

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Margot Pottlitzer

## REFUGEE LIFE UNDER REVIEW

People who grew up in the 'twenties will have difficulty in appreciating the fact that the time span between the present day and the beginnings of the Hitler régime is about as wide as that which separated their adolescent days from the age of Bismarck. The experience of those who left Germany as refugees after 1933 has now become part of history to the same extent as had that of Bismarck's Reich in their youth. It is therefore only natural that students of 20th century history should show themselves increasingly interested in the history of refugees from Nazi oppression. This interest is heightened by the fact that there have been so many more refugees after the end of World War II and of colonialism, and these new refugees in many countries have raised new problems which are constantly discussed and investigated. The refugee problem has once more attracted public attention.

Readers of AJR Information will be aware of the fact that for the past few years the Council of Jews from Germany has been collecting material on the fate of the Jewish refugees in their various countries of refuge, and it is hoped that it will not be long before the results of this research project can be published. In the meantime students in a number of countries have made the fate of these groups or certain aspects of it the subject of their theses. Recently a young English author, Austin Stevens, was commissioned to write a book on Refugees in Britain, and after very thorough research this book has now been published under the title *The Dispossessed* (Barrie & Jenkins, London 1975, 319pp, £5.50). The author has gone to great lengths in consulting official documents and the surviving files of the organisations in charge of refugee work and has in addition interviewed a number of people. The title of the book reveals the author's attitude—an almost limitless empathy and compassion for refugees—it leads him to put almost too much blame on the countries of refuge for their refusal to admit all those who might have been able to escape. He puts the story in its context by giving details of the persecution of Jews by the Nazis in order to show the breaking point, different for each individual, which decided people to become refugees. The book is at its most interesting when it describes individual experiences which are followed through from that decisive point to final settlement in this country. Difficulties of language and of employment, internment and war service are perceptively related.

The author compares the Jews from Germany to the Russians who had come as refugees at an earlier date. They came from a background of long suffering and hardship. This gave them an important advantage over the German Jews.

Austin Stevens also notes that most refugees are far more vociferous about their pre-war

and wartime experiences than about their life in Britain after the war. He is convinced that the older generation will "carry Germany with them forever, wherever they go—a loyalty, a regret, a wound". He is equally convinced that this German-Jewish identity is in danger of being lost in the younger generation, but even so "that German Jews will go on contributing . . . their German sense of order to the world". It is to the author's credit that his encounter with the remnants of this group should have led him to think so—whether it is true, is, to say the least, very much open to debate.

*The Dispossessed* is the story of Jewish refugees told by someone who is not one of them. It is perhaps more unbiased and outspoken for coming from outside. It lacks, however, one element which strange though it may seem, forms an integral part of the story: the gift to laugh in adversity—gallows-humour. The experience of the accountant who with his wife was employed in domestic service by well-meaning people, and whose shortcomings as a gardener were counterbalanced by his wife's excellence as a cook and by his employers' social conscience, is as comical as it is sad. Jews have always been able to see the funny side of a serious situation, and the refugee situation was not lacking in comical aspects, at least in retrospect.

## Alfred Kerr's Daughter

There is no lack of this type of humour in two books by Judith Kerr *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* (Collins 1971 £1.50. Paperback 30p) and *The Other Way Round* (Collins 1975 £2.95). Surprisingly, both books appeared as children's books and *Pink Rabbit* even won the youth-book section of the German Youth Prize in 1974. But then—why indeed should not children be told about historic events in a way which helps them to identify with the people who took part in them? The best children's books in any case are those that can be equally enjoyed by grown-ups, and both books certainly can.

Judith Kerr is the daughter of the late Alfred Kerr, the great dramatic critic of the Twenties and Thirties who was read as much for his brilliant if highly idiosyncratic style of writing as for his profound analysis of the theatre of his day. Like her father she has a way with words, and in the two books she relates the story of her family's life after they became refugees. The pink rabbit is the one she left behind when the Kerrs hurriedly left for Switzerland just before the March 1933 elections, as they were in immediate danger. From there they went to live in Paris for two years and eventually arrived in England in 1936. Apart from a few articles in Swiss papers and a few more in French papers nothing by Alfred Kerr was ever published after he left Berlin and he emerges as the really tragic figure in the story. His wife, a musician by

training, had to do all the adapting and to earn a precarious living by uncongenial work.

The Kerrs had come to England on the strength of a film script about Napoleon for which a fee of £1,000 had been paid, but the film was never made. The money enabled the family, parents and two children, to settle in a small Bloomsbury hotel. Judith (Anna in the book) and her brother Max soon became trilingual and won scholarships to good schools. Max went on to Cambridge to study law, Anna, however, came up against all the stumbling blocks that were encountered by refugee girls who wanted to earn a living. She learnt stenotyping to do secretarial work, but most of the worthwhile jobs were not available to her. In Zurich she had still said "I might quite like being a refugee", but after three years in English surroundings and having lost all trace of an accent, she as well as her brother desperately wanted to belong.

Brother Max was accepted without question in Cambridge and would have had a brilliant career there but for his internment. When all attempts by teachers and friends to secure his release had failed, his parents wrote a letter to a national newspaper which was forwarded to the Home Secretary. He promised to look into the case immediately. Alfred Kerr's reaction was: "The English are extraordinary. Here they are threatened with invasion at any moment, and the Home Secretary can find time to right an injustice done to an unknown boy who wasn't even born here". Frau Kerr's reaction was that of a good Jewish mother: "Max is a very remarkable boy".

It is impossible to do more than mention some of the more unlikely things that happened to the Kerr family, how Max managed to join the RAF generally closed to refugees, how the Bloomsbury Hotel was bombed and refugee friends introduced the proprietor to an Indian Maharajah who eventually sold her his Putney home, how Judith eventually won a scholarship to the Central Schools of Arts and Crafts and became a freelance painter and designer—all this is told with such gusto and perception that it is quite impossible to put either of these books down without wishing for more.

Alfred Kerr died on his first official return visit to Germany in 1948, Judith is by now happily married to an English writer and mother of two British-born children. And yet in an article recently written for *The Times Literary Supplement* she refers to the problem of what she calls "writing with borrowed words". On a visit to Berlin, sitting on top of a bus, she read a street-sign *Blumenladen*. At once she was overwhelmed by reminiscences of a visit to a flower shop as a child, clasping an adult hand and moving among what appeared to be a jungle of giant plants. At that moment she realised "I had found a bit of my childhood, pickled in a word that had lain unused for forty years . . . I don't know if it matters . . . but I regret that never in my life can I be so affected by the word florist". This is a flash of insight granted to a gifted writer, but it contains an emotional truth which is reflected both in her own books and in that of Austin Stevens.

## RESTITUTION AND COMPENSATION

### NEUE ERHOEHUNG DER ENTSCHAEDIGUNGSRENTEN

Die laufenden Renten nach dem Entschädigungsgesetz werden durch eine im Wortlaut bereits bekannte, aber im deutschen Bundesgesetzblatt noch nicht veröffentlichte Verordnung rückwirkend auf den 1. Januar 1975 wegen der Steigerung der Lebenshaltungskosten und in Angleichung an die deutschen Beamtengehälter erneut erhöht. Die Erhöhung der laufenden Renten beträgt durchschnittlich 5%, jedoch werden die Mindestrenten und die sonstigen festen Renten nach dem Entschädigungsgesetz (z.B. die Berufschadensrente der Vertriebenen deutscher Volkzugehörigkeit) um 6% erhöht.

Obwohl die Verordnung bis zur Veröffentlichung im Bundesgesetzblatt noch nicht Gesetzeskraft hat, sind die Entschädigungsbehörden angewiesen, die entsprechenden Erhöhungen nach Möglichkeit schon vor der Veröffentlichung der neuen Verordnung durchzuführen und die Rentenberechtigten entsprechend zu benachrichtigen. Daher wird ein Teil der Rentenberechtigten bereits Benachrichtigung über die Erhöhung der Rente und die Nachzahlung der Differenz für die Zeit vom 1. Januar 1975 bis zur ersten Zahlung der erhöhten Rente erhalten haben.

### REGISTRATION OF PROPERTY IN THE GDR

(East Germany)

In our June 1975 issue we drew attention to the Foreign Compensation (German Democratic Republic) (Registration) Order 1975. We repeat that the time limit for registration of claims concerning property in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and in East Berlin expires on January 30, 1976. By that time completed application forms must have been received by The Foreign Compensation Commission, Alexandra House, Kingsway, London WC2B 6TT. The Order (Statutory Instrument No. 140) is available from H.M. Stationery Office and application forms can be obtained from the Foreign Compensation Commission.

Potential applicants are advised to study the details—and, if necessary, take the advice of a solicitor—to determine whether their particular case comes under the category of claims which can be registered. The wording of the Order raises doubts whether only deprivations after May 8, 1945, i.e. Communist deprivations, are covered, or whether Nazi deprivations also qualify for registration. Further, we understand (unofficially) that the Commission consider German Jews—unless, of course, they were naturalised as British subjects before that date—as still of German nationality as at May 8, 1945, as the deprivation of their German nationality by the Nazi decree of 1941 was null and void. The result of this view would considerably restrict the possibility of registration, since the condition for registration of one category of claims is that it might be a claim in respect of property which was in East Germany or East Berlin on May 8, 1945, and which on that date was not owned by a German national.

In the above we selected only two points of importance, without attempting to give a full report on the Order, to explain that the application of the Order to our group of people is limited. The AJR is unable to advise individual enquirers, except to say that in case of doubt whether a claim is registerable we would advise to apply for registration.

## NEWS FROM GERMANY

### PACT BETWEEN GERMAN AND ISRAELI TRADE UNIONS

The secretary-general of the Histadruth (Labour Federation) Yeruham Meschel recently paid a visit to Germany and called on the chairman of the West German Trade Unions (DGB) in Düsseldorf. At the end of his visit, an agreement was signed to further relations and co-operation between Israeli and West German Trade Unions. The agreement referred to the solidarity of Labour Movements and the mutual desire for a peaceful solution of the Middle East conflict which had cemented the close links between both organisations. This is the first agreement between the Histadruth and another national Labour movement.

During his visit, Mr Meschel was also received by the Federal Chancellor Mr. Helmut Schmidt, by Mr. Willy Brandt, chairman of the Social Democratic Party and Mr. Heinz Kuehn, the Social Democratic head of North Rhine Westphalia.

### RIGHT-WING DEMONSTRATION BANNED

The Ministry of the Interior of Baden-Wuerttemberg banned a planned demonstration by the right-wing "Kampfbund Deutscher Soldaten" outside the Ludwigsburg Central Office for the Prosecution of Nazi Crimes. Mr Erwin Schönborn, chairman of the organisation, had stated that the demonstrators were to express their disgust for Germans who "as henchmen of Simon Wiesenthal and Robert Kempner indulged in anti-German activities".

### DESECRATION OF CEMETERY

46 tombstones in the old Jewish cemetery in Frankfurt were knocked down by unknown persons. Several months earlier, 120 tombstones had been daubed with swastikas, and another 30 tombs had been damaged. The Mayor of Frankfurt stated publicly that the city was ashamed and disgusted at this outrage and warned against the antisemitic actions of small radical groups in the Federal Republic which were intolerable.

### JEWISH DOCTOR ACCUSED BY KAPO

The trial has started in Hanover against J. H. Wexler, former Kapo in camp Ahlem, an outpost of Neuengamme concentration camp, who is alleged to have murdered eight Jewish inmates of the camp. In the dock he accused Dr. Leon Feiler, a 60-year-old physician and chairman of the Hanover Jewish community, of having killed Jewish prisoners by injecting them with petrol. Dr. Feiler had been the camp doctor at Ahlem. Dr. Feiler published a statement refuting the accusation and stating that he had been a witness in a number of Ahlem trials and that nobody had ever made such a claim against him in spite of the fact that he and 400 other prisoners had been liberated in Ahlem near Hanover and that he had lived there ever since. His family was killed by the Nazis.

### NO RECOGNITION FOR PLO

The Ambassador of the Federal Republic in Israel, Per Fischer, called on the Israel Foreign Office with a declaration that the Federal Government was not going to recognise the PLO as long as this organisation had not ceased its terror acts and refused to recognise Israel.

### HEBREW IN GERMAN SCHOOLS

A study circle for the Hebrew language was opened at the Stuttgart *Karlslymnasium*. Students who have for three years studied Hebrew twice a week, will enter for the "Hebraicum" a certificate needed for a number of special subjects at German universities.

### NPD TEACHER REINSTATED

Günter Deckert, the high school master who had been dismissed by the Baden/Wuerttemberg Ministry of Education for his activities in the National Democratic Party (NPD), has been allowed to return to his school, as the Administrative Court in Karlsruhe to whom he appealed, decided that the NPD was not sufficiently anticonstitutional to justify his dismissal. The Ministry has appealed against the findings of the Court.

### ISRAELI VISIT TO REXINGEN

The mayor of Shave Zion in Israel paid a visit to Rexingen, Wuerttemberg, in the summer. Since 1938, Shave Zion has become the home of most of the Jewish population of Rexingen and surrounding townlets and villages. Rexingen held a special position before the Nazis came to power, because the percentage of Jews among the inhabitants was unusually large, and at one time or other, most Jewish children in Baden and Wuerttemberg spent some time at the large Jewish Children and Holiday Home in the town. The mayor of Rexingen presented his colleague from Israel with a History of the Rexingen Jews, begun many years ago by Rabbi Silberstein and completed by the non-Jewish Rector Christian Asperion. It reveals inter alia that during the First World War, Rexingen had a population of 1,100, one-third of whom were Jewish. 105 Jews were called up and 78 of them served in the front line. Of the 40 Rexingen men killed on active service, 15 were Jews.

### LEO BAECK PRIZE FOR JEANETTE WOLFF

Mrs Jeanette Wolff, for many years a member of the Federal and the Berlin City Parliaments and a leading personality in German Jewish life, was awarded the Leo Baeck Prize for 1975.

### GEORG BUECHNER PRIZE FOR JEWISH AUTHOR

The German Language and Poetry Academy has awarded its 1975 Georg Büchner prize to the Jewish author Manes Sperber who lives in Paris. The prize will be presented to him at a ceremony in Darmstadt next month.

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# HOME NEWS **ANGLO-JUDAICA**

## ARAB BOYCOTT

Statement by Peter Shore

During a five-day stay in Israel Mr. Peter Shore, the Secretary of State for Trade, told the Israel-British Chamber of Commerce that Britain deplored the Arab boycott, but that this did not solve the problem for individual British companies which are under pressure. "There are many British companies which ignore the trade boycott both with Israel and the Arabs and they are none the worse for it. I shall do what I can," he declared. Mr. Shore corrected the impression that Israel's trade deficit with Britain was very big. He said that £105 million of the £150 million deficit in 1974 represented rough diamond exports to Israel from Britain. These were polished in Israel and re-exported at a much higher price. Mr. Shore also inspected the site of a planned 80-mile railway extension in the Negev for which Britain may be able to offer technical advice and possibly equipment.

On the day of Mr. Shore's speech to the Chamber of Commerce, "The Times" reported that it was in possession of a document compiled in France according to which some 1,000 British firms may be on the Arab boycott blacklist.

## LOOPHOLE IN RACE RELATIONS ACT

The Government's White Paper on Racial Discrimination includes a section which makes exceptions "where the essential nature of the job calls for a person of a particular colour, race or ethnic or national origins" and where there is "a training or trade commitment to an overseas country". Mr. David Stephen, director of the Runnymede Trust which is concerned with racial problems, drew attention to what he calls "this new mysterious exemption". He stated that such an exemption "is presumably designed to allow firms to exclude Jewish people from missions to Arab countries".

## BRITISH PILOTS SOUGHT BY ARABS

The firm International Aeradio Ltd. of Southall, Middlesex, has advertised for qualified British fighter controllers for the Saudi Arabian Air Force. They must have recent practical experience and are offered tax-free salaries of £5,000-plus and work in "an operational environment using sophisticated equipment and the latest techniques". So far only very few applicants are supposed to have come forward.

## ARAB ACTIVITIES IN BOURNEMOUTH

A Jewish Representative Council has been formed in Bournemouth to counteract Arab propaganda which has permeated not only student bodies but also the general population and the local branch of the United Nations Association. There are many Arab students attending language schools and colleges of technology in the town. A number of Jewish students have been attacked with knives and other offensive weapons when they attempted to rebut anti-Israeli propaganda in public. At one college a Jewish lecturer refuses to have Arab students in his classes because of their open hostility to him. After the distribution of virulent anti-Israeli pamphlets, emanating from the PLO Office in London, the Arab cause has gained speedy and sympathetic support from British as well as from African and Asian students.

## TREASURER FOR B.M.A. RE-ELECTED

At its annual meeting at Leeds the British Medical Association re-appointed Dr. Jack E. Miller of Glasgow as treasurer for a further three years. Dr. Miller is also active in Jewish affairs.

## DID SIX MILLION REALLY DIE?

The antisemitic booklet "Did Six Million Really Die?" which has been circulated in Britain and sent to a number of schools for quite some time, describes the death of six million Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe as "the most colossal piece of fiction" and the most successful of deceptions invented by Jewry for political blackmail and financial gain. The nationalist magazine "Spearhead" which is edited by John Tyndall, a director of the National Front, declares in a leading article: "We are not concerned here whether the contents of the book are true or false. What is alarming is the outcry that the public should not be allowed to read them and judge for itself. After all, one version of the pre-war and wartime period has had ample reading (sic!). . . . Our society should be strong enough to stand a retrospective examination of the record of 30-40 years ago from more than one point of view. . . . If it is not, and certain views must be suppressed . . . that is something which should be a source of great worry to us".

Once the new Racial Discrimination Law is enacted, the Board of Deputies will seek a prosecution against the authors and distributors. This was not possible under the earlier Race Relations Act, because it required proof of intent to incite racial hatred. Other publications which may be referred to the Attorney-General for possible prosecution include the original version of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion which are readily obtainable from numerous Right-wing bookshops in Britain.

## WORKING FOR ANGLO-GERMAN UNDERSTANDING

T.V. Interview on November 10

The new Ludovic Kennedy series "News Day" on BBC-2 will include an interview with Mr. Herbert Sulzbach on the subject: "Thirty Years' Efforts of Anglo-German Understanding" on November 10 at 7.30 p.m. As our readers know, our friend Mr. Sulzbach who came to this country as a Jewish refugee was, and still is, active in this field, first as a British officer in a German Prisoners of War Camp and, during the past decades, under the auspices of the German Embassy.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

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## Insufficient vacancies in Jewish schools

Dr. E. S. Conway, headmaster of the Camden Town Jewish Comprehensive School, the biggest Jewish school in London, said that he had received over 320 applications for its 240 first-year places. At the Hasmonean Boys Grammar School in Hendon, 169 applied for the 99 places available. Altogether hundreds of children had to be refused by both primary and secondary Jewish schools this term, and educationalists are agreed that more schools ought to be opened as there is a general trend to send children to Jewish schools.

In Britain generally, the number of children at Jewish day schools showed an increase of 15 per cent, but several Manchester junior and infants schools showed a fall in the number of new pupils. At King David School in Manchester there was a drop of 80 in new admissions, as was revealed in a survey carried out by the Institute of Jewish Affairs.

## Synagogue into Mosque

The Spitalfields Great Synagogue, one of the landmarks of the Jewish East End has been sold to a Moslem religious body serving the Bangladesh community in East London. The building started as a Huguenot chapel in 1743 and had fallen into disuse owing to the dwindling Jewish population in the East End. The proceeds of the sale will be used for the establishment of a purpose-built synagogue in Golders Green.

## Funds for Local Needs

Mr. Joseph Cohen, an elder statesman of the Birmingham Jewish Community said at the annual meeting of the city's largest congregation, Singers Hill Synagogue, that many local communal institutions could only be saved if a proportion of the money raised for Israel were retained for use by the local community, whose needs were being increasingly ignored. The collapse of such institutions would not serve the interests of Israel which depended on the existence of a strong diaspora. For more than 50 years, Mr. Cohen has been a substantial benefactor of almost every local charity and of the Jewish Agency.

## Lady Chain Ort Women's President

Lady (Ernst) Chain, wife of the Nobel prize winner, was appointed president of Women's ORT. She is a member of the gifted Beloff family and the sister of Professor Max Beloff.

## New Community Centre in Manchester

Building is about to start on the £145,000 Hillel House which will not only provide accommodation for 40 students of both sexes, a resident warden and a student counsellor, but will eventually serve as a community centre for the entire Manchester community. There will be a kosher canteen, open to the public, and a library. However, the scope and size of the community centre which at present estimates will cost another £90,000, will depend on the money being raised as quickly as possible to keep pace with rising prices.

## Rabbi blesses Fishermen

At the annual whitebait festival in Southend, Rabbi P. Shebson took part in the traditional ceremony of "blessing the catch". Ministers of several denominations blessed the catches, as they were landed from the fishing trawlers.

## New Synagogue at Long Ditton

Kingston and District Progressive Jewish Congregation, founded in 1967, is completing negotiations for the purchase of its first synagogue building at a cost of £30,000. Half that amount has so far been raised. The congregation is planning a do-it-yourself work force of all ages which will convert the interior of the former school building.

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Minister accused of supporting boycott

The B'nai B'rith Anti-defamation League charged Mr. Rogers Morton, Secretary of Commerce, in the New York Federal Court with aiding Arab countries in their boycott of business enterprises owned by Jews or supporting Israel. The Commerce Department is alleged to have circulated to US companies offers for Arab business opportunities containing restrictive measures against individuals and companies supporting Israel. It has also refused to divulge the names of US companies which may have co-operated in the boycott. Mr. Morton's department has issued a statement that it has been very active in disseminating the US policy on the boycott issue, but that it was required by law to keep information about companies confidential.

Mrs Eleanor Holmes Norton, New York's Human Rights Commissioner, has officially warned all city employers that they will be prosecuted if they discriminate against Jews in employment. She added that a prima facie case had been made out against a city oil company for dismissing a Jewish receptionist whose job required greeting Arab visitors.

### Rabbi invites Vietnamese refugees

Rabbi Jacobs of Tarzana, California, the only rabbi to have sponsored a Vietnamese refugee family, a 24-year-old mother and her two small children, invited them as guests over Rosh Hashana. After attending the services at Rabbi Jacobs' liberal synagogue, Mrs Dao Tuyet, a Catholic, said that she "just loved the mass".

## BRAZIL

### Homage to Queen Juliana

More than 1,000 people attended a meeting organised by the *Hebraica Club* in Rio de Janeiro to celebrate the 700th anniversary of Amsterdam and the 300th anniversary of the Portuguese Synagogue there. Mr. Van der Fals, the Dutch Consul, read a message from Queen Juliana and accepted on her behalf gifts for her, presented by the 21 principal Jewish organisations and schools. They included Brazilian jewelry and precious stones and a portrait of Rabbi Isaac Abuab de Fonseca who, in 1642 was appointed Rabbi of Pernambuco by the Amsterdam community. At the time, the State of Pernambuco was under Dutch sovereignty.

## URUGUAY

### A staunch friend of Israel

When recently Mr. Victor Shemtov, Israel's Health Minister, visited Montevideo, President Bordaberry told him that Uruguay would never support the campaign of certain countries to exclude Israel from the UN, but would maintain her policy of friendship with the Jewish State.

There are 262 Jewish families with 886 people living in 34 towns in the provinces in Uruguay. The great majority of the 50,000 Jews in the country live in Montevideo.

## CANADA

### Leila Khaled refused entry

Leila Khaled who tried to hijack an Israeli plane five years ago, but was taken to prison in London after a shoot-out, has been denied entry to Canada where she intended to promote her book "My People Shall Live—Autobiography of a Revolutionary." The book is being published by *The New Canada Press*, controlled by the Canadian Liberation Movement, a Maoist faction some of whose leaders are Jewish.

## AUSTRALIA

### Jews and Ethnic Communities Council

Rabbi Apple the former minister of Hampstead Synagogue, said in Melbourne that the Jewish Community should refrain from getting involved with the new Ethnic Communities Council in Australia. He said: "Judaism is a religious way of thinking, and Jewish thinking is based on spiritual concepts." Jews were not a recent migrant group from one geographical background and therefore had no place in a council which would limit them to "a migrant group awaiting integration into Australian society".

## FRANCE

### Bomb attack on Chief Rabbi

The Chief Rabbi of France, Dr. Jacob Kaplan, an outspoken supporter of Israel, escaped unhurt when a bomb exploded outside his Paris flat, causing extensive blast damage. According to the police, the bomb was similar to the devices used in attacks on Jewish organisations and publications last year.

### 20,000 Jewish Demonstrators in Paris

Carrying banners reading "Let my people go" and "Down with Soviet persecution", more than 20,000 Jews participated in a march in Paris during Soviet Jewry week. A number of non-Jews, religious and lay leaders also took part as did Barons Guy and Alain de Rothschild. Other marches took place in Marseilles, Lyon, Bordeaux and other big cities.

## DENMARK

### Divorced Israeli expelled

Mr. Irzhak Gershuni, a 35-year old Israeli was expelled from Denmark after being divorced by his Danish wife who retains custody of the children of the marriage. Mr. and Mrs Gershuni were married in Denmark and lived in Israel for several years. One of the children was born there. Mr. Gershuni whose name means "I was expelled", has accused the Danish authorities of estranging him from his children by refusing him a work permit so that he could stay in the country. As there is a lot of unemployment in Denmark, the authorities are trying to reduce the number of foreign workers. Mr. Gershuni appealed to Rabbi Melchior, Chief Rabbi of Denmark to intercede on his behalf.

## NORWAY

### New Rabbi appointed

The Oslo Jewish community appointed Rabbi Michael Melchior, son of the Chief Rabbi of Denmark, as the first resident rabbi in Norway for many years. Of the 1,000 Jews in Norway, about 700 live in Oslo. Before the war Norway had a Jewish population of 1,500, but the community was reduced by half through Nazi persecution.

## BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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# JEWRY IN THE EAST

## POLICE ATTACK ON ISRAELI FLAG

During a traditional picnic 25 miles from Moscow where more than 100 Soviet Jews met a number of visiting American and Canadian Jewish lawyers and nine sportsmen attending the International Championships, an Israeli flag was displayed. Some 30 policemen on watch approached the group when they began dancing round the flagpole. One of the sportsmen gripped the flag and claimed it as his property. In the ensuing scuffle, the police broke the flagpole, but were unable to seize the flag and withdrew.

## REMEMBERING BABI YAR

In spite of attempts by the Soviet police to prevent observance of the 24th anniversary of the massacre of more than 33,000 Kiev Jews at Babi Yar by the Nazis, small groups of Jews succeeded in reaching the ravine near the city to recite prayers for the dead. The police placed some 20 families under virtual house arrest until the anniversary was over.

## ZIONIST PAINTINGS BANNED

Seven out of 16 paintings banned by the Soviet authorities at the Moscow exhibition of unofficial art were censored for their alleged Zionist inspiration. They were the work of the Jewish artist Josef Lipitsky. Among 25 further paintings which had originally been banned, there were six by the Jewish painter Samuel Rubashkin who died earlier this year, aged 69, but his self-portrait and five paintings of Jewish life with Hebrew inscriptions are now on display.

## WELCOME FOR ISRAELI ATHLETES

Five Israeli weight-lifters who attended the World European Athletics Championship in Moscow, received a tumultuous welcome when they attended services at a Moscow Synagogue. They were the first Israeli group since 1973 to participate in a sporting event in the Soviet Union.

## BULGARIAN COMMUNITY

The Bulgarians, during the Second World War, refused to surrender any of the then 50,000-member Jewish community to the Nazis, even though Bulgaria was an ally of Nazi Germany. With the establishment of the State of Israel, more than 40,000 Bulgarian Jews emigrated there. The 7,000 or so who remained have dwindled over the years.

A report by Henry Kamm in the New York Times says that the congregation at a recent Sabbath service he attended were all old, except for a couple in their thirties and a boy accompanying his grandmother. A shabby little prayer-room next door to "the splendid high-domed synagogue" in Sofia "is large enough, with places to spare, to gather in on the Sabbath eve all the Bulgarian Jews who pray". The reader, himself elderly, acts as a shochet for poultry occasionally, but there is no kosher meat, and some of the congregation have become vegetarians. The service attended by Mr. Kamm was conducted in Hebrew and Ladino, the lingua franca of Sephardi Jews—Bulgaria's remaining Jews are Sephardim.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

### Work on Theresienstadt Completed

The Jewish Committee for Theresienstadt which was set up by Dr. George Weis in Vienna some ten years ago, has finished the work it has set out to do and will cease to function in the near future. It has re-modelled the Jewish cemetery and memorial, made microfilms of the complete card-index of camp inmates and published a memorial volume with the names of all Jews deported from Austria. In Israel it has founded Beth Theresienstadt in Givat Chaim.

Lucie Schachne

## A LIVING LABORATORY

### The Mount Carmel Centre

As 1975 approaches its end, it seems fair to say that the efforts made under the auspices of International Women's Year have been successful in certain ways. Apart from publicising issues shared universally by women, activities and congresses have highlighted in particular the needs of those in the developing countries, that group who make up the majority of women in the world.

Still more important, they have emphasised the vital contribution women can have to make towards the progress of their own individual community.

An outstanding and lasting illustration of the latter aspect has been given by Mrs. Mary Saran in her book "For Community Service: The Mount Carmel Experiment" (Basil Blackwell, £3.50). The author, herself closely involved with the Centre in Haifa since its inception, is a well-known personality in international women's work. At present a Social Democratic representative at Unesco and a free-lance journalist, she is excellently equipped to record the work of this unique educational venture that started in Israel as early as 1961: the Training Centre for Community Services.

The Centre's terms of reference are best defined in Mary Saran's own introductory remarks: the provision of educational and training facilities which would help women of developing countries to make a more effective contribution to their societies.

When the idea was first discussed at international conferences concerned with the development of the Third World, a number of Israeli personalities, among them Golda Meir, Mina Ben Zvi and Abba Khoushy, gave enthusiastic support. In those days even Unesco co-operated with Israel, realising, like other global agencies, that Israel, by virtue of its "twofold nature as a developed and at the same time developing country", could offer a "living laboratory" of experiments and community experience which "encouraged those who came to learn". It is hard to ignore the irony of history expressed in the resolution of the International Women's Conference in Mexico which equated Zionism with imperialism and colonialism and thus denied Israel's legitimate role and positive efforts.

In fourteen years a total of almost 1,800 students and observers have participated in Mount Carmel Centre activities. Coming from 92 different countries, most students hailed from the less developed parts of the world. Courses were also held for potential volunteers planning to work in Afro-Asian areas. It appears that Africa sent the largest contingent although the pattern has changed since the early seventies.

Mary Saran has interesting stories to tell about individual students, the benefits they derive from their training and of the determination shown to utilize their newly gained knowledge and skills once they have returned to their native community. She also quotes some snippets from students' letters which adequately sum up the Centre's achievement. A participant from Nepal, having completed a course for Kindergarten teachers writes that she is now preparing a curriculum for pre-schoolteacher's training. "... I am doing this work for the whole of Nepal. I am proud to tell people that I was trained in Israel." And a student from Ghana who took part in a nutrition course reports how people marvel

at her techniques, wanting to know how she got the knowledge to work with people who have no education. "I tell them it was the training I received in Israel."

The most informative part of the book is, of course, the stimulating account of the various courses, study-tours and teaching methods practised at the Centre. Finally, a gem to whet the appetite of all the advocates of intensive Adult Education. Students were asked at the beginning of a certain course what they understood by adult education. At the end the same question was again put to them. Here is one of the answers on both occasions.

*Question:* What does Adult Education mean to you?

*Answer before the course:* "... the methods of educating adults."

*After the course:* "... extending education to adults by influencing them to make desirable changes in their behaviour that contribute to better living."

### A MARRIAGE BLACKLIST IN ISRAEL

Mr Hain Zadok, the Israeli Minister of Justice has asked the Attorney-General to conduct a thorough inquiry into the "marriage restriction lists" kept by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. There are alleged to be 140 such lists with a total of at least 10,000 names for circulation among rabbis. People on this list cannot be married by a rabbi and thus cannot marry in Israel as there is no civil marriage. Dr. Yosef Burg, the Minister of the Interior, a member of the National Religious Party, said the lists had existed since the early Mandate days and were needed for the proper supervision of marriage and divorce. At a Cabinet meeting, Mr. Zadok said that most Ministers, including Mr. Itzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, had not known of the existence of the lists. Amongst the people named are a number of soldiers sexually maimed during the various recent wars, and new immigrants who underwent special conversion ceremonies at Jewish Agency Transit camps in Vienna or Marseille. The controversy started when a Tel Aviv Religious Council list of 2,000 names was publicised on television and in the press. The Civil Rights Movement issued a statement which reveals that many people on the lists were unaware of their inclusion until contacted by newspapermen for comment.

Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

### BAEDEKER'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM

"At first sight many will be sadly disappointed in the Holy City, the venerable type of the heavenly Zion. . . . It is only by patiently penetrating beneath the modern crust of rubbish and rottenness that the traveller will at length realise to himself a picture of the Jerusalem of antiquity"—stern words written 100 years ago in Karl Baedeker's "Palestine and Syria". The Jerusalem section of this "Handbook for Travellers" has now been re-issued in its original English edition (Dulau & Co., 37 Soho Square, W., 1876), by Carta, Jerusalem, with the famous imprint: LEIPSIK: KARL BAEDEKER.

It is astonishing how valid it still is in its wealth of accurate, authentic information, especially in its historical, geographical and descriptive parts—as topical as a century ago.

Of course, in contrast to the hotels of today which are not fully booked, then there was a scarcity of accommodation for tourists, and only two hotels merited to be recommended — long since disappeared — the "Mediterranean" near Jaffa Gate, and the "Damascus Hotel", both owned by the brothers Moses and Aaron Hornstein. Of the hospices mentioned by Baedeker, the "Casa Nova" of the Franciscans still exists, "poor visitors are entertained for a fortnight gratis"—at least in 1876.

The hotels, Baedeker states, provide the only restaurants in town. "Arabian Cafés abound, but are not frequented by travellers". The Ottoman Bank are the principal bankers, but "Bergheim, the wine merchant, is also a respectable banker. Valero, in David Street, is a good Jewish house".

Permission to visit the mosques could only be obtained through one of the Consulates. "The longer and the oftener he (the tourist) sojourns in Jerusalem, the greater will be the interest with which the ruins will inspire him, though he will be obliged to confess that the degraded aspects of the modern city, and its material and moral decline, form but a melancholy termination to the stupendous scenes once enacted here", writes Baedeker. He gives a minute and loving description of the Western Wall which he calls the "Wailing Place of the Jews", "situated beyond the miserable dwellings of the Moghrebins, Muslims from N.W. Africa" whom he decries as "fanatics" and living in "hovels". "This spot", so he goes on, "should be visited repeatedly, especially on a Friday after 4 p.m., or on Jewish festivals when a touching scene is presented by the figures leaning against the weather-beaten wall, kissing the stones, and weeping. The men often sit here for hours, reading their well-thumbed prayer-books. Many of them are bare-footed. The Spanish Jews, whose appearance and bearing are often refined and independent, present a pleasing contrast to their squalid brethren from Poland". Before citing some lengthy quotations from the litany chanted there on certain occasions, Baedeker says: "These people adhere to their ancient traditions with marvellous tenacity, still expecting and earnestly longing for the establishment of the second 'Kingdom of David'."

He is less impressed by the Jewish Quarter which he describes as "a somewhat dirty street with brokers' stalls, shops for the sale of tin-ware manufactured by the Jews, and several uninviting winehouses". "The combination of wild superstition with the merest formalism, and the fanaticism and jealous exclusiveness of the numerous religious communities form the chief characteristics of the city", Baedeker concludes.

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Hans Liebeschuetz

## THOMAS MANN AND NAZI GERMANY

In August 1919 Bonn University bestowed an honorary doctorate of Philosophy on Thomas Mann. In December 1936, after the poet and his family had been deprived of their German citizenship by the Nazi government, this degree was declared void in the name of the faculty of Arts. In December 1946 Mann was informed by the Dean of the faculty that this unlawful act had already been cancelled in 1945.

These three events and their historical background form the theme of a recently published book.\* The author, a well-known medievalist, is professor of History in Bonn. During some years he held a responsible position in the Federal administration of cultural affairs. It was in this capacity that, on the occasion of the memorial meeting for Leo Baeck in Frankfurt, 1956, he read the message of President Heuss and spoke for the Federal Government.

Hübinger had been a student in Bonn under Wilhelm Levison, the eminent expert on sources of Medieval History. He completed his dissertation on the relations between the episcopal church of Verdun and the Rhenish lands in 1935. A few months later, his Jewish professor was forcibly retired. Yet he remained in Bonn as a more or less secret adviser for his German colleagues in the editing of difficult texts. Only in April 1939 he and his wife yielded to the increasing threat of the situation. The University of Durham offered him asylum. Hübinger has always considered himself Levison's loyal pupil. For the reader of the book, this link can be traced, both in the humane spirit in which a period of barbaric ruthlessness is described quietly but without undue reserve, and in the extremely careful documentation. As a basis of the narrative, 317 texts are printed in a second section of the book. This evidence, covering the period from 1907 to 1955, has been collected from public records and from private sources (pp. 356-640). They illustrate not only the impact of the Nazi régime on academic life and the later attempts at restoration, but also the development of Thomas Mann under these circumstances.

The discussion of the motive behind the honorary promotion of a literary man, a rather unusual event for the Bonn of this period, leads to an unexpected and perhaps paradoxical result: Hübinger plausibly argues that the honour bestowed on the author of the "Buddenbrooks" was mainly intended as an act of homage to the man who had recently

published the "Betrachtungen eines Unpolitischen." This book offered a conservative philosophy of culture and in 1918 was received by the German public as a belated contribution to patriotic war literature. Berthold Litzmann (1857-1926), the professor responsible for proposing the honour to the faculty, had been a champion of literary naturalism in the decades before the war; his lasting sympathy for Mann was rooted in this interest. However, his political thinking was mainly shaped by Treitschke; towards the new Republic his feelings were antagonistic from the start. The academic honour for Mann, the "unpolitical" thinker, was at the same time a gesture against the Weimar democracy and the Entente.

### The Bonn Honorary Doctorate

Mann's writing, completed at a time when the coming victory of Western ideas and institutions was already foreshadowed, was not so simple in its intention. It was designed as a confession that the author's whole work was linked to those "romantic" tendencies which were strongly attacked by a kind of mental warfare on the part of the Western powers. Mann saw his "reflections" as a defence, both of himself and his nation, against the thesis that Germany's identification with the idealistic tradition was but a mask in the drive for political superiority. It was the same situation which had brought about Hermann Cohen's equally paradox, but otherwise very different contribution to this type of literature, "Deutschtum und Judentum" (1915). In a letter written shortly before the book's publication, Mann called his book an autobiographical description of his intellectual experiences. By fully realising his own position, the writer had achieved the freedom to see it from outside.

Nevertheless, the book placed Mann in close neighbourhood to the intellectual protagonists of a political restoration. At that time he considered himself in intimate co-operation with Ernst Bertram, who in 1918 published a brilliant interpretation of Nietzsche for which he claimed the power of a myth which would transform the nation. At the time of Mann's honorary doctorate, Bertram was closely connected with Litzmann, and became a lecturer in his department. The crisis of the Weimar Republic brought him into sharp opposition to Mann; he believed that Hitler and his movement would give reality to his own dreams for the nation.

It is well known that Mann who in the "Buddenbrooks" had given both an intimate and an objective description of Imperial Germany, did not retain the nostalgic feelings of 1918. In the post-war years he learnt very quickly that the absorbing impact of the drive for political power on man's mind was now a threat arising from the right wing. In this situation, he became an outspoken defender of the Weimar constitution. After the

Second World War he accepted in retrospect that his reflections of 1918 had been a means for self-purification. The dividing line, which had developed between him and his nation he explained by the fact that the Germans had never gone through such an experience. Mann's change of mind during the Weimar period qualified him for inclusion in the gallery of "traitors" which radical nationalism, victorious in 1933, needed as a target of its propaganda.

### Leaving Germany

A deeply appreciative, but not hagiographic memorial lecture for Richard Wagner in February 1933 started a fresh wave of attacks which by then the political situation had made effective. The Bavarian police was controlled by Himmler and his assistant Heydrich; Mann realises what this constellation meant for himself and his family. He remained abroad, at least as he thought, for some time. It was the beginning of his lasting emigration.

From January 1934 onwards, the Munich Gestapo tried to get Mann and his family on the proscription list of people, who were deprived of their nationality. The principle that, as its necessary consequence, such proceedings would include the nullification of academic degrees, both ordinary and honorary, had already been established by the regime in the first year of its rule. Yet there was some internal resistance to applying such measures against a renowned Nobel Prize laureate. Not only Neurath's foreign department, but even Goebbels' men reported doubts about their usefulness. The approach of the Olympic games in Berlin in summer 1936 strengthened the case for delaying action. But the step, which finally became decisive, had been taken by Mann before this event: E. Korrodi, an editor of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", had tried to draw a demarcation line between Mann and the Jewish literary emigration. Mann's answer was an identification with this cause. Nevertheless, in spite of strong pressure the Foreign Ministry continued to delay action. Ultimately Hitler's decision of November 28th ended this controversy. On December 2nd the proscription list, which included Mann and his family, was made public. A fortnight earlier he had already resigned his German citizenship and obtained the nationality of the Czechoslovak Republic.

The academic consequences followed immediately. There is only one strictly contemporary notice reporting this action. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts wrote to Mann on December 19th that in consequence of his loss of citizenship the faculty had felt bound to cancel his doctorate. Mann's famous answer, describing his views of the character and the aims of the regime, was written on New Year's Day 1937. It was quickly published. There was no faculty meeting at the time; Hübinger argues convincingly that the Dean, Prof. K. Obenauer, after some telephone calls

Continued on page 7, column 1

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\* Paul Egon Hübinger, *Thomas Mann, die Universität Bonn und die Zeitgeschichte*. Drei Kapitel deutscher Vergangenheit aus dem Leben des Dichters. R. Oldenbourg Verlag, München, Wien, 1974. IX, 682 pp. DM 56.

## THOMAS MANN AND NAZI GERMANY

Continued from page 6

to Berlin and communication with the Rector, acted on his own in the name of the faculty; government regulations gave him as "Leader" the right to do so.

There was no criticism or protest from any colleague except for some remarks of Hans Naumann, a professor of German literature, who in 1933 on the "Day of Potsdam" had dedicated a collection of essays to the "Leader" (Hitler) and the "Poet" (Stefan George). Naumann had been among the small minority of recognized scholars who in the critical year of 1932 felt driven to propagate Hitler's case amongst the intellectuals. Behind his remarks on the inopportunities of academic procedure against Thomas Mann there was perhaps also an element of real aversion to such an act because of a lasting sympathy with the Modernism of the early twentieth century represented by a non-Jewish writer. He repeated his doubts in a public guest-lecture in Copenhagen.

The Dean, Obenauer, was also a Germanist with a similar ideological language, but his background and history were different. He had been a freelance writer on the borders of literature and religious philosophy before he obtained a lectureship in Leipzig in 1936. His books appeared in the catalogue of the publisher Eugen Diederichs among the authors who tried a modern revival of Mysticism. At that time he cultivated relations with Count Kaiserling's Darmstadt "school of wisdom", where Leo Baeck also taught; in 1928 he wrote an article of congratulation for Buber on his fiftieth birthday. In 1933, he gave his interests a new outlet by joining the Nazi party, and taking over a local function as "Blockwart". A friend, to whom he complained about the boring character of this work, opened for him the way into Himmler's security service, the inner core of party power. By this chance he became an academic whom the party really trusted. In October 1936, he was appointed to an important academic chair as professor of German literature at Bonn University. This happened against the express wishes of the Faculty. Scarcely two months later he was informed by the Rector that he had been made Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and in this capacity as a member of Himmler's inner circle he hastened to cancel Mann's degree. For this sequence of events Hübinger is inclined to blame the professors who in October 1933 had really accepted the destruction of their corporate rights.

### Reinstatement After The War

The epilogue to our story, the restoration of the link between Mann and Bonn, contains an episode which touches on our situation as refugees. In 1945, the established Faculty considered the redress of the wrong done to a great writer as one of their first duties. Obviously they thought it would be difficult to find a mediator. A year later Wilhelm Levison sent from Durham a just published book, Ford Lectures on "England and the Continent in the Eighth Century", to his old friend Professor Oertel, a specialist in Antiquity's Social History and Theory, and was the first post-war Dean of the Faculty of Arts. In the preface, Levison emphasised his long-established connection with Bonn University, the collaboration with colleagues and pupils, "many of whom did not bow their knee to Baal".

In this recognition, Oertel saw the solution

of his own problem and asked Levison to approach Mann by letter. The correspondence was promptly done; Mann accepted Bonn's offer with great friendliness, but added a condition that there should be general and spontaneous agreement including the students. At this point an unexpected difficulty arose. At the meeting of the Student's Union no sympathy for Mann was shown. This attitude may have been caused by his public declaration that he would not resettle in Germany. It seems that this generation of ex-soldiers felt entitled to draw a line between Jewish and non-Jewish emigrés. At the end of the discussion, a carefully manipulated summary offered grudging agreement. The students recognised that restitution should be made for any break of pre-Nazi laws committed by the N.S. régime. This hitch never appeared in the correspondence with Mann, who accepted the renewal of his diploma with warm thanks as filling an important gap in the list of honours conferred on him. Occasional correspondence, especially at the time of jubilee anniversaries was friendly; but the intimacy of the twenties did not return. Until his death in 1955, Thomas Mann gave important lectures in German cities, such as Stuttgart and Frankfurt, Cologne and Lübeck, and he did not leave out Weimar. The faculty in Bonn twice suggested such a visit. There was no refusal in principle; but the prospect never became reality.

Our summary of events cannot aim at giving an impression of the fullness of information which Professor Hübinger's book offers. It will always remain an indispensable instrument of research on the impact of the Nazi régime on the intellectual life in academic institutions.



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### THE RESCUE OF A MENORAH 37 Years On

Every time I visit Germany, the country of my birth, I find it easier to forget the past and at long last I can look at smoking factory chimneys without immediately thinking of extermination camps.

So, my recent (business) trip to Cologne was an unemotional non-event even when I passed a junk shop showing an incredible variety of Nazi war souvenirs. This place was indeed quite extraordinary and could easily have served as a model for the Nazi shop shown in the film "The Odessa File", except that it had no back room reserved for special clients: here all the Nazi paraphernalia were brazenly displayed in the two front windows such as Hitler gold coins and Mussolini silver coins—Italy's dictator still hasn't quite made it—swastikas, daggers. But as I said, all this didn't bother me any more—time is a wonderful healer—until I saw an object at the back of the shop, the last place I expected to see it, it was so incredible that my hair stood on end.

Amidst all that Nazi junk there it was, a real Menorah. Not just a little one, no tourist gift and much too big for the average householder. No, this was the real thing and must have come from one of the many synagogues when they still existed.

A pale, fat thickset man in his early sixties greeted me when I went in—the shop was quite empty—and asked me what I wanted. When I pointed to the Menorah, a thin smile appeared on his face, he lifted the seven-armed candlestick out from its surroundings, pointed out how big it was and that it was made of solid brass—"feel the weight"—and of workmanship the like of which cannot be seen today any more. I asked him how long he had this candlestick in his shop. "Come to think of it, at least 28 years," he said, "must be its size, because normally my turnover is quite rapid." After some hurried calculation I told him that this object had been with him for exactly 36 years, 3 months and 3 days.

He did not see the point of my "fanciful imagination" until I told him that 36 years ago, on November 9th, 1938, all the Jewish shop windows were smashed, the men taken to concentration camps, the synagogues desecrated and burned down and that this big Menorah was part of the loot from Jehova's temple. "Kristallnacht"—Crystal Night—was and still is the cunning euphemism used ever since that night to hide the horror when the only thing which was crystal clear was the writing on the wall: "Mene tekem..."

The shop owner stopped pretending that he didn't know what I was talking about. His grin froze, his manner changed and he put his face so close to mine that I could smell the Schnapps he had drunk: "I am an honest German citizen", he said, "I have always paid my income tax and I have got this candlestick by honest means, as a matter of fact I love sacred Jewish objects so that this, what do you call it, candelabra has become a real old friend of mine and I would be sorry to have to part with it; but of course you can have it, you can have it cheaply, real cheap, no sentimental value charged, just the price for the weight in brass, and brass nowadays, after all..." Did I say, I find it easier to forget?

The next thing I remember I was walking down Cologne's main street with a heavy object wrapped in newspaper under my arm: My very own Menorah for which I had paid so very little, "just for the weight in brass", but the fact that I managed to rescue it from those obscene surroundings makes it worth to me its weight in gold.

Nelly Engel

## ZU M. Y. BEN-GAVRIELS 10. TODESTAG

Im September 1965 ist in Jerusalem der Dichter und Schriftsteller Mosheh Ja'aqov Ben-gavriel gestorben. Eine Aufzählung der Titel seiner wichtigsten Werke wird in manchem Leser Reminiscenzen erwecken, moege andere zur Lektuere anregen: "Das Tor zum Osten", "Das anstoessige Leben des grossen Osman", "Israel, Wiedergeburt eines Staates", "Frieden und Krieg des Buergers Hahaschavi", "Kumsits, Geschichten aus der Wueste", "Das Haus in der Karpfengasse", "Traktate ueber ganz gewoehnliche Dinge", "Ein Weg beginnt mit dem ersten Schritt", "Die Gedichte des M. Y. Ben-gavriel", "Ein Loewe hat den Mond verschluckt", "Der Mann im Stadttor", "Die Flucht nach Tarschisch", "Kamele trinken auch aus truebren Brunnen".

Kritiker nannten Ben-gavriel den israelischen Fabulierer, den israelischen Mark Twain, den brilliantesten wie den leisesten Satiriker des 20. Jahrhunderts.

Er war in Wien als der einzige Sohn eines im Stadtteil Hernals praktizierenden Arztes geboren und ist als Eugen Hoefflich in der oesterreichischen Kaiserstadt aufgewachsen und zur Schule gegangen. Die Erzählung vom Schicksal dieses hochbegabten und charaktervollen Juden bringt in einem ausserordentlichen Masse die seiner Zeitgeschichte zum Ausdruck.

Im ersten Weltkrieg wurde er oesterreichischer Offizier. Als solcher der Tuerkei zugeteilt, kam er nach Palaestina. Die Beruehrung mit dem heiligen Boden und mit den Menschen, die dahin gekommen waren, um sich und dem juedischen Volke eine Heimat zu bauen, festigte seinen Entschluss, den Rest des Lebens dort zu verbringen und dem Dienste fuer sein Volk zu widmen. Er hatte das Glueck, eine Frau zu finden, die von den gleichen Idealen erfuellt war. Die schoene Martha Schnabel, eine Cousine des weltberuehmten Klavierkuenstlers Arthur Schnabel, war ebenfalls in Wien zur Konzertpianistin und Schauspielerin ausgebildet worden. Sie ging dem Gatten im Jahre 1921 in die neue Heimat voraus, um ein gemeinsames Heim in Jerusalem vorzubereiten. Zu dieser Zeit war jeder Neuankeemmling ein Pionier, der die Opfer, die das Leben in dem noch sehr primitiven Lande forderte, gern auf sich nahm. Eugen Hoefflich kam seiner Frau bald nach und in seinem Bestreben im Lande Wurzel zu fassen, war sein erster Schritt die Annahme des hebraeischen Namens Mosheh Ja'aqov Ben-gavriel.

Er begann Aufsätze und Buecher zu schreiben, wurde Korrespondent amerikanischer und europaeischer Blaetter, aber da er erst als erwachsener Mensch mit seinem Hebraeischstudium begonnen hatte, hat er es niemals so weit gebracht, seine kuenstlerischen Ideen in dieser Sprache auszudruecken und alle seine Werke sind deutsch geschrieben, wenn sie auch spaeter in viele Sprachen uebersetzt wurden. Daher konnte er bei seinen Landsleuten anfangs wenig Widerhall finden. Seine Frau, fuer die das Feld kuenstlerischer Betaetigung damals recht beschaenkt war, suchte das haeusliche Budget dadurch zu ergaenzen, dass sie Sekretaeerin des Professors der hebraeischen Universitaet, spaeter Praesidenten der hebraeischen Sprachakademie, Dr. H. Tursinai, wurde. Ihre Mitarbeit an den Werken des Professors brachte ihre Hebraeischkenntnisse auf ein Niveau, das sie befahigte, das erste Buch ueber hebraeische Phonetik zu schreiben und

eine Lektorstelle an der Universitaet in diesem Fach zu bekleiden.

Ben-gavriel, der "ewig Junge", wie man ihn nannte, wurde zu einer markanten Figur in den Strassen Jerusalems, sein in arabischem Stil gebautes Haus ein Mittelpunkt intellektueller Gesellschaft des In- und Auslandes, aber der literarische Erfolg liess auf sich warten. Der zweite Weltkrieg brach aus und machte die Verbindung mit der Aussenwelt immer schwieriger und das Leben in Palaestina aufregender.

Aber schliesslich ging er zu Ende und mit ihm die Schrecken der Hitler-Zeit und drei Jahre spaeter wurde der Staat Israel geboren. Ben-gavriel hatte nicht nur im Befreiungskrieg mitgekampft (er besass 8 Kriegsauszeichnungen aus verschiedenen Kaempfen, an denen er aktiven Anteil genommen hatte), er hatte eine Anzahl von Buechern und Aufsätzen geschrieben, die seine Verbundenheit mit dem Lande, dem juedischen wie dem arabischen Sektor, mit der Landschaft der Wueste wie den gruenen Siedlungen der Pioniere in lebendiger, unmittelbarer und oftmals hoechst amuesanter Weise zum Ausdruck brachten. Ein einziges seiner Werke, "Das Haus in der Karpfengasse", das in Prag spielt, hat die Tragodie der europaeischen Juden zum Gegenstand.

In Deutschland kam in dieser Nachkriegszeit eine Generation zum Vorschein, fuer die die Hitler-Periode ein unfassbarer Albtraum war und Gefuehle des Unbehagens, ja der Schuld erweckte. Diese Menschen hoerten mit Staunen vom juedischen Staat und seinen Errungenschaften und fuehlten sich in einer etwas mystischen Weise verbunden und sogar verantwortlich fuer alles, was dort geschah. Sie stuerzten sich mit Heisshunger auf die Literatur, die aus Israel kam, und die Buecher Ben-gavriels wurden in Massen gekauft und gelesen. Sie entsprachen dem deutschen Leserkreis nicht nur weil sie in deutscher Sprache

geschrieben waren, sondern auch weil der Autor in der westeuropaeischen Geisteswelt erzogen und geschult war. Ben-gavriel wurde eingeladen, Vortragsreisen durch Deutschland und Oesterreich zu unternehmen, auf denen er aus seinen Werken las, seine Buecher wurden verfilmt, im Radio vorgelesen, im Fernsehen gezeigt, kurz, Ben-gavriel hat den Ruhm und alle damit zusammenhaengenden Privilegien erreicht, von denen der junge Wiener Jude einmal getraeuemt haben mag. Seine Wahl-Vaterstadt, Jerusalem, hat ihm, allerdings nach seinem Tode, die grosse Ehre erwiesen, eine Strasse nach ihm zu benennen.

Auf einer der vielen Triumphreisen durch Deutschland ist er erkrankt—die Folgen einer im ersten Weltkrieg erlittenen Verletzung haben sich Zeit seines Lebens bemerkbar gemacht—und er wurde in die Frankfurter Universitaetsklinik aufgenommen. Spaeter brachte man ihn, weil er es sich wuenschte, nach Jerusalem zurueck, nicht ohne dass man ihm einem begleitenden Arzt auf den Flug mitgab. Im September 1965 ist er im Alter von 74 Jahren gestorben.

War es eine guetige Vorsehung, die ihn die Zeit nicht erleben liess, da in Deutschland eine neue Generation aufgewachsen ist, die wenig von der boesen Vergangenheit weiss oder wissen moechte und fuer die Israel aufgehoert hat, ein grosses Mysterium zu sein?

Wolf Simon Matsdorf

### SYDNEY'S NEW JEWISH LORD MAYOR

For the second time in Sydney's history a Jewish Lord Mayor was elected for Australia's largest city. He is Alderman Leo Weiser Port, M.B.E., who occupied the position of Deputy Lord Mayor before.

Polish born Leo Port was educated in Berlin at the primary school Rycke Strasse, and at the Adass Yisroel Real-Gymnasium. He arrived in Sydney in 1939 and graduated in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at Sydney University. At present he is a mechanical and electrical consulting engineer. His specialist knowledge in the field of engineering has brought him frequently before TV audiences in special sessions on inventions and technical novelties.

Mr. Port has been involved in communal activities on many occasions. He served as member of the Board of Deputies, while his late father was President of the Western Suburbs Synagogue in Sydney.

Married with four children, he has travelled widely and visited Israel repeatedly. He was mainly instrumental in changing Martin Place in Sydney into a Mall-Plaza in front of the G.P.O. On the occasion of his visits to Jerusalem he discussed with Mayor Teddy Kollek the plan to change Jerusalem's Rehov Ben Yehuda into a similar shopping mall without any vehicular traffic and provided the municipality of Jerusalem with the plans of Sydney's Martin Place Mall and Plaza. This project is at present under active consideration in Jerusalem.

The new Lady Mayoress Edith Port is the daughter of Dr. Otto Lucas of Sydney, who was in Berlin the head of the Department of internal diseases at the Jewish Hospital in the Iranische Str. The Lucas family came to Australia in 1939. Dr. Lucas is one of the founders of the Liberal Temple Emanuel in Sydney and was for many years its President.

Lord Mayor Alderman Leo Port, M.B.E., succeeds a Lord Mayor of Sydney of Lebanese extraction. On the occasion of Mr. Port's election Mayor Teddy Kollek sent him a message of congratulations from Jerusalem.

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# TRIBUTE TO HANS JAEGER

## Courageous Politician and Helpful Friend

The death of Hans Jaeger at the age of 76 is a severe loss not only for the "Club 1943", whose chairman he was for many years but beyond this for innumerable other friends of his inside and outside the community of former refugees. He was one of those in our midst who had to leave his country of birth not on account of his origin but as the result of his active political commitment in the Left-wing camp under the Weimar Republic. In the course of time, his views underwent various changes, or perhaps we should rather say, the changes were the result of political developments he watched at close quarters and which converted hopes into disillusion. Thus, his life was a political odyssey, the itinerary of a man who always had the courage of his convictions. He was undogmatic, and this approach gave special value to his analyses of the happenings. Yet his life was an odyssey also in the geographical sense. He had to flee on the day of the Reichstag fire, spent several years in Prague until, under great difficulties and in an adventurous way, he found refuge in this country. To settle down here was not easy for him either. Yet in the course of time he found his niche, especially as editor of the English language "Bulletin on German Questions," which informed English readers on current events in the Federal German Republic as well as in the German Democratic Republic. He was also a board member of the "Arbeitskreis 1961", founded by the late Dr. Alfred Wiener and he gave innumerable addresses on world-wide political questions as well as on trends in Germany to German and English audiences. Last but not least, he repeatedly contributed valuable articles to "AJR Information".

It appeared necessary to mention these few facts because we would not do justice to him, if we restricted this tribute to the work he did for the "Club 1943". He was both the head and the soul of this Club, which for more than 30 years has met every week to listen to expert lectures, enlarged upon by high level discussions. The venue changed repeatedly but these technical difficulties did not deter him. "Doch die Karawane zieht weiter", he would quote on such occasions. At last, nine years ago the Club found a permanent home for its Monday meetings at Hannah Karminski House.

In his work for the Club, Hans Jaeger, assisted by his wife Carola, was indefatigable. He took the main share in preparing the programmes and approaching the speakers. On innumerable occasions, he was in the chair, and it was one of his endearing habits that two days after the meeting, the speaker would receive from him a letter of thanks, not framed in a conventional phraseology but defining the specific benefit he and the other listeners had drawn from the lecture. At regular intervals, he himself gave addresses either on current political events or on special subjects, and it so happened that the autumn programme carried an announcement of a talk by him on the subject "Gibt es Klassen?", scheduled for October 13. He died on the day before. During the summer, he also gave a series of autobiographical talks. It was as if this account was not only meant for his listeners but also conceived as a self-critical scrutiny of his full and eventful life. When, at the end of one lecture, he announced the period he intended to deal with next time, he somehow cautiously added, "if I will be able to do it". He was well aware of his illness and of the limited time still left to him.

More than once it was his task to pay tribute to the memory of a departed Club member. Now it is our turn to bid farewell to him. Under his guidance a closely knit community developed into a real family. This family is now orphaned and mourns the loss of its father.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK.

Wir erhielten das folgende Schreiben von Herbert Sulzbach:

"Die Nachricht vom Tode unseres guten Freundes Hans Jaeger hat auch mich tief erschuettert. Ich habe in meinem langen Leben wohl kaum einen Menschen kennengelernt, der nur aus Zuverlaessigkeit und Altruismus bestand. In seiner Herzensguete, seiner Waerme, fand er fuer alle Menschen nicht nur ein offenes Herz, sondern tat alles, was nur menschenmoeglich war, ihre Wuensche zu erfuellen. Was er fuer deutsch-juedische, fuer deutsch-britische Verstaendigung und, als Nichtjude, gegen Antisemitismus tat, ist einmalig und unerreicht. Die Gruendung des "Club 1943" beweist in der Jahreszahl bereits die weise Voraussicht eines Brueckenbaus zu einem neuen Deutschland, welches kommen musste, um das fuerchterliche Hitler-Reich abzuloesen. Ich weiss auch, wie sehr er hier in der Deutschen Botschaft und von allen Freunden gewuerdigt wurde—ja, wie sein weiser Rat uns oft half. Wir fuehlen mit der guten Carola, dass Hans unersetzlich ist".

## Obituary

FRITZ L. MARCUS

The architect Fritz L. Marcus died in Hampstead on September 8 at the age of 87. He was born in Dessau and studied architecture in Munich and Berlin. From 1921-33 he worked in Berlin where, among many other buildings, he built the Cosmos-Cinema in Berlin-Tegel, a large workmen's canteen for the Berliner Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft and several buildings of modern steel and concrete structure. He made a name for himself as one of a group of notable architects who at that time were evolving a clear and austere style of modern architecture.

In 1933 he and his wife emigrated to Spain and in 1939 they came to this country with the help of the poet and writer Richard Church. In the later years of the war, F. L. Marcus worked as senior assistant in the office of the famous architect Maxwell Fry and his wife Jane Drew to whom he was introduced by the writer and art-historian Herbert Reed. From 1947 until his retirement he was the head of the Department of Interior Design and Furniture at the L.C.C. School of Arts and Crafts. Among his pupils were many now well-known architects who until his death showed him their affection and gratitude.

All his work, in Germany as well as in this country, was distinguished by his excellent taste and an unerring sense of style. He had a noble mind reflected in the finely chiselled features of his head, and he had many devoted friends to whom he was a good and thoughtful friend.

F.W.

MRS. MARTHA FREUDMANN

Martha Freudmann, who died at Heinrich Stahl House, would have been 95 in November. She was a qualified piano teacher and an accomplished pianist, who still gave pleasure with her music when she was well over ninety. She taught in Vienna, in this country and at a music school in the United States, when she was staying there with her son for a number of years. During the war she was employed as an organist in Kendal, Westmorland.

Martha Freudmann was a strong personality and could be very adamant, especially where music was concerned. She enjoyed a happy family life, is mourned by her nearest ones and will be remembered affectionately by a great number of people.

MRS. ALICE OPPENHEIM

Alice (Liesel) Oppenheim passed away on October 6 at the age of 84.

Born and resident in Frankfurt/Main until 1938 she will be remembered for her activities in the Lodge, where she held presidential office, and for the pleasure her readings of poetry gave to her many friends. The volume of her own poems "Gedichte und Spiele" which she had published in the inter-war years reflects the sensitivity of her character.

It was this sensitivity which, after the loss of her husband, Dr. Gustav Oppenheim, and the separation from her son, forced upon her by emigration, made her feel uprooted and realise the loss of Heimat more than perhaps many of us.

In her later years she appreciated the contact with her friends who came to visit her at the Heinrich Stahl House which for health reasons she was seldom able to leave. Those who knew her will remember her for her love of beauty, the purity of her language and mind and the clarity of her thought which made her advice valuable to many and which she kept until her last day.

Liesel Oppenheim is survived by her daughter in London and her son, daughter-in-law and grandson in Brazil.

W.G.

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## LEGACIES FOR AJR CHARITABLE TRUST

More than ever, the continuation of the work of the AJR depends on the support received by the AJR Charitable Trust. This applies to the care for those, who find a home from home in the AJR Club at Hannah Karminski House, to the Meals-on-Wheels Service and to the advisory activities provided by members of the AJR staff in questions of housing, employment, home visits and personal problems. In addition, the AJR Charitable Trust is also responsible for the maintenance of Hannah Karminski House and, jointly with the Central British Fund, of Eleanor Rathbone House, the flatlet home.

Under these circumstances, it becomes increasingly important to replenish the funds of the AJR Charitable Trust. One of the ways of doing so is the stipulation of legacies in favour of the Trust. During the year April

1974/75, the AJR Charitable Trust received legacies from the following deceased friends and members of the AJR: Mrs. M. Sandys, Miss M. Springer, Mrs. R. Post, Mrs. E. Beck, Mr. K. Klein, Mrs. F. Bier, Miss M. Low, Miss Lydia Freund (a former staff member of the AJR), Mrs. R. Simms, and Mrs. H. Katz. We shall always gratefully remember their generous gestures and expressions of solidarity with their former fellow-refugees. At the same time, we hope that other friends when setting up their Wills, will follow their example. Any enquiries about legal and technical details should be directed to: The Secretary, AJR Charitable Trust, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, NW3 6JY. Tel.: 01-624 9096/7.

A generous legacy was also received from our late friend, Mr. Richard Schneider, for the benefit of the staff of the AJR. The bequest

was put into the AJR Fund for Staff Retirement Payments. Mr. Schneider was a founder member of the AJR. As a long-standing member of the AJR Executive he closely co-operated with the organisation, where his experience and deep personal interest in the well-being of the community were of greatest value. The terms of his legacy are only a further confirmation of his social attitude and also testify to his appreciation of the efforts of those in charge of the day-to-day work.

### RECOGNITION OF AJR SUCCESS

Together with her annual subscription one of our members sent a special donation of £50 to the AJR with the following accompanying words: "This is a donation in gratitude for what you have done for us to have the taxes for certain payments to victims of Nazi persecution reduced in this country. I am most grateful for all the work that must have gone into it—hence the 'einmalige' donation of £50".

### FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

#### Birthdays

**Pagel.**—Mr. Fred Pagel of 51 Hillfield Court, Belsize Avenue, London, N.W.3, will celebrate his 80th birthday on November 30th.

#### Deaths

**Ascher.**—Mrs. Paula Ascher died peacefully in a nursing home on September 16, aged 89. Mourned by her daughters, Ilse Leoni and Ruth Ascher, 9 St. Anne's Road, Caversham, Reading, and many friends.

**Bloch.**—Mrs. Louise Bloch (née Silberstein), formerly Schweinfurt/Main and Weiden (Bavaria), of 41 Oakington Avenue, Wembley Park, Middlesex, passed away peacefully on September 30, a few weeks before her 97th birthday. Deeply mourned by her son, Alfred, and daughter, Meta.

**Bolder.**—Mrs. Bertha Bolder of 25 Campion Road, Leamington Spa, aged 90. Beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

**Cohn.**—Rose, twin sister of Sophie of 191 Sumatra Road, London, N.W.6, died suddenly and unexpectedly on September 27. Sadly missed by Sophie, Peter, Sue and Ruth Esther, all her relatives and all their large circle of friends. Shalom!

**Freudmann.**—In loving memory of our dear mother, Martha Freudmann, who passed away on September 26, at the age of 94 at the Heinrich Stahl House. Deeply mourned also by her sister, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all the family. She will always be remembered.

**Gessner.**—Mrs. Selma Gessner (née Stern) of 73 Higher Croft Road, Lower Darwen, Lancs., died peacefully on October 24, at the age of 81. Mourned by her relatives and many friends.

**Heydecker.**—Mrs. Nelly Heydecker died peacefully, aged 89, on October 3, at her home in the Otto Schiff House, tended with unforgettable devotion by the staff of the last. She was the centre of a loving family and a faithful circle of friends. She was a brave woman.

**Kirstein.**—Margot Kirstein passed away peacefully on October 17. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her daughters, Irene and Judith, her grandchildren, family and friends.

**Leiner.**—Paula, our beloved mother, passed away peacefully at Osmond House. Deeply mourned by her devoted sons, Gerhard and Manfred Leiner and Melvyn Leighton, daughters-in-law, Lea, Carmela and Rose, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Oppenheim.**—Mrs. Alice Fanny Oppenheim of Heinrich Stahl House, The Bishop's Avenue, London, N.2, died peacefully on October 6. Deeply mourned by her daughter Eva, son Ernst and many devoted friends.

**Prager.**—Martha Prager passed away peacefully on September 22, aged 83. Deeply mourned by her relatives and friends.

**Robertson.**—Michael, died peacefully on September 24. Sadly missed by his wife Helen (Didi), brother Henry, father-in-law, Simon Bischoff, brothers, and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, family and friends.

**Sandberg.**—In loving memory of our dear friend, Luise, who passed away in London on August 12. Sadly missed by her many friends in Leicester.

**Seligmann.**—Mr. Ernst Seligmann, of Flat 2, 43 Redington Road, London, NW3 7RA. Suddenly after an accident. Deeply mourned by his wife Ilse and his brother-in-law, Alfred Adam and family, Haifa.

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**WIDOWER**, Austrian-born, non-orthodox, late 60s, independent, seeks good looking lady not over 60 living North West London. Please reply with telephone number to Box 535.

**LOOKING FOR A NICE GIRL** for my son, aged 26, well-educated, reserved young man. Box 537.

**INTELLIGENT WIDOW**, late 40s, living in N.W. London, is looking for nice gentleman friend. Box 538.

### MISSING PERSONS

#### Personal Enquiries

**Lehr.**—Lore Lehr, aged about 58, of Frankfurt/Main (father was partner in furniture business of Wolf & Lehr, Hirschgraben). Wanted by former schoolmate in Koenigstein, Elizabeth Kirsten (née Weber) now 4243 Isselburg, Dierteweg 48 B, West Germany. Phone 02874/2209.

#### AJR Enquiries

**Ellern.**—Mr. H. A. Ellern, last known address: Flat 27, 30 Westbourne Terrace, London, W2 3UP.

**Korn.**—Mrs. A. E. Korn, last known address: 1 Oakend House, Woodberry Down Estate, London N4 2SE.

**Silberstein.**—Mr. (Bucie?) Silberstein who came to this country from Germany between 1933 and 1935 aged at that time between 13 and 14 years. Sought in connection with an estate of Kwasniewski. Could anyone who may be able to give information contact either the AJR office, or write direct to Mr. Jacques Vasier, 19 Rue du FG National, 67000 Strasbourg, France.

**Warner.**—Mrs. H. Warner, last known address: 46 Palatine Road, Manchester, M20 9JL.

# THE ISRAELI SCENE

## Courageous Dutch Woman

In 1942, when the deportation of Jews from Holland was at its height, a Dutchwoman, Johanna de Haan, opened her Rotterdam house to a number of them, gave up her job and looked after them until they were liberated in 1945. She was blackmailed by neighbours to whom she paid large sums in order to keep them silent. Later she married one of her proteges, Mr. Peiser, and moved to Berlin with him. At the insistence of many people who owed her their lives, she was now given the medal of Yad Vashem by the Israeli government.

## Israel's Tribute to Danish Heroism

A nine-ton sandstone boulder from the Negev was dedicated in Copenhagen's Israel Square as a tribute from Israel to the heroism of the Danish people who, in October 1943, helped 7,000 Jews to escape to Sweden, thus saving them from impending deportation by the Nazi occupying forces. Mr. Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem, accompanied the Boulder to Denmark and attended the dedication ceremony in the presence of the Danish Prime Minister.

## Fickle Westerners

The Central Office of Statistics in Jerusalem has revealed that 40 per cent of immigrants from the Western Hemisphere leave Israel again within five years. 17 per cent of those who have been in Israel for five years speak no Hebrew at all, 30 per cent speak some, and 53 per cent speak fluently.

## Rabin most popular politician

An opinion poll showed that Prime Minister Rabin is the most popular amongst present-day politicians, he secured 21.1 per cent of the votes. He is followed by Shimon Peres, Minister of Defence, with 13.5 per cent, Major-General Ariel Sharon, the hero of the 1967 and 1973 wars, with 7.2 per cent, Menahem Begin, leader of the right-wing Likud with 6.6 per cent, Moshe Dayan with 2.5 per cent, Golda Meir with 2.2 per cent and Foreign Minister Allon with 1.1 per cent.

## German studies at Hebrew University

With the help of the German Society of Friends of Hebrew University, chairs for the study of German language and literature and of German history have been created at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. A spokesman for the Society stressed the importance of restoring the old links between German and Jewish culture. This had to be done soon and the Society was going to provide some £250,000 for the setting up of the new university department.

## Palace of a Mesopotamian Princess

Israeli archaeologists working in Jerusalem have found the remains of a palatial two-storey building dating from the Herodian period some 2,000 years ago. According to one theory the building, south of the Temple Mount, might be linked with Queen Helena of Adiabene in Mesopotamia, who is known to have built palaces in Jerusalem and Lod. She came to Jerusalem in the first half of the first century and was converted to Judaism. The palace was destroyed by the Romans at the same time as the Temple.

## ARABS DISALLOW PUBLICITY

Mr. Teddy Kollek, the Mayor of Jerusalem inaugurated an Arab housing project in the suburb of Bet Hanina. When one of the Arabs present thanked the authorities for their assistance but refused to allow a reporter from Israel radio to record his remarks, Mr. Kollek said angrily: "You don't turn to Kuwait or Abu Dhabi or even Jordan for money, you turn to us. These funds came from the Israeli taxpayer".

## ARMED GUARDS AT YOM KIPPUR SERVICES

To guard against possible terrorist attacks, armed plain-clothes security guards mixed with the worshippers during this year's Yom Kippur Services. At the same time the bridges across the Jordan were closed to traffic for 24 hours.

## EL AL REDUCES BOARDING TIME

Both in Tel Aviv and in Jerusalem passengers travelling on EL AL planes can now have their baggage checked in the evening before a flight at the airline's offices. They need not be at the airport until an hour before take-off instead of the customary 2½ hours.

## MELONS FOR ESKIMOS

Agrexco, the Israeli agricultural export company revealed that there is a growing demand for Israeli fresh fruit from Greenland most of whose 46,000 inhabitants are Eskimos. They are particularly keen on fresh water-melons.

## AND NOW BROTHELS

Judge Hannah Evenor of Tel Aviv District Court sentenced 29-year-old Lilliana Lavan to a year's imprisonment for operating a "massage parlour" as a brothel. The judge said that firm measures were needed to stem the growth of massage parlours which are springing up all over Tel Aviv. Prostitution is not illegal in Israel, but soliciting and operating a brothel are.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

## WHERE DOES OUR CIVILIZATION COME FROM?

### E. H. Kiewe Exhibition at Foyles

Civilization—or even worse culture, indeed, Kultur, how many stupidities have been committed in thy name. We tend to forget how incredibly late northern Europe appears on the stage of civilization. In our century Perry tried to prove in a famous book that everything had its origin in Egypt: art, craft, architecture, religion, civilized living and the state. He makes out a very convincing case. Mr. Edgar Heinz Kiewe is trying to prove that practically all artistic expression in the West is mainly due to the Far East, in particular to India and China. To demonstrate his point he mounted an exhibition from his own admirable collection under the title Starting Points. How the visual heritage of Europe travelled the silk trail from its beginnings in the Orient over three thousand years. (It took place at Foyles Art Gallery from October 1 to November 5.)

Mr. Kiewe writes in the catalogue "... Eastern inspiration and influence seeped into every corner of European art, decor, taste and sophistication". His exhibition and his big book "Civilization on Loan" give us a wealth of detail in order to convince us. It is certainly useful to be reminded that Western man is deeply indebted to other continents and peoples, but when he briefly sketches the cultural achievements of the Europeans he passes in silence the Parthenon and the Ravenna mosaics, the cathedral of Leon and Rembrandt's paintings.

A. ROSENBERG

French Classics, for long periods considered "old-hat" in German-speaking countries, and by far less popular than Shakespeare, Wilde, Shaw and, of course, the German classics themselves, have made headlines once more. With Molière ranking high in the list ("L'Avare", "Tartuffe", and even "Georges Dandin" and "Impromptu in Versailles" completing the Molière-Renaissance), reasons for this newly awakened interest are the productions by Jean Pierre Ponelle and the new translations by Hans Weigel who needs no introduction to those who followed his career from his days as a theatre critic. Though Weigel now lives in Vienna, his translations are equally well known (and performed) in Hamburg and in Zürich, where he published the amusing book "Lernt dieses Land der Hirten kennen".

**French Classics in English.** The National Theatre at the Old Vic has also been most successful with Molière's "Misanthrope", and recently "Phedra Britannica" (based on Racine) was added to the repertoire.

**Munich.** In a reprise of "My Fair Lady", the part of Mrs. Higgins was taken by *Kaethe Haack*. *Hilde Krahl* is to appear in a new play by Frank Marcus, "Liebesgeschichte".

**Zürich.** The new Drama season opened with Girandeaux's "Madwoman of Chailot" starring *Annemarie Blanc* and *Brigitte Horney*.

**Names.** *Greta Keller* still acclaimed as the great Chansonnière after stimulating a Viennese audience; *Heinz Ruchmann* to be "Frosch" in Vienna's State Opera "Fledermaus" on New Year's Eve.

**Birthdays.** *Hermann Thimig*, oldest surviving member of the celebrated actor-family is 85; *Hilde Flatter-Loewe*, pianist and composer, whose "Das alte Lied", published under her nom de plume *Henry Love*, belonged to the

"Top Ten" of its period, celebrated her 80th birthday at her St. John's Wood residence where she lives with her portrait-painter husband *Otto Flatter*. *Lotte Lenya*, diseuse and widow of composer Kurt Weill, is 75; *Peter Kreuder*, composer of many evergreens during the past 40 years, is 70, and so is *Wolfgang Liebeneiner*, Silesian born director of many plays and films, and husband of *Hilde Krahl*.

**Obituary.** *Franz Salmhofer*. Austrian composer and director of the Vienna State Opera 1945-1954, has died in Vienna.

**Schriften** is the title of a book about Max Reinhardt, published by the East Berlin Henschel Verlag. It forms a collection of Reinhardt's letters, notes and speeches, the material comprising his early years in Berlin (1894-1902), his years of theatre directing in Berlin (1901-1932), the activities in Vienna's "Josefstadt" (from 1924), the Salzburg Festivals, and his life during emigration in the United States. S.B.

### Letter to the Editor

#### PAINTING OF MENDEL FRANKFURTER

Sir,—I have recently come into the possession of a very fine small oil painting of the head of Mendel Frankfurter (marked 1750), who was the grandfather of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch of Frankfurt, whose sister Therese was my mother's grandmother. Any information about Mendel Frankfurter would be gratefully received, and I am very willing to show the portrait to any person interested to see it.

(Miss) EVA MANES.

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