

An Apology from the President, Dr Alison Salvesen, regarding the review by Michael Berkowitz in the BAJS bulletin for 2010 of Abigail Green's book *Moses Montefiore: Jewish Liberator, Imperial Hero*.

I would like to offer my apologies to Dr Green for certain misleading statements that were made in the course of this review. There were also some ad hominem remarks that were particularly inappropriate in a bulletin that is produced by and for the British Association for Jewish Studies, a professional body that has always been marked for its collegiality. The committee wishes it to maintain that reputation.

The review implied that Dr Green enjoyed advantages in terms of her family connections, extensive research assistance, publishing help, and funding, that were simply not available to other academics. These insinuations, especially the implication that there was some impropriety regarding her funding, are unsubstantiated. They are also contradicted by a closer reading of the Preface of the book itself. In this, Dr Green admits to her family connection at the outset, and openly records her thanks to all the research assistants, specifying their individual contributions (p. xii). Given the nature of the book's subject, it is hard to see how a serious work of scholarship could have been written on it without such extensive assistance. It is only to be applauded that she publicly recognized their important contribution to her work.

As for financial matters, in the Preface to her book (pp. xi-xii) Dr Green acknowledges that she received generous research funding from a number of named bodies. In a personal communication to the committee she has further detailed the amounts involved: "I was fortunate to receive funding of some £40,000 in total via two British Academy Small Grants (of about £5000 each), the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation (\$10,000), the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (\$7,500) and a very generous grant of about £20,000 from the Oxford University Research Development Fund, in addition to my annual Brasenose Research Allowance, an academic buy-out funded by the

History Faculty to cover one term's teaching, and grants from the Brasenose College Jeffery Fund and the Hebrew and Jewish Studies Unit to cover publication expenses (illustration costs)." It is hardly the case that such funding (which was largely from academic foundations) would be 'far beyond what typical scholars would ever imagine in the course of their careers', as the reviewer claims.

I hope that this sets the record straight.