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## WE HAVE REASON TO INQUIRE:

**THE LIFE AND WORKS OF  
RABBI DR LOUIS JACOBS**

Leopold Muller Memorial  
Library  
Oxford Centre for Hebrew and  
Jewish Studies



*The Jew who writes with justice  
is a prophet. The Jew who writes  
with love is a saint. The Jew who  
writes with truth is a hero.*

## **WE HAVE REASON TO INQUIRE**

### **THE LIFE AND WORKS OF RABBI DR LOUIS JACOBS**

**The current exhibition shows selected items illustrating Rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs' life and thought. The exhibition is on view at the Leopold Muller Memorial Library through October 2013, Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs was one of the greatest Anglo-Jewish scholars and rabbis. He combined an active rabbinical career with tireless activity as a scholar in Jewish Studies, publishing widely on topics such as Jewish thought and mysticism, Jewish liturgy, Hasidism, rabbinics and history. He was most fruitful in the area of Jewish philosophy, specifically in the field of Jewish theology, and it is on Rabbi Jacobs as a Jewish theologian that this exhibition concentrates.

At the same time we do not forget his continuous activity as a community rabbi, concerned with practical issues facing his congregation, and always intent on communicating to the "Jew in the pew" in his words, the ongoing conversation with Jewish tradition that was his intellectual life.

Rabbi Dr. Jacobs was in communication with some of the greatest scholars of his time and as a visiting professor he was occasionally able to devote his time to purely academic activities. Yet throughout his working life he was tireless in publishing books on all areas of the field of Jewish Studies, including those that had traditionally received less attention from Jewish scholars, such as Hasidism and mysticism.

In this eclectic choice of fields as well as in his wide range of knowledge, he was comparable to scholars such as Gershom Scholem.

Nevertheless, it was the "Jacobs affair" that brought him to the attention of the general public, and its reverberations kept him firmly in the public eye. The Masorti movement, which he did not instigate but which he supported after its birth, changed the tenor of Anglo-Jewish life in ways which would not have been possible had he restricted himself to a purely scholarly career.

Before his demise, Rabbi Dr. Jacobs donated his Library to the Leopold Muller Memorial Library thanks to the good offices of the former Fellow Librarian, Dr. Piet van Boxel. The Exhibition has benefitted from the unstinting help of the Friends of Louis Jacobs, particularly Rabbi Jacobs' son, Mr Ivor Jacobs, as well as the rest of the family.

We hope you enjoy the Exhibition write to us with your feedback!

Visit also the Digital Exhibition\* at:  
[www.ochjs.ac.uk/mullerlibrary](http://www.ochjs.ac.uk/mullerlibrary)

\* available from June 2013