

**Yeshiva University Celebrates
100th Birthday Of Rachel
Wischnitzer, Former
Professor Of Art**

**At Age 71, She Founded Fine Arts
Department At University's Stern
College For Women; University
Will Celebrate Its Own 100th
Birthday In 1986**

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Academy School of Architecture from 1903 to 1907. She earned diplomas from the School of Architecture in Paris and the Alliance Francaise in Paris, both in 1907.

In 1908, while living in St. Petersburg, she published articles in Russian journals, the Jewish Encyclopedia, and elsewhere. She studied at Munich University in 1910-11.

In 1912, the former Rachel Bernstein and Dr. Mark Wischnitzer, a historian, were married in St. Petersburg. Between the two world wars, they lived and worked in London, Berlin, and Paris. She continued publishing articles and books and editing journals. She was curator of the Jewish Museum in Berlin from 1928 to 1934.

In 1940, Professor Wischnitzer and her young son, Leonard, emigrated to New York City, while her husband awaited permission to join them. She earned a Master of Arts degree at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University in 1944.

Her book, Symbole and Gestalten der Juedischen Kunst (Symbol and Meaning in Jewish Art) was published in Germany in 1935. Her books published in the United States include The Messianic Theme in the Paintings of the Dura Synagogue in 1948; Synagogue Architecture in the United States in 1955; and Architec-

ture of the European Synagogue in 1964.

Her husband, who served as a professor of history at Yeshiva University, died in 1955 in Tel Aviv, Israel.

In 1956, the late Dr. Samuel Belkin, the second president of the University from 1943 to 1976, asked Professor Wischnitzer to teach at the University's new Stern College for Women, which has opened its doors in 1955. SCW was the nation's first undergraduate college of liberal arts and sciences for women under Jewish auspices.

At SCW, Professor Wischnitzer started the Fine Arts Department and served as professor of art until her retirement in 1968.

In 1968, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by the University.

Professor Wischnitzer's son, Leonard Winchester, an engineer, and his wife and their 15-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, live in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Yeshiva University is America's oldest and largest university under Jewish auspices.

**Swiss Bank Admits
Financing Nazi War Machine**

GENEVA (WNS) — The Swiss National Bank has admitted, in a study written by its former archivist, that it helped finance the Nazi War machine during World War II by accepting more than 1.6 billion Swiss Francs' worth of gold looted by the Nazis from Jews and from the treasuries of occupied countries.

The study, by Robert Vogler, just published in the Bank's quarterly bulletin, demonstrated

that while the Third Reich had the equivalent of no more than 22 million Swiss Francs' worth of gold when the war started in 1939, it exchanged gold for 1.638 billion Swiss Francs in transactions with Swiss banks between 1939 and 1945.

The Allied powers had warned the Swiss that the Germans were selling them gold stolen from the Belgian National Bank, among others, and from Jews deported to Nazi concentration camps. The bank gold was in the form of coins; the gold of the concentration camp victims was melted down from teeth fillings, eyeglass frames, wedding rings and other personal jewelry.

The Nazi Reichsbank sold most of its gold to Swiss banks to pay debts and to pay for vital war material such as fuel, chrome and tungsten purchased from Portugal, Spain and Rumania. Those countries refused to accept gold. They demanded Swiss Francs instead to buy items available only in neutral Switzerland during the war.

A spokesman for the Swiss National Bank declared that the Swiss bankers of the war period showed a serious lack of political sense and must have been "extrémely naive" to accept the claim by Reichsbank president Emil Puhl that Germany's sudden gold windfall was legitimate. It was on the basis of Puhl's word that the Swiss government permitted the banks to enter into transactions with the Third Reich.

**"Say It Isn't So,
Mr. President"**

By Abraham H. Foxman
Associate National Director
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith

My first reaction was disbelief -- it was impossible. No President would honor Nazi SS murderers by placing a wreath on their graves. Not 40 years or 400 years after the Holocaust and Malmedy.

Then shock. How could he do this? What motivated him?

To me it was totally out of character for the man as well as the President.

This cannot be, I thought, the Ronald Reagan who was so eloquent and tearfully moved at the Holocaust remembrance.

I could not square it with the Ronald Reagan who is so staunchly building this nation's alliance with Israel.

And then the news broke that, after all, the President would visit a concentration camp even though he still intended to visit the military cemetery. The rethinking seemed more like the President I admired, I felt.

But then, it was stunning when he equated the fate of young Wehrmacht and SS soldiers with that of the six million Jewish victims of Hitler's Final Solution.

I was appalled at the insensitivity, the mechanical equation of victims and victimizers, murdered and murderers.

Myself a survivor of the Holocaust, I wondered at the mind set of a man who could make such a connection between soldiers who goose stepped off to do their duty in Hitler's mad attempt to conquer and subjugate the world and innocent men, women and children who were slaughtered indiscriminately because of an imagined ancestral taint.

As I wondered, a scene came into my mind out of American legend. When the Black Sox scandal broke in 1919, a disillusioned young newsboy is said to have approached Shoeless Joe Jackson, the great natural hitting star, and asked him, "Say it ain't so, Joe."

I wanted to say, "Say it ain't so, Mr. President." But, unfortunately, it is so.

The President knows that there are some things that it is best never to forget. The great philosopher Santayana pointed that out when he said that "Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it."

Whether or not the President intends it -- and I believe that he does not -- the effect of his words and his visit to the SS gravesite, is to demean the Holocaust and diminish it in scale to the level of just another atrocity like the St. Valentine Day's massacre in Chicago.

What is lacking here, it seems, is a sense of history, of perspective. The past is full of massacres, no doubt. No nation on Earth is without its share of dark and bloody ground, of actions of which it is ashamed and which it buries in the footnotes of oblivion.

Nevertheless, the Holocaust is unprecedented not only in scale but in conception. This was an endeavor pursued relentlessly even at the cost of the German war effort to obliterate Jews from the face of the Earth. As far as Europe was concerned, it almost succeeded. One of every three Jews in existence at the time was killed in every conceivable diabolic manner.

How could an American President, the ultimate symbol of our democracy and values honor men even remotely linked to such a fiendish enterprise.

It is an offense against our tradition and all those who died -- in our armed forces and those of our allies -- to make certain that such an evil did not reach our shores.

Say it ain't so, Mr. President.

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