

HISTORY OF THE JFS HOUSES

There are four Houses at JFS: Weizmann, Zangwill, Angel and Brodetsky. Each tutor group is named after one of the Houses and each House is named after a famous Jewish community leader.

Students' ties indicate which House students belong to:

Red (Angel), Blue (Brodetsky), Green (Weizmann), Yellow (Zangwill).

The following biographies briefly describe the lives and achievements of the people who gave their names to the JFS Houses.



MOSES ANGEL (1819-1898)

He was educated at H. Solomon's Boarding School at Hammersmith and at University College School. After further study at University College, London, he became a bank clerk and then took up teaching. In 1840 he was appointed Master of the Talmud Torah department of the JFS, and, soon after, he was made Headmaster of the entire school. Under his inspirational leadership the School rapidly developed and in 1853 was placed under Government Inspection. In the same year he instituted two Teacher Training departments in the School. So outstanding an administrator was he that even the National Education Department sought his advice.

In 1883 a Vice Headmaster, LB Abrahams, was appointed and four years later in 1887 Angel resigned as Headmaster and took on the less onerous task of "Principal", Abrahams succeeding him as Headmaster of the School. Angel published several books, including one on the Torah in 1858. He was one of the first editors of the Jewish Chronicle in the early 1840's. In this, he was associated with the then Haham, the Rev David Meldola.



SELIG BRODETSKY (1888-1954)

Brodetsky settled in England as a child and became a pupil of JFS. He then went to Cambridge and in 1908 achieved the great distinction of being bracketed "Senior Wrangler", of which the London Jewish community was very proud. Later he became Professor of Applied Mathematics at Leeds University and wrote several books including a "Treatise on the Aeroplane" (1920), a study of "Sir Isaac Newton" (1929) and "The Meaning of Mathematics" (1929).

Since 1928 he had been a member of the Zionist Organisation, and he was in 1929 a founder member of the Jewish Agency. Professor Brodetsky had many important communal offices. Indeed, it is difficult to think of any which he did not at some time or another fill with distinction. Among these positions he was President of the Board of Deputies, President of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, President of the Ben Uri Gallery and President of the Association of University Teachers.