying through the works of Leonard Cohen and Mordecai Richler, Jewish writing in Montreal has adapted to changing political and linguistic pressures over the course of the twentieth century. A number of Jewish authors in this anthology write in French and are involved in translation—not just of language, but of cultural values as well.

The second largest concentration of Jewish writers in Canada is in Winnipeg and the western part of the country, where Jewish communities have strong Yiddish and socialist roots. A generation of younger writers, however, have shifted from these earlier centers to Toronto, where they form part of a multicultural mosaic, blending Jewish, Canadian, and cosmopolitan values. From Anne Michaels's Greek island to Aryeh Lev Stollman's Berlin and Michael Redhill's Irish synagogue, Canadian-Jewish literature engages exile—at home abroad and abroad at home.

Michael Greenstein is an adjunct professor of Jewish studies at McGill University. He is the author of *Third Solitudes: Tradition and Discontinuity in Jewish-Canadian Literature* and *Adele Wiseman and Her Works*.

THE 2004 CONFERENCE REPORT
FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA - WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
Written and prepared by Susan Landau-Chark

This year's conference, spread over three days (May 30 - June 1), took place in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The first day's sessions, in keeping with the "minhag" of the ACJS, were held at the Asper Jewish Community Centre, a lovely and hospitable venue. The sessions for the second and third days were held at the University of Manitoba.

Session 1 addressed Jewish Dissent in Canada. [The Sept./Oct. issue of *Canadian Jewish Outlook*, features the papers from this session] ROZ USISKIN and ESTER REITER outlined the 1951 expulsion from the CJC of the United Jewish People's Order and all other "left leaning organizations" thus eliminating dissent through the marginalization of the left, at the time a popular and vibrant section of the Jewish community. This action demonstrated how the Canadian Jewish Congress was responding to cold war pressures of the period and how it had allowed itself to become dominated by a Jewish establishment. YAKOV M. RABKIN's insightful paper (presented by Michael Benazon) examined the multi-layered relationship that exists between Israeli governments and the "official voice" of the Diaspora. This hierarchical relationship is coming under growing pressure from a variety of "unofficial and unaffiliated voices" raised both in Israel and in the Diaspora. SHERYL NESTEL, presented on behalf of herself and Emma Jo Aiken, the results of their interviews with Jewish anti-occupation activists from seven different activist groups in Toronto. The findings indicated that while most of the individuals interviewed had deep roots in the Jewish community and identified to some extent with the Jewish state, they faced significant hostility from family and community whenever they attempted to voice criticism of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. MICHAEL BENAZON, in researching attitudes to the Middle East conflict, discovered roughly three categories of faculty: strong supporters of Israel, critics of current Israeli policies, and those who wish to stay out of the controversy. In his interviews of nineteen Jewish faculty at seven Canadian universities, Michael discovered that there is a certain amount of paranoia among activist faculty, with each side claiming that their group suffers from discrimination emanating from their opponents on the other side.

Session 2 the KEYNOTE SESSION opened with a joint presentation by ABE ARNOLD and ROZ USISKIN celebrating the 36th anniversary of the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada, and paying tribute "to the pioneers and founders who are no longer with us." Abe introduced the presentation with a dedication to the memory of Harry Gutkin, who was very active with the historical society. HAGIT HADAYA introduced us to the acclaimed architect of late 19th - early 20th century Winnipeg, Charles H. Wheeler, who was responsible for the building of the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue in 1890. Despite the building being wood-framed, Wheeler incorporated pilasters on the side of the building which gave it the appearance of being an iron frame structure - a major technological advancement of the period. RICHARD MENKIS paid tribute to the vibrant life and work of Miriam Waddington - artistic, perceptive - an educator par excellence and a 'mensch'. This Session continued in the Berney Theatre where ABE ARNOLD was presented by HAROLD TROPER with the *Association for Canadian Jewish Studies' Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award Recognizing Outstanding Contributions To Canadian Jewish Scholarship*, honouring his life-long achievements in the study and documentation of the Canadian Jewish experience, and in recognition of his significant contribution to the understanding of Canadian Jewish history and unceasing support of Canadian Jewish archives. In true form once every sat down from giving Abe a standing ovation he reiterated to his captive audience the need to provide support to heritage and archival activities.

Session 3 introduced and discussed some of the professional and volunteer associations that have contributed to the strength and continuation of Jewish life in Montreal and Quebec, shared parallel histories and diasporas with other ethnic groups. HOWARD GONTOVNICK outlined the rise (1913), fall and demolition (May 2004) of Canada's first Jewish hospital - the Mount Sinai Sanatorium in Prefontaine Quebec. It opened with 48 beds; and earned renown as a revolutionary treatment centre until the advances in medical treatment reduced the need for the sanatorium. By 1970 it had become a chronic care institute with only 37 beds set aside for TB patients, and by the 1980's it had relocated to Montreal. STEVEN LAPIDUS addressed the complexities of the Va'ad in its heyday. Formed in 1922 to bring stability to Montreal's chaotic kosher meat industry, the Va'ad initially nurtured visions of assuming religious authority for all Canadian Jewry only to be usurped by the CJC's assumption of communal authority in 1934. DONNA GOODMAN reminded us that women play a large but often unseen role in communal development. Her descriptions of the work of the sisterhoods (1900-1949) in Montreal's three establishment synagogues: the Spanish and Portuguese, Shaare ha-Shomayim, and Temple Emanu-el, demonstrated how completely the women complemented the male presence: "the men were the right arm and the women were the left arm". YOSEF DOV ROBINSON provided us with insight into the Montreal Armenian community, which, while not quite as affluent as the Jews, do have a similar community infrastructure, and boast of similar educational and social accomplishments. Another interesting piece of information was that as the Jews are leave Chomedey the Armenians are moving in!

Session 4 took us back in time to the Canadian Jewish Community of the 1960's. JAMES WALKER illustrated how the Canadian Jewish Congress utilized both its Jewish and non-Jewish contacts, in itself a pioneering achievement at the time, to bring about the Hate Law of 1970. By insisting that restrictions on hate literature be extended to cover groups as well as individuals, the Jewish community was able to persuade the government that group hatred endangers social structure and undermines the entire society. RICHARD MENKIS brought into focus Ruth Wisse's submission to the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism (September 20, 1965). This study, the first sustained discussion on Jews in Canada, is worthy of analysis as it served to emphasize the lack for formal Jewish studies at an advanced level in Canada, and emphasized religion over ethnic cultural aspects (as a way of life) thus opening the door to re-imaging Canadian Jewish culture. HAROLD TROPER demystified The Case of the Toronto Granite Club: a citadel of prejudice and discrimination that was moving into the area known as Jewish Bayview (in Toronto). The Jewish community (with assistance from Sol Littman of the ADL) challenged the club's move, thus delaying the needed rezoning permission and creating a public relations nightmare, which eventually brought about a new Board for the club and a policy of non-discrimination.

Conference notes continued on page 6

Session 5 dealt with two seemingly basic aspects of Jewish life - education and religion - and how a shift of one or two variables creates an entirely new perspective. Having just completed the first year of a three year case study of a pluralistic downtown Jewish day school, RANDAL SCHNOOR shared some of his team's preliminary findings. Founded in 1998, the school, presently hosting children from senior kindergarten through Grade 6, self identifies as a school that recognizes and celebrates the diversity and the shared values of its students and their parents. JENNIFER YOUNG's ethnographic description of the Hillel minyan at McGill, with its devotion to tradition and ritual and its focus on gender and sexual equality, could be considered a radical redefinition of what it means to be an observant Jew in North America today.

Session 6 introduced us to the worldwide spread of rabbis, Jews and their Canadian connections. IRA ROBINSON laid out the incredible networks maintained by the Orthodox rabbinate in the early 20th century for the global *shtetles* of the east European Jews they served. Even though many of the rabbis did not know each other, circumstances compelled them to move beyond the divisions/conflict that often took place to co-operate with one another, and even to sharing the work with each other in order to deal with such matters for example, as divorce, and slaughterhouse practices. SOL LITTMAN's presentation was an apt demonstration and reminder that there have been times when the concerns of the Jewish community are at odds with those of the Canadian government. Sol specifically addressed the reluctance of Canadian leadership to prosecute Nazi war criminals, viewing the "hunt for war criminals" to be "a peculiarly Jewish obsession".

Session 7 was a Plenary Session on the proposed Jewish Museum in Montreal. Panelists Morton Weinfeld, Harold Troper, Janice Rosen, and Richard Menkis addressed the issues they felt were raised by the proposed plan to build. Morton noted the plan has the support of the Quebec provincial government as it sees the proposed building as revitalizing the presently "dark and dead downtown area". A large scale stand alone museum is envisioned with about three floors dedicated to the museum and 7 floors given over to offices. The museum is seen as an outreach endeavour as a) children will be bussed in, and b) the location, with its cultural scene, is also seen as a draw. The question initially raised was should this be a Montreal Jewish museum, a Canadian Jewish museum or one with the Jewish world as its canvas. Also raised was the question of how far back should the museum go? To the building of the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue or the Exodus? Do we want the synagogue to reflect the Jewish contribution to this city (Montreal), to the community, or to the world? Is the story of Jewish life in America (Canada) being presented? What type of museum is being considered and how will this affect the collection, preservation, artifacts (classical function), educational presentations as well as interactive games and simulations and replicas? Harold Troper wondered about the agenda of the funding body and if the museum would be shaped by the wishes of the people putting up the money. His first concern was that this delimits the vision for what is possible, and his second concern was the location - as it is not planned to be located inside a Jewish geographic domain, it will not be a Jewish centre in terms of who goes there and who the audience will be becomes a primary factor in how the materials are presented. The museum will definitely reflect the Montreal Jewish community as Toronto does not see the need for the centre and has the larger community. He also raised questions as to the nature of its uniqueness among museums and that for a museum in Montreal it becomes an opportunity to present a special circumstance - Montreal and Quebec; Jewish contribution within a pluralistic society; engagement of Jews within Canadian society; Jewish face to somebody else. Richard Menkis noted that the framework has been created and focussed in one way or another on the Jewish experience in Montreal/Quebec and maybe the rest of Canada. The people involved are from Montreal. Quebec makes sense educationally and can be used as an opportunity to rectify some imbalances in how the Canadian Jewish experience has been studied. A large part of Canadian Jewish experience is where did those Jews come from? This would emphasize the Quebec side such as the Sephardim of North Africa, while still providing enough information demographically to integrate the history of the rest of Canada, as well as account for the Montreal Jewish diaspora to other parts of Canada. Also need to ask about where do we put Holocaust history; need to create an integrated package of Jewish history in general and Holocaust history. Janice Rosen was concerned with the archives - where would they go - and who is responsible. She noted that there have been so many different museum recommendations - in 1934 the old Shearith Israel building, in 1970 the Bronfman building - archives space reduced to accommodate museum. General discussion raised a number of other issues such as how will anti-Semitism be portrayed: need to show the dark side and not a whitewashed immigrant experience. As Montreal was the starting place for immigrants it seems appropriate for the museum to be located in Montreal. The comment was raised about the Philadelphia museum that even though it was located in an old part of the city it had an active synagogue with effective museum artifacts. Concern raised about the type of walk-in traffic and return traffic that would be encouraged - either museum has to be ever changing or be in a location where there is a lot of street traffic. Question also raised as to how the museum will meet the needs of the heavy payroll required. Debbie noted it was important to put a museum in context with the rest of Canada., especially if there was an opportunity to display artifacts rather than having them end up some basement.

Sessions 8 & 9 directed us to look at both the "place" of Jews in Canada and the ongoing research in this area. In light of the recent "eruption" in Toronto of a multiplicity of day schools whose educational philosophies are diverse RACHEL ABER SCHLESINGER challenged the audience to consider how the Jewish community develops new models for Day Schools. Rachel's research is demonstrating that in fact the Jewish community will be strengthened when we acknowledge that innovation and diversity in Jewish education can reinforce identity and commitment. LEO DAVIDS drew on data available through the 2001 Statistics Canada census to illustrate that seniors - those over 65 - are the fastest growing component in the Jewish community and constitute almost one fifth of the total Jewish community. Leo provided the figures with context and reiterated the need, especially with the "substantial gender gap" between women and men in terms of longevity, for the Canadian Jewish community to engage in more extensive studies of this age group. Jewish family life has long been a source of fascination for dramatists and novelists.

Conference Notes continued on page 7

As he thoughtfully provided a template that can be used by others to teach a course on Jewish families, BEN SCHLESINGER demonstrated that in the academic setting also, studies of Jewish family life are a valuable draw for students. SADIE STREN, chronicler par excellence of Brantford Jewish communal life, illustrated the beginnings of the community in 1881, and how throughout the following years Brantford Jews continued to see themselves as in integral part of the larger community. By the late 1980's, movement of children to the larger cities had taken their toll, and more than 100 years after the first settlement, official Jewish communal presence in Brantford was brought to a close (July 8th 2001), its legacy living on in Brantford Jewish children who absorbed the social, cultural and religious values of a small town. MESSOD SALAMA's introduced us to *Sol la Tzadikkah*, a beautiful young girl, born in Tangiers, who captured the imagination of the Moroccan Jewish community by her willingness to risk death to remain Jewish. Aside from learning about this young Jewish saint whose life and death has inspired painters, pyutim, songs, and literary competitions in her memory, the audience had the rare treat of hearing Messod sing one of these wedding ballads. DENNIS STOUTENBURG took us into the world of his very close friend and neighbour Sidney Howard Rotberg, a lawyer who dresses British and thinks Yiddish!! Rotberg's recently published book *The Second Catastrophe* (a historical fiction novel based on the second intifada) has a two-fold intent: to make people aware "there were people who made a difference during difficult times" and to provide a voice for *Jerusalem Post* reports for an audience that does not have access to that literature. For those members who stayed for the late evening session, they were rewarded by the presence of today's doyenne of Yiddish literature, CHAVA ROSENFARB, and by the thoroughly entertaining MARTIN GREEN. Chava Rosenfarb read from her most recent work *Survivors: Seven Short Stories*, most certainly not a first in terms of her prodigious writings in Yiddish, but a first in terms of this being her first publication in the English language in Canada. Martin Green has translated the Yiddish memoirs *On Foreign Soil* of Falk Zolf. As a memoir it is designed to inform and entertain as it describes Zolf's experience of WWI, the revolution, and his immigration to America through the eyes of a child. However this memoir is also a teaching tool as it is written in a combination of English, and a mixture of English and Yiddish so that by the end of the memoir one has learned to read Yiddish!

Session 10 - Tuesday morning's presentations were held under the auspices of the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies. SOL TANENZAPF noted that discussions of the reasons for the *Mitzvot* (*Ta-ameh Ha-mitzvot*) extend back to Hellenistic times and continue to this day. Sol briefly shared the writings of three contemporary scholars: Elizer Berkowitz, Louis Jacobs and Abraham Heschel, who also addressed the question, "Why keep the *Mitzvot* at all?". SHEILA DELANY regaled us with the social, cultural and literary meanings of the original "bobe meise", Elias Levita's Yiddish romance, the "Bovo-bukh", written in 1507. It straddles Jewish and Catholic cultures, introducing us to a Jewish chivalric hero in the Christian mold, and orienting to the leisure-time needs of Jewish women and men. The work raises many themes and issues of concern to ourselves as well as to early modern Jews. BERNARD KATZ took us back to the late 19th and early 20th century in the Holy Land, when thousands of pilgrims of various faiths, including Jews, flocked to Jerusalem and Palestine itself taking away with them handcrafted souvenir cards and booklets of dried pressed wild flowers as representations of those holy fields they had visited. Bernie quoted one novelist who noted "these multitudinous flowers were the only thing that the Holy Land was rich in."

Session 11 was conducted as a roundtable on Jewish archival issues in Canada. JANICE ROSEN steered the discussion into three areas of main concern to archivists: trends in research use of archives, uses of the web in Canadian Jewish archives, and funding sources for archives. Panelists IRMA PENN (Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada), DEBBY SCHOCTER (Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta), and LISA SINGER (Member of the Board, Ontario Jewish Archives) each responded from their communal experiences.

GRADUATE STUDENT COLLOQUIUM BRINGS TOGETHER STUDENTS FROM ENGLISH AND FRENCH UNIVERSITIES

MONTREAL, QUEBEC: On November 9, 2004, the Samuel Bronfman House Atrium in Montreal was the scene of a bilingual Graduate Student Colloquium in Quebec Jewish Studies, organized by the Institute Quebecois d'Etudes sur la Culture Juive in cooperation with Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives and the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. In the course of this all-day event twelve students from the four major English and French universities in Montreal presented papers to an audience of around 35 academics and interested community members. Practical arrangements for the conference were handled through the CJC Archives department, whose Archives Director, Janice Rosen, is the Secretary of the IQECJ. Lunch was provided courtesy of the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.

The Institute Quebecois d'Etudes sur la Culture Juive is a non-profit foundation established in 1987 to promote historical and cultural research into Quebec's Jewish and Yiddish heritage and to make available to the Francophone population of Quebec Yiddish sources in translation. The organizers feel confident that the present conference accomplished its goals of encouraging the work of new scholars in this field, of fostering dialogue, and of making students from diverse university settings aware of each others' work.

From: Janice Rosen (janicer@cjc.ca)
Secretary, IQECJ and Archives Director Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives

CALL FOR PAPERS 2005

THE ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES (ACJS) will be holding its 29th Annual Conference on May 29-31, 2005 at the University of Western Ontario in London as part of the Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities. The conference provides a platform for original scholarly research in Canadian Jewish history, life and culture from an array of different disciplines. People wishing to present a paper of 8-10 pages in length (approximately 2000 words) which concerns some aspect of the Canadian Jewish experience should send a 1-2 paragraph abstract of their paper. Please include your affiliation (university or otherwise). **PROPOSAL DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO JAN. 10, 2005.** Graduate students are welcome to present and are asked to send an accompanying letter of support from their academic advisor. Submission of full panels (3-4 papers) will be given priority, but individual papers are accepted as well. Any one paper cannot exceed 20 minutes of speaking time. Travel subsidies are available for all presenters who have been members of the ACJS for at least one year (graduate students are exempt from this requirement of being a member for at least one year). Subsidy applications will be due early to mid April. Details to follow. Please note subsidy applicants must submit their full paper by April 30, 2005 in order to qualify for the subsidy. All presenters must be current members of ACJS. See ACJS website: <http://acjs-aejc.ca/>

Send Proposals to: Dan Heller at dan.heller@utoronto.ca

THE INSTITUTE FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES

The Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies is a cultural, academic and community oriented institution based at Concordia University in Montreal. The Institute supports Canadian Jewish Studies through:

- scholarships for graduates and undergraduates students
- literary and academic publications
- visiting speakers
- partnerships with community organizations in Montreal and elsewhere
- undergraduate & graduate courses

For more information, please contact:

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