

ISSUED BY THE

**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

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## SOLIDARITY ENACTED

### London Session of the "Council of Jews from Germany"

On August 19 the Council of Jews from Germany, the representative body of former German Jews all over the world, of which the AJR is the British constituent, held a session in London. Apart from the Council's President, Dr. Leo Baeck, and the Vice-Presidents, Dr. S. Moses (Jerusalem), Rabbi Dr. M. Gruenewald (New York), and Dr. W. Breslauer (London), delegates from Israel (Mr. H. Gerling, Dr. H. Tramer), U.S.A. (Dr. H. Simon, Dr. H. Mueller, and Dr. M. Kreutzberger), Belgium (Mr. H. Schoemann and Dr. A. Philipsborn), and France (Dr. C. L. Lang), and members of the London Executive of the Council were present.

#### Address by Leo Baeck

In his opening address the revered President of the Council, Dr. Leo Baeck, stressed that the Jews from Germany had built up the Council not only in order to help one another but also, and in the first place, because they felt an urge to preserve and develop their precious heritage. Before the catastrophe there had been trends of a Jewish renaissance in Germany; these forces, Dr. Baeck stated, were not buried under the ruins of the past, but have retained their impact on former German Jews wherever they may live now.

In his report on compensation Dr. W.

Breslauer described the manifold efforts made by the Council in order to safeguard the interests of the Jewish Nazi victims from Germany in the legislative field. Several, though not all, demands of the Council have been incorporated into the Federal Indemnification Law, 1956. An assessment of the present position and some of the Council's requests with regard to the future policy are reflected in a resolution which was unanimously carried and which is published in this issue.

#### Constructive Social Schemes

The second major problem under discussion was the use of the proceeds from heirless property as far as it has been or will be allocated to the Council for the benefit of former German Jews. As readers will remember, after protracted negotiations an agreement for a share in these assets was reached with the Successor Organisation for the American Zone (JRSO). Furthermore, the Council participates in the proceeds of the Successor Organisation for the British Zone (Jewish Trust Corporation); this share has, however, to be used only outside the United Kingdom, whereas the assets allocated by the Jewish Trust Corporation for relief work in the United Kingdom are administered by the Allocations Committee

of the Central British Fund, at which the AJR is represented. Reports of the delegates revealed the plight of wide sections of the German-Jewish immigrants' communities in many countries of reception, including the United States, certain South American countries, and the formerly Nazi occupied countries, Belgium and France. The meeting arrived at an agreement on the proportion according to which the assets available and to be expected are to be allocated to the various German-Jewish communities in need. They will be used both for institutional purposes (especially Homes for the Aged) and individual relief work. It was realised that the funds will meet only part of the actual requirements.

The work to be coped with by the British section of the Council has considerably increased. It was, therefore, decided to elect a further London Executive member, Mr. W. M. Behr, as Vice-President in addition to the three other Vice-Presidents.

The presence in London of the delegates from abroad also offered a welcome opportunity for discussions on the work of the Leo Baeck Institute established by the Council to preserve the spiritual heritage of German Jewry. The preparation for the first Year Book to be published under the auspices of the Institute has reached its final stage and various other schemes have been initiated. Plans regarding future research work and publications, as well as questions of organisation and finances, were considered by the delegates.

### ENTSCHAEDIGUNGSANTRAEGE FUER ANSPRUCHSBERECHTIGTE AUS OSTDEUTSCHLAND

#### Zuständige Entschädigungsämter

Wie bereits in der Sonderbeilage zur vorigen Nummer von AJR Information erwähnt wurde, ist fuer Anspruchsberechtigte mit letztem Wohnsitz in der Ostzone die Entschädigungsbehoerde des Landes Niedersachsen zustaendig. Der niedersaechsische Minister des Innern hat nunmehr bestimmt, dass diese Antraege an die Entschädigungsbehoerde Hildesheim zu richten sind. Fuer Antragsteller mit letztem Wohnsitz in Ost-Berlin ist das Berliner Entschädigungsamt (Berlin W.35, Potsdamerstrasse 186) zustaendig.

*The AJR wishes its members and friends*

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Help us to accomplish our task by letting  
us have*

**Your Rosh Hashana Donation**

*(see enclosed leaflet)*

### FORDERUNGEN ZUR WIEDERGUTMACHUNG

#### Resolution des "Council"

Der "Council of Jews from Germany" hat auf seiner internationalen Tagung in London am 19. August die Probleme der Wiedergutmachung eingehend erörtert.

Er begreusst die Neufassung des Bundesentschädigungsgesetzes und drueckt seine Befriedigung aus, dass mit ihr vielen, wenn auch nicht allen berechtigten Forderungen der Opfer des Nationalsozialismus Rechnung getragen worden ist.

#### Beschleunigung der Zahlungen

Der "Council" erwartet die Bereitstellung erheblich erhoelter Bundes- und Laendermittel zur schnelleren Verwirklichung des Gesetzes sowie eine beträchtliche Vermehrung des Beamten- und Angestelltenstabs bei den Entschädigungsbehoerden und-gerichten, um die oft unertraegliche Verzoegerung in der Bearbeitung der Faelle zu beseitigen. Ueber Anspueche, die schon seit Jahren eingereicht und belegt sind, sollte unverzueglich entschieden werden. Ferner muss durch rasche Zahlung groesserer Vorschuesse die Notlage, insbesondere unter den alten und erwerbsunfaehigen Berechtigten, behoben werden, von denen

viele sonst befuerchten muessen, die Entschädigung nicht mehr zu erleben.

Der "Council" erwartet ferner baldige Verabschiedung und Durchfuehrung des Bundesrueckerstattungsgesetzes.

Die beschleunigte Durchfuehrung des Wiedergutmachungsprogramms setzt eine verstaendnisvolle und verantwortungsbewusste Zusammenarbeit aller Beteiligten voraus. Hierbei betrachtet der "Council" es als selbstverstaendlich, dass die Berechtigten und ihre Vertreter fuer eine sachlich einwandfreie Begruendung der Anspueche Sorge tragen. Nur durch loyale Zusammenarbeit aller Beteiligten wird dem Gesamtinteresse der Wiedergutmachung und ihrem rechtlichen, wie moralischen Charakter gedient.

Der "Council" der schon seit 1948 mit Hilfe fuehrender juedischer Wohlfahrtsorganisationen fuer die verantwortliche Vertretung unbemittelter Berechtigter durch Gruendung des United Restitution Office (jetzt United Resitution Organisation) gesorgt hat, wird auch in Zukunft die Durchfuehrung der Wiedergutmachung als eine seiner vordringlichen Aufgaben betrachten.

## OTTO KUESTER EXPECTED IN LONDON

### Public Lecture on Compensation

After the promulgation of the new Compensation Law, which now, apart from other improvements, has been extended to all emigrants from the former Germany, the Association of Democratic Lawyers from Germany has invited Mr. Otto Kuester (Stuttgart) to give a lecture on the final structure of the compensation legislation.

The name of *Otto Kuester* is known inside and outside Germany to all who are interested in restitution and compensation. He has always been one of the staunchest advocates and ardent supporters of a comprehensive solution which should do full justice to all victims of Nazi persecution. With full justification he has been called "*the conscience of Germany*." He was a leading member of the German delegation to the Claims Conference, which he left owing to disagreement with the Federal Government. His undaunted fight for the cause of indemnification led to many conflicts, which eventually brought about his dismissal as the head of the indemnification authorities of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

His articles and comments belong to the best publications about restitution matters and have been responsible for many improvements. His court address in the test case *Wollheim* versus the *I. G. Farben Combine*, with its passionate appeal for the eternal rights of mankind is a classic of forensic oratory.

His lecture will be given on *Monday, the 1st October*, in the Hampstead Town Hall (see special advertisement) and will elucidate certain aspects which are of interest to everyone who is entitled to indemnification.

## SCHADEN AN VERMOEGEN

### Berichtigung zur AJR-Sonderbeilage

In der Darstellung des Bundesentschädigungsgesetzes (BEG), die der vorigen Nummer der AJR Information beilag, ist bei der Behandlung der Ansprüche aus Vermögensschaden (Seite 9) in der Einleitung ein Druckfehler unterlaufen. Es muss heissen: "Für Schäden bis zu insgesamt 500 Reichsmark wird eine Entschädigung nicht geleistet."

## REPORT OF JEWISH TRUST CORPORATION

The Annual Report, 1954-55, of the Jewish Trust Corporation, set up to recover the heirless unclaimed Jewish property in the British Zone of Germany, reveals that up to the end of 1955 the J.T.C. had recovered approximately DM45,000,000. This figure does not take into account the financial result of the global settlement concluded with the City of Berlin in the last days of 1955. The offices of the Corporation have now been concentrated in one office in Muelheim.

The report also deals with the use of that part of the recovered assets which is administered by the Allocations Committee of the Central British Fund for the benefit of Nazi victims in this country. In dealing with the Homes for the Aged established or to be established out of these funds, the report describes it a matter of satisfaction that the first home (Otto Schiff House) met with the general approval of the Health Minister and the local authorities concerned. No lesser source of satisfaction, the report goes on, is the evident happiness of the residents and the excellent work of the House Committee consisting in the main of members of the Association of Jewish Refugees.

## PROPERTY RETURNED TO AUSTRIAN NAZIS

The Austrian Parliament has approved a law that the former members of the Austrian NSDAP shall be given back their confiscated property. Originally 10,000 houses, businesses, and real estates had been confiscated. Now only 1,300 are owned by the Austrian authorities; 30 per cent of these are to be returned.

## GERMAN RADIO REPORTS ON GERMAN JEWS IN ENGLAND

In July Frau Schmitz-Bunse spoke on the West German radio about conversations she had in England with former German Jews, who had immigrated to England after 1933. They told Frau Schmitz how they had managed to rebuild their lives.

### Jews in Propyläen-Biography

The Propyläen-Verlag (Berlin) is publishing a four-volume "*Deutsche Biographie*," with essays on the life and work of great Germans of all ages. The editors are Professor Dr. Theodor Heuss, Professor Dr. Hermann Heimpel (Goettingen) and Benno Reifenberg (Frankfurt a.M.). There will be, among other, articles on Heinrich Heine, Karl Marx, Heinrich Hertz, Paul Ehrlich, Max Liebermann, Sigmund Freud, Albert Einstein, and Arnold Schoenberg. The first two volumes have already been published; the whole work will be completed by April, 1957.

### Neo-Nazis Meet

The Neo-Nazi "*Deutsche Reichspartei*" in North Rhine-Westphalia held their first congress in Bochum. They urged the Federal Government and the Soviet Zone régime to form committees in preparation for the re-unification of Germany. The congress condemned the Adenauer Government.

### Monument for the Victims

By autumn, 1957, Duesseldorf is to have its memorial monument for the victims of the Third Reich. The monument will be 30 feet high and will be adorned by three symbolic figures, Faith, Love, and Hope. Its sculptor is Jupp Ruebsam.

### Judaica in Frankfurt Libraries

The Frankfurt Municipal Libraries have published a special catalogue of literature about the history and tragedy of the Jews. Its author is Gerda Bareuther. The catalogue contains 150 titles and is given free of charge to users of the libraries. It has five headings: Talmud and Bible, Jewish History, The State of Israel, The Third Reich and the Jews, and The Jews and Their Environment.

### Incident at Lawyers' Congress

The "*Nuernberger Zeitung*" of July 20 reports the following incident at the Paris Congress of the International Lawyers' Union:

In the middle of the session a Paris lawyer recognised among the German delegates the former head of the "*Juden-Abteilung*" of the German Civil Administration in France. Referring to the fact that her husband had been shot by the Nazis, she applied for the exclusion of the delegate. The session was adjourned and the German delegate declared his readiness to withdraw.

We invite you to a LECTURE by

**OTTO KUESTER**

STUTTGART

on

**DAS ENDGUELTIGE GESICHT  
DER DEUTSCHEN  
WIEDERGUTMACHTUNG**

on

**Monday, October 1, 1956, at 8 p.m.**

at

**HAMPSTEAD TOWN HALL**

Haverstock Hill, N.W.3

Non-member's entrance fee: 2/6

Association of Democratic Lawyers from Germany.

## In Parliament

### FORMER HUNGARIAN AND RUMANIAN PROPERTY

On July 31st, Sir Keith Joseph asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he will direct the administration of the Enemy Property Department to delay the distribution of former Hungarian and Rumanian assets, in order to avoid the injustice of depriving of their own property those victims of Nazi persecution who have so far been prevented from crossing the Iron Curtain.

Mr. P. Thorneycroft replied that with every sympathy for the Nazi victims he could not agree to prejudice the claims of the United Kingdom Creditors. In answer to a supplementary question Mr. Thorneycroft referred to the arrangement whereby about £250,000 from the assets should be made available to relieve the suffering of Nazi victims. (The contents of this previous statement were published in the August issue of "*A.J.R. Information*.")

### INDEMNIFICATION FOR NON-GERMAN NAZI VICTIMS

In answer to Major Beamish, Lord John Hope stated on the 1st August, that Her Majesty's Government had on several occasions pressed for adequate compensation for Allied Nationals who were victims of Nazi persecution; the new German legislation, he said, did not appear to make satisfactory provision for these classes of victims, though the Federal Republic has assumed this obligation under the Bonn Settlement Convention.

### APPEAL AGAINST DEPORTATION ORDERS

In a written answer to Mr. Younger, Major Lloyd George, the Home Secretary, stated that, in accordance with the European Convention on Establishment, in future it will be open to an alien against whom, otherwise than on the recommendation of a Court of Law, a deportation order has been made, to ask for a hearing by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of any representations that he may wish to make. The procedure will not be applicable to cases where a deportation order has been made on grounds of public security; or on the ground that the alien has landed in the United Kingdom without permission or, having been in the United Kingdom less than two years, has failed to observe the conditions attaching to his state.

### U.N. REFUGEE FUND

The plight of the refugees who are under the responsibility of the United Nations' High Commissioner was discussed in the House of Commons on the 2nd August, when Mr. A. Blenkinsop, Mr. Nigel Nicolson, and Mr. Philip Noel Baker called for an adequate contribution towards the badly-needed funds. In his reply the Foreign Under-Secretary, Mr. Douglas Dodds-Parker referred to the contribution so far made by the United Kingdom and expressed his full sympathy with the cause. He paid tribute to the memory of the late High Commissioner for Refugees, Van Goethart and promised to look into two suggestions made by Mr. Noel Baker, viz., that the Government should support the public appeal to be launched by a letter of the Prime Minister, and should ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give pound for pound as has so often been done before in the case of private funds.

### DISCUSSION ON INDEMNIFICATION LAW

Under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress, British Section, a discussion on the subject: "How Satisfactory is the New German Compensation Law?" will be held on Tuesday, September 11, at 8 p.m., at the Shaftesbury Hotel, Monmouth Street, London, W.C.2. The speakers will be Dr. Robert Hermann (Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia), Dr. S. Roth (World Federation of Jews of Hungarian Descent), Dr. F. R. Brassloff (Legal Department of the World Jewish Congress), and Dr. W. Rosenstock (General Secretary of the Association of Jewish Refugees).



## FROM THE GERMAN SCENE

### In Memory of the 20th of July

In Berlin the "Kuratorium des Hilfswerkes 20. Juli, 1944" organised a memorial celebration in the court yard of the former Ministry of War in the Stauffenberg- (former Bendler-)strasse. The President of the Bundestag, Gerstenmaier, appealed to the present generation, to fight, in the spirit of the German resistance movement, for a liberal State based on law and justice. In the Court of Honour in front of the place of execution an urn with soil from different concentration camps was dedicated, when on the eve of the ceremonies the Members of the Abgeordnetenhaus and the Senate of Berlin honoured the memory of the resistance fighters in Plötzensee prison. The Free University in West Berlin, the German radio, and the press also commemorated the revolt against Hitler.

### Students Honour Belsen Martyrs

To mark the 12th anniversary of the July 20 anti-Hitler bomb plot, representatives of the Student Parliament of Hamburg University placed a wreath on the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp memorial, which bears the inscription: "The students of Hamburg University honour the men and women of the other Germany."

### Von Seydlitz not to be Tried

The Court at Verden/Aller has decided that General von Seydlitz, whom the Public Prosecutor had accused of high treason, is not to be tried. The General had returned to Germany from Russian captivity in 1955. At the same time the sentence of death, which a Nazi Court had pronounced against him, was quashed. Von Seydlitz was the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the German troops in Stalingrad and later a founder member of the Committee "Freies Deutschland."

### Anne Frank Diary Staged in Berlin

During the Berlin Festival, which takes place from September 16 to October 2, the Schlossparktheater in Steglitz will stage the "Tagebuch der Anne Frank." The 14-year-old German-Jewish girl fled with her parents to Holland, was deported by the Nazis, and died in a concentration camp. The play had a long run on New York's Broadway.

### Compensation for Frankfurt's Nazi Police Chief

"Prisoner-of-war compensation" has been awarded to Adolf Heinz Beckerle, who was police chief of Frankfurt from the beginning of the Nazi régime until 1941. The Central Denazification Board had drawn attention to Beckerle's responsibility for the persecution of Frankfurt Jewry. After the city of Frankfurt had twice rejected his application for compensation Beckerle sued in the Administrative Court. The decision of the Court has raised expressions of indignation and protest amongst organisations of Nazi victims in Germany.

### Aid for Gauleiter

The city of Kassel granted compensation of D.M. 5160 to the former Gauleiter Hellmuth, according to the Heimkehrergesetz. The Minister of the Interior in Hesse has now declared this measure invalid and ordered that further legal evidence had to be produced.

### Court Decides Against Indemnification for Leading Nazi

The Bavarian Verwaltungsgericht in Munich refused the payment of an indemnification to the former Gauleiter of Magdeburg-Anhalt, Rudolf Jordan, who returned as a former P.O.W. from Russia.

### Proceedings Against Publisher

The Federal Minister of the Interior, Dr. Schroeder, has instructed the Bundeskriminalamt to confiscate 9,000 copies of the pamphlet by Eustace Mullins "Die Bankiersverschwörung von Jekyl Island" and to file a suit against the owner of the publishing firm, Guido Roeder, who is accused of distributing antisemitic tracts. The Minister declared he hoped to wipe out this Oberammergau Publishing House as soon as all evidence had been sifted.

### Teacher Desecrates Tomb

The tomb of the "saviour of Erlangen," Oberstleutnant Lorneberg, who surrendered the town to the Americans to avoid bloodshed and was shot by the S.S., was desecrated. Now the Erlangen police have found the perpetrator, a Sudeten-German junior teacher, who said that Lorneberg had not deserved a tomb of honour. The authorities are investigating whether the teacher can be held fully responsible for his crime.

### Skorzeny Alleged Arms Dealer

A French newspaper alleges that the former SS-officer Skorzeny, who liberated Mussolini, was selling arms to Algeria. From Madrid, the paper writes, where officially he has an import-export business, he provides the "Algerian liberation army" with arms.

### "Amazing"

The West-Berlin Senate has noticed the "amazing fact" that the former Reichsinspekteur of the SA often goes abroad as a representative of the "Deutsche Kriegsgraeberfürsorge." When he was summoned by the Berlin Denazification-Court he refused to appear because "he had no money."

### No Other Doctor?

In Salzburg the former K.Z.-internees feel injured and insulted: the German Consulate appointed as its official doctor, Dr. Gustav Feichtinger, who was an illegal Nazi before Hitler's invasion. He was arrested by the Americans after the war and had to stand trial before a Court in Linz.

He is the man who now examines former K.Z.-internees, applying for a pension from the German Federal Republic for damage to life and limb. The applicants refuse to be seen by Dr. Feichtinger.

### DEATH OF MR. LOUIS SCHURMANN

The AJR has suffered a severe loss by the sudden death of its Executive member, Mr. Louis Schurmann, at the age of 72. He was associated with the work of the AJR since its inception and during the last seven years also served on its Executive. Whenever his co-operation was required we could rely on him. Many people in our midst are indebted to his helpfulness, and the fact that a man of his standing in business life identified himself with our cause, was a decisive asset for building up and maintaining the organisation of the AJR. As the head of the well-known fashion firm, Strohbach, he enjoyed a wide reputation in Germany and, after his emigration, in this country. His high qualities as a successful business man were enhanced by deep interest in the spiritual and artistic values of life. Yet, above all, he will be remembered as a kind and helpful man. Whoever came under his spell was bound to develop feelings of deep affection for him. He will, therefore, be gratefully remembered by a wide circle of friends who feel united with his wife and his daughters in their sad bereavement.

## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### BRITAIN AND JEWRY

"In the last 300 years the British thread and the Jewish thread have been well and truly woven together," and "today there is no difference at all between Jew and Gentile so far as our national life is concerned." This was said by the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords, who represented H.M. Government at the Tercentenary dinner and ball held by the Board of Deputies.

"A British Jew may be British, but he is also a Jew," his Lordship said: "He is, if I may use such a metaphor, like a piece of shot fabric composed of strands of different colours yet woven together in a single web. Such a fabric may look different according to the angle from which we view it, but it is in fact all one fabric, only made more brilliant by the diversity of the threads which compose it."

The toast to British Jewry was supported by the leaders of the Liberal and Labour parties. Mr. Clement Davies spoke not only as a Liberal, but also as a representative of the Welsh people—a small people, he said, who had in the past suffered persecution like the Jews and who could therefore, better than others, understand the value of tolerance.

Mr. Hugh Gaitskell, the Leader of the Opposition, said that in building up the British civilisation, tolerance had played a very great part. And nobody could question, he added, that the contribution made by the Jews had greatly enriched the British people. "I have always been a tremendous believer in the closest possible collaboration between the Jewish and British peoples." Affirming his hope for a settlement which would secure peace for the State of Israel, Mr. Gaitskell said he knew there were Zionist and non-Zionist Jews, but "all Jews have the greatest sympathy for Israel. It is natural that it should be so."

### Work for Israel

The Chief Rabbi recommended that all the proceeds of the Kol Nidrei appeal this year be allocated to "organisations working in the cause of Israel."

After 22 out of 30 children of the Manchester Jews' School had gained entrance into grammar schools, the Chief Inspector of Schools in Manchester said that, while the average proportion of children so successful was 17 per cent, in the Jews' School it was 60.

### Appointments

Rabbi B. M. Casper, Minister of the Western Synagogue, London, was appointed to the newly created post of Dean of Students at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Mr. Neville Laski, Q.C., a former President of the Board of Deputies, Judge of Appeal of the Isle of Man since 1953, was appointed Recorder of Liverpool.

Mr. Lionel H. Daiches, 45, a brother of Dr. David Daiches, Lecturer in English at Cambridge University, is one of three new Q.C.s appointed in Scotland.

Dr. Solomon Wand, of Birmingham, was elected Chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association.

### Arab Antisemitism

Considerable disquiet was caused by the effect of the Arab anti-Jewish boycott on the general business life of this country. While the London Chamber of Commerce refuses to abet the boycott, some of the provincial Chambers have yielded to the Arab demands. In a statement to the Board of Deputies, the President, Mr. B. Janner, called upon the community to fight this sort of discrimination. "If we are able to break this boycott," he said, "we will be defending not only the rights of Jews, but the rights of all citizens."

The anti-Semitism practised in Stalinist Russia has now also been denounced by British Jewish Communists. Writing in their journal, *Jewish Clarion*, Professor Hyman Levy, one of their leaders, says "the last thing that Jewish Socialists have expected in the country of Socialism is the arousing of national bitterness and the extermination of the cream of Jewish intellectuals."



## FRANZ WERFEL, SHOLEM ASCH, AND THE PROPHETS

Franz Werfel's novel "Jeremias — Höret die Stimme" (S. Fischer, Berlin, and Frankfurt, 353 pages; D.M. 24.80), had been published in Stockholm before, but while it was in print the poet was dissatisfied with its topical framework emphasising the moral application of the story for our time. The first issue was practically withdrawn and the poet's widow, Alma Mahler-Werfel, was right in omitting what was contemporary, in the reprint. We have in "Jeremias — Höret die Stimme" Franz Werfel's poetic bequest both fulfilling his literary aim of a "Magischer Realismus" and presenting the climax of his religious quest as set out in "Können wir ohne Gottesglauben leben?" and in his posthumous "Theologoumena."

### Zweig's and Werfel's "Jeremias"

It is a far more complex work than Stefan Zweig's drama "Jeremias," which was a pacifist confession written at the end of the First World War and after 1933 was revived at the *Jüdischer Kulturbund* in Berlin. It was a poet's comfort at a time of suffering and, as Martin Buber points out, in his study "The Prophetic Faith" (Macmillan Company, New York), the Book of Job was born out of the experience of Jeremiah and his age.

When Stefan Zweig wrote his Jeremiah drama, Werfel was engaged in his first play, his adaptation from Euripides' "Trojan Women," and both works are very much akin in spirit. Werfel's "Jeremiah" novel, although an epic book, is the most dramatic work he ever wrote. This dialogue of Jeremiah with God succeeds in making us believe that this great prophet not only heard the voice of God but spoke to HIM. We know more about Jeremiah as a person than we do of the other prophets, which can be either an asset or a liability to a modern poet, and Werfel does not always escape the dangers of "literature." Whereas Jeremiah's relationship to his mother is deeply moving, it is a stage effect when she chooses, as Hamlet's mother did, a poisoned cup of wine to rescue her beloved son from his sister's-in-law hatred of the "idle intellectual."

### Priests and Prophets

The poet tells of the struggles of the prophet's inner and outer life: his attempts to shirk his calling, his doubts in HIS justice and his submission to HIS will; the antagonism between priests and prophets (we also catch a glimpse of the fate of Urijah and the prophetess Hulda); the part of the false prophet Hananiah, who is not made the villain of the story, an understanding friend and foe relationship existing between him and the hero. The Trojan Princess Cassandra was bestowed with the gift of prophecy by Apollo, but as a repudiated lover the god added the curse to it that nobody should heed her warnings. What a different story is that of Jeremiah! It is greatly due to him that we associate the word "prophet" with someone who foretells the future, but the word itself does not mean anything but "spokesman" ("Künder" is the word Werfel aptly chose), and the kings of Judah know only too well that he told what he had heard from God. Jehoiaquim, the only one defying both, prospers for a while, whereas his father, pious Josiah, perishes, perhaps because he was "too certain of God," but the poet's—and the prophet Jeremiah's—love belongs to those mighty ones who doubt in knowledge and know in doubt, Jehoiaquim's son (called Koniah here) and the last king of Judah, his former pupil Zedekiah. His heart is with the sufferers,

even if they persecute him. He converses with Egyptian Necho and with Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar, but suffers martyrdom from his own people. Greatest of all, harder than physical suffering, the destiny of his lifetime: to see those whom he loves doomed, being unable to save them. Love is denied to him, even of that Egyptian girl Zeuma, who seeks a way to God through her personal relationship to a young man of God. Often he had to part from his devoted disciple Baruch, the only touch of human warmth that reached him after his mother's death.

### A Drama in Guise of a Novel

A great human and superhuman drama in the guise of a novel. But it was in a poem that Franz Werfel first formed the prototype of prophetic and poetic inspiration: "Hier bin ich—fass mich an und schreib!"

Just as Werfel's "Jeremiah" was preceded by Stefan Zweig's work, Sholem Asch's biblical novel "The Prophet" (Macdonald & Co. Ltd., London, 331 pages: 16s.) had a forerunner: "Der Abenteurer Gottes," by F. A. Meissinger, about twenty years ago. His novel about Deutero Isaiah was no mean achievement, but whereas Meissinger stressed the parallels to the teaching of philosophers such as Pythagoras, Heraclitus, Buddha, Confucius, and Laotse, all exponents of a religious ferment in the same century of the pre-Christian era, Sholem Asch gives us a work about the second Isaiah in the Jewish tradition. He links him up with the prophet Daniel, an old man then, but still alive in Babylon. Deutero Isaiah, connecting the past with the future, is inspired by the words of the first Isaiah, who spoke two centuries earlier, to take on his name and to address the Jewish exiles in Babylon. His hopes are pinned on Persian Cyrus whose conquest of the Babylonian empire he predicted. But although the king granted the Jews permission to return to Jerusalem, the prophet realised that mighty Cyrus, who worshipped Babylonian Bel Mero-dach, could not be the expected Messiah. So he conceived the idea of the suffering servant of God as a Messiah, of Israel suffering to atone for her sins and then suffering on behalf of mankind to extend the kingdom of God to all nations. The young shepherd who called himself after great Isaiah the First finds the Jews in Babylon complacent and saturated, a great number of them not willing to leave the fertile country where their trade and commerce flourished. But there is a faithful remnant who abhor the idolatry of their surroundings and decide to abolish it in their own country after their return.

### From Tribal to Universal Religion

Asch's "Prophet" is a continuation of Werfel's "Jeremiah" not only in the sense that the second Isaiah lived after the older prophet. Jeremiah conceiving Nebuchadnezzar as God's servant, and asking the exiles to pray for the country of their captivity, has spiritualised Jewish religion and made the tribal deity more ubiquitous and a universal God. Deutero Isaiah had to suffer like Jeremiah, but compared with the permanent martyrdom of this man of sorrow his story is less dramatic. In spite of the lively description of the background and the skilfully built-up narrative "The Prophet" is a philosophical novel as much as an historical one, born out of the experience of our times.

Werfel's Jeremiah went through the underworld of Egypt in his quest for God, just as

## WRITERS IN OUR MIDST

An American psychologist described three different types of writers. The first are those for whom writing is an occupation, like selling soap or manufacturing hats. They do market research. They know who needs what. They cater for the vast demand of broadcasting, television, newspapers. They deliver entertainment. They provide reading material. It is a respectable trade. But nobody of the readers of the "Frankfurter," "Voss," "Berliner Tageblatt," let alone the readers of "Die Neue Rundschau" or "Weltbühne," would have called the material this type produces literature.

The second type writes the way other people eat or breathe; he is the writer who cannot help writing. Most of our good literature is written by this type who is easily depressed when unappreciated, even driven to desperation when he is not published or gets bad criticisms. Arnold Zweig is an extreme case of this type.

The third type is very rare. He is the genius who does not care in the least whether he is published, appreciated or not. Nor does he care if his writings are not fit for publication.

I mention these three types for a reason. In our little circle of émigré writers, from time to time, members read from their works. (By the way, everybody is welcome who wants to listen.) The other day one of our members\* became seventy, a lovable person, a rebel who did not publish much even before 1933. It turned out that he was writing a novel of which 1500 pages were finished, but only as a beginning. He knew of course that a novel of that length would never get published, anyhow not in his lifetime, but he writes on. He does not care.

His friend, that excellent actor Gerard Hinze, read part of the novel to us. It was what one used to call "ein Erlebnis." We witnessed an eruption, the great event of a creative mind splashing with a broad brush the smell, the taste, the colour, the perfume of human life on to paper, regardless of conventions and pleasantries. Nothing was empty, nothing trivial. It was that very rare thing, "Art," produced by an unpublished, unknown author of seventy. We were reminded that success is no yardstick, that at least in a community like ours, where all creative people work with a very great handicap, success should be written with a very small "s" and not admired as usual.

GABRIELE TERGIT.

\* His name is Justin Steinfeld.—The Ed.

the poet's Catholic "Bernadette" preceded his turn and return to a firmer established Judaism. Similarly, Sholem Asch, who became famous through his naturalistic play "The God of Revenge" in a Polish-Jewish milieu, worked his way back to his Messianic faith after embracing the "Nazarene" (Jesus) and even the "Apostle" (Paulus); his "Mary," however, is a relation of his Rachel, mother of Israel, and a direct way leads from his "Moses" to his latest biblical novel.

Asch's studies of the Messianic faith have been thorough and the story of his Deutero-Isaiah is nobly told. Perhaps he availed himself of Martin Buber's above-mentioned work (1949) which Werfel could not do. It is fascinating to compare both Asch's and Werfel's novels with Buber's scholarly book with which, on the whole, they are in keeping. Though endowed with a poet's vision, the theologian and philosopher would, of course, not endorse all the conclusions the two poets arrived at and the liberties they took.

When, at the recent International P.E.N. Congress in London, the problems of the historians were discussed, Sholem Asch exemplified by the Bible that Truth means much more than representing facts. He could claim the same for his biblical novel "The Prophet" and, by implication, for Franz Werfel's novel "Jeremias—Höret die Stimme."



Egon Larsen

## THE ROMANTIC REBEL

### Some Notes on Bertolt Brecht

A few years ago I watched Bert Brecht conducting a rehearsal of his comedy *Herr Puntila*, in East Berlin. He went meticulously through the lines and movements of his actors—he had all the time in the world, and six months' or even a year's rehearsals for a production of his *Berliner Ensemble* was the rule rather than the exception. Suddenly an idea struck him. Curt Bois, in a leading part, could make the scene a little funnier by tripping over a doorstep. Brecht told him to trip. Bois tripped. And Brecht roared with laughter. "Do it again," said Brecht. Again, and for the third and fourth time, Brecht laughed like a child at his own gag.

There was something essentially simple and unsophisticated in Bert Brecht's mentality, and perhaps it was this directness of thinking which was responsible for the outstanding power and impressiveness of his work. Over all the theorising and explaining to which Brecht the dramatist has been subjected in recent years we are apt to forget that he started his literary life as a poet, and that even the political playwright Brecht derived his strength from, and achieved his effects through, the sheer poetry of his work.

The young man from Augsburg returned from the first world war (he was only 20 in 1918) a confirmed anti-militarist. His early poems, later collected in the famous *Hauspostille*, his early plays—*Trommeln in der Nacht*, *Baal*, *Im Dickicht der Städte*—were those of a romantic rebel using the current literary idiom of expressionism—the German expressionism of 1920. But he was looking for a new dramatic form in which to convey his poetic images, and it was the turning point in his life as a writer when he met Kurt Weill, the composer, Brecht's junior by two years.

#### Birth-pangs of "Dreigroschenoper"

Heinrich Fischer, then literary director at Aufrecht's Theater am Schiffbauerdamm, in Berlin, once told me what feelings of despair overcame everybody at the dress rehearsal of the *Dreigroschenoper*. How could this conglomeration of wildly different elements possibly be a success with the fastidious, cynical, blasé Berliners? Brecht had used, as a basis of his plot, a 200-year-old English musical play, the "Beggar's Opera," transplanted it to the beginning of the twentieth century, steeped it in his own brand of social satire, embroidered it with his own lyrics, and added a liberal sprinkling of ballads from the fifteenth-century French poet, François Villon, in the brilliant translations of K. L. Ammer (without, however, mentioning this fact, which he later explained with his *prinzipielle Laxheit in Fragen des geistigen Eigentums* after Alfred Kerr had found him out). There was even a piece of Kipling (the *Kanonensong*) in it. Kurt Weill, on the other hand, had borrowed the new idiom of jazz, which all serious musicians despised as vulgar, and attempted to express simple, human emotions in it. "We felt that it was bound to end in disaster," says Heinrich Fischer, "and I racked my brain for an answer to the question: what should we put on if the show had to close down after the first night?"

As it happened, the *Dreigroschenoper* turned out to be one of the greatest—possibly the greatest—theatrical successes of our century in Central Europe. It would be unfair to ascribe this success entirely to Brecht's play; perhaps Weill's music was an even more important element: how important we may gauge by the sudden and inexplicable popularity of the *Mackie Messer* theme five years after the composer's death. It is tragic indeed that America and England should have made the acquaintance of the *Dreigroschenoper* only when its composer was already dead and its author nearing the end of his life. But the power and vitality of this work is such that although it expressed the very essence of the Berlin of the 'twenties, it was still able to capture the interest and imagination of New York and London thirty years later, in a completely different atmosphere. For us who "grew up" with it, for whom this work was indeed the expression of an era, its renewed triumph is a gratifying experience.

None of Brecht's pre-Hitler plays which came after this one achieved its success; *Happy End* and *Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny*, both again in collaboration with Weill, were no more than interesting failures. Shortly before Hitler's rise to power, Brecht wrote his *Heilige Johanna der Schlachthöfe*, but this serious play did not have much of a chance in Germany. Early in 1933 Brecht left Germany for Finland (where he picked up the story of *Herr Puntila und sein Knecht Matti* for later use). His final destination as a refugee was Hollywood.

He suffered the usual frustrations of a Continental writer in that town: scripts were commissioned and written, but either altered out of all recognition by the "old hands," or they never reached the studio floor. Eventually, Brecht moved to New York, where he and Erwin Piscator worked for the leftist "Center of Social Study and Research," and where he associated with Bruckner, Ernst Bloch, Alfred Döblin, Feuchtwanger, Oskar Maria Graf, Wieland Herzfelde, Heinrich Mann, Berthold Viertel, F. C. Weiskopf, and others in a publishing venture, the "Aurora Verlag."

During his American exile Brecht wrote a number of what he called *Lehrstücke*, perhaps best to be defined as poetic lessons for Communists—for their messages were rather unacceptable for those who did not adhere to the dogma. Much more successful, and widely played, was his *Tendenzstück* about the Spanish Civil War, *Die Gewehre der Frau Carrar*. He also wrote a series of pungent short scenes set in Nazi Germany, *Furcht und Elend des III. Reiches*. However, I believe that out of his period as a refugee writer only *Der gute Mensch von Sezschuan*, set in pre-revolutionary China, will survive for any length of time. It is not a brilliant play, but it is full of humour and humanity, showing his superb stagecraft which makes the weakness and absurdity of the story a little more palatable. We shall see it soon in London.

#### Achievements in Post-War Germany

His great period as a dramatist began in 1948 with his return to Germany. The Communist régime offered him all it had to offer—a theatre (the old Theater am Schiffbauerdamm), a separate theatre for rehearsals only, unlimited resources, *plein pouvoir* in choosing his material, his collaborators, his actors. Some, like Annemarie Hase, Curt Bois, and Betty Loewen, returned from emigration to join his *Berliner Ensemble*, whose director and "leading lady" was Brecht's wife, Helene Weigel. There are many critics in Western countries who are convinced that this troupe is the finest in Europe, perhaps in the world, and that Brecht was the leading dramatist of our time.

Two of his post-war plays, produced by himself, are certainly outstanding: *Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder*, a tale of the frustration of war from a novel by Grimmshausen, and *Der kaukasische Kreidekreis*, based on the Chinese fable which had already served Klabund as source material. To say that they are plays with a Communist tendency would be just as narrow as to accept Brecht's own theory of what he called the *Verfremdungseffekt*, and about which a great deal of profound-sounding nonsense has been written. But then, playwrights are never good theoreticians. What it boils down to is that he did not believe in immersing the spectator in a non-existing dream world; he wanted him to keep aware of the fact that he was looking at a play—a play which was meant to stimulate his thoughts, not to arouse his emotions, and which was meant to convey a lesson. I think that Schiller already was up to something similar when he spoke of "die Schaubühne als moralische Anstalt."

But Brecht also believed in Goethe's challenge to the theatre, "Schont nicht Prospekte und Maschinen." He used every technical finesse, and nothing was too expensive for his productions. I was told that he insisted that the palace gates in the *Kreidekreis* set should have genuine gold-leaf—and he got it. But he may have had to pay his price to the political rulers of Eastern Germany. There was that affair of his and Paul

## HEINRICH FISCHER—60

### Ein Leben fuer Karl Kraus

Heinrich Fischer, der vor wenigen Wochen nach 15 jähriger Taetigkeit in der deutschen Sektion der B.B.C. die Stellung eines Chefdraturgs beim Bayrischen Fernsehfunk angetreten hat, vollendet am 22.d.M. sein 60 Lebensjahr.

Fischer, in Karlsbad geboren, wurde zu Beginn der zwanziger Jahre zuerst durch Gedichte und Essays bekannt, die in der "Aktion," bzw. der "Weltbuehne" erschienen. Bald darauf wurde er Dramaturg bei Berthold Viertels Ensemble "Die Truppe" und von dort holte ihn Falkenberg an die Muenchener Kammerspiele. Die erfolgreichsten Jahre in Fischers Buehnenlaufbahn aber waren jene, in denen er als Mitdirektor am "Theater am Schiffbauerdamm" taetig war und die gekennzeichnet sind durch die Urauffuehrungen von Brechts "Dreigroschenoper" und Tollers "Feuer aus den Kesseln." Auf literarischem Gebiet zeugt die 1926 von Fischer herausgebrachte Anthologie "Die Vergessenen" ebenso fuer sein kuenslerisches Urteil wie fuer seine pazifistische Gesinnung.

Hitlers Machtergreifung trieb Fischer in seine boehmische Heimat zurueck. Vier Jahre war er am deutscher Sender Prag und an der Organisation "Urania" beschaeftigt, bis das Muenchener Abkommen ihn dazu zwang, als politischer Fluechtling in England Asyl zu suchen. Ein Jahr zuvor hatte ihm Praesident Benesch aufgrund seiner kulturellen Verdienste den staatlichen Herder-Preis zuerkannt.

Waehrend der Kriegsjahre hat Heinrich Fischer als Skriptschreiber und Regisseur an der B.B.C. versucht, den Nationalsozialismus geistig niederzuringen. Nach dem Zusammenbruch des Regimes war es sein Ziel, die Verbindungen zwischen England und den neuen Kraeften der Bundesrepublik neu zu knuepfen. Durch Hunderte von Vortraegen und Hoerspielen ueber kulturelle, literarische und historische Themen hat her sich bemueht, das Interesse deutscher Hoerer an Vergangenheit und Gegenwart der Demokratie Englands zu wecken.

So vielseitig Fischers Taetigkeit in den letzten drei Jahrzehnten auch gewesen ist, sein Hauptinteresse waehrend dieser Zeit hat der Persoenlichkeit und dem Schaffen seines 1936 gestorbenen Freundes Karl Kraus gegolten. Das Andenken an diesen grossen Moralisten und Zeitkritiker wach zu halten, seinem literarischen Werk die Anerkennung kommender Generationen zu sichern, hat Fischer als seine vornehmste Aufgabe betrachtet, vor der selbst das eigene Schaffen zurueckzutreten hatte. In zahlreichen Vortraegen und Essays hat er den Menschen und den Dichter Kraus seinen Hoernern und Lesern nahezubringen gewusst. Der unermuedlichen, aber behutsam vorgehenden Zielstrebigkeit Fischers ist es zu danken, dass bald nach Beendigung des Krieges in Deutschland eine Kraus-Renaissance einsetzte, die weit das Interesse uebertraf, das Kraus dort zu seinen Lebzeiten gefunden hatte. Nicht weniger als vier Baende seiner Schriften sind bisher im Koesel-Verlag in Muenchen erschienen, ein jeder mit einem tiefschuerfenden Nachwort Fischers versehen. Drei weitere Baende sollen in den naechsten Jahren folgen.

Nichts Besseres kann man Heinrich Fischer zu seinem Sechzigsten wuenschen, als dass seinem weiteren Schaffen der gleiche Erfolg beschieden sein moege wie dem bisherigen.

W. STERNFELD.

Dessau's opera, *Lukullus*, which he withdrew after the first night, and after a long discussion with his bosses. Surely he decided that such an occasional concession was worth the *plein pouvoir* he enjoyed otherwise. And there is no doubt that he believed, right to the end, in the Communist way of life. But Western theatre lovers would indeed be narrow-minded if they refused to acknowledge him for that reason as a supreme master of his craft, as a romantic and poetical dramatist whose work will influence playwrights and producers for a long time to come. The coming London season of the *Berliner Ensemble* may be an eye-opener for some theatrical artists who know him only by reputation. This tour has not been cancelled because of Brecht's death. He always believed in the motto of all those with *Theaterblut* in their veins: "The show must go on!"



## THE DEVIL'S DOCTOR

### Kersten's Book on Himmler

*The Kersten Memoirs, 1940-1945, written by Felix Kersten, with an introduction by Trevor-Roper, translated from the German by Constantine Fitzgibbon and James Oliver. Hutchinson, London, 314 pp. 21/-.*

Inevitably, the first reaction is: "Yet another book of memoirs! We have had enough of them! Perhaps this is another Nazi making sensational revelations!" But after reading the preface one is gradually convinced of the contrary, in spite of all scepticism. Trevor-Roper, whose authority and judgment will be accepted by everybody in these matters, reports in his preface that Kersten has been decorated for services to humanity during the period when the book deals. He is a Balt of German origin and was born in Estonia in 1898 as a Russian subject. In 1920 he became a Finnish subject. He studied manual therapy under a Chinese expert, Dr. Ko. He quickly got a reputation in this unorthodox art, and among his patients were the Duke Adolf Friedrich of Mecklenburg, and Prince Hendrik, the husband of Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. That country became his home. He went to Germany in the 'thirties, when Dr. August Diehn, the President of the German potassium syndicate, approached him and told him that Himmler who was always ailing, though he tried to conceal it, needed his help; perhaps Kersten could use the opportunity to persuade him not to nationalise industry. Kersten followed this unusual invitation, but made it a point always to return to Holland. Even in 1939 he refused to stay, but in 1940, when Holland was occupied, he had no choice. Himmler was so grateful to him that he confided in him absolutely. He made amazing confessions—and concessions, too—and it was in this way that Kersten was able to save thousands of people, Germans and Dutch, Scandinavians and Jews. Later on, the Finnish Legation enlisted his services to save Norwegians and Danes. He saved Dutchmen whom Hitler wanted to deport to Galicia and the Ukraine. The World Jewish Congress confirmed that he saved the lives of at least 60,000 Jews. He had friends in Himmler's environment, too, for instance, Brand and Schellenberg. However, Kaltenbrunner and Heydrich distrusted and hated him. Himmler had to threaten Kaltenbrunner in order to protect his doctor. In 1943 Kersten moved to Sweden and only went to Germany sporadically. At that time Himmler was no longer as omnipotent as

before and could not prevent it. Kersten saved seven Swedish business men who had been arrested in Warsaw for espionage. The Swedish Foreign Minister, Guenther, instructed him to do something for the Danish and Norwegian prisoners and the civilians, who were in the greatest danger in the case of a complete collapse. He saved French and Belgians, too. In the last phase of the war he made the biggest effort to prevent the plan to blow up the concentration camps. Count Bernadotte played a peculiar part in this affair and tried later on to claim the whole merit for himself at the expense of Kersten. For some time the whole issue was obscured. But the Dutch Government instructed the well-known professor, Posthumus, to make a thorough investigation, which has shown (1) that Kersten was never a Nazi, (2) that he had the main share in all these actions, (3) that he never did it for financial profit.

#### An Outstanding Document

Kersten describes his talks with Himmler, in a similar way to Rauschning many years ago in his book "Hitler Speaks." This makes the book an outstanding document. We already know very much about the queer personality of Himmler from Crankshaw's book about the Gestapo and from Frischauer's biography, but the supplementary material is valuable. It shows a peculiar mixture of romanticism as far as the aims are concerned and rationalism as to the methods. Like Hitler, he wanted to "plan" everything in life. It was an obsession of organising. Like Hitler, he was driven by a persecution mania. He saw conspiracies everywhere. This accounts for his antisemitism, which was further nourished by another obsession, the "nordic" idea. He lived in the Germanic past, trying to recapture it, dramatising and glorifying it in a way which had all the marks of a maniac. Kersten describes that he sometimes felt horror himself about the consequences. He had preferred wholesale expulsion of the Jews to wholesale extermination. He blamed Goebbels and Bormann, who talked Hitler into it. This is not new to us. Everybody put the blame on others. Goebbels, one remembers, put the blame on Ribbentrop, Ley, and others. But there was a third obsession: his doglike loyalty to Hitler. If Hitler gave orders, he remained silent. Then the issue was closed. Nothing could be done about it. And the same man made his "gifts" to Kersten, in the way described above, and Kersten made full use of the opportunity offered to him.

We learn Himmler's ideas about the freemasons (this comes into the category of persecution mania), the homosexuals, whom he hated, his endeavours to protect animals (he wanted to forbid hunting after the war!), about the formation of a new governing class, about State farms, about soldier-peasants, about his "Germanic religion," about the "chosen women" (even they had to be "organised"), and the ill-famed organisation "Lebensborn." We learn about the intention to occupy Sweden, the attempt to talk Finland into an expulsion of the Jews which was rejected by the Foreign Minister, Witting, the plan of creating a new Burgundian State, the European concept (under German hegemony, of course, and with a rejection of nationalism, naturally only as far as other countries were concerned), the Waffen S.S., and many other subjects. And Kersten reports more details about the Madagascar project, which was envisaged by Himmler as a solution of the Jewish question, about the transport of 2,700 Jews to Switzerland, and the projection of The Hague.

Kersten did not talk to Himmler only. He got other contacts, too, from Heydrich (he asserts that he did not completely correspond to the racial regulations of the Third Reich) to Hess, from Ribbentrop, who, by the way, expressed his contempt for Himmler because he was still too "humanitarian" (!), to Ohlendorff, one of the men of the Security Service (SD), and from Ciano, who complained that the Germans always looked angry and bad-tempered, to Buffarini, the Italian Minister of the Interior.

Trusting the authority of Trevor-Roper, one has to assume that there are no inaccuracies nor boasting, and taking this for granted one has to acknowledge that the book is a first-rate historical document.

Wenige Tage nach Verkündung des Gesetzes erscheint im Verlag Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland

#### Das Bundesentschaedigungsgesetz

in der neuen Fassung mit einer Einführung von Dr. H. G. van Dam. Ausserdem enthaelt die Broschuere das vom Bundeskabinett bereits angenommene Bundesgesetz zur Regelung der rueckerstattungsrechtlichen Geldverbindlichkeiten des Deutschen Reiches und gleichgestellter Rechtstraeger. ca. 160 Seiten—broschiert—DM. 7.80 oder 14/- einschl. Porto

Einige Wochen spaeter erscheint ebenfalls im Verlag Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland der grosse Kommentar zum

#### Bundesentschaedigungsgesetz

von Dr. H. G. van Dam—Regierungsrat Dr. Loos unter Mitarbeit von Oberregierungsrat G. Neumann. ca. 600 Seiten—Ganzleinen—DM. 37.—oder £3.3.0.

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## ANTISEMITISM IN AUSTRIA

At the meeting of the Federation of the Jewish communities in Austria a report was given about Austrian antisemitism today. The rapporteur said that there existed apparently small, but well-organised, groups, with plenty of money at their disposal, which represented the crack-cadres of the NSDAP and their militant units. Parliament and Government in Austria seemed to be willing, he said, to oblige a certain part of the Austrian population by abolishing or modifying laws and regulations, promulgated between 1945 and 1955. It was not true, the rapporteur declared, that they were enacted under pressure of the occupying powers. The authorities were forgetting deliberately that these laws owed their existence to the then fresh horror of Nazi brutalities and that only very few of them were inspired by Allied authorities.

Furthermore, it was said, the political parties considered the mere existence of Jews in Austria awkward as it was disturbing the "good" relations with former Nazis.

On the other hand, he stated, there was no acute Nazi danger in Austria, as it existed years before the Nazis took over. Without much ado, the Jews in Austria are cold-shouldered, ignored, and pushed into social isolation. Without any loud or even rude antisemitism, there is the "cold wall." The authorities feel strong enough to oppose the Nazi ideology, but they don't realise that they make one concession after the other to former Nazis and thus encourage and strengthen them politically. Neither do they realise to what extent Nazis have succeeded in getting jobs with the administration, the government, and in economic life.

The survey goes on to draw attention to the fact that the German Federal Republic is much more energetic and straightforward in its fight against any Nazi revival.

The Roman Catholic Church, it was pointed out, far from opposing Nazi trends, considers all Nazis to be poor, misguided victims who deserve pity and financial help. It is well known that any Nazi, however great his crime, was able to find shelter in the archiepiscopal palace in Salzburg.

## JEWISH REFUGEES IN BELGIUM

An impressive survey of the work done by Nazi victims in Belgium for their fellow refugees was given by the Chairman of the "Comité Israélite Des Refugies Victimes Des Lois Raciales" (COREF), the Belgian constituent of the "Council of Jews from Germany." In his annual report 1954-55 the Chairman of COREF, Mr. Hans Schoemann, reveals that out of the funds at the disposal of COREF substantial assistance could be given by way of grants, food parcels, clothing, medical treatment, and equipment. The report also describes the plight of many old refugees especially due to their inadequate accommodation. There are people up to 85 years who have to live in small attics.

#### Meeting of the Waffen-S.S.

In Goettingen 700 former members of the Waffen-S.S. (3. S.S.-Panzer division and 16. S.S.-Panzer grenadier division) took part in a "Suchdiensttreffen," which had been organised in co-operation with the German Red Cross. Some Danes, Austrians, Italians, and former members from the Soviet zone were present too.

#### Mosley in Bonn

The leader of the British Fascists, Mosley, visited Bonn. It is assumed that he consulted his German lawyer about the law suit he has brought against Dr. Adenauer. After the Naumann incident Dr. Adenauer declared that the neo-Nazi movements in the Federal Republic were financed by foreign Fascists, among them Sir Oswald Mosley.

#### Nazi Writer Honoured

The National Socialist "poet for the young and the soldiers," Hans Baumann, was awarded the Friedrich-Gerstaecker-Preis by the city of Braunschweig. The newspaper "Die Zeit" protests against thus honouring a man, who cunningly incited German boys to fight and to be killed in a senseless war.

The administration of the Spa Kuxhaven invited Hans Grimm and other Nazi authors to hold public readings from their own works.

#### Punishment for Antisemitic Insults

A court in Frankfurt sentenced a shopkeeper, Franz Kroner, to five months' imprisonment. He was accused of having made "rude antisemitic remarks." The judge said that the defendant had deserved severe punishment, because Jewish citizens had to be protected against abuse of this kind.



# JEWS IN GERMANY

## OPERA WITH JEWISH THEME

### Reaction of German Public

An interesting description of the impact made on the German public by a performance of Verdi's opera, "Nabucco," at the West Berlin Opera was reported in the *New York Times*. The opera is based on the sufferings of the Jews in the Babylonian captivity 2,500 years ago. Obviously the scenes of the opera brought home to the audience the plight of the Jews in their own days under the Nazi régime.

The paper writes: "Filling the stage are a hundred drably-robed Hebrew prisoners, most of them have their heads bent to the ground in abject misery. The scene recalls one of those pictures of Nazi concentration camps at the end of the second world war. . . . Foreign observers feel there is a psychological explanation for the extraordinary effect that this scene has on the emotions of the Berlin audiences. Berliners attend the theatre as middle-aged, middle-class Germans of some education. Yet they stand and clap their hands together and shout 'Bravo!' like so many Neapolitans."

"These Berliners lived as adults through the Nazi period. Many must have had Jewish friends before the Hitler time. Quite a few go to the opera past the ruin of a great stone synagogue that stands only 200 yards away on one of the approach streets."

"Perhaps, some foreign observers think, it is for many opera-goers an act of expiation to lose themselves in the tragedy of the Jews under the cruel Nebuchadnezzar."

"It is interesting that the royal trappings of the Babylonians are splashed with the red and black of the Nazi standards. There seems a symbolism, too, in the great figure of Baal, the Babylonian god, which appears on the backdrop above the throne, something like the great posters of Hitler or the vast swastikas displayed at Nazi gatherings."

### New Rabbi for Hamburg

Dr. L. Salomonowicz has been installed as Rabbi of Hamburg and Lower Saxony. Born in Poland, Dr. Salomonowicz was educated at the Frankfurt Yeshiva, at the Berlin rabbinical seminary, and at the University of Berlin. He later officiated as Rabbi in Kattowitz and, after having survived the Nazi concentration camp, was Rabbi of Malmö and South Sweden.

### Jews in East Germany

According to the statement of the East Berlin Jewish community there are now 1,279 Jews in East Berlin and approximately 1,000 Jews in all the other Eastern German communities. The cities in which Jewish congregations exist are: Leipzig, Dresden, Erfurt, Magdeburg, Halle Plauen, Schwerin and Chemnitz (now Karl-Marx-Stadt). It is estimated that there are furthermore some 3,000 Jewish-born residents in East Berlin and East Germany who are not members of Jewish congregations.

### DEATH OF FREDERICK VALK

The well-known actor, Frederick Valk, died suddenly in London at the height of his career. He started in Hamburg during the first world war and became a prominent actor in Germany and Czechoslovakia before he came to England. In this country Frederick Valk was seen in many parts both in plays and in films, and, already in 1948, he was awarded the prize for the year's best actor in recognition of his performance in "The Brothers Karamazoff." He played "Othello" and "Shylock" at the Old Vic and thus, apart from Elisabeth Bergner, became the only Continental actor who played Shakespeare in England. He also was the Shylock at the Shakespeare Festival at Stratford, Ontario, in 1955. His last performance, as the Russian Ambassador in Peter Ustinov's "Romanoff and Juliet," was highly acclaimed by everybody.

Frederick Valk's lovable personality has won him the hearts of many friends all over the world; those who were fortunate enough to know him personally will never forget him.

### Israeli and German Students meet

A meeting in Stuttgart, sponsored by a German association of democratic student organisations, was attended by sixteen students from Israel at present studying at various European universities. A discussion on the subject "Small States and Big Politics" resulted in an exchange of views on problems of German-Israeli relations and of general Jewish significance. It is reported that the meeting revealed a keen interest among the German participants, and led to sympathy and mutual understanding. The lecturers and discussion leaders included the non-Jewish author Albrecht Goes, as well as Dr. Hans Lamm, of the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany, and Dr. H. L. Goldschmidt, of Zürich.

### German Jew Released from U.S.S.R.

Herr Ludwig Gutmann, a cattle-dealer from Southern Germany, who had been detained in the U.S.S.R. for twelve years, has been released following the intervention of the West German Embassy in Moscow. Originally deported to Riga he had succeeded in fleeing to the Soviet lines, but in spite of being a Jew was jailed for six years on charges of "espionage for Nazi Germany." Afterwards he was assigned as a labourer to a shoe-factory at Slutsk in White Russia.

### Joachim Prinz in Germany

The former Rabbi at the Friedenstempel in Berlin, Dr. Joachim Prinz, completed a lecture tour through the Federal Republic. Dr. Prinz, now a Rabbi at Newark, USA, lectured in Berlin, Hamburg, Duesseldorf and Frankfurt

### Frankfurt Lecture on Theresienstadt

The author of the book about Theresienstadt, H. G. Adler, lectured at Frankfurt University about the same subject.

### Jewish Film Director Decorated

The film director Walter Koppel (Real Film, Hamburg) was awarded the Great Cross of the Federal Order of Merit. Burgomaster Engelhard presented him with the insignia in Hamburg.

### South African Chess Champion

An occasional correspondent of this paper, W. Heidenfeld, of Johannesburg, who contributed an instructive article on South Africa to our brochure "Dispersion and Resettlement," is now in this country as the South African chess champion—a distinction he has held since 1939. He is competing in the British Chess Championship at Blackpool, the first South African to do so since 1921. He had previously won second prize at the international chess tournament at San Benedetto del Tronto and came fifth in a strong international field of 28 at Ancona. Heidenfeld, born in Berlin in 1911, emigrated to South Africa in 1933. During the war he worked in the South African Jewish Board of Deputies' Press Department.

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## 80th BIRTHDAY OF BRUNO WALTER

September 15

The B.B.C. recently broadcast a recording of Bruno Walter rehearsing a Mozart symphony. What one heard confirmed the description, in Grove's Dictionary of Music, of this great conductor as one who regards his "players as friendly collaborators." Kindness and friendliness are indeed characteristic of the man, and they are reflected in the musician, paired, however, with "a certain ruthlessness in the cause of art" (Grove). How could it be otherwise with one whose artistic personality had been decisively formed by Mahler, the uncompromising? Yet Walter possesses a more harmonious balance than his mentor: "I hate shyness in art much as I approve of it in life," he said once.

Walter was born in Berlin, where he studied at the Sternsche Konservatorium; his early appointments include one at the Royal Opera House. Then followed important years in Vienna (1901-12)—first under Mahler—and Munich (1913-22). In 1925, he returned to his native city to take charge of the Charlottenburg Opera, combining this post, from 1930 on, with the conductorship of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Concerts. Many will recall the dramatic circumstances of his enforced withdrawal in 1933—at which, regrettably, Richard Strauss (whose music he had served so well) connived, and against which Furtwängler launched a public protest.

Walter went to Austria and helped to establish the Salzburg Festival until, in 1938, he had to "move on" again, this time to France. During this period, he devoted himself to the new Lucerne Festival. In 1939, he left for U.S.A. Since the end of the war, he has resumed many of his activities in Europe.

A refugee, indeed, though his international fame saved him from most of the tribulations usually attached to repeated emigration. Hitler (according to his published "Table Talks") did him the honour of finding no merit whatever in his conducting—on the other hand, the foremost representative of the "other Germany," Thomas Mann, had been Walter's lifelong friend.

It is as an authoritative interpreter of German and Austrian music that Walter has been accepted all over the world. But his is an almost universal taste: he could render sterling service to the intensely German art of Pfitzner whilst, from his early years on, excelling in Verdi; the septuagenarian sponsored Shostakovich. As is well known, his fame rests particularly on his readings of Mozart and of Mahler, of whose last and greatest works he was destined to conduct the first performances. Throughout his life, Bruno Walter has remained a loyal servant of the master who once wrote to him: "Ich weiss niemanden, von dem ich mich so verstanden fühle, wie von Ihnen, und auch ich glaube in den Schacht Ihrer Seele tief eingedrungen zu sein." It was Walter who introduced Kathleen Ferrier to the art of Mahler, and their co-operation led to unforgettable performances (made permanent on records). This happened after the last war, but Walter's undoubted popularity in this country dates back to his first visit in 1909. A year later, he conducted an English opera at Covent Garden: Ethel Smyth's "The Wreckers." Between the wars, he was in charge of three "German Seasons" at Covent Garden. When he returned to this country after the war (now including Edinburgh among "his" festivals) many of our friends flocked to his concerts. To hear him again brought nostalgic joy, for he is to us one of the few remaining links with past happiness. Time has changed him to some extent: to say that he has mellowed would be wrong; mellowness has always been his. To it, he has now added a sense of the monumental and, perhaps, a touch of classic severity.

It has been Bruno Walter's privilege to bring much happiness into the lives of his fellow-men. His name has figured prominently over more than half a century, the musical atmosphere of which he has helped to create. The cultural life, especially of Central Europe, would have been much poorer without him, and that is saying a great deal. In the turmoil of the era, he has remained what he always was: a seeker after truth and beauty as revealed in music.

H. W. FREYHAN.



## TWO SEPTUAGENARIANS

### DR. F. R. BIENENFELD

Dr. Franz Rudolf Bienenfeld, born in Vienna on September 27, 1886, belongs to the generation of Austrian jurists who were brought up and entered public life during the last critical period of the Danubian empire. Endowed with an unusual sagacity, eloquence, wit, and personal charm—qualities which he happily preserved up to the present day—he soon gained renown as one of Vienna's most distinguished barristers. The government, too, made use of Bienenfeld's great abilities and engaged him as legal adviser in matters of food supply. At the same time he also excelled as a legal theorist. His work, *Haftungen ohne Verschulden*, published in 1932, is a valuable study about "liabilities without fault" for accidents caused by railways and other public enterprises.

The fateful year 1933 meant also in Bienenfeld's life a radical change. More than ever before, he—an offspring of the famous hasidic Rabbi Schmelke of Nikolsburg—became conscious of his link with the Jewish people and its spiritual values. In 1934 he published the book *Deutsche und Juden*, a penetrating historical and sociological analysis of the greatest crisis which the German Jews had ever encountered. With clairvoyant insight he predicted that the Jews were about to shift from the German sphere of mutual influence to the realm of the English-speaking peoples: "The German period of Jewry has now come to an end, the Anglo-American period has begun." The book soon went into new editions, was translated into French and English, and won Bienenfeld the distinction of one of Western Jewry's spokesmen.

The next task which Bienenfeld set himself was an inquiry into the creed of the Jew who has lost the connection with the religious tradition and does not observe the ceremonial law. Under the title *Die Religion der religionslosen Juden*, he put forward the theory that the ideas of justice and of fraternal equality, the predominance of knowledge and reason, and the belief in a this-worldly Messianism and the fulfilment of man's mission on this earth constitute the unifying elements of a specific unorthodox attitude in which the ancient Jewish faith has been preserved in a transfigured form. Bienenfeld finds an empirical proof of this doctrine in the agreement which exists between the otherwise different sociological and ethical systems of three Jewish thinkers: Karl Marx, Joseph Popper, and Walther Rathenau. Each of them reflects, in Bienenfeld's opinion, those four basic Jewish principles in a proper individual manner. His lecture held under the above-mentioned title on November 10, 1937, in Vienna before a huge audience (published as a booklet and quite recently republished) was one of the last noteworthy events in the cultural life of Austrian Jewry before the then tragically impending catastrophe.

Soon afterwards, Bienenfeld had to share the fate of the Jewish exiles. England became, after a stay in Switzerland, his refuge and, later on, his second homeland. From the very moment he had settled in this country, Bienenfeld was, almost without interruption, active in the interest of the Jewish refugees and of the Jewish cause at large. By the foundation of the *Jacob Ehrlich Society*, he created a centre and forum for the Jewish refugees from Austria. Within the Executive of the "Association of Jewish Refugees," too, Bienenfeld's counsel and suggestions were heard and proved invaluable. But, above all, he performed a pioneering work as the head of the Legal Department of the World Jewish Congress, British Section. Credit is due to him for having, as one of the first among the international lawyers, succeeded in elaborating the principles which have to govern the legal treatment of the devastating effects brought about by the premeditated and planned outlawry, plunder, and extermination of Jews by the Nazis. After the end of the war

Bienenfeld strongly influenced the negotiations with Austria about Restitution.

It is indeed not only Bienenfeld's deep attachment to the Jewish people but no less a burning desire for justice that inspires him to his tireless efforts on behalf of the Jews. His splendid memoranda about internationally recognised and binding principles had a substantial share in the preparation of the legal basis for the Nuremberg trials. Moreover, the deadly attack to which the very idea of Justice had been exposed in our own day prompted Bienenfeld to explore systematically the whole complex of questions centred around that fundamental concept. In his work *Rediscovery of Justice*, published in 1947, he raised "the crucial question of all jurisprudence whether and when justice is superior to Law." His answer was based on his "theory of the Relativity of Natural Law" according to which "any legal system which infringes principles of Natural Law as recognised and considered self-evident in a particular period of evolution produces no Law at all." The fascinating display of his conclusions and prospects culminates in Isaiah's Messianic vision which Bienenfeld interprets as the expression of man's subconscious desire for Justice and Peace. Thus once again the ideals of Bienenfeld the lawyer and the Jew prove identical.

But there is for Bienenfeld's productive mind no end to meditation and fighting activity. Only recently he offered valuable guidance in a thorough study about the claims to which Nazi victims are entitled according to the Austrian Treaty.

We have no better wish for him than that, for many more years to come, he may, in the best of health, be able to continue his search and struggle.

FRANZ KOBLER.

### PROFESSOR S. J. LENGYEL

Professor S. J. Lengyel, the very popular President of the British Centre of the World Federation of Jews of Hungarian Descent, will celebrate his seventieth birthday on September 15.

Professor Lengyel, who is an internationally recognised expert on insurance matters, began his career in Hungary where, already before the first world war, he had organised the Hungarian Institute of Chartered Accountants. He was a teacher at the Hungarian Academy of Commerce and, later, became head of the Insurance Department at the Ministry of Finance. At the end of the first world war he moved to Vienna where he headed the "Anker" Insurance Company on behalf of the Swiss "Allgemeine Rueckversicherung A.G." until the advent of Hitler in 1938. He first came to England in 1939, but went to Melbourne in 1940, where he became a professor of economics at Melbourne University.

With his vast knowledge of statistics, he reorganised both the teaching of statistics at Melbourne University and the statistical system of part of Australia. After the second world war he came back to England where he continues to write books and articles for the great international publications, of many of which he is the editor.

The great distress in which the small remnant of Hungarian Jewry found itself as a result of both Nazi and Communist persecution moved Professor Lengyel to organise refugees of Hungarian Jewish origin in this country in order that they might assist their brethren in Hungary. Although the relief of needy Jews in Hungary was originally the main objective of the Federation of Jews of Hungarian Descent, the ever-pressing needs of Hungarian refugees who live here forced the organisation to extend its activities far beyond those envisaged in the first place.

Professor Lengyel rose to the call of the hour, and it is for this reason that he enjoys such great popularity, and the love and admiration of all who know him and who join us in wishing him "Many Happy Returns."

## Old Acquaintances

**They Came to London:**—Among the many visitors from Hollywood who are working in films are several of our old friends from Berlin and Vienna, and your columnist really should move to the Dorchester, where they usually stay. Billy Wilder, whom we remember as a gigolo in Berlin's "Eden Hotel," came over from Paris, where he is directing a remake of the famous Bergner picture "Arianne" under the title "Love in the Afternoon," with Audrey Hepburn, Gary Cooper, and Maurice Chevalier. The list of his successes is rather impressive, and with such films as "Lost Week-end," "Sunset Boulevard," "Sabrina Fair," and "The Seven Year Itch" to his credit, he just finished the Lindbergh picture, "The Spirit of St. Louis," with James Stewart in the solo part; at 50, is one of the top directors.—Fritz Lang also returned to Europe for the first time after more than twenty years, on his way to India, where he will make his next picture. When you remember that Lang started with "Der muede Tod" shortly after the end of the first war, it's amazing how youthful he still is. "Dr. Mabuse," "Metropolis," "Nibelungen," "Frau im Mond," "Spione," and "M"—which one is your favourite?—are classics already; by the way, he likes "M" best. In the meantime he has kept up his high standard in the States by directing such pictures as "Fury," "Woman in the Window," "Scarlet Street," and "Rancho Notorious," with Marlene Dietrich. I don't think he would mind working in Europe for a change.—Vienna-born Otto Preminger, who directed "Laura," "Carmen Jones," and "The Man with the Golden Arm," is preparing Shaw's "St. Joan" here, and is making a world-wide search for a young girl to play the lead; it will be followed by "Bonjour Tristesse" next spring.

**Just a Story:**—Fritz Kortner, who is well known for his *ban mots*, said: "The trouble with the new Germany is that nowadays every German town wants to be like Berlin before 1933—even Berlin."

**Walter Rilla Twice:**—It was in 1925 when Max Reinhardt brought the first post-war German ensemble to London and Walter Rilla played the only speaking part in "Sumurun." Sitting cross-legged on the stage he was rudely interrupted in his opening speech by a man in the audience shouting "Go back, you Huns." Ten years later he stood again on an English stage in "Victoria Regina," this time as a voluntary refugee, and scored a personal success for the second time. In the meantime, Rilla has become a British star of the theatre and film. Just now he can be seen and admired at the Westminster Theatre, where he is Dr. Bartok in Harald Bratt's "The Night of the Fourth," a psychological thriller; it will run for months. Hans May, by the way, wrote a haunting theme song for the production. At the same time, W.R.'s second novel, "Laucaian Leap," was published by Neville Spearman (and will appear under the title "Ohnmacht des Herzens" in Kindler-Verlag in Munich). It's the story of a middle-aged professor in love with a sixteen-year-old girl whose mother he marries, sensitively and passionately written. This timeless book ends like a classical tragedy and is most moving.

**Milestones:**—Vienna-born Willi Frischauer, who is in a leading position on the staff of London's "Picture Post," celebrates his 50th birthday this month; he is almost the only Continental journalist who has had permanent success in Fleet Street. Groomed by his uncle, Emil Klebinder, in Vienna's "Sonn- und Montagszeitung," he came to England in the early 'thirties and worked first as a freelance on nearly every newspaper. He published several books—"Twilight in Vienna," "The Nazis at War," a "Goering" and "Himmler" biography, and "The Navy's Here"—and travelled extensively for British papers.—In Paris, where she lives as an agent, Betty Stern celebrated her 70th birthday last month. In her native Berlin she was the famous hostess of actors and artists, and her salon was a meeting-place for everybody who was anybody. On her desk in the tiny office at the Champs-Elysees is a pot with earth from Berlin in which she wants to be buried one day. Loved by all her clients, B.S. is now a well-known personality of international reputation in the world of the theatre and the films.

PEM

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## LETTER FROM JERUSALEM

Israel is just like other countries, only a little more so—it was once said. Of course, Israel will be represented at the 21-nation-competition in Paris for the title of "World's Girl of the Year." Only that the Israeli candidate in the beauty contest must not merely be beautiful but, so their promoters decided, have quite a number of other qualifications—she has to be a typical "sabre."

What is a sabre? Apart from a pleasant appearance, she must be of "real Israeli character"—non-sophisticated, kind-hearted and non-aping of foreign dresses and manners; of "natural charm"—without lipstick, make-up and even perfume; and she must have "brains," a general education, social orientation, and political consciousness.

Should the girl be lucky enough to be the winner, then the money will go into a trust fund in Israel to be used for her further education.

★

That Jerusalemites literally tread on history wherever they step was again proved the other day in the middle of the residential district of Rehavia. When blasting operations were in progress for the foundations of an apartment house, the workmen suddenly came across three large rectangular vaults, cut into the stone—a Jewish burial place of the first century B.C. Two charcoal drawings of Roman galleys drew especially many sightseers.

Everybody was happy—except the building contractor. Under a law for the protection of places of historical significance the Department of Antiquities has halted further construction work, pending the completion of the excavations.

HERBERT FREEDEN.

## A CENTENARIAN IN OUR MIDST

Mrs. Malwine Zimmt

Mrs. Malwine Zimmt (née Baruch), 25 Kensington Park Gardens, London, W.11, celebrated her 100th birthday on August 20. She was born in Poznan, and, later on, lived in Gera. During the war years, which she spent in Nizza, she had to go into hiding for some time. Later on, Mrs. Zimmt came to England where she now stays with her daughter, Mrs. Martha Machol. She celebrated the rare occasion in the best of health with her daughter, her married grandson with his wife, and her seven-year-old great-granddaughter.

Mrs. Zimmt's brother, a doctor, emigrated to the United States of America as a young man. He was the father of Mr. Bernard M. Baruch, the famous elder statesman. Whenever Mr. Bernard Baruch comes to London he does not fail to pay a visit to his aunt.

The AJR has expressed its good wishes to Mrs. Zimmt, who, no doubt, is the oldest German Jewess in this country.

## OBITUARY

THE REV. E. K. SAWADY

It is announced with deepest regret that the Rev. E. K. Sawady, Minister of St. George's Settlement Synagogue, London, passed away at the early age of 40. Mr. Sawady who, prior to his emigration, lived in Berlin, came to this country as a refugee. He was a devoted Minister to his congregation and, as a gifted teacher and youth leader, was loved by all who worked under his guidance. We express our sincerest sympathy to his wife and his family.

The former Berlin lawyer Ernst Ries passed away in New York recently. By his selfless devotion to his clients and friends and his upright character he endeared himself to a wide circle of people, both in Berlin and, after his emigration, in Chile and in New York.

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## DEATH OF DR. RUDOLF GEIGER

Dr. Rudolf Geiger, formerly Frankfurt on Main, passed away in New York, aged 83. Prior to his emigration he was a successful and widely known lawyer. At the same time he took a leading part in German-Jewish affairs, especially as "Syndicus" of the Frankfurt community and as Vice-Chairman of the Jewish Central Verein. After he had gone to the United States in 1940 he held honorary offices with the Congregation Habonim and the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe. In an appreciation, published in the "Aufbau," Friedrich S. Brodnitz describes Dr. Geiger's outstanding personality, in which a fighting spirit was blended with deep human understanding, and his manifold gifts, last not least as a negotiator and mediator. By his death, Friedrich S. Brodnitz writes, we have lost one of the last chivalrous fighters of the old school, who are getting increasingly rarer in the political life of our days.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### JEWISH CEMETERY IN HAMBORN

Ich war jungst in Deutschland, wo ich das Grab meines Vaters auf dem Friedhof Hamborn Beek besuchte. Der Friedhof, dessen Schlüssell sich beim Katholischen Friedhof Ostacker befindet, war vollkommen vergessen und vernachlässigt. Auf Anraten des Verwalters, der äusserst hilfsbereit war, wandte ich mich an die Stadt Duisburg. Ich erhielt die folgende Antwort, die, wie ich annehme, Lesern, deren Angehörige auf dem Friedhof ruhen, zum Trost dienen wird:

"Von Ihrem Schreiben habe ich Kenntnis erhalten und werde selbstverständlich dafür sorgen, dass das Grab Ihres Vaters und darüber hinaus der gesamte Friedhof fuer die Folge wuerdig gepflegt wird. Ich bedaure sehr, dass Sie die Grabstaette Ihres Vaters anlaesslich Ihres Besuches in Deutschland in einem ungepflegten Zustand vorgefunden haben."

Frau Anneliese Phillips.  
geb. Hirsch.

8 Danes Court,  
Wembley Park, Middx.

### THE LATE MR. B. KAUMHEIMER

Sir,—As the former Secretary of the South African Fund for German Jewry in its most difficult days, i.e., the days when the new Aliens Act made the immigration of refugees to South Africa much more difficult than it had previously been, I desire to pay tribute to Mr. Bernhard Kaumheimer whose death was announced in your

August issue. Thousands of people who arrived in the Union without any money of their own and who are now firmly established in that country owe more to him than to anyone else.

Nobody would ever go to him without finding in him a man who had a profound understanding for his particular troubles and his advice was always of a very practical nature.

What impressed me most was the manner in which he carried out his duties as a chairman at the Fund's weekly meetings. He would over-rule all quibbles and support Mr. Jack Alexander, the General Secretary, now in Israel, and myself in all appeals on behalf of, in particular, elderly and somewhat awkward people who wanted to start in business or needed temporary financial assistance during their early days in exile. Though always an extremely busy man—besides being the head of his own business he was also the Chairman of the Johannesburg Building Society—he would, even in his office, listen patiently to refugees who went to him for his counsel. In cases where other members of the Committee had abandoned hope he alone would not fail us.

Mr. Kaumheimer was endowed with a great sense of humour and the ability to cheer up people in distress. He signed an enormous number of guarantees to allow people to enter the Union.

I desire to take this opportunity to express our deepest sympathy to his family amongst whom his elder daughter, Dr. Ellen Hellman, is the well-known writer on South African affairs and a speaker at many international conferences.

### "REICHSVEREINIGUNG" ALS WERKZEUG DES REICHES

#### Bedeutsamer Heydrich-Erlass Gefunden

Die Obersten Rueckerstattungsgerichte hatten bereits anerkannt, dass die "Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland" Vertreter, Werkzeug und Organ des Reiches fuer die Ausfuehrung seiner Politik hinsichtlich der Juden und des juedischen Vermoegens war, und dass daher bei Entziehungen durch Uebertragung von Vermoegensgegenstaenden auf die Reichsvereinigung das Reich als Entzieher zu behandeln ist. Diese Rechtsprechung findet ihre Bestaetigung in einem erst jetzt bekannt gewordenen Runderlass des Reichssicherheitshauptamts Berlin vom 2.4.1942, der die Unterschrift Heydrich's traegt, und der die Staatspolizeileitstellen darauf hinweist, dass das Vermoegen der "Reichsvereinigung" und der juedischen Kultusvereinigungen "vor allen Dingen der Endloesung der europaeischen Judenfrage" dienen solle; es sei daher "nicht mehr schlechthin als juedisches, sondern letztlich als ein bereits fuer Zwecke des Deutschen Reiches gebundenes Vermoegen zu betrachten."

In conclusion I desire to emphasise that it was Mr. Kaumheimer who personally was responsible for the establishment of the Old Aged Home in Johannesburg on which you reported some time ago and to which he contributed amply from his own funds.

F. RANSOME, A.I.L.

4 Prima Road,  
London, S.W.9.  
August 16, 1956.

### FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 18th of the month.

#### Golden Wedding

Mr. George and Mrs. Beatrice Callmann (née Flatow), formerly Stettin, celebrate their Golden Wedding on September 16, 1956. They were married in Berlin. Address: 33 Grange View, Leeds, 7.

#### Deaths

Mrs. Elise Mottek, formerly of 83 Greencroft Gardens, N.W.6, passed away peacefully in Digswell, Welwyn, on July 23 at the age of 75.

Mr. Siegfried Schwabinger (formerly Berlin) passed away on July 21 at the age of 74. Deeply mourned by his widow, Erna (née Blumenstein), of 77 Gilling Court, Belsize Grove, N.W.3.

Mrs. Alice Martha Cohn (née Cohn), aged 56, of 8 Ebbsfleet Road, N.W.2, died after a short illness on July 31, 1956. Deeply mourned by her husband, Mr. Richard Cohn.

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BOOKKEEPER / CORRESPONDENT, good ref, long time in last firm, wants position of trust. Box 163.

BOOKBINDER, neat worker, can accept more customers. Box 164.

#### Women

SHORTHAND - TYPIST / BOOKKEEPER, exp. English, German, French, shorth.-typ./bookkpng, wants additional work evenings or/and week-ends. Box 165.

ELDERLY WOMAN wants light work, pref. with children, part-time. BOX 166.

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ISRAELI GIRL of 17, studying English for 8 months, wants to live with Jewish family au pair. Need not be kosher. Box 173.

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#### Miscellaneous

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#### MISSING PERSONS

##### Enquiries from AJR

Mrs. (Dr.) Jelinek, probably from Pressburg, who in 1940-41 was imprisoned in the so-called "Patronka," and also in the Pressburg prison. Mrs. Jelinek is believed to live in London and is urgently wanted as a witness for URO, Haifa.

Mr. Albert Kramarsky, born 22.8.1886 in Luebeck, emigrated in May, 1940, from Amsterdam to London, for German Embassy, London.

Dr. Walter Katz, who emigrated to London about 25 to 30 years ago, last-known address: c/o Mrs. Katz, Jablonski Str. 6, Berlin, for German Embassy, London.

Mr. Harry Lovositz, born approximately 1910 in Prag, said to have been employed with the Anglo-Bank, Prag, and emigrated to London 1938-39, for German Embassy, London.

Mr. Harry Wegner, from Koenigsberg, came to London with Children's Transport in 1945, for URO, Tel Aviv.

Dr. Grossmann, oculist, last known address in 1925 Leipzig, Steinstrasse, for German Embassy, London.



# INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF JEWISH SOCIAL WORKERS SUGGESTED

At the recent 8th International Conference of Social Workers in Munich, a committee for preparing the creation of an International Organisation of Jewish Social Workers was set up on the occasion of a reception arranged by the "Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle" of the Jews in Germany.

The idea, which was promoted by the Secretary of the "Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle," Dr. Berthold Simonsohn, was warmly welcomed by the Israeli delegate, Mrs. Charlotte Karfiol, of the Ministry of Social Welfare. The preliminary committee decided at its first meeting to ask all Jewish welfare organisations for their ideas with respect to the possibilities of constituting an international body.

The August bulletin of the Jewish "Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle" extends its welcome to the Munich International Conference and also refers to the Jubilee Publication issued by the "Deutsche Verein fuer oeffentliche und private Fuersorge" on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its foundation. This publication, it is stated, pays tribute to leading personalities of the pre-war "Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle" of the Jews in Germany, Dr. Leo Baeck and the late Dr. Friedrich Ollendorff, as well as to Mrs. Siddy Wronsky, who died in Jerusalem in 1947.

## AJR CLUB

In view of the High Holy-days the AJR Club (57 Eton Avenue) will not be open on Wednesdays, September 5, 12, and 19, and on Thursdays, September 6, 13, and 20. The ordinary opening hours are as follows: Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 4-10 p.m.; Monday and Wednesday, 4-7 p.m.

## The Hyphen

The September programme includes:

1. A talk by Dr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary of the A.J.R., on "The Present Position of Refugees in this Country, and the Work of the A.J.R." This will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Sunday, 23rd September, at Zion House, 57, Eton Avenue, N.W.3.

2. A ramble from Oxted on 30th September. Meet at 10.15 a.m. at post office inside Victoria Station.

Readers or their relatives who would like to know more about this group of young people, should write to the Honorary Secretary, Edgar Lewy, 41, Charlwood Street, S.W.1.

## Payment of Subscriptions

In view of its steadily growing practical activities on behalf of the community, the A.J.R. is anxious to cut down administrative work to the utmost possible extent. We, therefore, repeat our request to all members for their co-operation by sending in their subscriptions whenever they become due without waiting for a reminder.

We should also appreciate it if members paid their subscriptions at the beginning of the period which they are to cover.

## Apology for Delay

It is regretted that the dispatch of last month's issue was delayed. This is due to the considerable printing work involved in the production of the supplement of the contents of the Federal Indemnification Law. It is hoped that in future readers will again receive the current issue during the early part of the month.

## Appointment of Oxford Lecturer

Mr. David Patterson, 34, Lecturer in Modern Hebrew at Manchester University and former Principal of the Habonim Institute in Manchester, was appointed Cowley Lecturer in Post-Biblical Hebrew at Oxford University.

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