



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON

Binghamton, New York 13901

Judaic Studies Program
Telephone (607) 798-3070

ANNUAL REPORT 1976-77

INTRODUCTION

It is unusual, to say the least, for a director or chairman to be able to say without exaggeration in these difficult times that his program is truly flourishing. However, Judaic Studies is not only flourishing, but its outlook has never seemed brighter. The program will have a full-time director once again this fall after a two-year hiatus during which time I have been privileged to serve as acting director. I am sincerely convinced that whatever growth our program has shown over the past two years could have been greater still had there been a full-time person in the directorship. As I noted in last year's annual report, the key to this program's success has been the dedication, and even more important, the collegiality of its faculty and students.

After an intensive search involving approximately 200 applications, the Judaic Studies Committee narrowed the field down to three excellent candidates for the coordinator's position. Mr. David Biale of UCLA was the overwhelming choice of faculty and students for this position and will be joining us in August. His coming bodes well for all of us.

Judaic Studies' enrollments have increased once again this year (587 compared with 475 for 1975-76; 464 for 1974-75 and 449 for 1973-74). Our pre-registration for the coming fall semester totals 375 - our highest ever. Twelve students have declared their candidacy for certificates and one new IPB major. At this year's graduation, Ronald Edelstein received his certificate and an IPB major in Judaic Studies. Next year we will have a large crop of certificate candidates graduating.

Ronald Edelstein was the recipient of the Jacob and Sarah Piaker Award for excellence in Judaic Studies. The Jewish Federation of Broome County annual award for excellence in Hebrew was presented to Jill Feuerstein.

For the second year in a row one of our courses made the top-ten rating (see Pipe Dream April 22, 1977). Also, several of our courses and faculty received high ratings in the SCATE review. The excellent community relations established by the program last year have begun to bear full fruit. A new organization called "The Friends of Judaic Studies" has been formed to help promote the program and its activities. There are 55 charter members at the time of this writing. The first activity planned by the "Friends" is a reception in honor of David and Rachel Biale late in August. Money from the "Friends" will go toward supplementing our library development budget and for special films and speakers. The Jewish Federation of Broome County helped to pay for the films used by Mrs. Rivlin in her Rebirth of Israel course, Judaic Studies 182E (also History 196M). Mrs. Rivlin will be giving a course at the Jewish Community Center next year, and we hope to have more such "community outreach programs."

Our Distinguished Speakers Series was again widely publicized and well attended by students, faculty, and community.

It is particularly gratifying to note that more members of the program were publishing this year or delivering papers at Judaic Studies conferences both in this country and abroad than in any previous year. It is also gratifying to announce that the History Department will be cross-listing Mr. Biale's courses in view of his qualifications as a historian. This will certainly mean increased registration for our core courses.

Once again the program stayed within the restrictions of its budget.

A special note of thanks should be given to Mrs. Dolores Kundrat who has done the job of several secretaries over the past two years as the program's workload has increased. The paper work generated by the search for a new coordinator was staggering. In the past this has been handled by the Dean's office and the secretarial pool. This time it was handled entirely by Mrs. Kundrat. Many of our associated faculty have benefited from her assistance when their own department secretaries were somehow unable to prepare materials in time for classes. I, for one, would have been totally ineffective without her constant help. We all owe her a heartfelt debt of thanks.

Below is the breakdown of the 1976-77 record.

Judaic Studies Committee Members

The committee appointed for 1976-77 consisted of the following:

Dean Grebstein	Administration
Leon J. Goldstein	Faculty (Philosophy) (Sabbatical Spring '77)
Marcia Falk	Faculty (Classical & Near East Studies; English) (appointed Spring '77)
Samuel Morell	Faculty (Classical & Near East Studies)
Norman A. Stillman	Faculty (History) (Chairman)
Edward Weisband	Faculty (Political Science)
Arieh Lebowitz	Student
Ronald Edelstein	Student

COURSES AND ENROLLMENTS 1976-77

<u>Fall 1976</u>		<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
JS 125	Jew. Civ.: Biblical Period	R. Groner	12
*JS 182D			9
(also Hist. 196G)	American Jewish Experience	N. Stillman/Staff	38
JS 199	Independent Study	N. Stillman	1
English 175G	Jewish American Fiction	S. Grebstein	10
Hebrew 101	Elementary Hebrew I - Sec.1	S. Morell	29
	Sec.2	S. Morell	21

*New course

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<u>Fall 1976 (cont.)</u>		<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
Hebrew 103	Intermediate Hebrew	Y. Stillman	17
Hebrew 151	Conversation & Composition	Y. Stillman	12
Hebrew 260	Topics in Biblical Lit.	S. Morell	6
*Hebrew 291T	Mod. Hebrew Lit. in Trans.	M. Falk	3
History 153A	Medieval Jewish History	N. Stillman	92
Near E.S. 291B (also Eng. 125)	Bible as Literature	S. Levin	5
Sociology 188	Sociology of Jews	A. Liebman	18
Yiddish 101	Elementary Yiddish I	I. Friedland	43
Yiddish 199	Independent Study	I. Friedland	30
Total:			349

Spring 1977

JS 126	Jewish Civ.: Hellenistic- Rabbinic Per.	R. Groner	6
*JS 181D			11
(also NE St. 291T)	Intro. to Rabbinic Judaism	S. Morell	2
*JS 182E	Rebirth of Israel	H. Rivlin	9
(also Hist. 196M)			52
JS 199	Independent Study	N. Stillman	1
Hebrew 102	Elementary Hebrew II - Sec.1	S. Morell	9
	Sec.2	S. Morell	15
Hebrew 104	Read. in Heb. Lit.	Y. Stillman	13
Hebrew 151	Hebrew Convers. & Comp.	Y. Stillman	8
Hebrew 199	Independent Study	Staff	2
*Hebrew 261	Hebrew Folk Lit.	Y. Stillman	13
*Hebrew 262A	Modern Hebrew Poetry	M. Falk	6
History 153B	Modern Jewish History	C. Fink	63
Pol.Sci. 129	Govt. & Politics of Israel	D. Peretz	11
Yiddish 102	Elementary Yiddish II	I. Friedland	14
Yiddish 199	Independent Study	I. Friedland	3
Total:			238

*New Courses

LIBRARY

Mr. John Ryland is now in charge of Judaic Studies' book ordering. He is very sympathetic to our programmatic needs and has a sense of the major interstices in our collection. I have asked him to keep an eye out for complete backsets of 1) Revue des Etudes Juives and 2) The Monatschrift fur die geschichte der Wissenschaft des Judentums in that order. We are becoming a serious research faculty in Judaic Studies and need the tools of our trade.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS PROGRAM

Through the generosity of the Office of the Vice President and through the cooperation of the Jewish Student Union and in one instance Hinman College, the Judaic Studies Program was able to present a number of distinguished speakers.

February 22, 1977 - Professor Alfred L. Ivry of Brandeis University - "The Fortunes of Love in Jewish Philosophy."

March 28, 1977 - Rev. William H. Harter - "The Role of the New Testament in Christian Anti-Semitism."

May 2, 1977 - Professor Stanley Isser, Department of Judaic Studies, SUNY-Albany - "Samaritan Attitudes to Biblical and Post Biblical Prophecy." Professor Isser was invited through the Faculty Exchange Scholars Program.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Below are some of the academic activities of several of our Judaic Studies faculty since May 1976:

Marcia Falk, assistant professor of English and Hebrew, has published a book of translations from the Yiddish poetry of Malka Heifetz Tussman, entitled, Am I Also You? (Tree Books, 1977). In addition, she has had original poems and translations from Hebrew and Yiddish appear this year in several journals and anthologies, including: The Other Voice (Norton), Fourteen Israeli Poets (ed. Silk; Andre Deutsch), New Writing in Israel (eds. Spicehandler and Arnson; Schocken), and Living After the Holocaust (ed. Steinitz; Bloch Publishing Co.). In the fall she gave a reading of her work and a talk at the Writing Seminar of Johns Hopkins University. In April she chaired the Yiddish section of the NEMLA and gave a talk on Biblical poetry at the University of Rochester. She has recently been awarded a post-doctoral fellowship to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. New poems and translations of hers are scheduled to appear in Sequoia, Response, Tri-Quarterly, and other literary magazines. Her translation of the Song of Songs, entitled The Song of Songs: Love Poems from the Bible will be published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich in September.

Samuel Morell, associate professor of Hebrew, has recently published an article entitled, "On the Relationship Between Halakhot Pesukot Sassoon Ms. and the Halakhot Gedolot" in Hebrew Union College Annual, XLVI (1975), 510-32.

Arthur Liebman, associate professor of sociology, presented a paper, "Radicalism and the Jews: the impact of subculture and history," at the 1976 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Professor Liebman published an article, "The Ties That Bind: The Jewish Support for the Left in the United States," in the December 1976 issue of the American Jewish Historical Quarterly.

Saul Levin, professor of ancient languages, reviewed Bible-Hagiographa, Codex Berlin Or. Qu. 680 -- Codex New York, JTS 510, in Hebrew Studies, XVII (1976), 172-173. He also submitted, "The Early History of Christianity, in Light of the 'Secret Gospel' of Mark," to be included as a chapter in Aufstieg und Niedergang der romischen Welt. "Egypt as the Place of Origin of the Hebrews," was read to the American Oriental Society in Ithaca on April 27, 1977. "Some Rules of Sandhi in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Arabic," was also read to the North American Conference on Afro-Asiatic Linguistics in Ithaca on April 25. "Paelex: The Origin of Inter-marriage among the Early Indo-Europeans and Semites" will be read to the 30 Congreso Internacional de Ciencias Humanas en Asia y

Africa del Norte, in Mexico City on August 3, 1977 (will be published in the Proceedings).

Helen A. Rivlin, professor of history, had an article, "American Jews and the State of Israel - A Bicentennial Perspective," published in Middle East Journal, (Summer 1976).

Don Peretz, professor of political science, presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Chicago entitled, "Jews and Arabs in the Ethnic Numbers Game in Israel." An article: "Lebanon: Is It Good for the Jews?," appeared in Inter-Change, Vol. 2, No. 1, Sept. 1976. His new book, The Palestine State: A Rational Approach, with co-authors Richard J. Ward and Evan M. Wilson, was published in March 1977 by Kennikat Press. Professor Peretz gave two lectures at workshops for high school teachers on Arab Israeli relations at NYU in December. He lectured on Israeli politics at the National War College in Washington, D.C., on March 1; and on "Jews and Arabs in Israel" at the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State, Washington, March 2. On April 8 he delivered a paper on the Arab-Israeli conflict at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. The conference was sponsored by Oberlin Middle Eastern Studies and Judaic Studies programs. Prof. Peretz was a panelist at Cornell University, Center for International Studies, on imposed solutions in Middle East conflict, April 21-22. He participated in a colloquium sponsored by the Department of State for the new U.S. Ambassador to Israel in Washington, D.C., May 2. He gave a lecture on Israel's political climate to the Middle East Studies section at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania on May 10. A review article on Arthur Kessler's book, "Thirteenth Tribe," appeared in Journal of Palestine Studies, vol. II.

Yedida K. Stillman, assistant professor of Hebrew in the classical and Near East Studies department, guest lectured on "The Role of Women in Near Eastern Societies," at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor on October 14. Her article entitled, "The Importance of the Cairo Geniza Manuscripts for the History of Medieval Female Attire," was published in the International Journal of Middle East Studies, Vol. 7, No. 4., October 1976. Professor Stillman delivered a paper entitled "L'art de la poesie feminine au Maroc," at the 1er Colloque International sur les Juifs d'Afrique du Nord - L'Epoque Coloniale in Jerusalem, April 5-8. She also delivered a lecture entitled, "The Costume of the Jewish Woman of Morocco," at a Conference on Jewish folklore, sponsored by the Association for Jewish Studies, at Spertus College, Chicago, May 1-3. Professor Stillman presented an invited lecture entitled, "New Data on Islamic Textiles From the Geniza," at the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America held at the University of Toronto on May 11. Her lecture was held at a special session in conjunction with a colloquium on medieval textiles in the Mediterranean basin, sponsored by the Royal Ontario Museum.

Norman A. Stillman, associate professor of history and Arabic; chairman of the Judaic Studies Committee, spoke on "The Legal and Social Status of Jews Under Islam," at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor on October 14. He has published a review article dealing with S.D. Goitein (ed.), "Religion in a Religious Age" in Journal of Semitic Studies, Vol. XXI, Nos. 1-2 (1976), pp. 207-209. Professor Stillman has also published an article entitled, "In His Cousin's House: The Jew in the Traditional Arab World," in Middle East Review, Vol. IX, No. 2 (winter 1976-77). He has been awarded a grant from the American Academy for Jewish Research to help subvent the publication of the Goitein Jubilee Volume, for which he is coeditor. He was guest scholar at

Congregation Beth Tzedec, Toronto, February 11-13 where he delivered several lectures and seminars on historical and current aspects of Muslim-Jewish relations. On March 3, Professor Stillman delivered a lecture entitled, "L'Éxperience historique des juifs au Maroc - un point de vue revisioniste," at L'Université de Montréal. He was the guest of the Programme des Études Juives and the Department d'Histoire. Also, he delivered a paper entitled, "L'expérience historique des Juifs du Maroc," at the 1er Colloque International sur les Juifs d'Afrique du Nord - L'Époque Coloniale in Jerusalem, April 5-8. He also chaired the session entitled, "Organisation Communautaire et Sociale," and he was one of five speakers at a table ronde at the end of the conference.

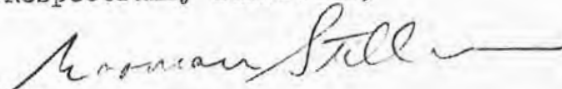
Both Stillmans were interviewed on the Israeli Television Evening News about North African Studies in the United States and about their research.

This year more than ever our faculty spoke at functions within the community.

BUDGET

Our total allotment was \$975. The only allotment which ran a deficit was the telephone which was due to the needs of the search for a coordinator.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman A. Stillman
Chairman, Judaic Studies Committee

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