

Rosalie & Meyer Feinstein Lecture Series 2004

Introduction of Bob Singerman by David Gilner

Since 1997, the National Foundation of Jewish Culture and its Council of Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies have sponsored this lecture series at a plenary session of the annual convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries. This series has presented convention attendees with an opportunity to hear a senior figure in the fields of Judaica librarianship and/or archives present a talk touching on their particular interests or areas of scholarly expertise. Over the years, we have been privileged to hear from a most distinguished assembly of people of the book: Dr. Herbert C. Zafren, Dr. Menahem Schmelzer, the late Dina Abramowicz, Dr. Jacob Kabakoff, Dr. Abraham Karp, and Dr. Leonard Gold. In 2002, our speaker was the distinguished archivist Colonel Seymour Pomrenze, Director of the Offenbach Archival Depot. Last year, we journeyed to the brave new bibliographic realm of computers and digitized resources, and heard from our friend and teacher, Professor Elhanan Adler.

Today, it is my great pleasure to introduce this year's Feinstein Lecturer, our dear friend and respected colleague Robert Singerman. Bob is University Librarian, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, where he serves as the bibliographer for Jewish Studies, Anthropology, and Linguistics. He has also been known to write a bit. In the 2003 publication *Bibliography in Literature, Folklore, Language and Linguistics: Essays on the status of the Field*, Bob authored an essay "Creating the Optimum Bibliography: From Reference Chaining to Bibliographic Control." "Optimum Bibliography?" What might be his *bona fides* to give instruction in this area? In 1975, *Jews in Spain & Portugal: A Bibliography*. In 1977, *Jewish and Hebrew Onomastics: A Bibliography*. In 1982, *Antisemitic Propaganda*. In 1986, *Jewish Serials of the World*. In 1990, *Judaica America*. In 1993, *Spanish & Portuguese Jewry*. In 1996, *Indigenous Languages of the Americas*. In 2001, *Jewish Given Names & Family Names*. In 2002, *Jewish Translation History: A Bibliography of Bibliographies and Studies*. And these are just his books; who could (re)count his articles? Not to mention his 1976 microfiche publication *Index of Western*

States Jewish History in the American Israelite! When libraries from the Library of Congress on down post lists—bibliographies—in subjects on which Bob has written, Bob's works are always there—a veritable McCavity of bibliography! When I arrived at the Klau Library, Cincinnati, Bob was Head of Cataloguing. He sat at the desk directly behind me—all the better to keep me from getting into too much trouble. After I was there about a week, he gave me a book about getting America back on the gold standard. Though I took his advice to heart, I don't think that my own cataloguing was ever better than silver plated, and it only got to that stage thanks to his patient review of my mistake-filled worksheets. After he left us to whistle Dixie, Bob regularly dispatched packets filled with bookplates and other interesting pieces he felt belonged in our collection. These care packages were certainly no surprise, because that's the kind of caring person Bob is.

Bob's working title for his talk today was "*Contemporary Racist and Judeophobic Ideology Discovers the Khazars, or Who Really Are the Jews?*" I believe that over the past six months, this title has changed to: "*Contemporary Racist and Judeophobic Ideology Discovers the Khazars, or Who Really Are the Jews?: A Bibliography*." Please welcome our dear friend and colleague, Bob Singerman.