



## Monthly Bulletin

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1



On March 14, 2012, Mr. Gil Gordon, architect and city planner, gave a presentation on the conservation work of the Schneller compound in Jerusalem. A German protestant church altar was coincidentally found in the remnants of the Syrian Orphanage, which was founded by the German-Swiss missionary Johann Ludwig Schneller in 1860. The discovery was made, when the Israeli architect Gil Gordon gave the German protestant provost Uwe Gräbe a guided tour over the compound. The site had been neglected after the expulsion of all Germans from Palestine by the British in the wake of the pro-Nazi Templar demonstrations with Swastika flags in Jerusalem, Haifa and Yaffo. The British and later the Israeli Army occupied the compound until 2008, and the altar was concealed in a wooden box and stood in a room that was converted into a basketball hall. Mr. Gordon gave a fascinating insight into the recovery and conservation of the altar and its placement in the Augusta Victoria Hospital Church on the Mount of Olives as the second altar.

2



In a moving ceremony on the Eve of Yom HaShoah, Lea Dror-Batalion opened her exhibition "[The Jewish Vocational School Masada Darmstadt](#)" at the Israeli National Museum for Science, Space and Technology (Madatech) in Haifa. The exhibition tells the story of a unique school that was opened and headed by Samuel Batalion in 1947 and that trained young Holocaust survivors in various professions that would prove useful for their immigration to Eretz Israel. The exhibition opening took place in cooperation with the Bosmat School in Haifa and was embedded into a student exchange between the Heinrich Emanuel Merck School in Darmstadt and the Bosmat School. The German students were accompanied by their teacher, Ms Renate Dreesen who is the co-planner of the exhibition. The opening was attended by the Vice Mayor of Haifa, Israel Savyon, representatives of the Ministry of Education, students from Mannheim and the Leo Baeck School, as well as many family members of former students of the school.

3



On March 18, [Prof. Manfred Lahnstein](#), chairman of the ZEIT foundation, visited the Bucerius Institute and met with the Lahnstein scholarship recipient, Hubert Leber. On June 3, Prof. Lahnstein will give a lecture at the Bucerius Institute during the [40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Governors](#) at the University of Haifa. His talk with focus on the topic "Israel-Germany: Evolving Basis of a Special Relationship".



4



On April the 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 [Mr. Oren Cahanovitz](#), an assistant at the Gottlieb Schumacher Institute, held a lecture about his journey following the footsteps of the Second World War. After his BA in history and political science he wanted to experience Europe in this unique way. With an old RV that he had bought in Berlin, he began his year long quest to visit different war sites. Oren Cahanovitz started his journey in the small town in the middle of France and continued to England, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Poland, and the Czech Republic. He sold the RV and continued to Russia, by train. In total, he visited 180 historical sites that are connected to World War II. He was interested in all aspects of World War II - battles, war time technology, the Holocaust, and especially non-Jewish victims of the fascists as well as the people who took part in the saga. Among the sites he visited, were well known historical places like the beaches of Normandy, Stalingrad (the site of bloodiest battle in the history of the world), the gas chambers in Auschwitz, but also small and less-known sites.



5



From February 16 – 17, a *Humboldt Kolleg*, organized by Prof. Giora Hon from the University of Haifa and Prof. Martin Carrier from the University of Bielefeld, took place at the University of Haifa. The seminar put special focus on philosophical and historical analyses of the relationship between science and values. Twelve scholars gave an insight into their specific fields of study and investigated, how their disciplines deal with these questions. Among them was Dr. Amos Morris-Reich, Director of the Bucerius Institute who gave a lecture on "Contested Ideas, Changing Values. The Idea of the Jews as a Mixed Race from Felix von Luschan to Hans F. K. Günther".



6



[Julia Werner](#) from the Humboldt University Berlin is besides Anke Költzsch and Simona Malá one of Bucerius visiting scholars in 2011-2012. The main focus of her Ph.D. project lies on the visual documentation, representation, and construction of the "Volksgemeinschaft" (people's community or folk community) especially by means of photography in everyday life. Instead of examining photography in the field of official propaganda, the material for this research consists mainly of private, occasional, "everyday" photography, of "snapshots". The dissertation thereby focuses on photography as a "private praxis" (Jens Jäger). The thesis discusses the ordinary and everyday practices of communitization and exclusion by means of their visual strategies and representations in photographic material from Western Poland, especially the "Reichsgau Wartheland".



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