

PREFACE

This volume documents the grants awarded by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture all around the world since its inception. It is being published in connection with the thirty-sixth anniversary of the Memorial Foundation, which will be celebrated at the meeting of our Board of Trustees in Jerusalem on July 1-4, 2002.

The volume provides a detailed and comprehensive picture of the Memorial Foundation's fulfillment of its mandate to reconstruct Jewish cultural life around the world after the Shoah, and the evolution of its programs over the last three decades.

Since its inception in 1965-66, the Foundation has allocated \$75,500,000 for Jewish cultural and educational activities. The Foundation has granted \$29,739,000 for 11,895 scholarships and fellowships and \$45,761,000 for 5,836 institutional grants. The former include 2,895 Fellowships, 3,034 Doctoral Scholarships, 3,234 Community Service Scholarships and 2,733 Post-Rabbinic Scholarships.

Scholarships and Fellowships

The men and women supported by the Foundation's Scholarships and Fellowship programs represent a mosaic of Jewish cultural and religious leadership around the world. Even more significant, these recipients represent the new generation of scholars, writers, academics, rabbis, researchers, intellectuals and artists that replaced the generation of the Jewish cultural elite that were decimated in the Holocaust. The replacement of the generation of cultural leaders that perished in the Shoah is the primary mandate of the Foundation.

The impact of our programs supporting individuals can be demonstrated by a perusal of the names listed in this document. These include the heads of educational and scholarly institutions like Dr. Ismar Schorsch, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Dr. Norman Lamm, President of Yeshiva University, Professors Menahem Ben- Sasson and Yehuda Friedlander, former rectors of Hebrew University and Bar Ilan University respectively, and Dr. David Patterson, former Head of the Oxford Centre of Post Graduate Studies; creative personalities including the novelists Chaim Grade and Aharon Appelfeld, the poets T. Carmi and Shin-Shalom, Steven Reich, the American composer, film maker Dan Wolman; academicians like Moshe Idel, Anita Shapira, Ruth Wisse, Haim Soloveitchik, Paula Hyman, Doris Bensimon, and Jonathan Sarna; leaders of Jewish life under Communism in Eastern Europe like Desider Galsky of Czechoslovakia and Alexander Scheiber, Director of the Rabbinic Seminary of Budapest; Russian scholars such as the art historian Alexander Kantsedikas and semiticist Semen Iakerson; individuals who have served in a variety of religious roles in Jewish communities around the world, like the current Chief Rabbis of Israel, Israel Meir Lau and Eliya Bakshi-Doron; Eugene Borowitz of the Hebrew Union College, Rene-Samuel Sirat, the former Chief Rabbi of France, and Dr. Alfred Schoener, the former Chief Rabbi of Hungary.

Most impressive among the list of Foundation recipients is the group from Israel who received such support. It reads like a veritable Who's Who in Jewish cultural life there. Among the Foundation recipients have been 32 winners of the Israel Prize, the most distinguished award in Israel. Among them are such individuals as Menachem Elon, Gershon Shaked, Haim Beinart, Chaim Dimitrovsky, Eliezer Schweid, Moshe Bar-Asher, Joseph Dan, Adin Steinsaltz, Yehuda Bauer and Aviezer Ravitsky.

No less important are the hundreds of young men and women from the Diaspora who, with Foundation support, studied to prepare for professional careers in Jewish educational and communal work and returned to Latin America, Western Europe the former Soviet Union, Africa and Australia to serve there.

Even more revealing than these names are the results of the comprehensive review of these programs undertaken several years ago by the Foundation. Eighty one percent of the recipients of the International Community Service scholarships who completed their training were actively engaged in service to Jewish communities around the world, a remarkable figure. Over three-quarters of Doctoral Program Scholarship recipients are currently engaged in teaching and research at universities and academic bodies or are in Jewish communal work. Recipients of Doctoral and Fellowship grants published hundreds of books and articles, and completed numerous artistic and creative projects. Seventy percent of the recipients of Post-Rabbinic scholarships are serving the Jewish community as Rabbis, educators, religious judges or are engaged in research, publication and other forms of community service.

Through the Scholarship and Fellowship program, the Foundation has played a central role in the dynamic recovery and growth of the Jewish people in the post-World War II period, fostering remarkable cultural creativity and service to the Jewish Community and assuring the continuity of Jewish civilization.

INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS

Through the Foundation's program of institutional grants, almost 4,000 books were published in all areas related to Jewish culture in 30 languages, including Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Swedish, Finnish, Danish, Dutch, Turkish, Russian, Polish, Romanian, Latvian, Ukrainian, Czech, Serbo-Croatian, Greek, Arabic, Judaeo-Arabic, and Chinese. The fields covered include Bible and Semitics, Hebrew Language and Literature, the Holocaust, Jewish Art, Music and Theater, Jewish Education, Jewish History, Jewish Literature, Jewish Philosophy and Thought, Social Science, Talmud and Rabbis, and Yiddish Language and Literature.

Among the classic works of Jewish scholarship that we have supported are the Steinsaltz Talmud, Torah Shelayma, Otzar Haposkim, and The Encyclopaedia Talmudit. Other important works include The Great Dictionary of Yiddish Language, The Lexicon of Yiddish, The Language, Tradition and Bible Projects of Hebrew University, Hispania Judaica, History of Jews in Muslim Lands, and the Documentary History of Italian Jewry at Tel Aviv University.

The Foundation has also commissioned popular and scholarly works, like *The Sephardic Legacy*, edited by Prof. Haim Beinart, published in Hebrew, English and Spanish; *The Scroll of Testimony*, by the late Abba Kovner; *The City of Hope, Jerusalem from Biblical to Modern Times*, published in Hebrew and English; *The Jewish People in the 20th Century*, in Hebrew, soon to be published in English, French, Spanish and German; and *Kiyum Vashever*, a two volume comprehensive history of Polish Jewry from its inception to the Holocaust.

EASTERN EUROPE AND RUSSIA

One of the most important areas of the Foundation's work over the last three decades has been in the former Soviet Union and Soviet Bloc countries in Eastern Europe.

Through our publication program, we helped Russian Jewry to re-connect with their cultural roots, enlarging their Jewish knowledge and consciousness. Through our scholarship and fellowship programs and the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship, we have assisted Russian Jewry in developing the cadre of leaders to revive and rebuild Jewish communal and cultural life there.

Our work in the Soviet Bloc countries from 1965 until Glasnost was aimed largely at supporting the local "official" Jewish communities to maintain their cultural life.

The Foundation believed we could expand the Jewish community's perception of what was possible and to help the local Jewish communities enlarge their vision of what could be accomplished even under their severely circumscribed condition under Communist regimes.

In Hungary, the most progressive of the Communist countries, we initiated publication of books for children and families, the first publications of this kind since the Holocaust; the development of the Department of Jewish Studies at the University of Budapest, the first comprehensive Jewish studies program in Eastern Europe since the Holocaust; and the development of a teacher training program for the Jewish schools at the rabbinical seminary in Budapest.

The 936 institutional grants we awarded to projects dealing with Russian Jewry have led to the publication of close to 700 books dealing with Jewish culture in Russian, including Zionism, Jewish History and Jewish religion, and the Orot library for children, young people and families. We have also supported a whole library of classic Jewish texts, including the Russian translation of the Pentateuch by Shamir, and more recently the Hertz Chumash, selections from the Mishna and Talmud, the writings of classical Jewish philosophers like Maimonides' *Moreh Nevuchim* and Yehuda Halevi's *Kuzari*, classical Jewish poets like Ibn Gabirol, and the publication of an abbreviated *Encyclopedia Judaica*, recently completed. These books were smuggled into the former Soviet Union prior to Glasnost. These volumes, that grew out of our pro-active stance in

the pre-Glasnost era, are now the core books in most of the libraries now functioning in schools and synagogues in the C.I.S.

Today, of course, Jewish books are widely available there commercially. But the Foundation was there at the very beginning, at *B'reishit*, playing a critical role, not only supporting the visionaries and activists in the movement to revive Jewish cultural life there, but also in shaping the literary contours of that historic movement.

But books alone, as crucial as they are, did not a revolution make. Revolutions, cultural ones too, are made by people. In this area, we too played an important pioneering role. Long before Glasnost, when the iron curtain seemed impenetrable, the Foundation was supporting the training of Russian young men and women for future service to the Russian Jewish community. In the late seventies and early eighties, these young people were mostly Russian émigrés who had made Aliya. Many were scientists or academicians, with a deep commitment to help revive Russian Jewry.

The 1,654 grants to individuals awarded in the former Soviet Union and Soviet Bloc countries and now in the CIS have helped train many of the leaders for the Russian Jewish community globally. Among them are former prisoners of Zion and dissidents Yosef Mendelevich, Yosef Begun, Yuli Edelstein, Eliyahu Essas, Shimon Grilious, Zeev Dashevsky and Benjamin Fein; religious leaders Yaakov Bleich, Pinchas Goldschmidt and Zinovy Kogan; communal leaders Iossif Zissels and Gregory Krupnikov; educators Gregory Lipman, Mark Groubarg; Grigory Shoihet and Hana Rotman; the scholars, writers, intellectuals, artists who are providing the cultural leadership of the community, people like Professors Mikhail Krutikov, Vladimir Shapiro, Arkady Kovelman, Alexander Militarev, Ilya Dvorkin, Ilya Altman and Mark Kupovetsky; writer David Markish and composer Mikhail Gluz.

Recipients of our Russian Community Service Scholarships include the two current Chief Rabbis of Russia, Beryl Lazar and Adolf Shayevich, and many of the other rabbis, educators, communal workers and *Klei Kodesh* who are the mainstays of Jewish religious and cultural life in the C.I.S., ranging from Chabad to the Reform movement, now serving in Bishkek, on the Chinese border, all the way to Tallin, across the bay from Finland.

The finest example of our role in community building is the Association of Jewish Schools of the C.I.S. and Baltic States. The major achievement of the Association has been the seventeen seminars that the Association has sponsored over the last decade. It has also been critical in strengthening the Jewish schools in the C.I.S. as the cultural center of the community, helping transform the schools into a conduit for the dissemination of Jewish values and culture throughout the C.I.S. Through the Association, the network of Jewish schools in the C.I.S. has generated new energy, which not only sustains the individual principals in the schools, but also is sparking a cultural impulse within the larger nascent Jewish community in the C.I.S. The growing role of the schools as one of the vital transforming institutions in the community, seeded and nourished by the Association, is a major Foundation achievement.

HOLOCAUST

The Holocaust has received special attention since the Foundation's inception. In the beginning, the focus in our work on the Holocaust was largely on history, documenting the facts of the Holocaust and recording the full dimension of this tragedy. The most important accomplishment in this phase of our activities, now completed, was *The Pinkassei Hakehillot* – the history of the destroyed Jewish communities in Europe, published by Yad Vashem. Other volumes were published in numerous languages, with Foundation assistance, by leading international Holocaust scholars, like Professors Yehuda Bauer, Deborah Lipstadt, Geoffrey Hartman, Franklin Littell, Lucy Dawidowicz, Martin Gilbert, and Israel Gutman, and other researchers, resulting from the more than 1,000 grants made by the Foundation in the area of research, documentation and commemoration of the Shoah.

Even during this first phase of our work, we deemed it important for the Foundation to initiate effective programs on Holocaust education as well. We developed an excellent collaborative relationship in this area with Yad Vashem, which has resulted in a veritable library of Holocaust educational programs and curricula. In addition, we have helped train thousands of educators all around the world through the International Center of Holocaust Education at Yad Vashem, for which the Foundation provided initial seed money, as well as financial support for its many conferences in Israel and abroad.

In recent years, as the educational programs moved forward, our experience indicated that many young people in affluent, Western democratic societies did not identify fully with the emphasis in Holocaust education on death and destruction. We concluded that the young people identified most closely with the lives of their peers who were lost in the Holocaust. We also discovered that there was almost no research of a serious nature dealing with the universe of Jewish children during the Shoah.

The Foundation undertook to fill this gap in the last several years by developing a multi-faceted program at Yad Vashem. This included a comprehensive research program in this area, permanent and traveling exhibit and a film.

It also became clear to us that the Shoah is perceived by many Jews and non-Jews today as a monster event, outside the parameters of past Jewish and general history. More importantly, Jewish thinkers have not yet been able to integrate the Shoah into the mainstream of Jewish philosophy, theology, and religious thought. While to some degree, Jewish historians and Shoah researchers have achieved aspects of that integration in their scholarly work, the larger community has not fully assimilated this integration into their thinking, therefore, making it difficult to both fully understand and communicate the Shoah's full significance and meaning to the Jewish community, especially our young people.

The Foundation believes it is imperative to move beyond history and education, the activities to which we have devoted our major resources in the last three and a half decades, to the vital task of integrating the Holocaust into Jewish philosophy, thought and theology. The challenge we face in the 21st Century is to make this integration a major focus in the field of Holocaust studies, and this has become a priority area of our work in the Shoah.

In that connection, the Foundation organized two pioneering colloquia in Ashkelon, Israel, that dealt with the impact of the Shoah in Jewish theology and religious thought, and its impact on Jewish education. Two volumes, including the papers presented there, and a Reader on Holocaust Theology, will be published by the Foundation in the very near future.

Nahum Goldmann Fellowship

The Nahum Goldmann Fellowship is a pioneering venture designed by the Foundation to develop leadership for Jewish communities around the world. Ten successful Nahum Goldmann fellowships have already been held since 1987 in Western Europe, the CIS, and Latin America, in which 358 Fellows participated from 49 countries, from Uruguay to the Ukraine, Guatemala to Greece, Cuba to Croatia.

The Nahum Goldmann Fellowship provides an intensive experience in Jewish learning, living and leadership. Some of the most distinguished Jewish scholars and intellectuals from around the world serve on the faculty for the Fellowship, including Professors Ahron Applefeld, Menahem Elon, Uriel Simon, Anita Shapira, Shalom Rosenberg, Arnold Eisen, Deborah Lipstadt, Ruth Wisse and Drs. Steven Bayme and Binyamin Ish-Shalom.

This diversity is not only geographic but ideological as well. The fellowship resembles the Jewish rainbow – liberal, secular, Orthodox, and even marginally affiliated Jews from widely divergent backgrounds who are seeking to secure their Jewish future personally, as well as that of their Diaspora communities.

What is impressive is not only the explosive intellectual debate at the fellowships, but the grit and determination of the fellows to keep their communities alive. It is an emotional and intellectual experience – one of its kind in the Jewish world today, which has received international recognition, and proven to be one of the most effective vehicles for engaging the incipient young leadership of the Jewish communities all around the world.

Among the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship Alumni are Lena Posner-Korosi, President of the Stockholm Jewish Community, Frederic Brenner, the internationally known photographer, Jacqueline Goldberg of the Institute for Policy Studies in London, Zinovy Kogan, leader of the Reform Movement in Russia, Rabbi Yitzhaq Haleva, Deputy Chief Rabbi of Turkey, Leszek Piszewski, former President of the Warsaw Jewish

Community, Marcelo Cynowitz, a leader in the renewal of Jewish education in Montevideo, Uruguay, Reina Roffe, one of the first activists in the revival of Jewish life in Cuba, Grigori Lipman, Chairman of the Association of Jewish Schools in the CIS and Baltic States, Rebecca Neuwirth, special assistant to the Executive Vice President of the American Jewish Committee, Jo Toledano, Director of the Andre Neher Institute in France, Motya Chlenov, President of the Association of Jewish Graduate Students in Russia, Jacques Sebag, a leading educator in Morocco, Don Kantor, Secretary General of the Finnish Jewish Community, Daniel Hoenig, Vice President of the Sydney Jewish Community and Igal Permouth, a community leader in Guatemala.

Our impressive achievements in this field should be a source of great pride to all who have served the Foundation, in the past and present, as officers, members of our Board of Trustees and staff.

We hope you will peruse this volume which documents the profound impact the Memorial Foundation has had on the reconstruction of Jewish cultural life around the world after the Shoah and the degree to which it has filled its historical mandate in this area.