Fifth Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies

DIALOGUES WITH THE PAST AND PRESENT: JEWISH CULTURAL FORMATION FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT

April 26-28, 1999

The conference represents a collaboration between two distinct research groups focusing on Poetry and Culture in Medieval and Renaissance Jewry; and on Enlightenment, Haskalah and European Society.

Monday, April 26

International House, University of Pennsylvania
Yarnell Conference Center, Europe Room 3701 Chestnut Street

1:00 pm
GREETINGS

David Ruderman, Director, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
Samuel H. Preston, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

1:15 pm

THE APPEAL OF ANTIQUITY – I
Chair: Paul Guyer, University of Pennsylvania

Zev Harvey, Hebrew University/CAJS
Mendelssohn’s Aestheticizing the Medievals

Adam Shear, University of Pennsylvania/CAJS
Judah Halevi’s Kuzari in the Haskalah: The Image and Function of a Medieval Work

Joseph Yahalom, Hebrew University/CAJS
Aesthetic Models in Clash: Classicism vs. Ornamentalism in Jewish Poetics
3:15 pm  
**Coffee**

3:45 pm  
**THE APPEAL OF ANTIQUITY – II**  
Chair: **Simon Richter**, University of Pennsylvania

**Martin L. Davies**, University of Leicester/CAJS  
A Classical Enlightenment: The Modernization of German-Jewish Culture in the Late Eighteenth Century

**Liliane Weissberg**, University of Pennsylvania/CAJS  
Classic Lives

**David Sorkin**, University of Wisconsin  
History in the Service of Belief: The Biblical Exegesis of the Religious Enlightenment

6:45 pm  
**Dinner** (by invitation)  
Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, 420 Walnut Street

8:15 pm  
**AN EVENING OF MEDIEVAL HEBREW POETRY**  
Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, 420 Walnut Street

Chair: **Angel Badillos**, Universidad Complutense, Madrid/CAJS

**Raymond P. Scheindlin**, Jewish Theological Seminary of America/CAJS

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**Tuesday, April 27**

**International House, University of Pennsylvania**  
**Yarnell Conference Center, Europe Room 3701 Chestnut Street**

8:45 am  
**THE YEARNING FOR HOMELAND**  
Chair: **David Stern**, University of Pennsylvania

**Esperanza Alfonso**, Universidad Complutense, Madrid/CAJS  
Constructions of Exile and Domicile in Medieval Spanish Poetry

**Arthur Kiron**, Columbia University/CAJS  
Golden Ages, Promised Lands: Sabato Morais’ Italian Sephardic Program in Victorian America

**Joshua Levisohn**, Harvard University/CAJS  
Vilna Maskilim and the Homeland of Hebraic Culture

10:45 am  
**Coffee Break**

11:00 am  
**REPRESENTATIONS OF GENDER AND CULTURAL IDENTITY**  
Chair: **Beth Wenger**, University of Pennsylvania

**Ross Brann**, Cornell University/CAJS  
Mapping Representations of Jews and Muslims

**Tova Rosen**, Tel-Aviv University/CAJS  
Circumcised Cinderella: The Fantasies of a Fourteenth-Century Jew

**Katrin Tenenbaum**, La Sapienza, University of Rome/CAJS  
Judaism, Gender, and the Problem of Diversity in the Haskalah
1:00 pm  
Lunch Break

2:00 pm  
**SHIFTING CONTEXTS OF HEBREW POETRY IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES – I**  
Chair: **Kathryn Hellerstein**, University of Pennsylvania

- **Rina Drory**, Tel-Aviv University/CAJS  
The Social Context of Love and Love Poetry
- **Eleazar Gutwirth**, Tel-Aviv University/CAJS  
Hebrew Poetry or Jewish Poetry in Christian Spain?
- **Elisabeth Hollender**, University of Duisburg/CAJS  
The Aesthetics of the Ashkenazi Piyut

3:45 pm  
Coffee

4:00 pm  
**SHIFTING CONTEXTS OF HEBREW POETRY – II**  
Chair: **Kathryn Hellerstein**, University of Pennsylvania

- **Alessandro Guetta**, National Institute of Oriental Languages, Paris/CAJS  
The Crisis of Medieval Knowledge in the Work of the Fifteenth-Century Poet and Philosopher, Moses da Rieti
- **Dvora Bregman**, Ben-Gurion University/CAJS  
Their Rose in Our Garden: Romance Poetics in Italian Hebrew Literature

5:00 pm  
**AT THE INTERSECTION OF EARLY MODERN CULTURES**  
Chair: **Ben Nathans**, University of Pennsylvania

- **Fania Oz-Salzberger**, Haifa University  

7:00 pm  
Dinner (by invitation)  
**International House, South America Room**

8:45 pm  
**IMAGINING THE JEWISH ENLIGHTENMENT**  
Chair: **David Ruderman**, University of Pennsylvania/CAJS

- **Richard Cohen**, Hebrew University/CAJS

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**Wednesday, April 28**  
International House, University of Pennsylvania  
Yarnell Conference Center, Europe Room 3701 Chestnut Street

8:45 am  
**JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN VISIONS OF TRANSFORMATION IN THE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES – I**  
Chair: **Jonathan Skolnik**, Columbia University/CAJS
Allan Arkush, State University of New York, Binghamton/CAJS
Dohm and the Jews Revisited

Adam Sutcliffe, University of Illinois/CAJS
Spinoza, Spinozism and the Self-Fashioning of the Enlightenment Philosopher

Alyssa Sepinwall, California State University, San Marcos/CAJS
Jews, Haitians, Women and Dialect-Speakers: The Abbé Grégoire and the Problem of Difference

10:30 am  Coffee Break
10:45 am  JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN VISIONS OF TRANSFORMATION – II
Chair: Jonathan Skolnik, Columbia University/CAJS

Nancy Sinkoff, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey/CAJS
Benjamin Franklin in Jewish Eastern Europe

Mordechai Zalkin, Ben-Gurion University/CAJS

12:00 pm  CONCLUDING SESSION AND SUMMARY
Chair: Richard Cohen, Hebrew University/CAJS

Raymond P. Scheindlin, Jewish Theological Seminary of America/CAJS
David Sorkin, University of Wisconsin

1:15 pm  Concluding Luncheon followed by Board of Overseers Meeting (by invitation)
International House, South America Room

For further information, contact the

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