

# AUFBAU

AMERICA'S ONLY GERMAN-JEWISH PUBLICATION - FOUNDED IN 1934

Vol. LXXIII, No. 3

New York, Thursday, February 7, 2002

\$ 2.95 USA / 2.50 Eur

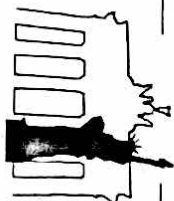
## AUFBAU IN BERLIN:

- |                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| <b>DIE SPRINGERIN</b>                | 3  |
| Margaret Lamberts verpasste Chance   |    |
| <b>DER BÜRGERMEISTER</b>             | 4  |
| Klaus Wowereit über Moral            |    |
| <b>THE ARCHIVE</b>                   | 5  |
| Berlin Branch of Leo Baeck Institute |    |
| <b>DER DIPLOMAT</b>                  | 6  |
| Alexander Brenners Mission           |    |
| <b>DER SCHÖPFER</b>                  | 8  |
| Spaziergang mit John Weitz           |    |
| <b>DER HERAUSGEBER</b>               | 9  |
| Josef Joffe über Vorurteile          |    |
| <b>DER BESTSELLER</b>                | 10 |
| Bernhard Schlink auf der Bank        |    |
| <b>THE PRELUDE</b>                   | 12 |
| A Memoir by Sonja Sonnenfeld         |    |
| <b>THE „BERLINER“</b>                | 12 |
| An Israeli Comes Home                |    |
| <b>DIE TAXIFÄHRERIN</b>              | 13 |
| Else Buschheuer über Lebensqualität  |    |

## Berlin baut auf

*Aufbau* eröffnet sein  
Büro an der Spree





# Leo Baeck Institute Opens Branch in Jewish Museum Berlin

Archives of New York Research Center Now Available in Germany

By ADAM J. SACKS

With the opening of a branch of the Leo Baeck Institute in the Jewish Museum Berlin in September, a new stage in the history of the Institute has begun. The move to Germany was neither predicted nor foreseen. Yet Rabbi Leo Baeck himself, the last representative figure of German Judaism, who signified the ideals of "modern, cultured, assimilated German Jewry," had contacts with post-war Germany and assisted in the re-establishment of the Jewish community. In this sense, the new development is in keeping with his actions and spirit.

The organization that carries his name is the most important documentation and research center for the history of German-speaking Jewry. Up to now, it has three branches in London, Jerusalem, and New York, with the latter serving as the headquarters and the home of the library and archive. The original goal of the Leo Baeck Institute was to gather together whatever remained of a culture strewn across the globe. It continues to save and preserve these cultural artifacts for the sake of history and future generations.

Having a branch of the Leo Baeck Institute in Berlin advances German-Jewish and American-European scholarly relations and, at the same time, represents a symbolic threshold in German Jewish post-war relations. Scholars, as well as the general public in Berlin, will be able to

access copies of original documents stored in New York. And with the Institute's archives available in the Jewish Museum, they are potentially accessible to a much wider public. This is a step forward in the democratization of knowledge, as well as the cooperation of archives and museums. From here on in, the trip to New York City from Germany for a visit to the Leo Baeck Institute archives may no longer be the "absolute must" it has been.

The New York archive is composed of thousands of private and public documents, literary estates, family papers, business documents, and community papers. Included among them is the legendary memoir collection with more than a thousand unpublished memoirs dating from as early as 1790. These are among the most requested materials under the auspices of the Institute.

Most of the documents are already available on microfilm in Berlin—1200 have already arrived there and within this year a further 500 are anticipated.

The unique photo archive contains 30,000 photographs of rare and impressive images, the majority of which are digitized. The photo data base at the museum contains 16,000 of them. Also available in Berlin on microfilm are 140 titles from the Leo Baeck Institute's extensive journal and newspaper collection.

The important art collection housed in New York contains paintings, sculptures, thousands of drawings, watercolors and

prints. Notable is a large selection of paintings done in Theresienstadt. Items from these holdings are on loan to museums and galleries throughout the world, including the Jewish Museum Berlin. The most famous item is probably the pair of glasses belonging to Moses Mendelssohn, which date from the 18th century.

As it is set up, all documents available in the Leo Baeck Institute, New York, can also be seen in the annex in Berlin. However, there are plans for original material to be deposited in Berlin. Contributors to the archives may choose where their original donations are to be sent. They may specifically request that original objects go to Berlin, unless they are needed for a pertinent collection in New York. New items donated to the Berlin branch directly will be filmed there and sent to New York.

In Berlin, the Leo Baeck Institute archives, reading room, and the office of the director, Mr. Aubrey Pomerance, are located on the third floor of the Liebeskind building. Mr. Pomerance is an accomplished Canadian-Jewish scholar in German-Jewish studies. In the short time since the archive's opening, there has been a steady and increasing number of users.

Among those drawing on the material there are a student researching the unpublished manuscripts of Georg Hermann, students from the Humboldt University preparing an exhibit on Jewish *Heroldsdagsgesik* for the Goethe Institut in New York, and members of the public doing

family research. The archive offers endless possibilities for scholarship in a wide range of disciplines. According to Mr. Pomerance, "The Leo Baeck Institute is convinced that the establishment of a branch here at the Jewish Museum Berlin will stimulate and promote research on all aspects of German-Jewish history and culture."

Potentially, the Leo Baeck archive could also be a reservoir for the permanent and temporary exhibits at the museum. It may also be used in connection with a learning center for the general public, one which would require no prior registration.

The inaugural event hosted by the Berlin branch of the Leo Baeck Institute will be a one-day conference entitled, "An Era of Ambiguity: Jewish Involvement in Weimar Germany," to be held in the Jewish Museum Berlin on April 10th. The conference will examine the achievements of Jewish scientists, scholars, and writers in the light of their ambivalence about the wider culture. Participants will include Professor Ismar Shorsch, President of the Leo Baeck Institute New York and Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Dr. Josef Joffe, publisher of *Die Zeit*, Germany's leading liberal weekly, Professor Fritz Stern, author, most recently, of *Einstein's German World*, and Dr. Hubert Markl, President of the Max Planck Gesellschaft in Munich.

If the growing Jewish community in Berlin makes use of the Leo Baeck archives, the Institute's documents will not simply represent the conserved remnants of a vanished culture, as many fear. By having a role in the largest Jewish Museum in Europe, the annex of the Leo Baeck Institute New York portends to be a place of memory, admonition and renewal in one.