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INFORMATION

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ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Robert Weltsch

YOUTH IN REVOLT—60 YEARS AGO

To say that contemporary events are the continuation of the past, having evolved from conditions created in the past, is a platitude; but a glimpse at the world of yesterday also makes us conscious how radically circumstances have changed during our lifetime. The comparison often helps to a better understanding of our own situation. That is why autobiographies and memoirs written by men who took part in public life, or for that purpose, even by simple men of open mind, often make us understand both the past and our present position better than scholarly treatises do. A book recently published though written a long time ago, the *Memoirs of Richard Lichtheim*,* one of the prominent figures in German Zionism at the beginning of this century, not only throws light on political events during the First World War but also makes us reflect upon the vicissitudes in the orientation of Jewish thought and attitudes after half a century.

The author came from the Jewish upper middle-class of the turn of the century, and for many readers the first chapters, the story of his family with its particular, but also typical facets, may have a special attraction. That a young man from this milieu should join the Zionist ranks was, in the eyes of his social class, something exceptional, even slightly shocking. Zionism was regarded as a curious sect, a youthful aberration perhaps, but without wider importance except to scandalise people of vested interests. The comfortable life went on more or less undisturbed, at least until the outbreak of war in 1914, which was a caesura in many respects.

Later, the Zionist movement gathered momentum and during the 'twenties the Jewish world was still firmly divided into Zionists and anti-Zionists. This controversy dominated Jewish life for a generation also in Germany. Today these differences have lost their relevance because the whole Jewish establishment the world over is now supporting Israel—an attitude which formerly would have been described as Zionist or pro-Zionist. There are only very few remnants of anti-Zionism of the original type. Moreover, this support for Israel is—or was until a short time ago—altogether uncritical—a regrettable fact, because constructive criticism would have helped Israel much more than the echo of a conformist (gleichgeschaltet) public which did not care to get to the bottom of the real problems but was generous in financial contributions. Dissent from, or at least criticism of, Israel's policy in many fields and especially in the political sphere, was and is much more frequently forthcoming from "old" Zionists, or, for that matter, from Israelis, than from the

former "assimilationists". The vocal criticism of the so-called New Left is motivated by reasoning quite beyond the purely Jewish orbit, from a concept of global revolutionary ethos without clear ideas of present or future reality.

The disputations about the validity of the Zionist diagnosis of the Jewish situation which occupied Jewish public life 60 years ago appear somehow ephemeral in retrospect. Very rarely were they concerned with the realities of Palestine, which were mostly unknown to the speakers. Their characteristic feature was the matching of wits in the assembly hall, and the aim was to conquer the adversary by better argumentation or more impressive oratory. It was, as Lichtheim says, a purely intellectual debate, mainly concerned with the question whether the Jews should regard themselves as a separate group, or whether their sole aim should be to merge ("assimilate") in the general life of society even if the latter hesitated to accept them. Paradoxically enough, the younger Zionist generation, men like Lichtheim and Kurt Blumenfeld, had personally gone through the whole process of assimilation, which gave them full command of the intellectual resources of modern European thought. This faculty they had acquired not from Jewish sources or from the arsenal of traditional Jewish education, but through identification with European culture and from contemporary literature. Quite logically they called themselves "post-assimilatory" Zionists. Switching the debate from the field of objective inquiries to the analysis of the struggles within the human soul and restoring personal pride, Zionism appeared mainly as a problem of personality (*Persönlichkeitsproblem*). Needless to say that in this context the Arabs of Palestine had no particular part to play. The whole interest was focused elsewhere.

Today, all this is very different. The State of Israel is now not only one of the main concerns of the whole of world Jewry, but also a bone of contention in world politics, making headlines almost every day. The inner-Jewish differences of approach, which aroused strong passions, have almost completely disappeared. The experiences of the Hitler era have deeply shaken all previous Jewish tenets. What to the majority once seemed a marginal issue or an obsession of cranks, is now accepted as the central compound of Jewish life.

The first part of Lichtheim's book is headed "The Story of a Conversion". It is a masterpiece of characterisation, a genuine mirror of nineteenth-century German upper class Jewry. His paternal grandfather, whose own father went to America in 1830 and disappeared there, grew up in Königsberg in the house of his uncle Dr. Johann Jacoby (1805-1877), the famous liberal politician. Königsberg—now the Russian town of Kaliningrad—was at that time

a centre of the old Prussian intelligentsia, and also a centre of Jewish enlightenment. Ludwig Lichtheim, a cousin of the author's grandfather, was a respected professor of medicine in Königsberg to whom hundreds of Jews came for consultation from neighbouring Russia; in order to get his chair he had converted to Christianity together with his three daughters. Jacoby was also a physician, but in addition he was a philosopher, a writer and a courageous political fighter, one of the most interesting figures of the *Vormärz* and the Bismarck era.† Often quoted is his appeal to King Frederick William IV of Prussia, when in November 1848, a delegation, of which Jacoby was a member, submitted a suggestion for political reforms: "It is the misfortune of kings that they refuse to listen to the truth". A few years earlier, when a Berlin Court had absolved Jacoby of the charge of high treason, the King had said: The faithful East Prussians will have to choose between their King and Israel (meaning Jacoby).

Jacoby never left the Jewish community, but most of the other branches of the Lichtheim family did. His maternal relations were also a jolly crowd. Among them were the Landau brothers, Eugen and Hugo, well-known figures in the financial aristocracy of Berlin to whose magnificent and somewhat snobbish dinners and dances the author as a young man was often invited. One maternal uncle, Bernard Pollack, was a music lover in whose salon the virtuosi of the period assembled. He sometimes functioned as anonymous accompanist to Fritz Kreisler, and later he was for a short time married to Fritzi Massary before she married Max Pallenberg. I still remember that in the 'twenties we used to refer to Fritzi Massary jokingly as "Lichtheim's aunt". Anyhow, Lichtheim's mother and her relations had some kind of Jewish pride which expressed itself in a contempt for those who sought social advantages through conversion.

It seems a long way for a young man of this origin, completely alienated from all things Jewish as he was, to join the Zionist movement. Yet, his case, though particularly striking, was by no means exceptional. It was one of the ways in which the revolt of sons expressed itself at that time, and many of the prominent Western Zionists had a similar background. But as soon as Lichtheim became a Zionist, it was obvious that a man of his education and talents would not play a secondary role. He soon assumed a leading position, and his book gives an account of his work until 1921. The Zionist Executive which at that time resided in Berlin appointed him in 1911 as diplomatic representative in Constantinople. One has to recall that Palestine was then part of the Ottoman Empire, and the Young Turkish revolution of 1908 seemed to have opened a new chapter full of prospects. During the war Lichtheim was instrumental in saving the Jewish community in Palestine

† On Jacoby, well known from all political chronicles of this period, see the exemplary biographical sketch in Ernest Hamburger, *Juden im öffentlichen Leben Deutschlands*, Tübingen 1968, pp. 189-197.

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* Richard Lichtheim: *Rückkehr. Lebenserinnerungen aus der Frühzeit des deutschen Zionismus*. Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt Stuttgart, 1970. (Publication of the Leo Baeck Institute.) DM. 32.

YOUTH IN REVOLT—60 YEARS AGO

Continued from front page

from destruction. In this he had the active support of the American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau (a Jew who at the age of nine had come to the United States from Mannheim in 1865), but he also succeeded in convincing the German Embassy that protection of the Jews was in the German interest.† During his term of office he met (and had to negotiate with) many high-ranking German diplomats such as Wangenheim, Mutius, Kühlmann, Bernstorff, and perhaps the most interesting passage is his account of the co-operation with Baron Constantin von Neurath who in 1915 was appointed First Secretary at the Embassy. The man who 18 years later became Hitler's foreign minister and afterwards "Reichsprotektor" of occupied Bohemia-Moravia, is described as an old-style conservative who was certainly no antisemite; actually he was very helpful to Lichtheim and prevented the imminent persecution of leading Palestinian Jews by the Turkish authorities.

The power was in the hands of the Turks and their mighty allies, the Germans, but the inhabitants of Palestine were Arabs, and encouraged by the Young Turkish revolution which had pledged itself to democracy, the small group of Arab intellectuals had started a nationalist movement. Already in 1914, Lichtheim reported to the Berlin Executive about these tendencies and explained that the Arab opposition to Jewish settlement might in the future harden and lead to an irreconcilable conflict. Lichtheim did not believe in the possibility of an appeasement; also much later he regarded all expectations in this direction as an illusion.

THE ARAB PROBLEM

Many may feel today that in this respect he was far-sighted, as both parties seemed to accept nothing less than clear predominance in the country. The real question was whether in view of existing facts, of which most Zionists with their purely ideological approach had no inkling, an accommodation could not have been found at an early stage. In those days the Arabs were in need of moral and material support and the oil croesuses were not yet in existence. That the opportunity for co-operation should have been grasped, is the contention of Aharon Cohen, a leading member of the League for Arab-Jewish Rapprochement, whose book "Israel and the Arab World", originally printed in Hebrew in 1964, has now been published in an English translation and brought up to date.§ Cohen maintains that Lichtheim adopted a wrong attitude towards the Arabs from the very beginning. Today, in the age of decolonisation and of Balkanisation, it is difficult to understand the prevailing mentality of pre-1914; even much later nobody believed that the British Empire would disappear and that Zionists would be confronted solely with the inhabitants of the vast Arab territories and their nationalism. Now all these problems appear in a different light. Mr. Cohen, as many others, believes that opportunities of an understanding, albeit naturally not on the basis of full acceptance of one side's original demands, existed and were missed. This is how the idea of a bi-national State came into being, and Mr. Cohen's book is an almost exhausting record both of the endeavours

made by various groups to convince the Zionist authorities of the necessity of concessions and of the sporadic attempts at actual negotiations. He does not mention, or does not know, that during the 'twenties and 'thirties German Zionists were in the forefront of this discussion, warning official Zionism not to ignore the Arabs and advocating a policy of reconciliation. In this internal dispute Lichtheim was on the side of the political extremists; consequently he later joined Jabotinsky's "revisionist" faction. But that was a long time after the story told in his book had ended. Aharon Cohen's reliance on the uniting power of socialism which would overcome nationalist differences is, alas, unconvincing, especially in view of actual developments. It is based on an error of judgement very widespread in the Zionist labour movement. But otherwise Cohen's book, although diffuse and not without contradictions, deserves attention as a chronicle of omissions and errors, the consequences of which are felt in the predicament of our own days in which all world Jewry now take part.

After the shattering events of the past 50 years it is not always appreciated what a fundamental turning point 1914 was for the world and also for the Jewish people. Lichtheim still came from a comparatively undisturbed world. The next generation had to start their quest for identity under more sinister conditions. Therefore, to round up this fragmentary historical *tour d'horizon*, a short reference may be allowed to another recent autobiography, written by the Governor of the Bank of Israel, David Horowitz.‖ Leaving aside the details of this amazing career, the case in point is the emergence of a generation which for the first time experienced hardships completely unknown before, and became aware of the instability of a way of life which they had taken for granted. Masses of Jews became refugees; one of the momentous consequences was the meeting of East and West, which not only left its stamp on the form and content of the youth movement, but also contributed much to the evolution of a modern type of Jew. David Horowitz and many of his friends came from wealthy bourgeois assimilated families; in Galicia there was even a double assimilation, German (Austrian) and Polish. The Zionist youth of 1918 was much more radical than that of 1900, it was committed to a life of personal pioneering in Palestine, and imbued with the ideas of youth revolt, which was also pro-

‖ David Horowitz, *Ha-etmol shelee (My Yesterday)*. Schocken Publishing House, Jerusalem, 1970 (Hebrew).

claimed by Siegfried Bernfeld, the outstanding leader and philosopher of youth culture, who in May, 1918, convened the *Jüdische Jugendtag* in Vienna, an event quite unprecedented at the time.¶ The Galician youth was far more nationalist and Hebraised than the youth in the West; on the other hand, David Horowitz describes how they acquired their attachment to nature and comradeship in the woods and valleys of the *Wiener Wald*. These young people did not hesitate to embark on the path to Utopia. The Russian revolution with its slogans of a better and juster world seemed to have shown the way. Jewish youth was in revolt and eager to create something new. For the sake of constructive socialism as the basis of a new nation they were prepared to accept an austere and burdensome life. But, alas, it led to disappointments and suffering, and the experiments of new community life in Palestine in a rather monastic atmosphere engendered tension and neuroses. Moreover, the Jewish youth movements in general shared the fate of the confused socialist camp which abounded in hair-splitting ideological discussions, in doubts about personal commitments, and finally led to many divisions. Some Jewish youths who joined the Communist movement met a miserable fate in the Stalinist hell two or three decades later.

In the course of time, Horowitz's comrades had to come to terms with reality; quite a few of them later developed in a direction far away from their original ideas. The author had to pass through many stages before arriving at his present position. As a non-conformist within the Kibbutz and inclined to independent and critical thinking, he soon sensed the paradox of the early romanticism and started studying at the London School of Economics. In his description of the adventurous road which brought him after 40 years to one of the leading economic positions in Israel, many psychological and practical problems and hurdles are mirrored which this generation had to overcome. It is a fascinating picture of the time.

People who were the "youth in revolt" at the beginning of the century are now part of the establishment. Already we can perceive the noises of a new youth in revolt which rattles at the door.

¶ It is gratifying that in these days a new collection of Bernfeld's writings has been published in Germany, which in addition to his essays on youth psychology and psychoanalysis also contains his most important Jewish pronouncements, such as "Das jüdische Volk und seine Jugend" and "Kinderheim Baumgarten". Cf. Siegfried Bernfeld, *Antiautoritäre Erziehung und Psychoanalyse. Ausgewählte Schriften*, herausgegeben von Lutz von Werder und Reinhart Wolff. März Verlag Frankfurt 1970. Three Volumes, 955 pp. Paperback DM. 12 each.—See also in Year Book X of the Leo Baeck Institute (1965). Willy Hoffer: Siegfried Bernfeld und Jerubbaal.

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† The whole story of Germany's policy towards Palestine in World War I is now fully related in Professor Egmont Zechlin's book *Die deutsche Politik und die Juden im Ersten Weltkrieg*. Göttingen, 1969.

§ Aharon Cohen: *Israel and the Arab World*. W. H. Allen, London, 1970. £4.20.

HOME NEWS

SOVIET JEWRY APPEAL

The Board of Deputies has made public an appeal signed by 82 Moscow Jews, brought to London by a tourist. Most of the signatories are professional people, some representing whole families. They state they are persons of various ages and professions, of different character and world outlook, but all are united by anxiety for the fate of the Jews and of Israel. They ask for their appeal to be made public in all Jewish organisations, synagogues and schools, as well as in the Jewish press of the entire world. The Moscow Jews describe the persecution and humiliations which followed their request to be reunited "with our people and our relatives in Israel." They confirm that there had lately been night searches in Jewish homes in various parts of Russia, and state that the majority of those persecuted are guilty only of having openly shown insistence to emigrate.

GROMYKO'S VISIT

To coincide with the visit to London by Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Prime Minister, three days were held of almost constant protests against the treatment of Soviet Jewry. This culminated in a march organised by the Board of Deputies, when hundreds of Jews marched to the Soviet Embassy. A delegation consisting of leaders of the Board, of all sections of the religious community, of Ajax and university students, tried unsuccessfully to present a protest letter to Mr. Gromyko.

The Universities Committee for Soviet Jewry arranged a demonstration during Simchat Torah, to show solidarity of Anglo-Jewish youth with Soviet Jewry. Great Cumberland Place, in the West End, was renamed "Arkhipova Street" for the occasion — the street where the Moscow Great Synagogue is situated and where every Simchat Torah in recent years Soviet-Jewish students have manifested their allegiance to, and solidarity with, world Jewry and the Jewish State.

LIBERALS AND ISRAEL

A resolution by the British Young Liberals supporting the creation of a secular Palestinian State was defeated at the congress of the World Federation of Liberal and Radical Youth held in Belgium. Congress was prepared to recognise only the right of the Palestinians to independence, despite strong pressure by the British delegation. The recognition of Israel and even modifications of her 1967 borders in the interest of security were supported.

Among the 30 new members elected to the Liberal Party council, second only to the annual assembly as the party's policy-making body, are eight, including Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, who belong to the Liberal Friends of Israel. A further six are known to sympathise with Israel. Pro-Arabists gained six places.

Mr. Louis Eaks, former chairman of the Young Liberals, was recently reported in the St. Albans Evening Echo to have said at a meeting of Young Liberals in the area that "Jews see themselves as the master race" and that "Israel is guilty of some brutal atrocities against humanity". At the Liberal Party council it was proposed that the council should condemn and dissociate itself from the "inflammatory" comments. Mr. Eaks' attitude was described as "antisemitic". The association of the party's parliamentary candidates dissociated itself from Mr. Eaks' views.

BBC-1 DOCUMENTARY

The subject of a documentary on BBC-1 was Erich Weiss, the son of a Hungarian rabbi. Weiss was better known as Harry Houdini, the great escapologist, who died in 1926. "Omnibus" showed a documentary film "The Trout" about a rare occasion when five of the world's greatest young soloists gave a public performance of the quintet. They were the Israelis Daniel Barenboim, Itzhak Perlman and Pinchas Zukerman, and Jacqueline du Pré and Zubin Mehta.

NAZI DIVORCE INVALID

A divorce granted in Germany in 1939 has been declared invalid by an English judge. Mr. Justice Bagnall ruled that Mrs. Gertrud Bertha Hedvig Meyer, of Bristol, was still the wife of Mr. Isaac Lobel Kurt Meyer when he died five years ago. The decree granted to her, a non-Jewish wife, after her husband fled from Berlin in 1938, was not effective in England as it was obtained under duress. She had been given the choice of divorcing her husband or losing her job.

As a result of the ruling, Mrs. Meyer can claim a proportion of the £1,400 a year pension granted by Germany in compensation to her late husband. Her claim was rejected by German courts, and she asked for a ruling from the English courts, it having been indicated that the German courts would accept the English ruling.

CONFERENCE OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

The two-day Biennial Conference of the World Jewish Congress, British Section, was opened by a "keynote address" delivered on October 31 by Rabbi Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the WJC Governing Council. Dr. Prinz expressed the view that "in terms of a meaningful Jewish life and Jewish continuity, most if not all Jewish communities outside Israel must be regarded as a disaster area". Young Jews, he said, expected that something concrete is said from the Jewish angle about the needs of today—hunger and inequality, war and peace.

The pessimistic views expressed by Dr. Prinz were contested by several speakers on the second day of the conference, at which under the heading "Embattled Jewry" topical issues were debated. The contributions to the discussion on the New Left included a remarkable speech by Mr. Paul Rose, M.P., in which he outlined the questions with which a Left-wing protagonist of Israel is faced in the political arena. Mr. Rose censured the Anglo-Jewish community for failing to present Israel's case adequately. "Last week", he said, "we had the spectacle of the Chief Rabbi telling us that the only justification for the State of Israel is the Bible. If I stood up in the Commons and told them that, I would be laughed out of the House. The justification for the State of Israel is Auschwitz and all the other persecutions the Jews have suffered."

Other subjects on the agenda of the conference were "The Jew in Contemporary Society" and a Survey of the International Scene.

NATIONAL FRONT IN MARYLEBONE ELECTION

The National Front candidate in the Marylebone parliamentary by-election polled only 401—2.4 per cent—of the total vote, thus forfeiting his deposit. This is the first time that a candidate of the extreme Right has stood in Marylebone and it is not possible to assess whether there has been increased response to the appeal which the N.F. has been making, especially on the issue of coloured immigration. But the percentage polled is below the average of 3.6 per cent which the ten N.F. candidates registered in the General Election in June.

With acknowledgements to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle

NEW LIBERAL JEWISH CONGREGATION

51 Belsize Square, London, N.W.3

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

are held regularly on the Eve of Sabbath and Festivals at 6.30 p.m. and on the day at 11 a.m.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Deputies' Election

Lord Janner has been re-elected as chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Board of Deputies, with Mr. Harry Landy as vice-chairman. Dr. S. Levenberg has been elected chairman of the Erets Israel committee; Mr. Hyman Diamond, chairman of the law, parliamentary and general purposes committee; Dr. Bernard Homa, chairman of the shechita committee; Mr. Victor Mishcon, chairman of the Defence committee (Mr. Martin Savitt, vice-chairman); Mr. Harry Landy, chairman of the finance committee. Miss Beatrice Barwell is chairman of the education and youth committee, and Mr. Julius Jung, is chairman of the aliens committee. Alderman Michael Fidler, M.P., is *ex-officio* chairman of the executive committee.

Ajax House Opened

The new flats at Ajax House, Stamford Hill, were opened by Lord Greenwood. Whilst as Mr. Anthony Greenwood, he was Labour's Minister of Housing, his Ministry encouraged the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women to extend its welfare services in the field of housing for elderly and disabled ex-Servicemen. Ajax has now completed its initial scheme to provide 20 flats, with help from the Government and the Hackney Borough Council. Further projects are planned by Ajax to accommodate applicants on the waiting list.

M.P. Addresses Herzl Society

The Theodor Herzl Society held a reception for Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, M.P., the first Jewish Member of Parliament for Hampstead. Afterwards, Mr. Finsberg gave a talk on "A New Approach to Foreign Policy?" He attributed some of the present problems in the Middle East to a "far too hasty handing over of the Palestine mandate and the U.N.'s initial inept handling of the situation". Mr. E. J. Speyer was in the Chair.

Garden Suburb Rabbi

Thirty-year-old Rabbi Isaac J. Bernstein, who has been minister of the Terenure Hebrew Congregation, Dublin, for the past four years, has been elected senior minister of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue.

Appeal for Aged

Speaking at the 73rd annual meeting of Nightingale House, the home for aged Jews in Wandsworth, Mr. Cecil Kahn, the chairman, urgently appealed to the community to help raise £750,000. The money was needed to carry out further vital developments, and until it was found Mr. Kahn warned that 150 old people would have no hope of even being accepted on the waiting list.

Tribute to Cecil Roth

The B'nai B'rith First Lodge of England arranged an evening at the Hampstead Synagogue hall, to pay tribute to Professor Cecil Roth who died in June in Israel. More than 100 people attended the gathering, at which personal impressions of the historian were given by the Emeritus Chief Rabbi, Sir Israel Brodie; Mr. Raphael Loewe of the Jewish Historical Society; and Mr. Michael M. Mitzman.

Manchester's Public Relations

"Irresponsible" individuals and organisations who damage the good name of the Manchester Jewish community were taken to task by Mr. Jack Barsh, president of the Council of Manchester and Salford Jews. The fact that Jews had never been living in a better climate was, he said, due in no small measure to the public relations work of the council and of the Association of Jewish ex-Servicemen. Enormous harm could be done by publicising "such actions as we have seen over the past twelve months."

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Jewish Governors and Congressmen

Mr. Milton J. Shapp is the first Jew to have been elected Governor of Pennsylvania. Mr. Marvin Mandel, also a Jew, has retained the Governorship of Maryland. Mr. Louis Lefkowitz was returned as State Attorney-General and Mr. Arthur Levitt as Controller. All the Jewish candidates won in the Congressional elections, including Congressman Emanuel Celler, the doyen of the House of Representatives. A new election to Congress is that of Mrs. Bella S. Abzug, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary Teachers' Institute.

Hijackers

Federal investigators are seeking a possible link between the hijackers who have been detained and charged with planning to hijack an Arab airliner in London and fly it to Israel, and the activist Jewish Defence League. The JDL had vowed that "Arab blood would flow" if Jewish hostages held by Arab hijackers were harmed.

Avraham HersHKovitz had worked as an office manager for the JDL, and his wife Nancy Joan as a secretary. The organisation is trying to raise half a million dollars for their bail. Rabbi Meir Kahane, the executive director, said the two were taking the four revolvers and a hand grenade to Israel where "every single gun helps". HersHKovitz was born in Auschwitz concentration camp and had served in the Israeli Army.

Race Bias in Books

A study published by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, "Minorities in Text-books", finds that it is impossible to obtain "a reasonably complete and undistorted picture" of American Negroes, Jews and other minorities from any existing American textbook on social studies. The report states that a significant number of texts published today continue to present a principally White, Protestant, Anglo-Saxon view of American past and present, with the nature and problems of minority groups going largely neglected.

Although the image of the Jews is no longer negative, the major emphasis is still on the ancient past, neglecting modern Jews and their contributions to America. About 45 per cent of the texts examined inadequately treated or completely ignored the Nazi persecution of Jews and other minorities. According to the study, the idea of Jewish guilt for the death of Jesus is inadequately dispelled.

Hall of Fame

The names of Professor Albert Abraham Michelson (1852-1931), the physicist, and Lillian D. Wald (1867-1940), a pioneer in social work, have been added to New York University's hall of fame for great Americans.

The Jews Discovered America?

In 1885 the Smithsonian Institution found a stone inscribed with Canaanite letters in a burial mound in Tennessee. Only in August of this year were the letters recognised as Semitic. Dr. Cyrus Gordon, of Brandeis University, an acknowledged expert on Mediterranean peoples and languages who was consulted, states that there is now a new factor of Hebraic history and cultural studies which fits into a documented context. But, he states, this does not imply that the Jews came first to what is now America, or that they were the only people.

Dr Gordon said that the events which could have touched off Jewish flight to distant places occurred in the year 70 CE, when the Jewish rebellion was put down by the Romans, and the year 135, when the Bar-Kochba revolt was terminated by Rome.

FRANCE

Nazi Emblems Banned

In Paris the police prefect has banned the sales of Nazi uniforms, caps, badges and similar souvenirs. For some time an increasing influence of Nazi doctrines among young people has been noticed. There has so far been no explanation of this but there is a belief that it could be a reaction to the Left-wing influence which has been dominant in the universities since 1968.

Jews in Grenoble Fire

Among the 144 people killed in the dance-hall fire at Grenoble were two young Jewish pop musicians, both from Paris. Michel Goldblum and Alain Starmann were members of a five-piece pop group called "Storm".

SPANISH DICTIONARY

Following consultations between the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language and Mr. Isaac Molho, an expert in Sephardi Jewry in Jerusalem, the new nineteenth edition of the official Spanish dictionary has been purged of expressions offensive to Jews. The definition of Jew as a usurer or miser has been deleted. Derogatory references to Jews from Catholic text books have already been erased by Spain.

DUTCH PENTATEUCH TRANSLATIONS

Dr. Itzhak Dasberg, who recently retired after 16 years as chairman of the Ashkenazi Orthodox organisation representing 45 Dutch congregations, has spent seven years of spare-time work on religious translations. The new Dutch translation of the Books of Genesis and Exodus have already appeared in one volume in Holland, to be followed in January by translations of the remaining Books of the Pentateuch in one volume, with the Haftarat added.

VENEZUELAN COMMUNITY

The 15,000-strong Venezuelan community last year opened the first stages of a modern Jewish school in Caracas, and restored its oldest monument, the Sephardi cemetery in Coro.

The restoration was supervised by Mr. José Curiel, the Minister of Public Works, whose great-great-grandfather was the first Jew to settle in Coro and who bought the land for the cemetery.

The new "Hebraica" school is an enterprise widely supported to ensure the continuity of Jewish life in the country.

JEWRY IN THE EAST

HIJACKERS

Frannas and Brazinkas Koreyevo, the father and son who hijacked the Russian civil aircraft to Turkey, had requested political asylum, claiming that they were of Jewish origin. The military commander of Trabzon, the Black Sea coast town where the aircraft landed, has stated that the two are definitely not Jewish. This is borne out by the fact that Koreyevo is a typical White Russian name while the first names are Lithuanian, and the combination of two such names would not be chosen by Soviet Jews.

AWARD FOR JEWISH MINISTER

To mark his 60th birthday the Order of Lenin has been awarded to Mr. Benjamin Dymshitz for his services to his country. Mr. Dymshitz, a Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, is the chairman of the USSR State Committee for material and technical supplies.

PRO-ZIONIST SPEECH

A former resident of Kiev who recently emigrated has given to the *Jewish Chronicle* the first full account of what was probably the first pro-Zionist public speech made in the Soviet Union since the 1920s.

Boris Kochubievsky, who is serving a three-year sentence for "slandering Soviet reality", made the speech. According to his own testimony, he started to teach himself something about Jewish history by studying a Russian-language Bible. In July, 1967, at the time of the Six-Day War, when a Soviet general addressed the workers at the Kiev radio equipment factory where Kochubievsky was chief engineer of one of the departments, he declared himself to be a Zionist, denouncing the Soviet press for its "unrestrained antisemitic campaign", and the general for his statements against Zionism.

Kochubievsky was dismissed from his job soon afterwards. In early October, 1968, he spoke at a memorial meeting at Babi Yar, the ravine where the Nazi massacre of the Jews of Kiev took place. He was then arrested.

RIGA ARRESTS

The Association of East European Jews made public in Paris reports of a new wave of arrests in Riga. A leaflet distributed by the association said that Miss Ruta Alexandrovich, a 23-year-old Jewish student, was arrested on October 7 and charged with anti-Soviet activities. She was urged but refused to give evidence at the trial of 34 Soviet Jews, alleged to have been involved in an attempted hijacking of a Soviet airliner in Leningrad in June.

It was also stated that Mr. Misha Shepshelevich had been arrested and faced similar charges. Both had asked many times to be allowed to emigrate to Israel.

HIGH HOLY-DAYS IN POLAND

The High Holy-days in Poland this year were observed only by some elderly men in homes for the aged in Warsaw and Lodz, who organised services on Rosh Hashana and the Day of Atonement. According to reports reaching London from Warsaw, this is apparently the first time in the history of Polish Jewry that the High Holy-days have been so sparsely observed. The services in the old people's homes were formerly also attended by other Jews, including young people, but there are few left now.

HUNGARIAN PEN CLUB MEDAL

The Hungarian PEN Club has awarded Mordecai Avi-Shaul, an Hungarian-born Israeli writer, a memorial medal for his Hebrew translations of Hungarian literature. He is a Left-wing writer who has translated a number of outstanding poetry and prose works.

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FRITZ LANG OHNE MONOKEL

Zum 80. Geburtstag am 5. Dezember

In vielen Essays und Buechern, besonders in Frankreich, sind Fritz Langs Filme analysiert worden; man hat Absichten in sie hinein interpretiert, von denen der Regisseur gar nichts geahnt hat als er sie schuf. Lotte H. Eisner, die in Berlin geborene und in Paris lebende Filmhistorikerin, arbeitet an der offiziellen Biographie Langs und wird sicherlich sein Lebenswerk in den Rahmen der Zeitgeschichte einordnen. Wie der in Wien Aufgewachsene als Maler in Paris begann und dann in Berlin Drehbuchautor wurde, und wie er mit dem "mueden Tod" dann kurz nach Kriegsende den Grundstein fuer seine Karriere als Regisseur legte, das ist laengst klassische Filmgeschichte. Aus dem moralischen Durcheinander der Inflation entstanden dann 1922 "Dr. Mabuse", aus der Verbindung mit Thea von Harbou die beiden "Nibelungen". Langs Biographin wird entscheidend untersuchen, welchen Einfluss jene Frau auf ihn und seine Filmstoffe wie "Metropolis", "Spione" und "Frau im Mond" gehabt hat, und ob die Unbekannten, die Lang zu Stars machte, nur Puppen waren. Ich moechte an seinem 80. Geburtstag von dem Mann hinter dem ewigen Monokel, das seine Schutzmarke geworden ist, erzahlen.

Da Lang waehrend der Aufnahmen nicht gestoert werden will, interviewte man ihn am besten am Tage vor Drehbeginn. Da lagen dicke Rollen umher, auf denen er die genauen Plaene fuer jede Szene aufgezeichnet hatte. Auf Millimeterpapier war jede Einstellung der Kamera angegeben; nichts schien dem Zufall ueberlassen. Lang bereitete seine Filme wie ein Architekt vor. Waren die Schauspieler nur Schachfiguren, die sich einzufuegen hatten? Stammte sein Ruf, im Atelier schwierig und ein Sadist zu sein, aus jener Genauigkeit? Dabei fliesst Arbeit und Privatleben bei ihm ineinander. Jeden Tag traegt Fritz Lang jede Begegnung, jedes Gespraech, jede Ausgabe in ein dickes Buch ein. Bevor er seinem Stoffaffen "Peterchen", seinem Talisman, den er ueberall mitnimmt, gute Nacht sagt, schreibt er auf, wen er gesehen und gesprochen hat. Es ist kein Tagebuch und kein Haushaltungsbuch, sondern eine taegliche fast preussische Bilanz.

Als er fuer "Das Testament des Dr. Mabuse" in Spandau einen Riesenschornstein in die Luft sprengen liess, eine Aufnahme, die sich nicht wiederholen liess, sah ich ihn fuer lange Jahre zum letzten mal. Ueber "Liliom" in Frankreich ging Lang zu "Fury", jenen mutigen ersten Angriff gegen die Lynchjustiz nach Hollywood. Er arbeitete viel mit Sylvia Sidney, mit Kurt Weill an "You and me", mit Brecht an "Hangmen also die", mit Marlene Dietrich in "Rancho Notorious" und inszenierte nicht zu vergessen "Woman in the Window" und "Scarlet Street". Als er Mitte der funfziger Jahre zum ersten Mal wieder nach Europa kam, begleitete ich ihn auf seinem Besuch nach Deutschland; er war nicht ganz sicher, ob man sich seiner noch erinnerte. Zu seiner Ueberraschung fand Lang, dass eine neue Generation von Kinobesuchern seine Filme nachgesehen und studiert hatte.

"Und nun wollen wir noch Gerda Maurus besuchen", sagte er am Tag vor Abschluss unserer gemeinsamen Rundfahrt. Ich rief in Duesseldorf an, erfuhr, dass sein einstiger Star spielen wuerde und bestellte zwei Karten. Am liebsten haette Lang sie ueberraschen

wollen; schliesslich aber sandte er doch ein Telegramm an sie: er wuerde nach der Vorstellung auf sie warten. Wir sahen dann eine mittelmassige "Nachtsyl"—Auffuehrung und ich verabschiedete mich ganz gegen seinen Willen; vielleicht dass er Angst vor der Wiederbegegnung mit jener Frau hatte, die er einst entdeckt, geliebt und deren Lebensweg er gelenkt und bestimmt hatte und die inzwischen verheiratet und geschieden und Mutter einer Tochter war.

Um Zwei lautete des Telephon. Gerda Maurus war am Apparat. "Ich weiss, Sie werden mich erschlagen", sagte sie, "aber Sie muessen kommen. Sie brauchen nur um den Hotelblock zu gehen; dort sitzen wir in einer Bar." Dort traf ich sie, Gerda und Fritz, wie zwei junge Verliebte, als waeren nicht inzwischen mehr als 20 Jahre vergangen. Vergessen schienen Erfolge, andere Erlebnisse und andere Laender. Als Lang ins Exil ging, obwohl ihn Goebbels schon wegen der "Nibelungen" am liebsten arisiert haette, blieb die Maurus, heiratete den Autor Stemmler, wurde geschieden und eine Buehnenschauspielerin bei Gruendgens. In dieser Nacht sank das Alles in Vergessenheit.

Am naechsten Tag flog ich nach London zurueck und Gerda Maurus begleitete Lang, der nach Frankfurt zu seinen Freunden, den Adornos flog. Die beiden haben sich nie mehr wiedergesehen, und ein paar Jahre spaeter ist Gerda Maurus gestorben.

Bevor ich diesen Geburtstagsartikel schrieb, habe ich Fritz Lang in Beverly Hills angefragt, ob ich so persoendlich werden darf und ueber jene Begegnung berichten darf. "Schreib was Du willst", hat er geantwortet, "ich habe Gerda sehr gern gehabt. . . ." Zur Geschichte eines Menschen, der schon bei Lebzeiten ein Klassiker geworden ist, gehoert auch das Private, selbst wenn es wie Klatsch wirkt. Besonders bei einem Mann, der durch seine Arbeit und der Kunst zuliebe in den Ruf gekommen ist, ein Sadist zu sein, soll man die zarte, sanfte Seite nicht uebersehen.

TENTH REUNION OF GERMAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

The tenth annual meeting of former German war prisoners of Featherstone Park camp was held in Dusseldorf on October 24. These annual gatherings are not only social reunions but, in keeping with the ideas of Featherstone Park Circle's Hon. President, Mr. Herbert Sulzbach (London), the former education officer of the camp, also aim at fostering Anglo-German relations. The rally was attended by many former prisoners, quite a few of whom have attained responsible positions in Germany, as well as by a number of guests, including a particularly large contingent of younger people. The opening addresses were given by Mr. Sulzbach and the Chairman, Landgerichtsrat Schwedersky, a former inmate of the camp and now investigating judge for Nazi crimes. Excerpts from a book by Arno Reinfrank about Featherstone Park, shortly to be published, were read by the author, and the main address was delivered by Mr. John Biggs-Davison, M.P., who spoke about "Europe—Hopes and Fears". The function was given considerable publicity in this country, including a "24-Hours" TV broadcast and an article by Norman Crossland in *The Guardian*.

Old Acquaintances

Austria: Paula Wessely and Paul Hoerbiger will be in "Der zerbrochene Krug" at the Burg.—Heinrich Schnitzler is directing Anouilh's "Goldfische" at the Josefstadt.—Maximilian Schell will direct his father's play "Auf Befehl des Kaisers" in Salzburg. His sister, Maria Schell, will be in the lead and her husband, Veit Relin, will design the décors.—Otto Schenk will produce Verdi's "Don Carlos" at the State Opera.

Obituary: The death has occurred, in a car accident near Bad Toelz, of Grethe Weiser, Germany's most popular stage and screen comedienne, and her husband, film producer Dr. Schwerin.—Helmuth de Haas, who for political reasons resigned as literary editor of Axel Springer's *Die Welt* and became editor of the monthly *Twen*, has died in Oberhausen at the age of 42.

Germany: East Berlin's Deutsche Theater has elected 90-year-old Tilla Durieux as an honorary member, despite the fact that she lives in the West.—Romy Schneider's husband, Harry Meyen, played Professor Higgins in a new adaptation of "Pygmalion" in Hamburg.—The Munich dramatic critic, Herbert Ihering, spoke at a memorial in honour of Fritz Kortner.—Joerg Jannings, a nephew of Emil Jannings, is producing a play on Radio Bremen.—Leonard Steckel, who spent the war years in Zurich, directed Feydeau's "Einer muss der Dumme sein" in Hamburg.—Curt Bois sang ballads at Berlin's Academy of Arts.—The Berlin production of Rolf Hochhuth's new play, "Guerillas," did not meet with success.—Roda Roda's "Feldherrnhuegel" was revived on TV.—Yvonne Georgi visited Buenos Aires to choreograph Orff's "Trionfi".—Zarah Leander, discovered in Vienna in 1935 by the late Max Hansen to appear in "Axel an der Himmels-tuer", gave a concert at Berlin's Sportpalast.

Milestones: Ernst Lothar, dramatic critic, novelist and former director of Vienna's Josefstadt, is 80 years of age. He emigrated to the United States, but returned to Vienna after the war.—Opera singer, Erna Berger, born in Dresden and now teaching in Hamburg, is 70 years old.—Professor Dr. Hanns W. Eppelsheimer, founder and director of Frankfurt's Deutsche Bibliothek, has celebrated his 80th birthday.

Home News: Billy Wilder, who started as a dancing partner at Berlin's Eden Hotel, will present his new film, "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes", at a Royal Charity Performance on December 3.—Walter Felsenstein, the outstanding Austrian opera producer in East Berlin, will visit London next spring to present Britten's "Midsummer Night's Dream", Offenbach's "Blue Beard", and "Il Trovatore" at Sadler's Wells.

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Egon Larsen

A BRIDGE OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Jella Lepman's Dream

She was not what one might call an attractive woman. Her body was angular, her movements were awkward, her voice shrill; she lacked female gracefulness. Her colleagues often found her exacting, those working under her were constantly kept on their toes; her friends were sometimes exasperated by her nervous energy. Yet Jella Lepman was one of the very few remigrant women who, by their achievements, have left a lasting mark in post-war Germany.

When she died in Zürich a few weeks ago, the obituaries were full of details about her work, but strangely lacking in personal data; all the reader was told was that she had completed her 79th year—quite a surprise for those who had come to look upon her as rather ageless. In fact, Jella Lepman had never disclosed how old she was. Asked to supply some biographical details for the brochure to be published when she was awarded the Goethe Medal in Frankfurt last year, she wrote: "It seems to me that I have lived not one life but many. . . . Born at Stuttgart. A happy childhood, understanding parents. Father: a democrat in Uhland's tradition. School: the Royal Katharinastift, where Möricke had taught literature."

And then a clue to what was to grow into the great dream of her later years: as a teenage girl she founded an "international reading-room" for the children of foreign workers in a Stuttgart cigarette factory. That was before the First World War. After the war she married and had two children. "End of my first life", she wrote, "when my husband died suddenly".

Jella Lepman threw herself into an intensive professional life as a journalist, and became the first female editor with the *Stuttgarter Neues Tagblatt*, running its pink-coloured women's supplement. In the 1930s she launched herself into politics, rising to the

post of chairman of the Württemberg Deutsche Demokratische Partei; she also stood as a Reichstag candidate together with Theodor Heuss.

Her "third life" began with her emigration to London in 1936. The years in exile were—as some of her friends recall—much harder for her than her brief data in the Frankfurt brochure suggest. She was never happy in England, although she had the advantages of a comfortable home in Hampstead Garden Suburb, put at her disposal by friends, and of all kinds of jobs where her talents and experience proved useful: editing Arthur Schnitzler's unpublished papers for Cambridge University, working as adviser on youth questions for the BBC and Foreign Office, compiling a modern reader for German-language classes in English schools (still being reprinted). She also took British citizenship. But her frequent spells of unemployment in those years frustrated this intent, energy-charged woman very deeply; where others might have resigned and blamed world history, her thoughts were racing around in her brain, trying to find an escape from the wastefulness of weeks and months, like animals seeking a hole in their cage. Eventually, she got a permanent job—at least "for the duration"—with ABSIE, the American Broadcasting Station in Europe.

That "third life" ended, and her fourth began, in October, 1945, when she stepped on board a U.S. military aircraft bound for Frankfurt. The American occupation authorities had asked her to work at their headquarters in Bad Homburg, again as adviser on youth questions; in other words, on the re-education of a generation of children who had begun to grow up under Hitler.

"I first met Jella Lepman in 1946 in Munich", says the Berlin-born writer and translator Heinz Norden who had returned to Germany in U.S. uniform from his American exile. "I was editor-in-chief of *Heute*, a German-language magazine of the 'Life' type; she was assigned to me as an associate editor—but this is rather like imagining Mrs. Pankhurst and Isadora Duncan rolled into one accepting the role of a charwoman. There were some historic fights that shook the painfully patched-up ruins of the *Völkischer Beobachter* building in the Schellingstrasse, but in the end it all benefited *Heute*, and no one, least of all I, loved Jella any less when her voice cracked and her head bobbed in dedication to her cause. That cause was children's books."

In her own volume of reminiscences, "Die Kinderbuchbrücke",* she recalled the scene at the Bad Homburg H.Q. when, during one of the weekly meetings of generals, colonels and majors, she suggested a travelling exhibition of the best children's books from all countries: "Let's make a start with the children to get this deranged world back on its tracks. The

* Published by S. Fischer, Frankfurt a.M., 1964; English-language edition, "A Bridge of Children's Books," Brockhampton Press, Leicester, and American Library Association, Chicago, 1968.

children will show the way to the grown-ups.

"The generals, colonels and majors listened politely, though a little startled", Jella Lepman continued her story. "The presiding general asked the sobering question how Information Control Division was supposed to get the money for such an exhibition as its budget did not provide for children's books. It was then that I made my first attempt at surmounting obstacles. 'General', I said, 'may I ask respectfully why you got yourself an adviser on youth questions at H.Q. if there's no chance of carrying out a project like this?'"

In the end, Jella Lepman received permission to collect books for her travelling exhibition so long as she got them free of charge, and the project was given the highest official blessing of "First Priority". Jubilantly, she went to work. "Heute" now had to manage without her.

In his introduction to Jella Lepman's book, Carl Zuckmayer described what it was like to be at the receiving end of this formidable woman's attack. She cornered him in some office of the occupation authorities in November, 1946, and—frightened by women in uniform—he tried to escape, but in vain: "I was looking into the most candid and friendly eyes that ever defied a uniform; and what I was to hear came out in such genuine, never-to-be-shed *Schwäbisch* as perhaps only Theodor Heuss could surpass it. It was a Swabian avalanche of words, of entreating and imploring. She asked for help, understanding, agreement, for gifts, gifts—of books wherever they could be found, children's books, fairy-tales, picture-books, school-books, German, foreign-language; exercise-books, drawing-paper, crayons, paint-boxes—and one understood that this woman was a fountain of goodness, of sympathy, of the will to help and also of helplessness, walking about in an olive-green uniform."

Needless to say that the exhibition materialised, and it did so in record time. Publishers of 14 countries had responded to Jella Lepman's requests; some parted with their last remaining file copies for the purpose, which

Continued on next page

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A BRIDGE OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Continued from page 6

to her seemed the most important project in Germany at the time.

It took her three more years, working against heavy odds, to complete the logical next step: the creation of an International Youth Library—a great window of the mind through which Germany's children could look out into the world, and the world look in and see how the post-Nazi generation was getting on. Jella Lepman succeeded in getting support from UNESCO, which adopted it as an "associated project", and from the Rockefeller Foundation; again the children's book publishers inside and outside Germany responded magnificently by putting the IYL on their mailing lists for free copies, and many also sent money. A nice big house in Munich's Kaulbachstrasse, near the English Garden, was found. As a kind of christening present Jella Lepman had asked Erich Kästner to write a new children's book, "Die Konferenz der Tiere", a pacifist fairy-tale: the animals force mankind, and especially the pig-headed politicians and generals, to bring permanent peace to the world. It was the last of Kästner's volumes illustrated by Walter Trier.

"Munich was still lying in ruins and rubbish", Carl Zuckmayer wrote in his introduction to "A Bridge of Children's Books". "But there was a former villa, perhaps spared by the bombs or recently patched up, with a large garden which was again being weeded and planted. The house resounds with children's voices, loud, uninhibited, laughing, singing; or it's very quiet, and in some rooms, with colourful drawings and paintings on the walls, created by a naïve imagination, children are sitting around, young people of every age, small or nearly grown-up ones, often in poor, mended clothes, speaking in many languages and dialects, next to better-dressed ones, the children of occupation soldiers, who make themselves understood in funny German. They read books of all kinds and from all countries, they have pencils, drawing-pads, Indian ink and watercolours, games and teaching-aids, and they have what children need: confidence, serenity, peace. That was the beginning of

Jella Lepman's work. . . . A work of genuine humanity—the work of a great heart."

Today, 21 years later, the IYL contains 110,000 books in fifty languages, a reference and historical section for the study of international juvenile literature with another 5,000 volumes, and there are IYL grants for up to eight foreign specialists per year to study at the library. One of the offshoots of Jella Lepman's endeavours are the International Board on Books for Young People, which she founded in 1951, and the Hans Christian Andersen Award—some call it the "Junior Nobel Prize"—for children's book authors and illustrators from all countries. Jella Lepman succeeded in roping the Communist countries in for all these activities: she made many personal contacts across the Iron Curtain, and got Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia to join the International Board (*Internationales Kuratorium für das Jugendbuch*), which now comprises three dozen national sections. This widening of the scope of her work showed that the original task to which she had dedicated herself, German re-education through influencing the country's young, was no longer a priority: the generation she had helped to shape had grown up. Still, the main impact of her work had been in Germany. "The result has been felt not only in the German libraries and in the present high standard of German children's book publishing", said the *Times Literary Supplement* at the end of a full-page leader on Jella Lepman in 1964. "It is visible above all where it should be: in the genuine internationalism and ruthless self-critical spirit of the generation who grew up then."

In 1957 she retired from the active—and rather exhausting—directorship of the IYL, which is now being run by her close associate, Walter Scherf. She settled in Zürich, engaged to her last day in innumerable projects, all to do with children's books. One of them was a grand library of books written by children all over the world about their own lives and attitudes; now that she has died, it is waiting for someone else to take charge. "But there is no one in sight", writes Heinz Norden, "who might consummate the vision of Jella Lepman, apostle of children's art and literature, and one of the remarkable women of our century."

CATALOGUE OF NEW YORK LBI

The collection of books, periodicals, manuscripts and pictures concentrated in the New York building of the Leo Baeck Institute has become a unique repository of the spiritual heritage of German Jewry. This is reflected in the first volume of the catalogue, edited by the Institute's co-founder and first director, Dr. Max Kreutzberger, with the assistance of Irmgard Foergt. The 600-page book comprises three sections of the collection: the history of Jewish communities in German-speaking countries (3,015 items); press publications (850 items); and memoirs, including unpublished manuscripts and private prints. The collection includes publications, such as almanacs and calendars, copies of which are probably not available at any other place, and the personal memoirs covers all phases of German-Jewish history since 1812 and all strata of German Jewry. The catalogue (*Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen des L.B.I.*, Nr. 22, Verlag J. B. C. Mohr/Paul Siebeck, Tübingen, DM 143.—) was published with the assistance of "Stiftung Volkswagenwerk" and is dedicated to Dr. Max Gruenewald, President of the New York L.B.I., on the occasion of his 70th birthday. E.G.L.

HANS FEIBUSCH EXHIBITION

Paintings, Gouaches, Drawings

For many of us it is with a sigh of relief that we enter the world of Hans Feibusch: our earth still stands, stable and firm, basically unharmed by the storms and upheavals of despair, war, persecution, rebellion and violence of all kinds. It is easily apparent that Feibusch gets his inspiration from those masters of our century who sought to construct their paintings like architecture: Cézanne, Picasso in his cubistic period, and Feibusch's teacher André Lhote. But Feibusch, born in Frankfurt a.M. in 1898, received his training mainly in Germany—in Munich and at the Berlin Academy—and afterwards in Paris. Since 1933 he has lived in England, where he is one of our foremost mural painters. More than 30 churches, among them Chichester Cathedral, contain his frescoes.

The exhibition, held last month at the Ben Uri Art Gallery, confirms that his art is nothing if not monumental. He is a painter of events, taken from either classical antiquity or the Bible. With equal ease he represents the Greek Gods and the Sacrifice of Isaac. But this has its dangers. There is sometimes an impression that he does not give to his art that profound spiritual life which communicates emotion. And yet some of his paintings have a powerful significance.

At times he relaxes and produces almost lyrical views of corners in a garden with delicately painted beds of flowers. The lasting value of his drawings comes from his expressive and precise draughtsmanship.

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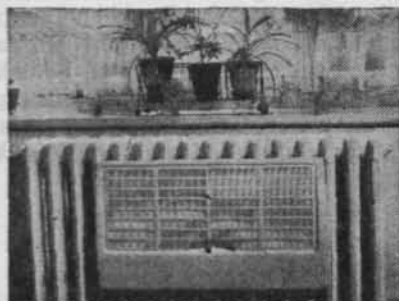


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DEUTSCH-JUEDISCHE LYRIK

Zu den Dichtungen von Vera Lachmann und Paul Muehsam

"Golden tanzt das Licht im Glas" ist der Titel eines Gedichtbandes, mit dem die Lyrikerin Vera Lachmann unlängst hervorgetreten ist.* Sie wurde 1904 in Berlin geboren und kam durch ihre Lehrerin Helene Herrmann, eine Freundin Friedrich Gundolfs, früh mit der Philosophin Edith Landmann (1877-1951) in Berührung, die wiederum eine lebenslange Freundin Stefan Georges war und der damals erst Sechzehnjährigen die Georgesche Dichtungs- und Gedankenwelt erschloss. Von 1933-1939 leitete Vera Lachmann in Berlin-Grünwald eine Schule für Kinder rassisch verfolgter Eltern. Seit 1939 lebt sie in Amerika und unterrichtet nun seit einer Reihe von Jahren Griechisch und Latein an der Universität der Stadt New York.

Die in diesem Sammelband enthaltenen Gedichte Vera Lachmanns sind zwischen 1951 und 1968 entstanden und unverkennbar von der strengen Kunstform Georges, seiner sprachlichen Zucht sowohl wie Eigenwilligkeit geprägt. Sie sind aber auch von einem Gefühls- und Gedankenmotiv durchzogen, das ganz und gar nur aus der persönlichen wie geschichtlichen Erlebniswelt der Dichterin und ihres deutsch-jüdischen Schicksals hervorgegangen ist. Davon legt gleich das erste Gedicht dieses Bandes, das dem Gedächtnis Edith Landmanns gewidmet ist, Zeugnis ab. Es ist "Die Potnia" überschrieben; "Potnia", das homerische Wort für Herrin, Göttin, Mutter war zugleich der Name, den Edith Landmanns Freunde ihr gegeben hatten, in deren Gestalt sich, so heisst es in Vera Lachmanns Gedicht: "... noch lebend wie vormals/Ernst der gekrönten Thora/Attischem Lächeln vermählt."

Dieser ins Mythische verklärte Gedanke einer Vermählung jüdischer Ueberlieferung mit antikischem Erbgut kehrt in dem Gedicht über Simone Weil wieder, die französisch-jüdische Mystikerin und Philosophin, die im Jahre 1941 Landarbeiterin in den Weingärten Südfrankreichs war. Der schweren, oft qualvollen Mühe dieser Arbeit, die Simone Weil, ein fragiles Geschöpf, freiwillig auf sich genommen hatte, wird in Vera Lachmanns Gedicht ein göttlicher Segen zuteil—der Segen des Gottes Bacchus, der die von der todesmatten Weinleserin gepflückten Beeren einsammelt, "Sein freudig eigenstes Leiden/Erinnernd zu kosten/Durch sie." Ähnlich verbindet sich in dem Gedicht "Lechem Min Haarez" der über das Brot ausgesprochene hebräische Segen in der Vorstellung der Dichterin mit dem "Segen der Erde", wie er sich in dem griechischen Mythos der Fruchtbarkeitsgöttin Demeter und ihrer Tochter Persephone verkörpert.

Man wird bei diesen wie anderen Gedichten Vera Lachmanns, nicht ohne Ergriffenheit, an einen anderen jüdischen Dichter aus dem Stefan George-Kreis, an Karl Wolfskehl erinnert, dem in seiner späten

Exil-Lyrik gleichfalls das jüdische Vermächtnis mit dem antikischen in Eins zusammenfloss, in ein Zusammengehöriges, aus dem sich Trost und Zuversicht, die Gewähr eines Fortbestandes schöpfen liess.

Aus dieser poetischen—und gewiss sehr persönlich gestimmten—Rückbesinnung empfangen auch die Gedichte Vera Lachmanns, zumal diejenigen, in denen sie der Gefährten und Gefährtinnen gedenkt, die in den Schreckensjahren der Hitlerzeit sei es von eigener, sei es von Mörderhand umkamen, einen innigen, zärtlich-warmen Ton, der bei aller sprachlich-formalen Treue zum Vorbild Georges dessen kühle Feierlichkeit doch weit hinter sich lässt. "Jiskor" ("Möge Er gedenken") heisst eins der schönsten und bewegendsten dieser Gedichte nach dem hebräischen Namen für die Kerze, die am Versöhnungstag für die Toten brennt. Es spricht daraus eine Stimme zu uns, die in der Innigkeit ihrer Empfindung, ihrer verhaltenen Glut mit einer Tradition deutscher Lyrik im Einklang steht, wie sie uns in den Dichtungen von Novalis und Hölderlin aufbewahrt ist.

In Zusammenarbeit mit Vera Lachmann hat der amerikanische Dichter Spencer Holst ihre Gedichte in diesem Band sehr liebevoll und feinfühlig in englische Prosa übertragen.

"Mir stehen die Sonette am höchsten, von denen ich einige ganz ausserordentlich finde ... vor allem in dem mehr hymnischen Abschnitt 'Gewölke' der aus antikischen Formen ein sehr starkes Zeitgefühl entäussert ...". So schrieb Stefan Zweig über einen im Jahr 1926 erschienenen Gedichtband von Paul Muehsam. Eine Auswahl seines heute vergessenen Werkes, an dessen Herausgabe Paul Muehsams Tochter Else Levi-Muehsam mitgearbeitet hat, haben uns jetzt zwei deutsche Verlage in dankenswerter Weise vorgelegt.†) Paul Muehsam wurde 1876 in Brandenburg

† Paul Muehsam: *Tao—der Sinn des Lebens*. Drei-Eichen-Verlag, Hermann Kisserer, München. DM 6.80. "... seit der Schöpfung wurde gehämmert an deinem Haus." Seekreis-Verlag, Konstanz. DM 18.50.

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geboren, besuchte die Gymnasien in Chemnitz und Zittau und studierte Jura in Freiburg, München, Leipzig und Berlin. Von 1905 an wirkte er in Görlitz als Rechtsanwalt und Notar. Nach dem ersten Weltkrieg, während dessen er beim Zentralkomitee des Roten Kreuzes in Berlin tätig war, begann er seine Lyrik und Prosa zu veröffentlichen. 1933 emigrierte er mit seiner Familie nach Israel, wo er 1960 im Alter von 83 Jahren starb.

"... Als Europäer aufgewachsen, unlöslich verbunden mit der Heimat und vor allem der deutschen Sprache, meinem geliebten Instrument, dem einzigen, auf dem ich spielen kann, empfand ich die Trennung von einer Welt, die mir ans Herz gewachsen war, als einen unheilbaren Bruch meiner Lebenslinie, als Herausgeschleudertsein in eine völlig fremde und anders geartete Umgebung, als eine Verbannung."

Dieses schmerzliche, aber gewiss nicht vereinzelte Bekenntnis, das Paul Muehsam 1955 in seinen noch ungedruckten Lebenserinnerungen "Ich bin ein Mensch gewesen" niederschrieb, wird man mit Ehrfurcht aufnehmen, wenn man seine Prosaschrift "Tao—der Sinn des Lebens" liest. Diesen Sinn erblickte er darin, dass "alles Leben in der Tiefe eins, weil göttlichen Wesens ist." Und diese Lebensfrömmigkeit schöpfte er aus den Quellen westlicher wie östlicher Weisheit, aus jüdischen wie christlichen, griechischen wie indischen Glaubenslehren, vor allem aber wohl aus der Philosophie des deutschen Idealismus, in der ihm Herder und Schelling am nächsten standen. Sie mündeten ihm zuletzt in eine von deutschen Mystikern wie Jakob Böhme und Angelus Silesius getönte "Religion der reinen Menschlichkeit", in eine still gefasste, fast schweigende Selbsteinkkehr- und Besinnung ein.

Diese "Innwendigkeit" spiegelt sich aufs schönste und gedankenvollste auch in seiner Lyrik wider, wie man ihr in dem Auswahlband seiner Gedichte "... seit der Schöpfung wurde gehämmert an diesem Haus" begegnet. In ihr glaubt man oft einen reichen und lebensvollen Nachklang von Schillers philosophischen Gedichten zu vernehmen. Das in diesem Band enthaltene dramatische Gedicht "Der Ewige Jude" andererseits trägt starke und deutliche Züge einer faustisch-goetheschen Dichtung. Die ahasverische Stimme Paul Muehsams, seines und unseren jüdischen Schicksals dringt nun wieder umso reiner und ergreifender an unser Ohr und Gemüt, als sie hier in der Sprache deutscher Klassik zu uns redet.

NELLY SACHS BEQUEST

An amount of £25,000 and all future proceeds from her books have been left to homeless children, irrespective of religion or race, by Nelly Sachs, the 1966 Nobel Prize winner.

The new Home for the Aged of the Düsseldorf Jewish Community, "Nelly-Sachs-Haus", was recently opened in Düsseldorf.

ETROGIM FOR TOPOL

A request to send a lulav and etrog to Yugoslavia was received by a store in Willesden, London. These were for Topol, playing the screen version of Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof" being filmed in Zagreb.

* Vera Lachmann: *Golden tanzt das Licht im Glas*. Castrum Peregrini Presse, Amsterdam. Hfl 14.95. DM 16.45.

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

DAYAN DR. I. GRUNFELD, 70

Dayan Dr. I. Grunfeld, who recently celebrated his 70th birthday, is one of those former German Jews who by their standing in Anglo-Jewish life have added lustre to our community. Originating from Wuerzburg, where he practised as a lawyer, Dayan Grunfeld's writings have also contributed to the preservation and adequate assessment of our spiritual heritage. He has been an interested member of the AJR for many years and also lent the prestige of his name to the "Thank You Britain" Fund as a sponsor. We extend our sincerest birthday wishes to our friend Dayan Grunfeld.

MR. FRITZ ROSEN, 80

The designer, Mr. Fritz Rosen, recently celebrated his 80th birthday in Crowborough (Sussex) where he now lives in retirement. In the twenties and early thirties he was recognised as one of the leading graphic designers in Germany. He was, *inter alia*, commissioned to design a number of posters against the rising Nazi party. In this country, his clients included leading refugee firms in the textile, chocolate and chemical industries. Mr. Rosen's professional services were also of great benefit to Jewish refugee relief organisations in this country as well as to the Jewish National Fund. A birthday tribute, published in the leading German magazine "Gebrauchsgraphik" bears witness that his achievements are still well remembered by his former colleagues in Germany. Mr. Rosen has been a member of the AJR since its inception. We extend our sincerest birthday wishes to him.

PROF. WILHELM FELDBERG, 70

Professor Wilhelm Feldberg, C.B.E., F.R.S., recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Born in Hamburg, he was, prior to his emigration in 1933, a lecturer of physiology at Berlin University. In this country, Professor Feldberg was until his retirement Head of the Laboratory of Neuropharmacology at the National Institute for Medical Research. In 1961, he created a Trust out of the German compensation payments made to him, which is to be used for the promotion of Anglo-German scientific exchange. We extend our best wishes to Professor Feldberg, who has been an interested member of the AJR for many years.

HANS LESCHNITZER, 60

Mr. Hans Leschnitzer (Montevideo) will be 60 on December 2. As Executive Vice-President of "Centra", the federation of communities established by Central European immigrants in South America, he is also well known to the Hon. Officers of the Council of Jews from Germany and he attended several Council conferences as representative of his organisation. It is to a high extent due to his efforts that the contacts between the member congregations of "Centra" could be maintained and strengthened. Last, but not least, Mr. Leschnitzer plays a leading part in the activities of the "Nueva Congregacion Israelita de Montevideo" of which he is the Vice-President. We extend our sincerest congratulations to our friend Leschnitzer.

TONI STOLPER, 80

Toni Stolper, widow of the publicist Gustav Stolper and an authoress in her own right, celebrated her 80th birthday on November 22 in the United States. Her works include a biography of her late husband, "Ein Leben im Brennpunkt unserer Zeit: Wien, Berlin, New York" (Tübingen 1960) and numerous contributions to the "Deutsche Rundschau" and the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung". Gustav and Toni Stolper were close friends of the late German Federal President Theodor Heuss and his wife, and their names frequently appear among the addressees of the recently published letters of the late President.

DR. HARRY ABT, 70

Dr. Harry Abt (Johannesburg) recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Prior to his emigration in 1939, he was Studienrat at the Realgymnasium of the Adass Jisroel congregation in Berlin and, from 1936, Director of the Jewish Reformrealgymnasium in Breslau. As head of the cultural department of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Dr. Abt was in charge of Jewish adult education. From 1956-1964, he was Rabbi at the Oxford Synagogue (Johannesburg).

CENTENARIAN

Justizrat Dr. Leo Cohn-Biedermann (formerly of Berlin) recently celebrated his 100th birthday. He is a resident of the New York Jewish Home for the Aged. Congratulations on behalf of Mayor Lindsay were conveyed to him by the Deputy Commissioner for Public Events of the City of New York, Mr. Hellmuth Kohn, who is also Chairman of the Board of the "Aufbau". In the name of the German Federal Government and of the Mayor of Berlin, Dr. Harald Graf von Posadowsky-Wehner, the German Consul General in New York, presented to Justizrat Cohn-Biedermann a reproduction of the Medieval Machsor Lipsiae.



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IN MEMORIAM

SUSAN MARKUS

Der AJR Club betrauert das Ableben eines seiner ältesten Mitglieder: Susan Markus. Für Susan Markus war der Club ihr Lebenselixier. Unermüdlich sammelte sie alle Literatur, die den Club betraf, und ebenso unermüdlich photographierte sie alle Ereignisse im Club. So entstand ihr Lebenswerk: Die Geschichte des AJR Clubs. In den letzten Jahren galt ihr Hauptinteresse dem Bring-and-Buy Sale am Geburtstag des Clubs. Dazu stiftete sie selbst-gezogene Pflanzen und übernahm die Verteilung der von ihr entworfenen Handarbeiten zur Fertigstellung an die Mitglieder. Bis kurz vor ihrem Ableben war sie schon mit den Vorbereitungen für das nächste Jahr tätig.

Grosszügig war sie im Geben. So wird das Andenken an Susan Markus bewahrt werden.

MARGARET JACOBY

MR. GERT WHITMAN

The banker, Gert Whitman, died in Frankfurt. A son of the late Staatssekretär Weissmann, he was in pre-war Germany an authority on the implications of the Dawes and Young Loans. He emigrated to the United States, where he anglicised his name and returned to Germany after the war as an adviser to the American High Commissioner John McCloy. Until he went into semi-retirement last year, Mr. Whitman was associated with the firm of S. G. Warburg. "He was an international banker in the classical sense," writes *The Times* in its obituary.

LUDWIG LAZARUS

Mr. Ludwig Lazarus died in Hanover at the age of 70. He had dedicated the last years of his life to Jewish genealogical research work, and one of the fruits of his labours in this field was a unique and most interesting work about the descendants of Jente von Hameln, a sister-in-law of Glueckel von Hameln. So far, this family tree has, unfortunately, only been recorded as a private print. Lazarus readily put his knowledge and his huge collection of books and documents at the disposal of enquirers from many spheres of life, including the Broadcasting Company, the Press and students. Born in Berlin as the son of a partner of the well-known second-hand booksellers A. Asher & Co., he opened a bookshop of his own when he had to discontinue his studies at the University in 1933. He was arrested in 1936 because of his contacts with his fellow Socialists and spent three years in prison, and in Dachau and Buchenwald. In 1940, Lazarus managed to emigrate to Shanghai but he returned to Germany in 1949 and took residence in Hanover.

JOHANNES URZIDIL

The poet and writer, Johannes Urzidil, (New York), who originated from the Prague circle around Kafka, Werfel and Brod, died at the age of 74 in Rome. He was on a lecture tour in the course of which he had also planned to give a talk at the Club 1943 in London. In 1968, Urzidil delivered the 11th Leo Baeck Memorial Lecture at the New York L.B.I. His subject was the contribution of Jewish Prague to German literature. Urzidil's works include several volumes of poems and essays as well as the novel on America "Das Grosse Hallelujah" (1959).

ALFRED SIERADZ

The co-founder of the Düsseldorf Jewish post-war community, Mr Alfred Sieradz, recently died at the age of 79. A survivor of the Theresienstadt concentration camp, he was for many years a member of the Repraesentantenversammlung and, from 1949-1960, of the Board of the Jewish community.

MR. BRUNO TAUSSIG

The death occurred suddenly, in his 81st year, on November 10, at Osmond House, of Bruno Taussig. He had been a resident of the home since 1964 and was loved by everyone. Despite the fact that he had no close relatives his room was often full of visitors from among the relations of other residents.

Although he will not be remembered because of any specific achievements his memory will remain with the residents and staff of Osmond House through his cheerful acceptance of the loss of both his legs. His fortitude was a shining example to all who came in contact with him.

MARTIN BUBER FOREST IN HAZOREA

A Martin Buber Forest will be planted at Kibbutz Hazorea whose founder members originate from the German-Jewish youth movement, "Die Werkleute" and include many former disciples of Martin Buber. Among the guests at the opening ceremony was Dr. Gertrud Luckner (Freiburg i.B.) who courageously helped the Jews in Germany when the Nazis were in power and who has taken a leading part in the work for German-Jewish understanding since the end of the war. Mr. Jacob Tsur, Director of the Keren Kayemet, read out a greetings telegram from German Federal President, Dr. G. Heinemann. The funds for the planting of the Forest were raised among friends and followers of Martin Buber in Israel and Germany.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

Chaim.—The family and friends wish Miss Jenny Chaim, of 15 Lytton Close, London, N.2, all the very best on the occasion of her 90th birthday on December 21.

Slater.—Mr. Martin Slater (Schlachter), Aberdare, Glam., will celebrate his 73rd birthday on December 6.

Deaths

Glanz.—Mrs. Olga Glanz, of 58 Beaufort Park, London, N.W.11, passed away on October 26. Deeply mourned by her daughter, Edith Stern.

Linton.—Mr. Harold Linton (Lilienthal) passed away after a long illness on October 15. Deeply mourned by his wife Anna (née Hirsch), son Stephen and brothers Kenneth and Tovia (Israel).—10 Edson Road, Manchester, 8.

Riesenfeld.—Dr. Friedrich Riesenfeld passed away in Paris on November 6, 82 years old. Deeply mourned by his daughter, Mrs. Erica Fryszman, his son-in-law, Maximilien Fryszman, his granddaughters and his great-granddaughter.—50 Rue de la Tourelle, 92-Boulogne (Auts - de - Seine), France.

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MISSING PERSONS

Personal Enquiries

Arndt.—Ilse Arndt (née Cohn), born in Glogau, lived in Breslau, married in Dresden, age end of 50s, sought by Käthe Brower (née Behnsch), 3210 Greenfield, Royal Oak, Mich. 48072, U.S.A.

Jacob.—Salo Jacob (wife: Salka [Sarah] née Keins), former owner of KAUFHAUS GEBR. BARASCH NACHFLG., GLEIWITZ. Anyone who knew them, their friends or employees, or anyone knowing any pre-1939 residents of Gleiwitz (whether still living there or not), please contact me without delay: Edgar Lax, 8 Woodgrange Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex.

AJR Enquiries

Gold.—Mr. Solli Gold, born 1930, and his wife. Last known address: 87 Riffel Road, London, N.W.2.

Shelley.—Mr. Curtis Shelley. Last known address: 4 Carlton Hill, London, N.W.8.

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NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND GERMANY

U.S. ARMS BILL

A £829-million defence procurement Bill has been passed by the United States Senate. This includes authority for the Administration to grant Israel unlimited credit to buy American weapons on easy terms. The Bill, which implies that the arms sales are to "restore and maintain the military balance in the Middle East", is considered the most liberal measure for buying arms granted by America to any country.

AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS

The American Jewish community has this year provided the largest national group of immigrants to Israel. In the first eight months nearly 5,000 Americans arrived, with the intention of settling in Israel. The Jewish Agency predicts that the total will reach 8,000 or 9,000 by the end of the year, with more than 10,000 in 1971. There has been a considerable increase in the flow of immigrants from the smaller urban communities in the United States.

This year altogether about 42,000 new settlers are expected to arrive. French Jews are second in the number of immigrants. Last year's total of about 1,600 British immigrants is not expected to be much exceeded.

HIGH LIFE EXPECTANCY

The Israel Statistical Yearbook states that men in Israel have a longer life expectancy than those in the U.S., France or Japan. Last year the average life expectancy of the Israeli population rose to 69.5 years for men and 73.3 years for women. In the United States it is 66.7 years for men and 73.8 years for women; in France 67.8 and 75 years respectively; in Japan 67.7 and 73.6 years respectively.

BERLIN ENDOWMENT

The Land Berlin made a donation of DM 500,000 to the Negev University for the building of a reading room in the Agnon Library.

DENMARK SCHOOL IN JERUSALEM

The Denmark School has been opened in Jerusalem, built with money largely contributed by a group of ten American Jews in honour of the Danish people who saved their coreligionists from Nazi persecution. During the Second World War the Danes rescued 7,000 Jews. The 150 Danish visitors at the opening of the school included members of the wartime Danish Resistance.

DOCTORATE FOR GERMAN

The Hon. Doctorate of Tel Aviv University was awarded to Stadtrat Walter Hesselbach (Frankfurt) in recognition of his work for the promotion of German-Israeli relations. Stadtrat Hesselbach is Chairman of the German Societies of Friends of the Hebrew University and of the German Society for the furtherance of economic relations with Israel.

CONSULATE IN MUNICH

To strengthen her commercial relations with the German Federal Republic, Israel will open a consulate in Munich; it is the first Israeli consulate in a German city, apart from Bonn.

GERMAN CITIES REMEMBER JEWS

Following the examples of a number of German cities, the municipalities of Schweinfurt and Duisburg intend to publish the histories of their Jewish communities and ask for the co-operation of their emigrated former fellow-citizens. Particulars about Schweinfurt should be sent to Rabbi Dr. Max Koehler, 12 Fairholt Street, London N.16, the last rabbi of the community who was recently received by the Mayor of Schweinfurt. The organisation in charge for Duisburg is: Christlich-jüdische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Niederrhein e.V., Duisburg, Krusestr. 31.

The September, 1970 issue of the magazine, "Karlsruhe—Heute und Morgen", carries an article by Kurt Kranich on the occasion of the forthcoming opening of a new synagogue for the approximately 400 Jews who now live in and near Karlsruhe. The site — between Adenauerring and Knielinger Allee — was donated by the Land Baden-Wuerttemberg. The first synagogue of the city, the author recalls, was erected in 1810. The second synagogue at Kaiserstrasse was completed in 1875 and destroyed in the course of the November, 1938 pogroms. The author also refers to the deportation of the Jews from Badenia and the Palatinate to Gurs (Southern France) in October, 1940. Among them were 1,267 Jewish citizens of Karlsruhe.

"KARL ABRAHAM INSTITUT"

In memory of its founder the "Berliner Psychoanalytische Institut" changed its name to "Karl Abraham Institut". The decision was taken on the occasion of the Institute's 50th anniversary celebration which was also attended by Hilde Abraham (London), the daughter of the late Karl Abraham.

LEO BAECK PRIZE

This year, the Leo Baeck Prize of the "Zentralrat" of the Jews in Germany was awarded to Professor Dr. Franz Boehm and Mr. Johannes Giesberts, Beigeordneter of the City of Cologne. Professor Boehm was a leading member of the German delegation at the Hague negotiations which resulted in agreements on global reparation payments and on the principles of individual compensation. As a member of the German Bundestag, Professor Boehm was one of the architects of the ensuing legislation. His work for the establishment of a new relationship between Germany and Jewry has been motivated by a deep commitment to the ethical principles of justice, democracy and human understanding.

Beigeordneter Johannes Giesberts, who is in charge of the School Department of the Cologne municipality, has been particularly active in the promotion of contacts between the German youth and members of the younger generation in other countries, especially Israel. The exhibition "Monumenta Judaica" (1964) was organised under his aegis.

MOSHE MENUHIN AND RIGHT-WING WEEKLY

Mr. Moshe Menuhin, the father of Yehudi and Hephzibah Menuhin, has quit his post as cultural and political affairs adviser of the extreme Right-wing nationalist weekly, the *Deutsche National-Zeitung*. A leading contributor in the paper's anti-Israel and anti-Zionist campaign, it is understood that he has decided to retire from his post because he felt the paper's policy towards Israel was no longer "combative" enough. It is also said he disagrees with the paper's opposition to the Bonn Government's new attitude towards Eastern Europe.

ANTISEMITIC LEAFLETS CONDEMNED

Antisemitic leaflets were distributed in Frankfurt's West End, calling on the public to join a demonstration "against the Jews" responsible for the "misery" there. This follows allegations of expulsion of tenants and exorbitant rentals charged by a group of Jewish brokers. These allegations have been denied by Jewish business circles.

The distribution of the leaflets was condemned by a Frankfurt citizens' committee, who said that antisemitism is out of place in the city. The public prosecutor has opened inquiries.

OBERAMMERGAU PLAY

The organisers of the Oberammergau passion play have announced that an opinion poll among 530,000 visitors to this year's performance showed that the overwhelming majority do not support charges that it is antisemitic.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

UNITED NATIONS

UNJUSTIFIED CRITICISM

Sir,—I was interested to read Dr. Brassloff's assessment of the United Nations after 25 years' existence, but on reflection feel that by trying to cover the entire and vast range of U.N. activities, political, economic and social, the end result turns out to be, perhaps necessarily, rather shallow.

Some of the accusations contained in the article, however, need refuting as so little appears to be known or understood about the U.N. "The U.N. has failed to show genuine concern at such grave issues as the tragedy of Biafra." Actually 40 per cent of all the medical and nutritional aid supplied was channelled through U.N.I.C.E.F., not to mention the negotiators or the attempted mediation. Dr. Brassloff further writes that the U.N. appears unconcerned about "the denial of elementary human rights in so-called Socialist countries". The Soviet action in Czechoslovakia was almost universally condemned in the General Assembly. It is difficult to assess the effect of the U.N. in such situations, but it is probably highly significant. Of course it is hampered by the continued reluctance of member States to forego any of their national sovereignty and their insistence on no outside interference in what they consider to be internal matters.

But perhaps the most regrettable accusation in the article refers to "the frequently equivocal behaviour of the Secretary-General, U Thant", especially it seems alleged, in the case of Israel. It has been my privilege to be chairman of the Streatham branch of the U.N. Association for over ten years, during which time I have been kept fully informed of the activities, statements and resolutions at the U.N. I know of no statement or action of U Thant which could be thus described. Indeed, this accusation appears with monotonous regularity in the political Right-wing and Zionist press and is never substantiated. Let us

always remember that just two weeks before the beginning of the Israeli-Arab June war in 1967, U Thant offered U.N. peace-keeping troops to Israel which that country refused to accept and thereby diminished the role of peace-keeping which the U.N. played so successfully in the Congo, Cyprus, etc. And let us remember, too, that U Thant has personally appealed to the leaders of the Soviet Union, Iraq and Egypt to allow Jewish citizens in their countries to emigrate. (See his Annual Report, 1969.)

The U.N. is not a world government. It is a set of rules and a piece of machinery, far from perfect, but the best available at present. The job of the U.N. supporters is to urge its use in all appropriate circumstances. It is trite to say "the U.N. deserves critical support". It deserves first and foremost committed support which, if it is thus, can rightly be critical. It has enough of the other kind already.

Yours, etc.,

HANS G. WOYDA.

12a Telford Parade,
Streatham Hill, S.W.2.

SELF AID CONCERT

As every year, the concert of Self Aid of Refugees in the Queen Elizabeth Hall on November 10th proved a great social and artistic success. The artists were the violinist Szymon Goldberg, well known to former Berliners as the leader of the Berlin Philharmonic under Furtwangler, and Radu Lupu, the 25-year-old pianist who won the 1969 Leeds Piano Competition's first prize unanimously. It was, therefore, no surprise that the artistic level was of the highest possible standard. It ranged from Beethoven to Debussy.

The concert also proved an outstanding financial success and yielded £6,700 towards Self Aid's funds which will help them to continue their urgently needed work for former refugees.

NOBEL PRIZEWINNERS

Professor Sir Bernard Katz, who is professor of biophysics at University College, London, is one of the three joint prizewinners of this year's Nobel Prize for medicine. He was born in Leipzig, where he obtained his M.D. in 1934. Professor Katz, who was knighted last year, came to Britain from Germany in 1935, one of the eminent persons in the fields of science, medicine and literature whom Nazism brought to the free Western world.

Dr. Julius Axelrod, the other Jewish prizewinner for medicine, is professor of pharmacology at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A. New York-born Dr. Axelrod described his prize-winning work as a long-time study of how nerves transmit messages to bodily organs.

The Nobel Memorial Prize for Economics has been awarded to Professor Paul A. Samuelson, the American economist. He is the son of Jewish immigrants from Poland and his family is related to the poet, I. L. Peretz. Head of the economic department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the past 30 years, Professor Samuelson was influential in the economic planning of both the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations. His citation says he has done more than any other contemporary economist to raise the level of scientific analysis in economic theory.

WOMAN PROFESSOR OF LAW

The first woman to hold a law chair in the United Kingdom is Dr. Claire Palley, who has been appointed professor of public law at Queen's University, Belfast. She is also one of the very few women to have a chair at the university. Dr. Palley, a barrister, gained her Ph.D. at London University, and was born and educated in South Africa. Her husband is Dr. Ahron Palley, who was for twelve years a member of the Rhodesian Parliament.

MENUHIN HONOURED

Yehudi Menuhin has had the Nehru Award for Peace and International Understanding conferred upon him. He gave his services free at a series of concerts in India in 1951, the proceeds of about £15,000 going to famine relief. Menuhin thinks he is the first violinist of Jewish origin to be so honoured.

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