

# NEWS OF THE YIVO



YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 1048 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10028

## A Century of Jewish Higher Learning

THEME OF 46th ANNUAL YIVO CONFERENCE

The central theme of the 46th Annual YIVO Conference, which took place in New York from May 7th through 10th, was "A Century of Jewish Higher Learning." It was the purpose of the conference not only to appraise and reexamine the accomplishments of the past, but also to relate these achievements to the current challenge of burgeoning programs and courses of Jewish studies on American campuses. The high attendance at the various sessions of the conference, as well as the significant participation of young people provided ample evidence as to the relevance of the conference theme.

A special feature of the conference was the session for youth and students about the teaching of the Holocaust to American young people today. Details about this session will be found elsewhere on this page (see col. 3).

### FESTIVE OPENING SESSION

The festive opening session took place on Sunday afternoon, May 7th, at the Hotel Biltmore. An audience of close to 600 lovers of Jewish scholarship and culture came to hear the papers presented by Professor Zvi Ankori of Columbia University, and the noted Yiddish poet and novelist, Chaim Grade.

Dr. Ankori introduced the central theme of the conference, and discussed the major achievements of Jewish scholarship over the past 100 years. He stressed the fact that this period was characterized by discoveries of enormous importance. First, great treasures of Judaica were uncovered in major libraries throughout Europe. Then came the discovery of the Cairo Geniza, and finally the archeological

explorations of our own day. In conclusion, Dr. Ankori pointed out the change in the respective roles of Yiddish and Hebrew in Jewish scholarship and culture. Yiddish, which began as a despised vernacular, has now become an important language of literature and research. Hebrew, on the other hand, which was exclusively the language of scholarship and prayer, has once again become a vernacular, with its own varieties of slang and the other characteristics of a living, spoken language.

Mr. Grade spoke on the subject "Young Vilna' and its Milieu." Through an analysis of the works of several of the prominent members of this literary group he related their

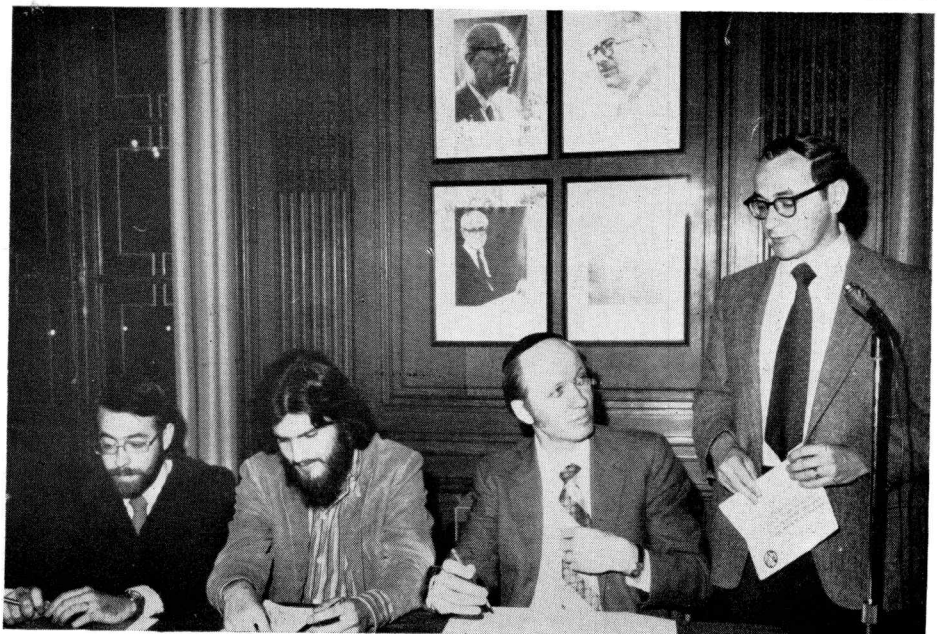
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## Student Session At YIVO Conference Features Symposium On Holocaust

On Monday evening, May 8th, an overflow audience which consisted primarily of university students, attended a symposium entitled "American Jewish Youth and the Holocaust: An Appraisal by Teachers and Students." The symposium, which took place at YIVO, constituted a special session for students at the 46th Annual YIVO Conference. The student and youth session has become a regular feature of YIVO conferences.

The participants in the symposium were: Rabbi Irving Greenberg, newly designated chairman of Jewish Studies at City College in New York; David H. Roskies, doctoral candidate in

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THE STUDENT AND YOUTH SESSION. The participants in the symposium on the teaching of the Holocaust (from left to right): David H. Roskies, Arthur Samuelson, Rabbi Irving Greenberg and Dr. Ismar Schorsch.

## A Century of Jewish Higher Learning

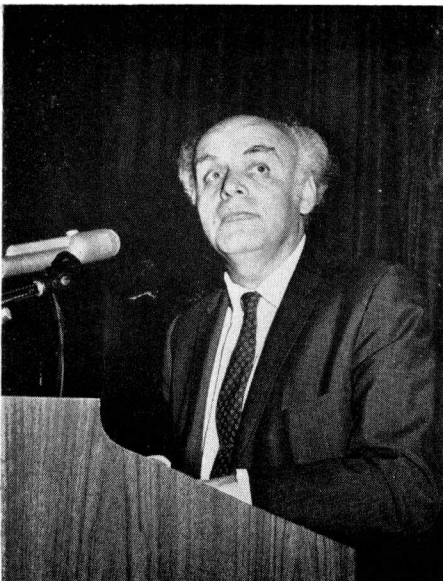
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development to the resurgence of Jewish scholarship, particularly in Yiddish, in contemporary Vilna as well as to the difficult political and economic situation of the Jewish population. Beginning as a radical literary movement, its most prominent members gradually moved away from the concept of "proletarian literature" as they grew and matured as artists.

The chairman at the opening session was Dr. Sidney Morgenbesser, professor of philosophy at Columbia University and a member of YIVO's Commission on Research and Training. He spoke briefly on the significance of the subject of the conference and of the importance of such gatherings at which scholars and laymen of four generations can join in common discussion.

### SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF JEWISH SCHOLARSHIP

At the second regular session of the conference, which took place on Tuesday evening, May 9th, Dr. Isaiah Trunk, Research Associate of YIVO and prominent historian, spoke on Jewish historiography in Eastern Europe. Dr. Dov Noy, professor of folklore and ethnography at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, surveyed 100 years of Jewish folklore study. The



Professor Zvi Ankori addresses the opening session of the 46th Annual YIVO Conference.

chairman was Mr. Ezekiel Lifschutz, archivist of YIVO.

Dr. Trunk gave a detailed view of the rise of modern Jewish historiography in Russia. Although pioneered by Sergey Bershanski, a non-Jew, the true architect of this new approach to Jewish history was Simon Dubnov. Not only did Dubnov create a new sociological approach to Jewish history, but he also initiated the systematic collection of source materials pertaining to Russian Jewish history. As an editor, he encouraged other scholars in the field, and was the mentor of a group of younger Jewish historians.

Dr. Trunk also described the rise of Polish Jewish historians of several generations. The younger scholars in particular were closely connected with the historical section of YIVO in Vilna.

In his paper, Dr. Noy described the gradual growth of interest in gathering the riches of contemporary Jewish folklore in Eastern Europe. Of particular importance was the ethnographic expedition headed by S. Anski (1912-1914) and the publication in 1912 of Y. L. Cahan's two-volume collection of Yiddish folk songs and their melodies. In the 1920's and 30's YIVO was particularly prominent in this field. Over 400 enthusiastic collectors in cities, towns and hamlets throughout Poland, brought together a colossal treasure which has no parallel in the history of modern folklore scholarship. In the post-Holocaust period this work has been continued both at YIVO and at various academic and scholarly institutions in Israel.

### JEWISH STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICA

The final session of the conference took place on Wednesday, May 10. Dr. Marvin I. Herzog, professor of linguistics and Yiddish studies—Atran Chair, Columbia University—and chairman of YIVO's Committee on Courses and Seminars, presided. In his paper entitled "Two Settings for Jewish Studies," Dr. Jacob Neusner, profes-

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## STUDENT SESSION

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Yiddish and Hebrew literature, Brandeis University; and Arthur Samuelson, student at Hampshire College, Mass., and project director of the college's student-developed course entitled "Encounter with the Holocaust." The chairman was Dr. Ismar Schorsch, assistant professor of modern Jewish history at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Dr. Greenberg, who has been teaching a course on the Holocaust at Yeshiva University since 1964, presented the view that this kind of course cannot be treated as a purely informative academic subject. Moral, religious, and ethical problems arise constantly. In order for students truly to understand the Holocaust, such a course must become an experience, not only the transmission and acquisition of knowledge. For this reason the course must employ, in addition to customary academic materials, such media as films, poetry, eye-witness accounts, etc. In a sense, therefore, Dr. Greenberg said, this is an ideal academic course which unites intellectual demands, critical examination, moral appraisal, and individual experience. The course focuses on the general human problem of the minimum limits of humanity. Such a course is essential for every Jew in his quest for norms of Jewish values and Jewish life.

David Roskies stressed the importance in the study of the Holocaust of knowledge about the great Jewish civilization of Eastern Europe which the Holocaust destroyed. Holocaust literature, he said, is too apologetic about Jewish resistance. Resistance is everything that Jews did in order to protect themselves against spiritual as well as physical death: songs and poems, theatre, concerts, welfare committees, humor, religious observance, etc. The Holocaust is not a passing phase in Jewish history. It must be incorporated through symbols in our everyday life.

Arthur Samuelson described the origins and the goals of the project "Encounter with the Holocaust." Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, is an experimental school

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# Almost Sixty Students Enrolled in Summer Yiddish Program

Close to sixty students from every part of the country are participating in this year's Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, which is conducted by Columbia University in cooperation with the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies. The program, which is now in its fifth year, opened on June 12 and will end on August 11. The current student body has been drawn from twenty-three campuses, including the University of California (at Berkeley, Los Angeles and Santa Cruz), the University of Indiana, Wayne State University in Detroit, the University of Massachusetts, the University of Arizona, the University of Maryland, Cornell, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Yeshiva University, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York State University in Albany, the City University of New York, and Brandeis University. Several high school seniors are also participating.

The Colloquium for Yiddish teachers and teachers-in-training, an innovation this year, has attracted ten students. Of these, four have already been conducting courses in Yiddish and/or Yiddish literature in New York, Boston, Albany and Arizona. The rest will be conducting such courses in the fall. The Colloquium includes observation and evaluation of classroom techniques; the preparation of teaching materials; discussion of selected problems, such as the teaching of Yiddish to English speakers, standard Yiddish and regional dialects, etc.

In all, seven courses are being offered this year. The language courses are: elementary Yiddish, two levels of intermediate Yiddish language and literature, and an advanced course. The latter two courses are new additions. The instructors of these courses are: Dr. Mordkhe Schaechter, Rachel S. Erlich, Rosaline Schwartz, David L. Gold, and David H. Roskies.

Also new this year are the Colloquium and two courses in Yiddish literature and folklore: The Image of the Shtetl in modern Yiddish Fiction (Professor Dan Miron); and Yiddish Folklore (Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett). Together, the seven courses have a total registration of 90 students. For the first time, the elementary course is of nine weeks duration in comparison with six weeks in earlier years. The Colloquium, too, is a nine-week course.

To a large extent, the Uriel Weinreich Program is made possible by the Fellowship and Scholarship Fund of YIVO (see below).

## NEW CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FELLOWSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The following are the names of the devoted friends of YIVO and of Jewish culture who have made substantial contributions to the Fellowship and Scholarship Fund since the listing which appeared in No. 119 of *News of the YIVO*:

### *Fellowships for the Max Weinreich Center—*

H. A. Abramson, New York;  
The children of Morris and Sarah Gurin, in memory of their parents;  
Joseph Perlov and family, New York, N.Y.;  
Judah Zelitch, Philadelphia.

### *Perpetual Scholarships for the Uriel Weinreich Summer Program—*

Mrs. Roza Alexandrowicz, New York, in memory of her husband, Max Alexandrowicz (Alexander);  
Mrs. Bella Cohen, New York, in memory of her husband, Abraham Cohen;  
Perry Goldberg, Chicago, in memory of his father, Abraham Goldberg (two scholarships);  
Dr. Nathan Reich, New York, in memory of his brother, Harry Reich;  
Morris Waletsky, New York.

### *Summer Scholarships, 1972*

P. and H. Huberman Foundation, Vancouver, Canada;  
Masha and Leo Roskies, Montreal, in memory of Mrs. Roskies' brother, H. Z. Matz;  
Harry and Anna Singer, New York;  
Mrs. Sadie Shiffman, Miami Beach, Florida, in memory of her husband, I. Shiffman;  
Zyrardow Club, New York (through Mr. Leo Feld).

### *Partial Summer Scholarships, 1972—*

Mrs. Evelyn Bromberg, Maplewood, New Jersey;  
Mrs. Leah Eisenberg, New York;  
Dr. J. Honig, Rockledge, Florida;  
Bessie and Morris Honigbaum, Miami Beach, Florida;  
Morris Laub, New York;  
Rose and Aaron Mazia, Atlantic City, New Jersey;  
Mrs. Keila Minkin, New York, in memory of her husband, Dr. Judah Minkin;  
Paul Shapiro, Brookpark, Ohio;  
Edward Skornicki, New York;  
Philip Solomon, New York.



A portion of the audience at the Student and Youth Session of the 46th Annual YIVO Conference.





דיעות פון יו"א

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NEWS OF THE YIVO

Yivo Institute for Jewish Research  
1048 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10028

Subscription price \$2.00 per year;  
available only to contributors paying  
\$10.00 or more per year to the YIVO  
Institute for Jewish Research.

Published four times a year: Spring,  
Summer, Fall, Winter.

Second-class postage paid at  
New York, N. Y.

### URIEL WEINREICH MEMORIAL LECTURE HELD AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The first annual Uriel Weinreich Memorial Lecture took place on Tuesday, April 25, in Low Memorial Library at Columbia University. The Memorial Lecture was established by Columbia, where Uriel Weinreich taught from 1952 until his death in 1967.

The lecture was delivered by Professor Dan Miron on the subject "Sholem Aleichem; Person, Persona, Presence." It will be published by YIVO. Dr. William J. McGill, President of Columbia University, and Professor William Labov of the University of Pennsylvania, who, like Dr. Miron, was a student of Uriel Weinreich, spoke briefly. Dr. Marvin I. Herzog presided.

The event marked the fifth anniversary of the death of Dr. Uriel Weinreich, who passed away on March 30, 1967, at the age of 41. Throughout his career, he was closely identified with YIVO. He was a member of YIVO's Research Planning Commission and wrote frequently for various YIVO publications. His *College Yiddish* and *Modern English-Yiddish Yiddish-English Dictionary* were both published by YIVO (the latter in cooperation with the McGraw-Hill Book Company). They are recognized as the standard works in their field and are used in virtually all universities where Yiddish is taught.

### Columbia Dean Hosts Dinner for YIVO Leadership

On Wednesday, June 21, Dr. George K. Fraenkel, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of Columbia University, was the host at a dinner to which the members of YIVO's Board of Directors and other loyal friends of YIVO, were invited. Also participating were leading members of the Columbia faculty and administration. The dinner took place at the Faculty Club of the University.

Dr. Arthur Hertzberg, member of YIVO's Executive Committee and adjunct professor of Jewish history at Columbia, presided. He welcomed the guests and stressed the importance of the continually expanding cooperation between Columbia and YIVO in the field of Yiddish studies. He paid particular tribute to the Atran Foundation, many of whose officers were present, for its vision in making possible the programs in this field both at Columbia and at YIVO.

Dr. Marvin I. Herzog, chairman of YIVO's Committee on Courses and Seminars, and professor of Yiddish Studies on the Atran Chair at Columbia, reported on the joint programs of the two institutions. Of particular importance, he said, is the new agreement between Columbia and the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies for the exchange of courses. He also revealed the role of YIVO in establishing a full undergraduate program of Yiddish studies at Columbia, which was initiated during the 1971-72 academic year. Finally, he pointed out the continuing and expanding success of the Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture, which is conducted by Columbia University with the active participation of YIVO.

Dean Fraenkel expressed his satisfaction at the partnership of the two institutions in the Yiddish field. He also introduced to the gathering the members of the Columbia faculty and administration.

Dr. Martin Peretz of Harvard University, also a member of YIVO's Executive Committee, called upon those present as well as the Jewish community at large, to help strengthen the YIVO's Fellowship and Scholarship Fund, which, in large measure,

### NEW MEMBERS OF THE YIVO STAFF

The staff of the YIVO library and archives has recently been augmented by two new members—Mrs. Bella Weinberg, assistant librarian, and Marek Web, assistant to the archivist.

Mrs. Weinberg received her Master's of Library Science degree in 1971 from the Columbia University School of Library Science. Before coming to YIVO she gained practical experience in Jewish libraries in New York and Israel.

Mr. Web has a Master's Degree from the University of Lodz, Poland, which he received for his study, "The Social-Economic Condition of Jews in Lodz, 1918-1921." For the past two years Mr. Web has been a fellow of the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies.

In addition, Mr. David Rogow has joined the YIVO staff as Publications Associate. He brings with him many years of experience as a member of the staff of the Great Dictionary of the Yiddish Language.

### YIVO MARKS TENTH YORTSAYT OF MENDEL ELKIN

A memorial meeting to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the death of Mendel Elkin, former librarian of YIVO, took place on Monday, April 17, at YIVO. Mr. Ezekiel Lifschutz, archivist of YIVO, presided. Miss Dina Abramowicz, YIVO librarian, and Dr. Shlomo Noble, vice-chairman of YIVO's Commission on Research and Training, spoke about Mr. Elkin's great achievements for the YIVO library and about the important role which he played in the life of YIVO generally. Another aspect of Mr. Elkin's career, his lifelong connection with the Yiddish theatre, was described by his close personal friends, Jacob Ben Ami, Joseph Buloff, and Lazar Weiner. David Rogoff read fragments of Mendel Elkin's book entitled *The Steppes of Koybal*. Rosaline Schwartz sang a number of appropriate Yiddish folksongs.

\_\_\_\_\_ makes possible programs which Dr. Herzog described. A substantial sum for the Fellowship and Scholarship Fund was raised as a result of the gathering.