HEBREW UNION COLLEGE ANNUAL

Volume LXXVIII

Cincinnati
2007
Subvention for the publication of this volume of the Hebrew Union College Annual was received from

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Shelly Shor Gerson
Joan Scheuer
Abraham and Marian Scheuer Sofaer
Jonathan S. Scheuer and Debra Granik
When the first modern rabbinical seminary was established in Germany during the nineteenth century, both the rabbinic founders and the laypeople who supported them were convinced that the modern seminary had to be committed to the highest canons of academic scholarship and that such scholarship had to inform the contours and content of modern rabbinical education. As Rabbi Zacharias Frankel, first head of the “Positive-Historical” Jewish Theological Seminary in Breslau when it opened in 1854, phrased it, “Without the academic study of Judaism, Judaism could not exist [in our day].” Rabbi Abraham Geiger, who established the Liberal Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums in Berlin in 1872, and Rabbi Esriel Hildesheimer, who opened the Orthodox Rabbinerseminar in Berlin one year later in 1873, echoed the sentiments expressed by Frankel and both their institutions were as equally wedded to the scientific study of Judaism as was the Breslau Seminary. All these men and the institutions they formed were convinced that Judaism and its texts had to be understood with reference to the historical contexts within which these texts had been written, and the curricula of these schools reflected the notion that the teachings of the Jewish tradition had to be illuminated by appropriate intellectual and theoretical frameworks. Consequently, academic research always served as a hallmark of each school and the academic investigations in which the professors of each seminary engaged were always highlighted in annual Yearbooks and Reports published by each school.

This tradition took root in the United States at the Hebrew Union College and the Hebrew Union College Annual has for eighty-five years adopted the model initiated by these great German institutions of higher Jewish learning by publishing scholarly research in Ancient Near Eastern and Judaic Studies issued by scholars from the College-Institute as well as other great students of academic Jewish learning throughout the world. Indeed, the Hebrew Union College Annual has become the “academic passport” of HUC-JIR throughout the scholarly world, and the excellent reputation HUC-JIR enjoys in the highest national and international scholarly circles is tied in no small measure to the Annual.

No two men appreciated this history and realized this truth more than Alfred Gottschalk and Richard J. Scheuer, who were devoted friends and partners in the enterprise that is Hebrew Union College. Throughout his twenty-five-year career as President of HUC-JIR, no one did more to sustain and advance the academic standards and reputation of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion than did Dr. Gottschalk. He was completely committed to maintain-
ing the academic excellence of this institution and he saw the quality and substance of those academic standards inextricably interwoven with the articles published in the Hebrew Union College Annual. As Chairman of the Board of Governors during much of the Gottschalk Presidency, Richard J. Scheuer was similarly devoted to the life of the mind and was unfailingly steadfast in support of the academic standards of this school and the Annual. He actively encouraged the scholarly investigations of the professors at HUC-JIR by his annual attendance at the meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Academy of Religion, and the Association for Jewish Studies, where he would go to hear lectures delivered by members of the HUC-JIR Faculty and others in the larger scholarly world.

It is thus particularly fitting that this volume of the Hebrew Union College Annual is dedicated to the memory of both these men, who each passed away during the past year. Devoted as they were to the Jewish and academic character of the modern seminary as well as to the values and scholarship that the Annual continues to embody and champion as an heir to the legacy bequeathed HUC-JIR by the German Jewish arena of the nineteenth century, their pictures together at the front of this volume constitute a living testimony to the statement attributed to King David, when he said at the passing of Saul and Jonathan, “Beloved and pleasant in their lives, they were not separated in death” (2 Samuel 1:23). Y’hi zikhram barukh — may the memory of each of these great men remain a blessing for all of us.

David Ellenson
President
Richard J. Scheuer, ٦٠١
July 4, 1917 – November 7, 2008
Chair of the Board of Governors, 1983–1990
Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, 7’7
March 7, 1930 — September 12, 2009
Submissions

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2. All manuscripts, including notes, should be continuously paginated, double-spaced and employ generous margins all around.
3. Every manuscript must include an English abstract of 200 words maximum.
4. Submissions should be sent in Portable Document Format (PDF) as email attachments to annual@huc.edu.

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3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220
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