The Blau Collection

THE LIBRARY FOR CHRISTIAN-JEWISH UNDERSTANDING

Dedication Ceremony

Ryan-Matura Library at Sacred Heart University
November 10, 2008



"To add a library to a house is to give that house a soul."

Cicero

A Partnership of the Community Foundation for Christian-Jewish Understanding and The Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding of Sacred Heart University

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Welcome

Dr. Ann Heekin, Director of Programs and Publications Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding of Sacred Heart University

Invocation

Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz, Director Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding of Sacred Heart University

What Makes Special Collections Special

Dennis Benamati, University Librarian Sacred Heart University

Our Mission for Understanding and Dialogue

Ms. Emily Blau Cohen, Foundation Officer Community Foundation for Christian-Jewish Understanding

Dedication of the Blau Collection

Dr. Anthony Cernera, President of Sacred Heart University

Remarks

Mr. Barry Blau, Founder Community Foundation for Christian-Jewish Understanding

Reception

Our Mission

More changes have taken place in Christian-Jewish relations in the past 40 years than in the two previous millennia. With the Vatican II declaration of Nostra Aetate (1965), and the subsequent Guidelines (1074), Notes (1985) and We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah, as well as several other statements, the Catholic Church and numerous Christian denominations have reached out to Jews in friendship and as "elder brothers." The advance in Christian-Jewish understanding has been aided by new scholarship and research that responds to contemporary issues facing the dialogue and the various periods in the history of the relations between Christians and Jews that are historically, philosophically and theologically significant.

The Blau Collection recognizes that the field of literature in Christian-Jewish understanding has reached a critical mass. As the first collection of its kind dedicated to scholarship and education in Christian-Jewish relations, the Collection will include books, magazines, documents, journals, educational curricula, rare books, multimedia resources, and other relevant materials. The Blau Collection will serve as a research center to promote new scholarship in the field and as a resource for students, religious leaders, and educators. The Collection will be listed in the American Library Directory as a "Special Collection" of the Ryan-Matura Library.

Topic Areas in the Collection

- Jewish and Christian understandings of the Hebrew Bible
- 1st and 2nd Century Christian and proto-rabbinic theology (i.e. the New Testament and the Mishnah)
- Patristic and rabbinic literature (approximately 3rd 7th centuries)
- History of Christian/Jewish relations
 - Medieval period (pre and post 1096)
 - · Renaissance and Reformation periods
 - Enlightenment and Modern history up to the Holocaust
- The Holocaust and the Churches
- Post Holocaust Relations (i.e. conferences and declarations of the Vatican and other Christian denominations)
- Materials on Judaism that contain references to Jewish thinking about Christianity
- Materials on Christianity that contain references to Christian thinking on Judaism

"The creation of The Blau Collection and the rare texts digitization project both point to the dedication of the Community Foundation for Christian-Jewish Understanding to promoting and enhancing interfaith understanding. I am delighted that the Ryan-Matura Library has the opportunity to participate in this important work."

Timothy Richards
Director, The Mardigan Library at
the University of Michigan



List of Titles in Christian-Jewish Understanding

Abraham Joshua Heschel: exploring his life and thought, edited and introduced by John C. Merkle. New York, N.Y.: Macmillan, c1985.

Accounting for fundamentalisms: the dynamic character of movements, edited by Martin E. Marty and R. Scott Appleby. Vol. 4 of the Fundamentalism Project. Sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994.

American Protestantism and a Jewish state. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1973.

Ancient Jewish art and archaeology in the diaspora, by Rachel Hachlili. Leiden Boston: Brill, 1998.

Ancient synagogues: historical analysis and archaeological discovery, edited by Dan Urman and Paul V.M. Flesher. Leiden New York: E.J. Brill, 1995.

Ancient synagogues revealed, edited by Lee I. Levine. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1982.

The anguish of the Jews: twenty-three centuries of anti-Semitism, Edward H. Flannery. Pref. by John M. Oesterreicher. New York: Macmillan, 1965.

Anti-Catholicism in the media: an examination of whether elite news organizations are biased against the church, edited by Patrick Riley and Russell Shaw. Huntington, Ind.: Our Sunday Visitor Pub. Division, c1993.

Anti-Judaism and early Christian identity: a critique of the scholarly consensus, by Miriam S. Taylor. Leiden New York: E.J. Brill, 1995.

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Antisemitism through the ages, edited by Shmuel Almog. Translated by Nathan H. Reisner. Oxford, England New York: Published for the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, by Pergamon Press, 1988.

The art of forgiveness: theological reflections on healing and reconciliation, Geiko Muller-Fahrenholz. Geneva: WCC Publications, c1997.

Ascent to heaven in Jewish and Christian apocalypses, Martha Himmelfarb. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.



Aunt Edith: the Jewish heritage of a Catholic saint, Susanne M. Batzdorff. Springfield, Ill.: Templegate, c1998.

Between two cultures: ecumenical ministry in a pluralist world, Stanley J. Samartha. Geneva: WCC Publications, c1996.

Beyond occupation: American Jewish, Christian, and Palestinian voices for peace, edited by Rosemary Radford Ruether and Marc H. Ellis. Boston: Beacon Press, c1990.

Biblical studies, meeting ground of Jews and Christians, edited by Lawrence Boadt, Helga Croner, Leon Klenicki. New York: Paulist Press, c1980.

The biblical world, edited by John Barton. London New York: Routledge, 2002.

Birth of a worldview: early Christianity in its Jewish and Pagan content, Robert Doran. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, c1999.

A blessing to each other: Cardinal Joseph Bernardin and Jewish-Catholic dialogue. Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, c1996.

The book of understanding, by Two Hermits. Geneva, N.Y.: BenYamin, c1994.

A brighter future after 2000 years of Christian churches vs Judaism?: why Pope John II apologizes, by Jack A. Gellman. Lincoln, NE: Writers Club Press, c2000.

Calendar and chronology, Jewish and Christian: biblical, intertestamental and patristic studies, by Roger T. Beckwith. Leiden New York: E.J. Brill, 1996.

The Cambridge history of Judaism, edited by W.D. Davies, Louis Finkelstein. Cambridge New York: Cambridge University Press, 1984-1999.

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The Catholic Church and the Holocaust, 1930-1965, Michael Phayer. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, c2000.

Catholics, Jews, and the State of Israel, by Anthony J. Kenny. New York Mahwah: Paulist Press, c1993.

The Chief Rabbi, the Pope, and the Holocaust: an era in Vatican-Jewish relations, Robert G. Weisbord, Wallace P. Sillanpoa. New Brunswick, U.S.A.: Transaction Publishers, c1992.

Choosing God, chosen by God: conversations with Jean-Marie Lustiger, translated by Rebecca Howell Balinski. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, c1991.



Christian and Jew a symposium for better understanding, edited by Isaac Landman. New York, H. Liveright, 1929.

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Christian engagements with Judaism, W.D. Davies. Harrisburg, Pa.: Trinity Press International, 1999.

Christian-Jewish dialogue: a reader. Compiled and edited by Helen P. Fry with a foreword by Jonathan Sacks. Exeter, Eng.: University of Exeter Press, 1996.

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Christian religious education: sharing our story and vision, Thomas H. Groome. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999.

Christianity and rabbinic Judaism: a parallel history of their origins and early development, edited by Hershel Shanks. Washington, D.C.: Biblical Archaeology Society, c1992.

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Christianity without antisemitism: James Parkes and the Jewish-Christian encounter, Robert Andrew Everett. Oxford, England New York: Published for the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism (SICSA), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, by Pergamon Press, 1993.

A Christian's guide to Judaism, Michael Lotker. New York: Paulist Press, c2004.

The Church and Jewish People: A Study Guide for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Published for Council on Christian Unity by Christian Board of Publications, 1994.

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The city of God in Judaism: and other comparative and methodological studies, by Jacob Neusner. Atlanta, Ga.: Scholars Press, c1991.

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Contemplating the Holocaust, Bernhard H. Rosenberg, Chaim Z. Rozwaski. Northvale, NJ: J. Aronson, 1999.

Contemporary ethical issues in the Jewish and Christian traditions, edited by Frederick E. Greenspahn. Hoboken, NJ: Ktav Pub. House, c1986.

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The death and resurrection of the beloved son: the transformation of child sacrifice in Judaism and Christianity, Jon D. Levenson. New Haven: Yale University Press, c1993.

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The dialogical imperative: a Christian reflection on interfaith encounter, David Lochhead. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, c1988.

Dialogue and disagreement: Franz Rosenzweig's relevance to contemporary Jewish-Christian understanding, Ronald H. Miller. Foreword by Yechiel Eckstein. Lanham: University Press of America, c1989.

Dialogue and tradition the challenges of contemporary Judeo-Christian thought. London, New York: Abelard-Schuman, 1971.

Dialogue with a difference: The Manor House group experience, edited by Tony Bayfield and Marcus Braybrooke. London: SCM Press, 1992.

A dictionary of Judaism and Christianity, Dan Cohn-Sherbok. Philadelphia: Trinity Press International, 1991.

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From vision to reality: 50 years of Israel, Otto R. Romberg and Heiner Lichtenstein, publishers. Frankfurt a.M.: Edition Tribune, c1998.



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Holocaust education and the church-related college: restoring ruptured traditions, Stephen R. Haynes. Foreword by Franklin H. Littell. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1997.

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Imagining the self, imagining the other: visual representation and Jewish-Christian dynamics in the Middle Ages and early modern period, edited by Eva Frojmovic. Leiden Boston: Brill, 2002.

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Dennis C. Benamati University Librarian Ryan-Matura Library Sacred Heart University 5151 Park Ave. Fairfield, CT 06825

Dear Dennis:

Congratulations on the dedication of the Library of Christian-Jewish Understanding! Barry Blau and Emily Cohen should be proud of the work of their Foundation in establishing this important initiative. The creation of this collection, the rare texts digitization project, and other fine work all point to their dedication to promoting and enhancing interfaith understanding. As one who has had the deeply satisfying experience of participating in a program that provides online access to resources that foster religious understanding, I am delighted that the Ryan-Matura Library has the opportunity to participate in this important work.

The Mardigian Library at the University of Michigan-Dearborn maintains the Voice/Vision Holocaust Oral History Archives, which provides online access to viewable transcripts and the audio of nearly 200 interviews with Holocaust survivors. We have direct evidence that making this resource available online has an impact. Last year, an eighth grade teacher at an inner city middle school in Philadelphia informed us that her students found the Voice Vision Archives online through the Internet and used the interviews to construct a Holocaust remembrance project. She told us that hearing the survivors' stories, told in their own voices, made a lasting impact on her students at a significant developmental stage in their lives.

I have no doubt that the Library of Christian-Jewish Understanding will serve a similarly important role in fostering interreligious dialogue and understanding by providing key word searchable online access to the original text of rare, out-of-print texts that address Christian-Jewish understanding.

Congratulations and best wishes,

Timothy F. Richards

Dr. Eugene J. Fisher 650 Seneca Road Great Falls, VA 22066

October 7, 2008

Dr. Ann Morrow Heekin, Director Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding Sacred Heart University 5151 Park Avenue Fairfield, CT 06825

Dear Dr. Heekin.

I would like to express to you hearty congratulations on the announcement of the intention of CCJU to establish The Blau Collection: The Library for Christian-Jewish Understanding at Sacred Heart University. The library will fill a real need in the field of Jewish-Christian studies. As one who has participated on all levels of Jewish-Christian relations for the past forty years I have observed and been part of the development of what is today truly an academic field in its own right, as the existence of so many centers and institutes connected to institutions of higher learning amply illustrates.

When I started working in this area, I could truly say, and could continue to say for a number of years, that I had read virtually every book of relevance to the dialogue then published, at least in English. Every couple of years I would publish an annotated bibliography of the field. About fifteen years ago, though, I realized that this claim had become impossible since solid scholarly books in the field were being published at a much higher rate than I (or any other individual) could keep up with. With this revelation came the realization that Jewish-Christian relations had become a fully mature academic field. As such, it will need solid libraries, such as you are developing, to nurture future generations of scholars.

So, again as a long-time participant in the field, I know I speak for many when I not only offer you *mazel tov* on this most significant academic development, but express the gratitude of all of us in the field to all those connected with Sacred Heart University who have combined to make this dream a reality.

Most sincerely yours,

Eigen Ceshin

Dr. Eugene J. Fisher, Retired Associate Director Secretariat for Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC

"Christian-Jewish relations has become a fully mature academic field. As such it will need solid libraries, such as The Blau Collection, to nurture future generations of scholars. I express the gratitude of all of us in the field to all those connected with Sacred Heart University who have combined to make this dream a reality."

Dr. Eugene Fisher
Retired Associate Director
Secretariat for Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C.



