

Anger as magazine promotes anti-Semitic pamphleteers

BY RUTH ROTHENBERG

The editor of *The Bookseller*, the book trade's weekly magazine, expressed anger this week over the publication in his magazine of a news item promoting anti-Semitic pamphleteers, Anglo-Hebrew Publishing

The item appeared in the "trade notes" section of the January 14 issue of the magazine, which has a circulation of 14,000 and goes to bookshops, publishers and libraries around the world.

It gave the name and address of the distributors for Anglo-Hebrew Publishing and details of how to order its publications.

Titles on the organisation's booklist include "The Murderers of Christ," "Shechita Barbaric," and

"Searchlight on a Searchliar," a reference to anti-racist activist Gerry Gable.

The name Anglo-Hebrew Publishing has also appeared on recent sophisticated anti-Semitic hoax leaflets which have been distributed in London, asking for donations of £1,000 to combat "anti-Zionism." These leaflets are now under police investigation.

The editor of *The Bookseller*, Louis Baum, who is Jewish, said: "We were not aware of the nature of Anglo-Hebrew Publishing's list. If we had been, we would not have published information from them.

"It is not our policy to give space in our columns to racist organisations. We do not like our columns to be abused in this way."

Deputy editor Penny Mountain said the item published was based on a press release sent in to the magazine.

"There are 22,000 listed publishers and we have to assume that people sending us information are acting bona fide."

Staff at the magazine were made aware of the blunder only after Judy Trotter, who runs the bookshop at the Sternberg Centre, saw the item and wrote off for a book list.

She said she was shocked by what she received. "It was awful," she said. "I sent it straight to the Board of Deputies."

A Board spokesperson said it was well aware of Anglo-Hebrew Publishing and had been monitoring its activities.