may still ennable the life of the modern Jews as the old spirit for the Torah enalled the life of the Jews in by-gone days.

Neumark, a Galician-born Talmud prodigy and theologian, had come to HUC from Berlin. According to Dr. Jacob Rader Marcus, his seventeens on the HUC faculty "symbolized the transference of rabbinical scholarship to the American frontier. Neumark brought his wealth of Hebraic tradi- tion, knowledge, and aspiration. He may be said, in many respects, to have helped American Jewry prepare itself for the cultural role in World Jewry — and this, a generation before the European center was to perish in the German creautors," Neumark's pio- neering work was reflected in his Journal, whose seminal four issues provided the foundation for the HUC Annual.

In 1920 HUC's Board of Governors accept- ed Neumark's proposal that it take over the publication as an activity of the College, which it renamed and designated as an annual. A Board of Editors was appointed, consisting of three members of the faculty: Dr. Jacob Z. Lautenbach, Dr. Julian Morgenstern (under whose Presidency HUC would be launched in 1924), and Dr. David Neumark — and three members of the Board of Governor — Dr. Joseph Krauskopf of Philadelphia, Dr. William Jerome of Baltimore, and Dr. David Philipson of Cincinnati — with the College's then president, Dr. Kaufmann Kohler, as an ex officio member. Dr. Philipson, Chairman of the Board of Editors, noted in his foreword to HUC's inaugural issue of 1924 that they were "determined to make it a medium through which scholars might be enabled to give thought to the world studies on subjects in the various branches of Jewish learning. The cooperation of Jewish scholars, not only members of the faculties of rabbinical seminaries, but also professors in secular institutions of learning...

The founding of an academic Jewish journal, which might hold a university position in Europe, and virtually none could in America, was thus determined to make HUC the academic equivalent of these German-language bastions of modern Jewish learning; one way he did this was by routine- ly including academic articles in the friendly fellowship of true scholarly endeavor, and all geographical and national lines are obliterated... Although issued by the Hebrew Union College, the Annual will become a mouthpiece of Jewish scholarship everywhere.

Rabbi Ellenson points out that HUC, as one of the very first Jewish academic journals to be published in the United States, should be viewed in the context of its historical and intellectual antecedents, as a successor to the first- and second-generation Jewish scholarly journals that appeared in Germany in the 19th century and survived into the 20th century. "It was one of the rare academic journals in Europe for almost two centuries, the academic study of the Jewish past and the course and direction of modern Judaism have been intertwined," he explains. "The earliest practitioners of Wissenschaft des Judentums (the 'scientific,' academic approach to Judaism) were presumed to have been baptized, such religious behavior was hersy.

The analysis of this document reinforces Cohen's frequently published thesis that the Portuguese Inquisition, like the Spanish, was primarily an instrument of state. "It was seen as a way to identify the population who in one way or another were regarded as threatening to the political estab- lishment (the 'old regime') through the perpetuation of the myth that anyone with any Jewish ancestry (and large segments of the population, especially in the higher classes, were presumed to have a Jewish identity and the practice of Judaism, especially in secret," Cohen explains. "The myth gave the establishment the opportunity to subordinate just about anyone it wanted by calling that person a 'secret Jew.'"
The Hebrew Union College Annual (HUCA) serves as the primary face of the College-Institute to the academic world; under whose Presidency Dr. William Rosenau of Baltimore, and Dr. David Philipson of Cincinnati – with the College’s then president, Dr. Kaufmann Kohler, as an office member. Dr. Philipson, Chairman of the Board of Editors, noted in his foreword to HUCA’s inaugural issue of 1924 that they were “determined to make it a medium through which scholars might be enabled to give to the world studies on subjects in the various branches of Jewish learning. The cooperation of Jewish scholars, not only of the faculties of rabbinical seminaries, but also professors in secular institutions of learning on which modern Jewish scholarship has been interrupted,” he explains. “The earliest practitioners of Wissenschaft des Judentums (the scientific, academic branch of Judaism) was still needed. Their aspirations for the student body and alumni helped motivate the founding of the Annual at Hebrew Union College.

HUCA is currently headed by Dr. Edward A. Goldman, Editor, and Dr. Richard S. Sarason, Associate Editor, who succeeded Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise as the first president of the College-Institute to the academic world,” he adds. “Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise was one of the very first Jewish academic journals in the world, and in the hopes of being able to publish an academic journal, he employed the results of those essays and articles to further their own approaches to Judaism. Rabbi Mayer Wise was determined to make HUC the academic heart of the German-language bastions of modern Jewish learning; one way he did this was by routinely inviting the editors of the College-Institute to the annual meetings, for example, to make our business to go to as many different sessions as possible,” Goldman notes. “We listen to those scholars who we think are doing important work in various fields and, when we hear a promising presentation, we suggest that we consider doing something similar and including that article for publication, always trying to make the Annual/balanced and exciting.” Sarason adds, “A lot of time and energy is spent on communication with the authors. We aspire to emulate Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise’s tradition of openness to all scholarly work that would be of interest to the American Jewish community.”

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Ellenson, Grancell Professor of Jewish Religious Thought; Dr. Reuven Firestone, Professor of Medieval Jewish Studies; Dr. Nili Fox, Associate Professor of Bible; Dr. Alyssa Gray, Assistant Professor of Codes and...
For Scholars, Alumni, Klal Yisrael: The Hebrew Union College Annual

(continued from page 9)

Response Literature, Dr. Samuel Greengur, Morgenstern Professor of Bible and Near Eastern Literature, Dr. Adam Kamrass, Professor of Judaic-Hellenistic Literature, Dr. Barry Kogan, Efron Professor of Jewish Thought, Dr. Michael Meyer, Ochs Professor of Jewish History, Dr. Stanley Nahm, Professor of Hebrew Literature, and Dr. David Sperling, Professor of Bible. They assist Goldman and Sarason by actively reaching out to colleagues around the world for submissions. Each volume prominently features an invitation for “submission for consideration of scholarly essays in Jewish and Cognate Studies, Ancient and Modern, Bible, Rabbinics, Language and Literature, History, Philosophy, Religion.” Thus, articles that are unsolicited come over the transom door as well.

Academic excellence is the standard against which all submissions are judged. When an article is submitted, it is assigned to a field and then circulates among our editorial board. Goldman explains, “An Editorial Board member, or other HUCA-JIR faculty member, will generally become one of the readers. We then send out this information to prospective readers from outside HUCA-JIR who are experts in that field. An outside scholar offers to be a reader, and the full article is sent out for review without the author’s identification, so that it is evaluated on its own academic terms. The readers, scholars of all faiths just as the authors of submissions are of all faiths, do not know who the writer is, and they apply to the work their own standard of academic excellence.”

Readers’ reviews are comprehensive. “They generally do a detailed evaluation, just as it is a recommendation to publish or not,” says Goldman. “Articles may be accepted provisionally, with the provision that the author should incorporate the concerns of the reader, without the reader ever knowing each other’s identity. In the case of a split decision, a third reader is found to review the submission. We work very hard to make the process as fair as possible. The readers we select are chosen because we know them to be fair and open-minded individuals. We do not ask them ever to determine whether they agree with the author. That’s irrelevant. The important thing is that the author makes a good, solid case for his or her position.”

Authors range from prominent academics and emerging scholars to young graduate students. The age and/or reputation of the scholar are usually irrelevant, because the reader doesn’t know who the author is. When an article is accepted, it is because it says something that is new and contributes to the discipline in which it is being submitted. From the submission of an article to its actual publication takes about one to one and a half years.

The non-sectarianism and academic inclusiveness of HUCA-JIR founders continue to this day, as HUCA-JIR publishes scholars who cross the board in terms of their affiliation with Jewish institutions. “There are no litmus tests in terms of who can publish or who can’t,” Sarason adds. “In fact, we’ve been receiving numerous submissions these days from Bas-Ilan University, a modern Orthodox institution in Israel, in addition to articles from Yeshiva University, the Rabbinical Theological Seminary, Tel Aviv University, and many secular American universities.”

HUCA is not a Reform publication, an interesting fact when one considers that HUCA-JIR is generally more widely known as the Reform Movement’s seminary. HUCA reinforces the other aspect of HUCA-JIR’s identity as a preeminent academic institution advancing Jewish scholarship and research. In fact, HUCA’s prominence significantly enhances HUCA-JIR’s visibility and prestige in the international academic world.

Sarason recalls his studies at Hebrew University in the early 1970s, when “HUCA was a name that was spoken with reverence. Indeed, one of the strategies for the Reform Movement’s entry into Israel in the early years was through the academic reputation of HUCA-JIR, particularly as reflected by HUCA. The Reform Movement’s current, growing involvement in Israeli life, Israeli intellectuals in the Hebrew Union College Annual. Furthermore, HUCA-JIR continues to need allies in the larger world, and our support from the non-Reform and non-Jewish segments of the community is a vital part of our scholarly, library resources, and academic publications. HUCA provides a face to the world that has no connection to the Reform Movement. The good will that the ‘Annual’ garners, in this regard, is important.”

The reputation of HUCA in the scholarly world is of great value in recruiting students to HUCA-JIR’s graduate programs. “Young scholars throughout the world who are interested in doing research know that we are one of the serious places where they can do solid graduate and doctoral work,” says Goldman. Dr. Adam Kamrass, Director of the School of Graduate Studies in Cincinnati, elaborates: “We play an important role in the academic study of Judaism. The setting of the seminars offers many advantages to those who would pursue an advanced degree in Bible and/or Jewish Studies. Among these is the fact that our curriculum is built and coordinated in conjunction with a rabbinical curriculum rather than an undergraduate curriculum in general Judaica. This means that many foundational courses, in which graduate students may study or serve as TA’s, tend to focus on source texts in the original language rather than on survey-type material in English translation. For if there is one thing that we continue to share with our 19th-century predecessors, it is the belief that there is no substitute for classroom and phallography study and knowledge of the original texts.”

Graduate students at HUCA-JIR may have their research published in the Annual. An article co-written by Dr. Nili Fox and graduate student Angela R. Rokos, on an anthropomorphistic rattle from the Nelson Glueck Collection at the Cincinnati Art Museum, appeared in volume 70-71, published in conjunction with HUCA’s 125th anniversary.

The HUCA office receives submissions and mail from throughout the world. “If you have a credible library, which deals with any of the fields that we cover, you must have a subscription to the ‘Annual,’ Goldman says. Fan mail from students at the Hebrew Union College Annual achievement and scholarly excellence of this publication. A recent email from Father Luis Stadtmann, SJ, of Florianópolis, Brazil, lauds HUCA’s volume 79: “The information available in articles and references to themes dealt with in areas of research is quite inspiring not only for my teaching and writings but also for suggestions to students in their work on documents in their journals. Many ideas there offer many good ideas there is no doubt that HUCA offers something more, which is the use of appropriate methodology.”

Goldman and Sarason express appreciation for the devotion of Shirley Schreiner, HUCA’s secretarial administrative assistant since 1982, and Kelley Bowers, graphic designer and composition, for the production and dissemination of HUCA.

Free subscriptions to all HUCA-JIR rabbinical alumni sustain Neumann’s goal of a learned rabbinic, now expanded to graduate alumni as well. “The HUCA-JIR rabbinic journal has always upheld the 19th-century European Reform ideal of the scholarly rabbi who would mediate the fruits of modern scholar- ship and thought to the larger Jewish world, imparting a committed yet modern critical perspective on Jewish tradition, religion, and history that differs from the traditional, orthodox perspective. That remains a goal of HUCA-JIR’s rabbinical program to this day.”

In the 19th century, there was less of a professional distance between rabbis and scholars, and the scholars were working in the rabbinical seminars,” he adds. Today, as Jewish professionals and scholars may be less connected than in the past, Sarason wants to sustain the connection between the two. “The College-Institute remains committed to the importance of academic Jewish literacy for our rabbis. Even, and especially, with the turn toward spirituality and emotion in the American Jewish community, critical knowledge and judgment must remain crucial elements in Jewish education. People often fear the ‘corrosive’ effects of critical study on religious faith; the Reform position historically, and many have contributed to work on one to the other—one and that remains HUCA-JIR’s position today—not an easy one, believing otherwise.

A preview of HUCA, volume 74

Alan Cooper (Jewish Theological Seminary of America), and Bernard R. Goldstein (University of Pittsburgh), “The Development of the Priestly Calendar (1): The Daily Sacrifice and the Sabbath”

John C. Credirects (Columbia International University), “The Redactional Agenda of the Book of Psalms”

Yaron Z. Elur (University of Michigan), “The Temple Mount, the Rabbis, and the Poetics of Memory”


Mattiti Inbal (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), “The Oslo Accords and the Temple Mount—A Case Study: The Movement for the Establishment of the Temple”

Jenny R. Labens (Jerusalem, Israel), “Know What to Answer the Epicurean: A Diachronic Study of the Apikorsim in Rabbinic Literature”

Jonathan W. Schofer (University of Wisconsin), “Protest or Pedagogy?: Trivial Sin and Divine Justice in Rabbinic Narrative”

Aschali Naras (Hanslik Research Institute), Dan Grauer (Tel Aviv University), and Tal Dagan (Tel Aviv University), “Go to the Ant...?: Phylogenetic Algorithms and an Art in Forming an Ancient Tradition Stemmata (Feasibility Study)”

But an honest one. We want our alumni to continue their educations and academic pursuits, just like doctors and lawyers and other professionals are required to, and are delighted to distribute the Annual to sustain their lifelong learning.”

The Annual’s reach exceeds its subscription base of 2200 copies per volume. It has been selected as one of the 100 theological journals from throughout the world to be part of the American Theological Library Association online project. Thus, all volumes of the Annual up to the past five years are now digitized and available electronically to subscribers to the Association’s online service—reaching many additional readers. The past five years’ issues are only available in hard copy, so that the online version won’t compete with the printed journal.

Reviewing the tables of contents over the decades, it is clear that HUCA has published core articles covering the broad spectrum of Jewish scholarship that have immeasurably broadened the scope of Jewish learning and teaching. These articles continue to be referenced by contemporary scholars who are delving into Jewish and other intellectual, literary, biblical, anthropological, and theological subjects. Indeed, Dr. Julian Morgenstern, President of HUC from 1921 to 1947, published an article each year from the first volume in 1924 through the forty- first in 1969-70. The authors continue to include HUC-JIR faculty and alumni.

An abstract—such a short paragraph—introduces each article to the reader, inviting both scholar and lay reader into new discoveries. Goldman explains, “If people are looking for a given sense of what’s in the article, they can read the précis and then delve deeper into the ones that look interesting.”

HUCA also publishes monographs as separate volumes. “When we get a submission, the one that is too long to be an article in the journal, but is shorter than an ordinary book, we place it in our monograph series,” says Goldman. The submission goes through the same vetting process as articles in the Annual.

HUCA stands alone in the world of Jewish studies. No other Jewish seminary publishes a comparable publication, and the Israeli public study journals do so in Hebrew, which limits their readership. HUCA is monitoring the cutting-edge of scholarship and shaping it as well, advancing the publication of innovative works. As the publisher and editorial team of HUCA-JIR to the world academic community, HUCA-JIR sustains its founders’ mission: to cultivate higher Jewish learning and the dissemination of knowledge about Jewish culture, religion, and history. Looking to the future, Rabbi Ellenson says, “May the task of this journal illuminate the Jewish heritage continue to leave its imprint on our community and contribute to the growth of our people for years to come.”
For Scholars, Alumni, Klal Yisrael: The Hebrew Union College Annual (continued from page 9)

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