

## EDITORIAL

This is a shared editorial, but one written by both of us with a heavy heart. When the editorial board set about finding materials to mark the eight-hundredth anniversary of the death of Moses Maimonides, we invited Esther Seidel to oversee this project, and she contributes the second half of this editorial. But neither Esther nor I could have foreseen that we would also be commemorating the untimely death of my co-editor Rabbi Dr Albert Friedlander who, together with his wife, Evelyn, has been directly associated with *European Judaism* since the birth of the magazine. The numerous tributes to Albert from his family and colleagues to be found in these pages represent just a tiny portion of the sentiments that have been expressed on hearing the sad news. I can think of few rabbis so universally loved and respected as Albert, or so dedicated to the furthering of interfaith dialogue and international understanding. His phenomenal intellect matched by a personal warmth and impish humour made him a unique figure, straddling the worlds of theology, Holocaust literature, Jewish-Christian relations and, lest one forget, the British



*Rabbi Dr Albert H. Friedlander*

football scene! His constant striving to reconcile people in conflict with one another sometimes led him to be misunderstood or misused by either faction, but no-one ever questioned his commitment to peace or his loyalty to people as personal friends on whatever side of a conflict they stood.

If Albert was never sufficiently appreciated in Britain it is in part because of his diffidence in putting himself forward and sadly because of the suspicion of intellectual figures within the British Jewish community. The latter was never the case in Germany, particularly in Christian circles, where his combination of intellectual breadth and personal charm enabled him to address challenging and painful topics and receive an appreciative hearing. This journal has benefited from his involvement on so many levels, from semi-anonymous book reviews, to the acquiring of papers from an extraordinary range of thinkers, poets and statesmen met during his travels. Something of his personality comes through the obituaries he himself wrote for others that are included in this edition where we record with sadness the death of former scholars associated with the Leo Baeck College–Centre for Jewish Education, Professors Ben Segal and Hyam Maccoby. Of few others can one say with such conviction, mingled with such a sense of loss, as of Albert Friedlander, *zecher tzaddik liv'racha*, 'the memory of a righteous person is truly a blessing'.

The main focus of this issue was to have been Jews in the field of publishing, a rather general topic that puzzled many of those we approached. Did we mean 'Jewish publishing' or Jews who happened to be general publishers, or non-Jews who published in the field of Judaism? We intended all of these, as we were curious to open up the subject. We include in this issue responses by Anthony Polonsky, Stuart Matlins, Ross Bradshaw, Natasha Lehrer and Walter Homolka, and hope to add other materials on an occasional basis in the future. Our regular section 'From the Tradition' contains a fascinating view of 'Women as Wives in Rabbinic Literature', the Regina Jonas Memorial Lecture given in 2003 by Judith R. Baskin. Book reviews and poetry complete the edition.

Jonathan Magonet