

SIENA COLLEGE
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INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH-CHRISTIAN STUDIES

**The Kieval Institute
for Jewish-Christian Studies
at Siena College**



I, Thou, and ?
(Nostra Aetate Approaches 40)

Scholars in residence:
William McConville, OFM
Prof. Paul Mendes-Flohr

Twentieth Annual Colloquium
October 24, 2004
Siena College
Loudonville, NY



The Kieval Institute for
Jewish-Christian Studies at Siena College
Rabbi Bernard H. Bloom, Chair
Peter S. Zaas, Director
Rabbi Hayyim H. Kieval י"ח,
Founding Director

I, Thou, and ?

In our time Ecclesiastes' declaration "There is nothing new under the sun" [1:9] has been refuted. After almost 2000 years of rivalry, conflict and even enmity, Christianity and Judaism have begun a radically new relationship, thanks to the initiative of Pope John XXIII. In 1962 he summoned the Second Vatican Council in order to 'throw open the windows' of the Roman Catholic Church. One of his prime goals was not merely to improve Christian/Jewish relations, but to transform them. Many traditionalist clerics and skeptical rabbis opposed the Pope's agenda, but others responded to his sincerity and were willing to join in genuine dialogue.

The momentum of Pope John XXIII's revolutionary initiative persisted beyond his death, culminating in 1965 in the historic document *Nostra Aetate* under his successor Pope Paul VI. Theologically, it erased the age-old charge of deicide against the Jewish people, which had for centuries instigated hatred and violence. In its condemnation of antisemitism, it undermined political and social discrimination against Jews. *Nostra Aetate* catalyzed the purging of anti-Jewish content from Catholic liturgy, textbooks and seminary curricula, and set an example which several mainstream Protestant denominations in the Western world soon followed.

During the lengthy reign of Pope John Paul II, he has focused Christian attention upon the Holocaust, which he had personally witnessed, and upon the continued connection of today's Jews with the Land of Israel. The Church has acknowledged that the Jewish Covenant with God is still valid, and that Jews are not to be targeted for conversion.

The ongoing dialogue over the past 40 years has not only healed ancient wounds, but by heightening mutual respect has enabled Christian and Jewish scholars to learn from each other – thus enriching and expanding into the 21st century the understanding of the roots and teachings of both faith communities.

—Rabbi Bloom

Program

1. Sunday, October 24, 2004, Key Auditorium, Siena College

3:30 p.m. **Remarks**
Dr. Peter S. Zaas
Director, Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies,
Siena College

Welcome

Fr. Kevin Mackin
President, Siena College

Welcome

Dr. James Dalton
Chair, Dept. of Religious Studies

3:45 p.m. **Lecture**
Professor Paul Mendes-Flohr
The University of Chicago

4:30 p.m. **Lecture**
Fr. William McConville
Raleigh, NC

5:30 p.m. **Final Greetings**
Bishop Howard Hubbard
Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

The formal presentations will be followed by questions and coffee.

The Twentieth Annual Colloquium coincides with the Third



William McConville, OFM holds degrees from the Catholic U. of America and the Washington Theological Union, and the PhD from Vanderbilt University. His publications include many scholarly articles on topics ranging from contemporary ecclesiology, the Franciscan educational tradition, and theology and literature. He served as President of Siena College from 1989-1996.



Paul Mendes-Flohr is Professor of Modern Jewish Thought in the University of Chicago Divinity School, where he also holds the appointments in the Committee on Jewish Studies and the Dept. of History. A prolific author, his research concerns the theological and religious thought of Judaism since the nineteenth century, and is currently engaged as the co-editor-in-chief of the collected works of Modern Buber, a project co-sponsored by the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften and the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. With Arthur Cohen he co-edited *Contemporary Jewish Religious Thought. Original essays on critical concepts, movements, and beliefs*. Mendes-Flohr's most recent book is *Jüdische Identität. Die zwei Seele der deutschen Juden*, and is at work on a biography of Franz Rozenzweig.

Registration Form
I, Thou, and ?

____ I shall participate in the Colloquium

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