



Commemoration and Celebration

10th November 2015

The British Academy
and the Jewish Refugee Academics
in Britain after 1933



**BRITISH
ACADEMY**

for the humanities and social sciences



Association of Jewish Refugees
SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES
AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE
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The British Academy is the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences – designed to inspire, recognise and support high achievement in these disciplines throughout the UK and internationally, and to champion their role and value.

Programme

1:45–2pm	Guests arrive
2–3:15pm	Session One <i>chaired by Professor Eugene Rogan</i> Sir Otto Kahn-Freund <i>by Professor Sandra Fredman</i> Sir Ernst Gombrich <i>by Professor Richard Gombrich</i>
3:15–3:45pm	Coffee Break
3:45–5pm	Session Two <i>chaired by Sir Erich Reich</i> The Life and Times of Sir Ernst Chain <i>by Sir Ralph Kohn</i> Sir Ludwig Guttman <i>by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson</i>
5–5:15pm	Comfort Break
5:15–6pm	The Thank-Offering to Britain Fund and the British Academy <i>by Dr Anthony Grenville</i>
6pm	Reception Welcome and thanks <i>Lord Stern, President, the British Academy</i> Response <i>Andrew Kaufman, Chairman, Association of Jewish Refugees</i>
7:30pm	Conclusion



Professor Eugene Rogan, Chair

Eugene Rogan is Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History at the University of Oxford and Director of the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College, Oxford. He took his B.A. in economics from Columbia, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Middle Eastern history from Harvard. He is author of *The Arabs: A History* (2009), and was awarded the 2011 Thank-Offering to Britain Senior Research Fellowship to write his most recent book, *The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East* (2015).



Sir Ernst Gombrich, FBA (1909–2001)

Ernst Hans Josef Gombrich came to Britain in 1935 to take a job at the Warburg Institute, and throughout the Second World War monitored enemy broadcasts from Germany for the BBC. For the rest of his working life he remained at the Warburg Institute, holding chairs at Oxford, Cambridge and London Universities alongside this central interest. To the public he is best known for his book *The Story of Art* (1950), but his academic work ranges from the Renaissance to the psychology of perception to the study of cultural history and tradition. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1960, made CBE in 1966, knighted in 1972 and accorded the Order of Merit in 1988.

Professor Richard Gombrich

Richard Gombrich was born in London in 1937 into a musical family from central Europe. His greatest interest is in Buddhism and Pali (the language of Theravada Buddhist scripture); he has been President of the Pali Text Society and has lived in a Sinhalese village. Richard taught Indian religions and languages for 40 years at Oxford University, and was Boden Professor of Sanskrit there 1976–2004. His main academic research has been into the anthropology and the early history of Buddhism. In 2004, when he reached mandatory retirement, he founded the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, and remains its Academic Director.



Sir Otto Kahn-Freund, FBA (1900–1979)

Otto Kahn-Freund began his career as a leading labour lawyer and judge in the Weimar Republic. His outspoken critique of the Supreme Court incurred the disfavour of the German authorities and he was eventually dismissed from the judicial service after overturning a decision by the State Broadcasting organization to dismiss three technicians on political grounds. He was interrogated and put under surveillance by the Gestapo and in 1933, after travelling to England with his wife Elisabeth for a short holiday, he decided it was too dangerous to return. Thus began his extraordinary career in the UK.

Professor Sandra Fredman, FBA

Sandra Fredman is South African, a graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand and Oxford University. She is the Rhodes Professor of the Laws of the British Commonwealth and the USA at the University of Oxford, a Fellow of the British Academy and an Honorary Professor at the University of Cape Town. She was made a QC (honoris causa) in 2012. Sandra has published widely in the fields of equality, labour law, and human rights. Her books include *Human Rights Transformed* (OUP 2008); *Discrimination Law* (OUP, 2nd ed 2011); and *Women and the Law* (OUP, 1997). In 2012, she founded the Oxford Human Rights Hub, of which she is the director.

Sir Erich Reich, Chair

Erich Reich was born in Vienna in 1935 to Polish parents, the youngest of three boys. He came to England with one brother in 1939, at the age of four and, at 13, emigrated to his aunt in Haifa, Israel where he was raised in a kibbutz until beginning his army service in 1953. He served as Arik Sharon's communication officer in the Sinai campaign and in 1957 returned to the U.K to visit his middle brother Ossie who had sadly died shortly before he arrived. In London he worked for Thomson Holidays as a director and then Thomas Cook. In 1991 he set up Classic Tours to operate charity 'challenge' events and has since raised some £ 90 million for numerous charities in the U.K. He was knighted in 2010.



Sir Ludwig Guttmann, FRS (1899–1980)

Few people would have foreseen that when Sir Ludwig Guttmann was asked by the British Government to open the National Spinal Injuries Unit at Stoke Mandeville that it would ultimately lead to the creation of one of the biggest sporting events in the world. His vision of transforming how wheelchair users were rehabilitated let alone competing in elite sporting competitions would have seemed unrealistic to many, but the Paralympic movement grew out of humble beginnings and came of age at the London 2012 Games. Guttmann through his passions and determination changed the lives of millions of people around the world.

Baroness Grey-Thompson

Tanni Grey-Thompson studied Politics and Social Administration at the University of Loughborough and became one of Great Britain's most successful wheelchair athletes. Since her retirement from competitive sport, Tanni has lobbied and promoted many issues and causes associated with disability sport and disability in general, and in 2010 she was created a life peer of the House of Lords. She currently sits on the board of the London Marathon (2007), the board of Transport for London (2008) and the London Legacy Development Corporation and is Chair of the Women's Sports and Fitness Foundation Commission on the Future of Women's Sport.



Sir Ernst Chain, FRS (1906–1979)

Ernst Boris Chain was born in Berlin, where he obtained his Ph.D. in biochemistry and physiology. He is best known for the work he did in the development of Penicillin together with Fleming and Flory, for which they won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1945. He was very supportive of Jewish causes and a great friend of Israel, where he maintained close connections with Israeli scientists and the Weizmann Institute. In addition to his extraordinary academic work, Sir Ernst was also a very fine pianist and a practical man who recognised the importance of establishing close collaboration between Academia and Industry. He was knighted in 1969.

Sir Ralph Kohn, FRS

Ralph Kohn was born in Leipzig, Germany and, as a result of Nazi persecution, fled first to Amsterdam then, in 1940, to England. He was a Post-Doctoral Fellow for three years with Sir Ernst Chain and Professor Daniel Bovet (Nobel Prize 1957) at the Instituto Superiore di Sanità in Rome and went on to establish the first independent medical research organisation in England for the clinical evaluation of new drugs. He is also an accomplished musician and his Foundation is closely involved with the Royal Academy of Music. Sir Ralph is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society. He was knighted in 2009 for services to science, music and charity.



The Thank-Offering to Britain Fund and The British Academy

Dr Anthony Grenville recreates the history of the Thank-Offering to Britain Fellowship, a significant but little-known chapter in the history both of the British Academy and of the Jewish refugees from Nazism in Britain. The Fellowship was funded by donations from the refugees in response to an appeal organised through the Association of Jewish Refugees in the 1960s. It raised the then very considerable sum of £96,000, which was formally handed over to the Academy in November 1965, fifty years ago. From 1967, the Fellowship has been awarded, alongside the Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowships, to a succession of distinguished scholars. His presentation concludes by commemorating the experience of those who escaped the Holocaust by seeking refuge in Britain.

Dr Anthony Grenville

Anthony Grenville, the son of Jewish refugees from Vienna who fled to Britain in 1938, lectured in German at the Universities of Reading, Bristol and Westminster, 1971-96. He is currently Consultant Editor of the monthly journal of the Association of Jewish Refugees, *AJR Journal*, and Chair of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, University of London. His publications include *Jewish Refugees from Germany and Austria in Britain, 1933-1970: Their Image in 'AJR Information'*. He co-organised the exhibition *Continental Britons: Jewish Refugees from Nazi Persecution* (Jewish Museum, London, 2002) and the collection of 150 filmed interviews *Refugee Voices*.

Baron Stern of Brentford, President, The British Academy

Nicholas Stern is IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at London School of Economics, Head of the India Observatory and Chairman of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. He is President of the British Academy (from July 2013), and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in June 2014. Lord Stern was Head of the UK Government Economic Service 2003–7, and produced the landmark Stern Review on the economics of climate change. He also served as Chief Economist to the World Bank 2000–2003. Lord Stern was made a cross-bench life peer as Baron Stern of Brentford in 2007.

Andrew Kaufman, Chairman, Association of Jewish Refugees

Andrew Kaufman is the son of German Jewish refugees and has been Chairman of the Association of Jewish Refugees since 1996. He took his MA in law at St John's College Oxford, speaks fluent German and has spent his career as a solicitor advising Germanic companies on UK business law. He is currently a consultant at Fladgate LLP in Central London. He is also a trustee of the Wiener Library Endowment Fund.





In Memory of Claus Moser, FBA (1922-2015)

Earlier this year we lost a dear friend and colleague, Claus Moser. Claus was an outstanding scholar and a great supporter of the British Academy, and his loss is felt deeply by those who had the good fortune to know him. Claus also gave the last Thank-Offering to Britain Fund Lecture, in 2004, and would have dearly loved to have been here to celebrate this important milestone with us. His loss, therefore, is particularly poignant today.

Claus Adolf Moser was born in 1922, in Berlin, and escaped to London with his family in 1936. As a teenager he became interested in Statistics and went up to study at the London School of Economics, where he stayed, teaching and researching, for over 20 years. He was appointed Director of the Central Statistical Office and Head of the Government Statistical Service by Harold Wilson and then served as vice chairman of NM Rothschild from 1978. In 1984 he became Warden of Wadham College Oxford and later Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Claus was a talented and passionate musician; he served as Chairman of the Royal Opera House for 13 years and fundraised to secure support for the Glyndebourne Opera, as well as playing piano regularly in private and occasionally in public.

Published by the British Academy:

In Defence of Learning *The Plight, Persecution, and Placement of Academic Refugees, 1933-1980s*

Edited by Shula Marks, Paul Weindling and Laura Wintour

At a time of increasing international concern with refugees and immigration, this book is a timely reminder of the enormous contribution that generations of academic refugees have made – and continue to make – to learning the world over. This volume, published to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning (now known as the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics) examines the experiences of academic refugees in the Second World War and later, including from communist Europe, apartheid South Africa and Pinochet's Chile.

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