

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

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PRESS RELEASE

DAVID ROSKIES RECEIVES CANADA'S SEGAL FUND AWARD

New York, NY, Nov. 4, 1985--Dr. David G. Roskies, Associate Professor of Jewish Literature at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, has received this year's I.J. Segal Fund Award for his book Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture, published by Harvard University Press, 1984.

Dr. Roskies' book, cited for its "major contribution to Jewish letters and culture," was selected by the I.J. Segal Foundation for its literary excellence from the large field of Judaica published worldwide in English or French. The Segal Fund Award, which carries a stipend of \$1,000, is Canada's only national Jewish literary award.

Against the Apocalypse has been acclaimed as "a work of deep learning, literary sensibility and critical judgment -- all remarkable in a scholar as young as David Roskies."

The book, which is at once poetic and erudite, also has received the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award from Phi Beta Kappa. Against the Apocalypse charts the journey of the Jewish people in the face of catastrophe from Auschwitz back to the Bible -- "through the whirlwind," writes Roskies, "back to the word."

"Roskies manages to invoke the full history of Jewish responses to suffering," says Dr. Howard Roiter, chairman of the Segal Fund's selection jury and Directeur, Etudes Anglaises at Université de Montreal. "Dr. Roskies' work displays a deep familiarity with the whole range of Jewish letters. The book contains brilliant essays that go right to the heart of the Yiddish poets Abraham Sutzkever and Leyb Rochman," says Dr. Roiter.

Against the Apocalypse will appear as a Harvard paperback this February. Dr. Roskies, a 1985-86 Guggenheim Fellow, is currently working on his next book, which explores the tradition of storytelling in Jewish literature.

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