

In Memory of Cecil Roth

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In Memory of Cecil Roth

Jewish Chronicle, 1 September 1972, 21



TO THE EDITOR, JEWISH CHRONICLE

[published 1 September 1972]

Sir, – We wish to appeal to the community to support the Cecil Roth Trust.

The aims of the trust are to advance study and education in the history and literature of the Jewish and (because of Cecil Roth's personal associations) Italian peoples.

The objects include: (i) facilitating publication, especially by young writers; (ii) establishing prizes; (iii) financial assistance for research and publication; (iv) helping scholars and students to acquire books; (v) help to museums and libraries.

We commend this appeal for two reasons. First, Anglo-Jewry can in this way commemorate the name of Cecil Roth and to some degree acknowledge its debt to him. Many lands, including Israel, remember the depth and range of his historical scholarship, the attractiveness of his style as writer and lecturer, his personality and his devotion to Judaism. But Anglo-Jewry has a special responsibility. He was one of the few Jewish scholars of the first rank born and bred in the community; and he served its interests with unflagging, if not uncritical, devotion.

Our second reason is that this trust, whose objects were precisely defined by Cecil Roth himself, will fulfil an essential function in our collective provision for the support of Jewish studies. There is an increasing provision for the academic study of Jewish history and literature, in the universities and elsewhere. The trust will help to foster this most desirable development by a concern for the scholar and student in their academic and personal needs – an attitude characteristic of Cecil Roth's own human concern.

Members of the Jewish Historical Society of England, with which Cecil Roth was specially associated, have already responded generously to an appeal addressed to them. It is now up to the Anglo-Jewish community as a whole to show their appreciation of Cecil Roth and the work he did by supporting this appeal for objects which he had so much at heart.

We ask for contributions to be sent to the Cecil Roth Trust, c/o Lloyds Bank Limited, 263 Tottenham Court Road, W1. Forms of covenant and other information about the trust can be obtained from the hon. secretary, Walter Schwab, 61 Antrim Mansions, NW3.

(Sir) Isaiah Berlin (Sir) Alan Mocatta Leslie Paisner

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