Page Twenty-Six

Dynamic Suzanne Somers Returns To Moulin Rouge At The Las Vegas Hilton

SUZANNE IS SENSATIONAL - Energetic Suzanne Somers is starring in the Las Vegas Hilton's spectacular stage production "Bal du Moulin Rouge" through March 12. Featured with Somers are the acrobatic Garza Brothers, known as the "Living Statues," Nino Frediani, the world's fastest Juggler and Tanya-the-Elephant with trainer Jenda Smaha. "Bal du Moulin Rouge" can be seen twice nightly at 8 p.m. and midnight.

Dynamic Suzanne Somers returns to the Las Vegas Hilton with her own brand of song and dance in "Bal du Moulin Rouge" in the main showroom.

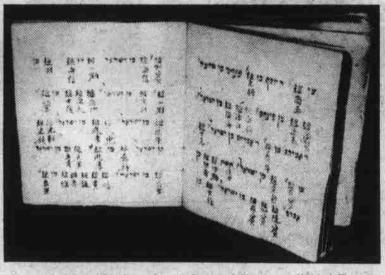
Somers, who was the first major star to open in Moulin Rouge, marks her third appearance in the Hilton's lavish french stage spectacular.

Somers serves as the catalyst for this lively stage show which includes colorful costumes, extravagant sets and energetic production numbers.

She is featured in the show's opening and closing numbers, as well as her own dazzling solo segment. This segment has several numbers, including an incredible tap routine with the members of the Moulin Rouge cast.

Somers adds a lot of personality to the Hilton's stage production. Every performance is

Las Vegas Israelite Friday, January 25, 1985 Rare Manuscripts Of The Chinese Jewish Community Of Kai-Feng Among The Treasures In The Libraries Of Hebrew Union College



A register of the Jewish residents of Kai-Feng during the Ming Dynasty, 1368-1616, found in one of 59 manuscripts from this now extinct Jewish community, housed in the Dalsheimer Rare Book Building of the Hebrew Union College Klau Library in Cincinnati.

Of the many rare manuscripts and treasures of Hebraica and Judaica housed in the libraries of Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, few collections have aroused as much interest as the 59 manuscripts from the now extinct Chinese Jewish community of Kai-Feng. The collection was originally acquired by English missionaries in 1851, and purchased by the college in the 1920's. It is today the largest and most varied collection of existing manuscripts from Kai-Feng.

The manuscripts, all of which are in the Dalsheimer Rare Book Building of the HUC Klau Library in Cincinnati, are of three types: Haggadahs, prayerbooks for daily and festival services, and portions of the Bible. They are written in large, clear Hebrew characters in the blackest of ink, and are clearly legible. Some manuscripts, however, were evidently recovered from a flood, for in many places the writing has been washed off and the pages still show the stains of the river. And, several of the books are written on both sides of a long strip of many-layered rice pa_Fer , folded in a "fan-fold" format.

Perhaps the most interesting item in the collection is a prayerbook which concludes with what appears to be a register of the community written in Hebrew and Chinese characters. This manuscript, and two others from the HUC collection, were loaned, this past year, to Beth Hatefusoth (The Museum of the Diaspora) in Tel Aviv for a major exhibition on Kai-Feng.

It is not known when Jews first set foot on the soil of China. Some scholars conjecture that Jewish traders, working their way eastward from Babylonia by way of Persia and Turkestan in the first centuries, C.E., were the founders of the community.

The earliest account of Kai-Feng, which is located on the Yellow River in the province of Honan, goes back to the year 950, and relates that 70 Jewish families were settled there. In 1153, a synagogue was constructed with the permission of the emperor, and the Jews appeared to be flourishing and prosperous.

In the centuries that followed, the Jews adopted Chinese dress and language, and came to look like the Chinese. They were allowed to practice their religion undisturbed and enjoyed complete equality. Though the synagogue was destroyed three times between 1461 and 1515, when the Yellow River overflowed its banks, it was quickly rebuilt after each flood. The Chinese Jewish community remained isolated and unknown to Europeans until the 17th century when Christian missionaries began to uncover the existence of the Jews of Kai-Feng.

The great Chinese civil war in 1642, which led to the establishment of the Manchu dynasty, is thought to have dealt the blow which eventually undermined the stability of the settlement. As a war measure, the defenders of Kai-Feng cut the dikes protecting the city. In the ensuing flood, the synagogue was demolished, the books of the congregation were swept away and many ceremonial objects were lost. The synagogue was rebuilt in 1653, but the community never recovered from the blow.

In the years that followed, one fact about the Chinese Jews has been recorded. Their material condition declined and they were described as completely poverty-stricken. By 1870, the synagogue was gone. In 1900, the Jewish community had no rabbis and no religious services. Its final fate is as mysterious as its origin. In the 1940's, during the Japanese invasion of China, the last traces of the Jews of Kai-Feng disappeared.

Through the centuries, cut off from the rest of world Jewry, this remote community struggled to preserve a knowledge of Hebrew and Jewish tradition, and their manuscripts, preserved in the Klau Library of Hebrew Union College, continue to tell the amazing story of the Chinese Jews and their faith.

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is the nation's oldest institution for higher Jewish studies. With schools in Cincinnati, New York, Los Angeles and Jerusalem, it trains rabbis, cantors, religious school educators and communal workers and offers doctoral and post-doctoral programs. The libraries of Hebrew Union College are regarded as one of the world's leading centers of Hebraica and Judaica. The Klau Libraries in Cincinnati and New York, the Frances-Henry Library in Los Angeles and the Olin-Sang Library in Jerusalem together house more than 530,000 volumes, 2,000 manuscript codices and thousands of pages of archival documents and other special collections.

filled with a high-energy and charisma that captivates the audience.

Several special musical numbers are featured in the show including, "I Love Paris," "C'est Magnifique," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" and "You Made Me Love You."

Moulin Rouge also displays the talents of the acrobatic Garza Brothers, known as the "Living

Statues," Nino Frediani, the world's fastest juggler and Tanya-the-Elephant with trainer Jenda Smaha.

The show, starring the lovely and talented Suzanne Somers, can be seen twice nightly, Tuesday through Sunday. The 8 p.m. dinner show starts at \$19.50 and the midnight cocktail show costs \$16.00.

