

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

C. C. Aronsfeld

## THE NATIONAL FRONT

## Progress and Prospects

The troubles besetting this country—increasing unemployment and unchecked inflation—have thrown up the weeds that normally thrive in such climate. Though the Communist Party has made no conspicuous progress, some concern is being felt over the so-called far Right. At the General Election in October, 1974, the National Front polled 114,000 votes as against the Communists' 17,000, and they scored striking successes more recently—6 per cent of the total in a parliamentary by-election, ten per cent in a local council election; altogether they collected about 75,000 votes. Occasionally they beat both Conservative and Liberal candidates, and some of them actually hope to replace the Liberals as the third party. It seems none too soon to think of action against a possible threat.

The National Front, founded in 1966 and with a membership now estimated at 8-10,000, is the rough equivalent of Sir Oswald Mosley's fascists in the 1930s. As his scapegoat were the Jews, so theirs are the coloured immigrants. They are to be "resettled overseas", or as an NF star put it, "herded into cattle boats and shipped back to the disease-ridden countries from whence you came". The chairman of the National Front, 42-year-old John Tyndall, a former associate of Nazi, Colin Jordan, deems it wise occasionally to declare himself "not anti-immigrant but merely anti-immigration", but this is just one of the miscellaneous untruths on which he hopes to prosper.

He is in fact a "deeply convinced" racist believing that "race is crucial in the shaping of the destinies of nations and cultures", and his paper *Spearhead* (circulation 5,000) spells out what he means. Immigration, we are told, poses a "major genetic threat", it will bring about "permanent genetic degeneration"; under the weight of "inferior genes", Britain will commit "racial suicide", and no "fairy-stories like 'human equality' will alter the fact that 'the famous British working-class tolerance and decency is a myth'. Compared with the coloureds, not even the Jewish immigrants are said to have been a problem because in those days "Britain was under-populated and could absorb them", also they were "of European origin" . . . Isn't it amazing what alien-bating racials will do when it happens to suit their treacherous purpose?

In fact the rank dishonesty goes further. The National Front is as anti-Jewish as anti-coloured. Again Tyndall sets the lying trail: "We are not anti-Jewish but merely anti-Zionist." For a start, he is a devout believer in the gospel of all antisemites, the "Protocols of Zion". He knows they are a long discredited fake but he is mesmerised by what he calls the "damned good forgery", too good to keep his fingers off—it's much like "the work of the really great writer" who "while his story

is fiction, bases that story on true phenomena of life". What "true phenomena"?

The "merely anti-Zionist" Tyndall tells us—the "Jewish conspiracy for world power", the "Jewish plan for world conquest," and all this linked up with the "Jewish role in the creation of Communism": "The Schiffs, the Kahns and the Warburgs generously supplied the funds for Lenin's revolution". Of course they did nothing of the kind, and the lie has often been exposed, but Tyndall needs it to make up a "nexus between Western money and Soviet Bolshevism", or as the NF Minister of Propaganda, Martin Webster, puts it, the "complementary conspiracies" of Communists and Zionists. His spiritual ancestors would have made it Communists and Jews, and in fact Tyndall, in all fairness, is quite candid on the overriding role he proposes to attach to antisemitism—"the Jewish question" (as he calls it) is "a central issue in the struggle for the salvation of British nationhood". Off the record, he will explain that "his plans are to use the immigrant issue to gain power and then to get rid of the race he hates most, the Jews".

Naturally, he must be a little circumspect at the moment, he tells his friends who would prefer him to concentrate on the Jews all the time, because, they say, "coloured immigration is Jewish policy" and therefore "in order to be able to expel the coloureds the Jews would have to go first". Tyndall does not in principle disagree but tries to be more sophisticated, not about the end but about the means. He must "decide wisely just where the right balance between moderation and militancy lies"; it was no good "always urging extreme courses", as had been done by Colin Jordan (then ably assisted by Tyndall) who kept shouting "Hitler was right": of course, he was, they are all agreed on this, but why scream it from the rooftops? It is quite sufficient, for example, simply to deny the Nazi crimes; all the stories about the extermination of millions of Jews are nothing but a hoax, *Spearhead* explains, and "the squabbles between Germany and Poland" in 1939 was (as Hitler had always insisted) utterly "irrelevant to Britain". There is statesmanship for you—in Tyndall's words, "practical, businesslike political activity geared to winning political power in modern Britain".

They see their chances grow in a country, so it seems to them, humiliated as a world power and disabled by ineffective government. A "climate of indecision and failure", they like to think, has created crowds of middle- and working-class moderates searching for a new and "positive leadership". Those who can remember the not too distant history of continental Europe, will hear an ominously familiar echo when according to the Daily Telegraph of July 26, an N.F. chief boasts:

"Parliamentary democracy is now at an end in Britain. The country is being taken over by Communists, and the National Front is the only bulwark in the long run". The "bulwark against Communism", where Communism is virtually interchangeable with Zionism and/or Judaism, and any odd dissembler is dubbed a "Bolshevik"—some of us have been here before, and now we shall see what has been learnt from the disastrous experience.

The National Front plans to put up 318 candidates at the next general election, and though not all can expect to have bright prospects, the ploy will serve to gain much coveted radio and TV time in which the main issue would be presented (says Webster) as "the survival of the British people as an identifiable ethnic group".

The Front's recent score (3,225 votes) in the Thurrock by-election was its second biggest in the 1970s—"not insignificant", thought *The Daily Telegraph*, "in view of its exploitation of racial and immigration issues", but also for another and perhaps more telling reason. A great deal of the support was found to have come from the working-class, so much so that the Labour Party fears some of their marginal seats might well be at risk. The Conservatives too fear for their trades union voters—a third of all trades union members—who might demand a stronger line on immigration, while middle-class Tories might fall for the Front's phoney nationalism. Webster was surprisingly (and perhaps unnecessarily) modest when he claimed that "within the next ten years we shall get someone into the House of Commons".

Meanwhile the challenge of the National Front is being taken up. The General Council of the Trades Union Congress strongly denounced the "racialist and divisive activities" of those who sought to blame the rise in unemployment on the blacks; they were "deflecting attention from the real economic problems facing Britain and seeking to make scapegoats of wholly innocent people". The Labour Party started a campaign on the theme "Racialism divides, but people can work together with Labour"; the point is being driven home in thousands of posters and leaflets. The Conservative Party chose to follow a different course. They think denunciation will merely provide more grist for the enemy's mill. So they decided to try and make the National Front look ridiculous as it seemed pointless to engage in political argument with them.

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The Executive Committee and the Staff of the AJR express their sincerest thanks for the numerous New Year greetings received.

They wish all members a

**VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**

and are grateful to them for their continuous support.

## The National Front

Continued from page 1

Whether this approach will be effective when dealing with a mentality like the NF's, is open to question; in a comparable situation in Molière's *Misanthrope*, the considered verdict was *Tu ris? Tant pis pour lui qui rit*.

The Government has shown reserve. The Attorney-General (Samuel Silkin) declined to apply the Race Relations Act, 1965, as, oddly enough, he could not detect the (as yet) essential *intention* to stir up hatred, and the important thing was to "preserve the right of free speech". The then Home Secretary (Roy Jenkins) urged people to proclaim their detestation peacefully and not fall into the trap of behaving as the National Front would like them to do.

Representative Jewish opinion has been to make common cause with those immediately attacked — the coloured immigrants — which seems sound even if the antisemitism were less glaring. "As Jews we have a moral obligation to associate ourselves with oppressed groups", said the director of the Board of Deputies' Defence Committee, and the *Jewish Chronicle* called upon the community to "recognise the threat of fascist extremism for what it is and join forces with those who, from the middle ground, would hold fast in defence of that tolerant and law-abiding society which is Britain's true strength".

How big the threat of the National Front is at present, must of necessity be a matter for speculation. Much will depend on circumstances, much also on the resistance. But while on the face of it the odds appear to be in their favour, one feature would seem to clip their brighter expectations, and that is the person of the chief. Tyndall is the chairman, he is hardly a leader, certainly not when compared with Mosley in his heyday. Tyndall is a busy and a stylish writer, a quasi-thinker and tactician, and he can be relied upon to cater for the ideological requirements of the Annual General Meeting. But that he can arouse and manipulate the masses, he has yet to show. So far, though looking like Cassius, sufficiently "lean and hungry" to seem dangerous, he has revealed none of the fire, the charisma and the oratorical power that is the mark of the great leader, or misleader.

Hitler, his pin-up, who in this respect certainly was an expert, would have thought little of Tyndall. In *Mein Kampf* he poured some of his most withering scorn on the "goose-quills" who spin out their theories while "the great historical avalanches in religion and politics have always been set in motion by the magic power of the spoken word", therefore "let any writer stick to his inkpot—a leader he will never be". Hitler's articles were indeed printed speech, while Tyndall's speeches are spoken print; Hitler's passion was consuming the multitudes, Tyndall's is crackling at branch level.

Inasmuch as life is breathed into movements of this kind by the calibre of a leader, it does not seem likely that the National Front as at present constituted will go far, the growth in numbers notwithstanding. As it has passed through many internal feuds and self-maiming quarrels which never produced a leader but just a motley of managers, organisers, second-rate agitators and half-baked philosophers, all of whom, with no truly commanding authority, may continue to be at loggerheads, and since resistance can reasonably be expected to be determined, being well warned and aware of the issues at stake, it may be some time yet before the emergence of a National Front sufficiently substantial in stature to throw down a challenge more effective than hitherto.

## FROM THE GERMAN SCENE

### CUTS IN FASSBINDER FILM DEMANDED

The Self-censorship committee of the German Film Industry has asked for four cuts in the film "Shadow of Angels" after Fassbinder's controversial antisemitic play "Refuse, City and Death", before the film can be shown in German cinemas this month.

### CONCENTRATION CAMP CEMETERY NEGLECTED

In a 10-page document, a youth section of the German Trade Union Movement protests against the neglect of the cemetery of the former concentration camp Kaufering near Landsberg, Bavaria. They allege that the tombs are covered with weeds and litter and that between 10,000 and 20,000 people are buried there, not 500 as had been assumed hitherto. Members of the organisation have volunteered to help in clearing the site, but insist that the administration of Bavarian Lakes and Castles should not try to evade its responsibility, and should also provide a memorial commemorating the events leading to the establishment of the cemetery.

### BELSEN DESECRATORS CAUGHT

Four young men who are members or sympathisers of neo-Nazi organisations were arrested for having overturned 18 tombstones in the Belsen memorial cemetery last May. They claim to have been drunk.

According to official figures, 13 Jewish cemeteries in Germany were desecrated in 1975. In Frankfurt alone 66 tombstones were overturned, and 200 more daubed with swastikas and Nazi slogans.

### SS LEADER WHO ARRESTED BABIES

In East Berlin the trial of Herbert Drabent, 61, a former Nazi SS troop leader, took place. He is charged with taking part in the murder of thousands of Soviet citizens including Jews, mainly in the Caucasus in 1942 and 1943. Drabent told the court that he had been ordered to arrest "anti-German" elements, including men, women, children and even babies. He estimated that his group executed between 10,000 and 12,000 civilians, but maintains that he did not kill anyone and did not see any executions. Drabent was sentenced to life imprisonment. This is the first war crimes trial in East Berlin for many years.

### NO PROMOTION FOR NAZI JUDGE

The news that Hamburg High Court Judge Gunter Schultz was to be appointed president of the Highest Court in Hamburg shortly before his retirement, caused a storm of protest in legal circles and among the general public. Mr. Roth has now been forced to withdraw his application. During the Nazi régime, he was notorious for the harsh sentences he pronounced in cases involving sexual relations between Jews and "Aryans".

### DEATH OF A HEROIC WOMAN

Johanna Peppmüller, who has died at Bielefeld, aged 91, is remembered with immense gratitude by the Jews of that town. As a young woman she had been a children's nurse and worked in many Jewish households. After 1933, she opened a boarding house where she looked after elderly Jewish women and provided cheap lunches for Jewish people. She had adopted a Jewish orphan girl, Lotte Windmüller, and looked after her until she was sent to Auschwitz in 1943. Several times, Miss Peppmüller had succeeded in protecting her, but eventually her efforts failed. In the labour camp where she stayed prior to her deportation, Lotte had met a young man from whom she was separated at Auschwitz, but to whom she gave Miss Peppmüller's address. He managed to contact her, and the many parcels she sent him, helped to save his life. Immediately after the collapse of the Hitler régime she again opened her boarding house, this time to survivors from concentration camps.

### IMMIGRATION SCANDAL IN OFFENBACH

The Mayor of Offenbach, Mr. Buckpesch, has denied reports in the Israeli newspaper *Jedioth Achronot* according to which there was an influx of illegal immigrants from Soviet Russia and other Iron Curtain Countries into the town. The paper maintained that these immigrant families had paid large sums of money to agents who provided them with accommodation and helped them to fill in applications for social security payments. In July alone more than 800 new arrivals had received a total of DM 160,000 (about £35,000). A spokesman for the town authorities said at a press conference that the town did not object to the admission of immigrants for humanitarian reasons, but that the demands made by them exceeded by far the funds available and they had to apply to the government of Hesse for financial support. The public prosecutor has opened investigations into suspected "planned illegal operations" and the Offenbach Jewish community has declared its readiness to assist in finding the culprits, as people who exploited the needs of Jewish immigrants for their own gain ought to be punished. Offenbach has a Jewish population of 1,200.

About 1,700 Jews who have left the Soviet Union in recent years, are reported to be living in West Germany, and about 1,000 in West Berlin.

### ANNE FRANK'S DIARY

Otto Frank, the father of Anne Frank whose diary of her years in hiding in Holland has had such a deep impact on all those who read it, has issued an injunction to stop the right-wing agitator, architect Heinz Roth from Lumda, Hesse, from distributing pamphlets in which it is stated that the diary was a fraud inflicted on the German people. One of the pamphlets said: "The diary is a forgery, this best seller read all over the world . . . is the work of a New York script writer who collaborated with the girl's father. Millions of school-children have been forced to read this swindle".

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## HOME NEWS

### RUSSIA DECLINES BBC OFFER

The Soviet Embassy declined an invitation from the BBC to take part in a 45-minute radio programme on Radio 4 to commemorate the first anniversary of the Helsinki agreement. It dealt with the campaign for Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. During the discussion Mr. Peter Reddaway of the London School of Economics said the Soviet Union had become deeply antisemitic and regarded the Jewish community as a potential fifth column, partly as a result of Russian support for the Arabs in the Middle East conflict. Other speakers were Professor Spalding of Imperial College who declared that British scientific bodies should be ashamed for doing so little, and Lawrence Daly, a former Communist and secretary of the Mineworkers Union.

### PALESTINIANS' SUPPORT FOR IRA

Mr. John Briggs-Davidson, M.P., a Conservative spokesman on Ireland, alleged that the Palestinian terrorists have agreed on joint military operations on British territory against Zionist organisations.

### ARAB INVESTORS IGNORE BOYCOTT

London banking circles have confirmed a report of the Middle East Intelligence Survey according to which Arab investors, especially from Saudi Arabia, frequently participate in issues sponsored by Jewish bankers. The Saudi Arabian Investment Co. took part in the \$50 million Eurobond issue of the National Coal Board in which Rothschilds were the leaders and Warburgs one of the co-managers. Both banks had been blacklisted only last year.

### BOYCOTT OF THE DORCHESTER

The Jewish Blind Society, The Wolfson Foundation, the Anglo-Israel Association, Ort, Children and Youth Aliyah, and many other Jewish organisations have stated that they will no longer hold meetings at the Dorchester Hotel, recently taken over by an Arab Consortium. Lord Segal, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords and chairman of the Council of the Anglo-Israel Association, spoke against a boycott and said: "Jews . . . should strive for the highest moral and commercial standards, and as such it is wrong for them to hit back with a boycott of their own this way". Deploring the cancellations which also include Marks & Spencer's annual meetings, a spokesman for the Dorchester pointed out that Arabs still continued to go to Jewish hotels. The "Guardian" mentioned in a commentary that Sheikh Yamani's favourite hotel is Carlton Towers, owned by the Lex Group whose chairman is Zionist leader Trevor Chinn.

### U.S.A. AWARD FOR LORD FISHER

Lord Fisher, the president of the Board of Deputies, will receive the Stephen Wise Award of the American Jewish Congress at a New York ceremony in November. Among previous recipients of the prize were President Truman, Leonard Bernstein and David Ben-Gurion. Lord Fisher will be the first Briton to receive the award for "significant contributions to Jewish causes, unswerving dedication to Jewish survival and lifelong support and commitment to the State of Israel".

### "ABOLISH ISRAEL" ROW

At a meeting of the management committee of the Brighton Labour Party, a resolution was adopted which called on the government to take steps to bring about a talk between Israel and the Palestinians to discuss a settlement of their conflicts. During the discussions, some members of the committee said Israel should be liquidated as a State and replaced with a Palestinian State where Jews, Arabs and Christians could co-exist peacefully. The headquarters of the Brighton Labour Party is called Lewis Cohen House after an outstanding supporter both of the Labour Party and the cause of Israel.

### LINKS BETWEEN WALES AND LIBYA

The Welsh Nationalist Plaid Cymru Party which aims at Welsh independence from the U.K., have been negotiating for some time with Libya to strengthen the Welsh economy and national aspirations. This has met with strong protests from Welsh politicians and from the public. The party's chairman, Dr. Phil Williams, and the leader of the Nationalists in Parliament, Mr. Gwynfor Evans, said that they were looking to Libya for sympathy for Welsh national and cultural life. Mr Evans added: "We have never found sympathy and support for our national aspirations among the Jewish community. I cannot recall any Welsh Jewish community which has ever identified itself with us. The Libyans are not anti-Jewish, they are anti-Zionist and they stress that, being Semitic themselves, they could not be antisemitic".

### PLO PUBLICITY TRIP TO ISRAEL

Abdul Jawadj Salah who visited Britain earlier this year has stirred up heated arguments in the Palestine Liberation Organisation by suggesting to send a shipload of Palestinians to Israel and whip up support for their cause. Salah argued that the Palestinians would be so badly treated by the Israelis that it would make good publicity for their cause throughout the world. Middle East sources, however, say that the Israelis will give the returning Palestinians a friendly welcome, take them on a tour of the country and invite them to attend lectures on the Palestine problem.

### DOCTORS APPEAL TO RUSSIA FOR COLLEAGUE

The national conference of the British Medical Association unanimously adopted a motion on behalf of the endocrinologist Mikhail Shtern who is seriously ill in a Kharkov strict labour camp. The motion is now official policy of the BMA and letters asking for Dr. Shtern's release have been sent to the Russian authorities and to the Soviet Ambassador in London.

### LORD HAW-HAW'S GRAND-DAUGHTER

At the recent reburial of William Joyce, war-time "Lord Haw-Haw" who was executed after the war as a traitor, his daughter said that she had shared her father's ideas as a young girl, but had since realised how vicious they were, particularly his antisemitism. Joyce's brothers did not attend the reburial in Galway. Nor did his granddaughter who spends most of her time on a kibbutz in Israel!

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## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### New Golders Green Community Centre

Earlier this year the Central Council for Jewish Social Services, set up in 1973, bought La Sagesse Convent in Golders Green, a former girls' school, for nearly £5,000,000. Together with the Jewish Welfare Board and the Jewish Blind Society, the Council has now submitted to Barnet Council a plan for a large community centre, a 40-bed old age home and a school in the former convent building. There will also be a day centre for partially handicapped elderly people.

### Vacancies in Manchester Home

We have been informed that the Home for the Elderly in Manchester, Morris Feinmann House, at present has two, possibly three, single room vacancies. Enquiries should be addressed to: The Morris Feinmann Homes Trust, 178 Palatine Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 8UW.

### Jewish chess champion

19-year-old Jonathan Mestel who has become Britain's youngest ever chess champion and won nine games in succession during the recent Portsmouth championships is the son of Professor Leon Mestel, Professor of Astronomy at Sussex University. He has stated that he does not want to make playing chess his career, and said: "There are more important things to do in the world and I would like to help to make it better."

### Generous legacies by Jewish Refugee

Mrs Alice Rosenthal who died last December left £10,000 in her will to the Leo Baeck Day Centre in Daleham Gardens and the residue of her £90,000 net assets to the B'nai B'rith housing trust. Mrs. Rosenthal was a refugee from Germany.

### Highgate search for new rabbi

The Highgate Synagogue is searching for a new rabbi in the United States. The Synagogue which is run in accordance with Rabbi Louis Jacobs' brand of Orthodoxy, was unable to find a rabbi in this country because would-be applicants were afraid of difficulties with their present communities if they failed to be elected. The community has over 100 members and is still obliged to hold services in the hall of the United Reformed Church, because a new site to replace the burned-out synagogue has not been found.

### Poale Zion against West Bank Settlements

Poale Zion, the organisation of Labour Zionists in Britain, declared in a statement its total opposition to "unauthorised settlements in the West Bank or anywhere else". They are in conflict with the recently formed organisation of British supporters of the Gush Emunim settlers in the occupied territories.

### Gifts for Golda Meir

On behalf of the Anglo-Israel Association, Sir Harold Wilson presented the Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Gideon Rafael, with a bronze bust of Golda Meir by British sculptor John Doubleday. The sculptor, who is not Jewish, was only the second artist to be granted sittings by Israel's grand old woman.

Ninety-one-year-old Mrs. Paula Thau of Hampstead, a refugee from Nazi Germany, left the greater part of her £17,000 estate to Golda Meir "to establish a memorial garden of trees" in Israel. Mrs. Thau also left £1,000 each to the AJR and the Jewish Blind Society.

### Cantata in memory of rabbi

A cantata by Carl Davis, commissioned in memory of Rabbi Dr. Reinhart, founder-minister of the Westminster Synagogue, had its first performance at a supper party in the home of the synagogue chairman, Mr. Connick at Roehampton. The evening raised £525 for British Women's Ort of which Mrs. Connick is the local chairman.

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## NAZI REVIVAL IN ARGENTINA

There has been a major outbreak of anti-Jewish outrages in Argentina. Numerous Jewish shops in Buenos Aires have been attacked with bombs and rifles. Two synagogues have been bombed and schools and Jewish organisations generally are under constant attack. The Argentine "National Socialist Front" has claimed responsibility for a number of them. This group had publicly declared war against "the Jewish Bolshevik plutocracy" which it has promised to destroy.

## 40th ANNIVERSARY OF URUGUAY REFUGEE COMMUNITY

Fourteen early refugees from Nazi Germany founded the Montevideo Jewish congregation in 1936. As immigration to Uruguay was fairly easy until 1938, it soon grew. When the congregation celebrated its 40th anniversary last month, it still had about 1,100 members, most of them over 60 years of age. In 1954 there had been about 5,000. The younger generation have mainly left the country because of economic difficulties. However, in the four decades of its existence, the congregation has built its own synagogue, a community centre, an old-age home for 60 people, and a youth centre which has now 600 members, but only about 100 of them are descendants of the original immigrants.

## PEKING REFUSES CONDOLENCES

The Chinese government returned a letter from the Israeli government, expressing sympathy with the victims of the recent earthquake, with a note saying: "Acceptance of letter refused because of lack of relations between our two countries".

## JEWISH LANDLORD FOR OPEC

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) has found a new home for its Vienna headquarters in a huge office building on the banks of the Danube. The lease was signed by Mr. Feidye, Opec's Nigerian secretary-general and Mr. Otto Binder, director-general of the Vienna City Insurance Company which owns the building, a prominent member of the Vienna Jewish community. Mr. Binder is the father-in-law of Dr. Heinz Fischer, the Socialist leader in the Austrian Parliament.

## ISRAELI HOTEL IN VIENNA

The first Israeli-owned Hotel in Vienna was opened in the centre of the old city. It is the Hotel Mailberghof in Annagasse 7.

### CLUB 1943

Vortraege jeden Montag um 8 p.m. im Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, N.W.3.

- 11. Oktober. Dr. Kurt Pflueger: Die beiden Weltkriege.
- 18 Oktober. Ida Herz leitet ein: Schallplatten gesprochen von Thomas Mann (Die Bekenntnisse des Hochstaplers Felix Krull u.a.)
- 25 Oktober. Dr. J. Maitlis: Scholem Aleichem Feier zum 60. Todestag des Dichters. Hanna Metzger: Rezitationen.
- 1 November. Hans Freyhan: Zwei Grossmeister des Barock (Schuetz und Purcell).
- 8 November. Dr. Ruth v. Schulze-Gaevernitz: Die Sibylle von Cumae; fruehe Prophetinnen im Altertum.
- 15 November. Peter Dannheisser: The use of broadcasting for development in India.

## QUEEN JULIANA IN SYNAGOGUE

On the anniversary of its completion 250 years ago the Portuguese Synagogue at the Hague was reopened as a Liberal House of Worship in the presence of Queen Juliana and many representatives of Dutch government, provincial and municipal authorities. The Orthodox community refused to attend because it was no longer an Orthodox synagogue. The building had been unused since the war and had fallen into disrepair. Only six of its pre-war congregation of 400 Sephardis survived, and only the Liberal Community took an interest in the re-consecration of the historical synagogue.

## ROYAL HONOURS FOR ANTWERP JEWS

To mark the centenary of the royal decree granting legal status to the Antwerp Jewish community, King Baudouin has honoured its present-day leaders. The Chief Rabbi, Dr. Medalie, formerly of Leeds, was appointed a Knight of the Order of Leopold. The Queen gave her consent to his acceptance of the Order. This was needed as he has retained British nationality. High honours were also conferred on the honorary officers and other leading members of the community.

## JEWS IN CORSICA

For the first time in centuries, Corsica, an island the size of Israel, has a Jewish population of some 40 families, mainly in the port of Bastia. The first Jews fled from Turkish persecution in 1916 and were known as the "Palestinians", since many of them had been born in Haifa, Tiberias or Safed. Bastia was the only port to give them hospitality. In 1950 they were joined by North African Jews and they now have their own rabbi and receive supplies of kosher meat from the French mainland. They have also started courses of religious instruction and Hebrew lessons for children.

## "PAX JUDAICA"

Jewish communities all over the world should actively contribute to the restoration of peaceful conditions by setting aside some days each year for the study of the idea of peace in the framework of Jewish ethics. This is the essence of a proposal by Dr. Josef Weill, honorary president of the Strasbourg Jewish community. Dr. Weill suggests that Jewish scholars and ministers should come together to draw up a "Jewish Peace" Charter and introduce Jews and non-Jews to the many passages in biblical and post-biblical writing which lay down the rules for peaceful and harmonious relations between individuals and nations. He particularly recommends the study of general semantics, i.e. of the influence of language and its changes on human behaviour. Studies of this kind should be included in the curricula of schools and universities, and their results should be published.

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## ADOLPH S. OCHS STAMP

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of the "New York Times", the American postal authorities are issuing a 13 cents stamp bearing a likeness of Adolph S. Ochs, who made it into a paper read all over the world. Ochs was born in Cincinnati in 1858, the son of Jewish parents from Fuerth in Bavaria. He started life as a messenger-boy and printer's apprentice, and in 1896 he bought with his savings the "New York Times" which was facing bankruptcy. In 1933 he handed over the management of his paper to his son-in-law Arthur Hays Sulzberger and died two years later. President Roosevelt sent flowers for his funeral, and New York's public buildings lowered their flags to half-mast. Ochs was interested in many Jewish institutions, most of all in the liberal Hebrew Union College in his native town which had been founded by his father-in-law Rabbi Wise, in 1875. E.G.L.

## AMERICAN NAZI EXPELLED

Gerhard Lauck, 23, from Nebraska, who calls himself "Leader of the Foreign Branch of the NSDAP" was given a suspended 6-months prison sentence and re-expelled from Germany for using Nazi insignia and distributing Nazi propaganda material. He had come to Hamburg in 1974 to give a talk on "Why we Americans still revere Hitler". At the time he had been expelled, but he returned and distributed 20,000 Nazi posters which he had brought with him.

## A SWISS HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Over the years, Dr. Florence Guggenheim-Gruenberg has collected a wealth of material on the history, folklore and language of Jews in Switzerland which has now been taken over by the Zuerich Jewish Congregation and displayed in its library. A 150-page catalogue has been published which is full of fascinating information particularly about the Jewish communities in the North of which Endingen and Lengnau are the oldest, but also about communities from "over the border" where especially around Lake Constance there were a number of predominately Jewish villages with strong connections to Switzerland (Gailingen, Randegg, Wangen). Other Jewish communities represented were in Alsace, in the Black Forest and in Hesse. The catalogue also lists the 160 books and pamphlets written by Dr. Guggenheim on the subject during the last 50 years. This is all the more surprising, as Dr. Guggenheim, now 79, was trained as a pharmacologist and started her work as a complete amateur. E.G.L.

## CLIFF RICHARD SONG BANNED IN USSR

On a Russian tour, pop-singer Cliff Richard was banned from including the song "Love Train", a Top Ten hit in Britain, in his repertoire because it advocates peace and friendship between nations, including Israel.

## SELF AID OF REFUGEES

### TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONCERT

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# IN MEMORY OF WERNER M. BEHR

## Devoted Worker for Jewish Causes

### AJR's INDEBTEDNESS

The sudden death of Werner M. Behr, OBE, at the age of 73, is a sad loss not only to his family and friends but also to his fellow workers in the communal sphere. Among the organisations to which he was devoted and some of which pay tribute to him in this issue, the AJR has a special place of pride. For 20 years he served our cause, first as a member of the Executive, then as Vice-chairman and, during the past two years, as Chairman. He resigned as Chairman only a few months ago but agreed to remain a member of our Executive. In giving guidance to the deliberations of the Executive he was able to retain the team spirit among its members, which had been traditional throughout the years. As one of the representatives of the AJR he was also treasurer of the Committee set up by the Central British Fund to administer the funds derived from the restituted heirless and communal former Jewish property in Germany to be used for the social needs of the Nazi victims; and he also served on the Management Committee in charge of the Homes for the Aged erected and maintained out of these originally German-Jewish assets and jointly administered by the AJR and the CBF.

One of his outstanding successes was the guidance he gave to the appeal for the "Thank-You Britain" Fund, and it was in recognition of this work that he was appointed an OBE in 1971. The idea of making a collective gesture of gratitude to the country which gave us refuge was originally conceived by our late friend Hans Reichmann, but he did not live to see its realisation.

### Friendship with Wilfrid Israel

Before he came to this country, Werner Behr held a leading position with the old-established department store of N. Israel in Berlin, and his steep career at an early age testified to his economic expertise and his organising abilities. Yet his work also brought him into close contact with Wilfrid Israel, who combined political vision with unreserved helpfulness to the individual. Like his principals and his senior colleagues, Werner Behr courageously withstood the pressure put on the firm from 1933 onwards, and like Wilfrid he left Berlin only a few months before the outbreak of war, after most of the Jewish members of the staff had been able to emigrate.

The experience under the Nazis régime and the friendship with Wilfrid Israel also decisively shaped his intense Jewish consciousness. Having worked at close quarters with a family, which had been rooted in Berlin for six generations, he came to realise that there is no absolute security for Jews and that, in the last resort, they have to fall back on their own resources. This, I assume, was the main impetus of his manifold activities for his fellow Jews from Germany in this country and abroad under the auspices of the AJR and the worldwide Council of Jews from Germany as well as for general Jewish causes in Israel and in the Diaspora, which also included the chairmanship of the Wiener Library.

For his widespread commitments and, above all, for the spirit of selflessness and human kindness he will be gratefully remembered by all who knew him, and we share our sense of loss with his wife, his son and the other members of his family.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

### A LOSS FOR THE COUNCIL OF JEWS FROM GERMANY

*Werner Behr was one of the three Joint Chairmen of the Council of Jews from Germany. The sense of loss, felt by his colleagues in the United States and in Israel is expressed in the following tributes received from them.*

I am writing these lines still under shock by the news of the sudden death of our joint chairman, Werner Behr.

He was one of the relatively few of our group who genuinely cared and was truly concerned with the manifold problems which in the past have faced and still face our dwindling community of former Hitler persecutees, whether in England or elsewhere in the world. He never lost sight of the right perspective under which our situation must be viewed vis-à-vis the problems of the larger community. In his conciliatory way he gave abundantly of his wise counsel. We all will miss him, and I—in particular—feel myself deprived of the presence and companionship of a loyal, reliable associate and friend.

DR. CURT C. SILBERMAN  
(New York)

In seiner jahrelangen Arbeit im Council of Jews from Germany hat Werner Behr zunaechst als Mitglied des Praesidiums des Council, spaeter als Vizepraesident und in den letzten Jahren als einer der Joint Chairmen der Sache der aus Deutschland ausgewanderten Juden vorbildlich gedient. Verwurztelt in der Tradition juedischer Arbeit in Deutschland, ist er durch seine Erfahrung, seine grosse Sachkenntnis, sein soziales Verstaendnis und sein abgewogenes Urteil zu einem der wichtigsten Traeger unserer Arbeit geworden. Dafuer danken wir ihm und wir trauern um einen Freund, der uns in seiner sachlichen Vornehmheit und seiner Einsatzbereitschaft fuer unsere Sache unvergessen bleiben wird.

HEINZ GERLING (Jerusalem)

### TRIBUTE BY BRITISH ACADEMY

My return to England from a holiday has been much saddened by the news of the death of Werner Behr. The origins of the "Thank-You Britain" Fund—that splendid and generous conception, so effectively brought to pass—owe so much to him, as all readers of these columns know. As co-chairman with Mr. Victor Ross of the Organising Committee, it fell to Mr. Behr to take the chair at that remarkable ceremony held at the Sadler's Hall on 8 November, 1965, at which a cheque for over £90,000 was handed over to the President of the British Academy. (This occasion is happily commemorated in one of the few illustrations to Sir Mortimer Wheeler's *The British Academy, 1949-68*—itself an indication of how important a part the Fund has been in the life of the Academy.)

In his opening speech Mr. Behr traced the origins of the Fund and then, following an address by Sir Hans Krebs, Lord Robbins, the President, spoke to convey the Academy's thanks; those who had found refuge in Britain from oppression on the Continent in the dark days of the 1930s had so enriched its cultural and academic life that "it is we who should be expressing gratitude to you. You have given twice."

Werner Behr continued to 'give' in other ways. From May 1966 until his death he ser-

ved on the British Academy's Thank-Offering to Britain Fund Committee and rarely missed a meeting. His contributions to discussion were always to the point and were much valued when the names of future lecturers were being discussed or when the scope of the Fellowship scheme was being reviewed. Though he was diffident in himself asking candidates for the awards questions about their research, his judgement was always shrewd when it came to the difficult task of deciding conflicting claims between candidates of roughly equal merit.

He was also most regular in attending the Thank-Offering to Britain Lectures. He particularly enjoyed, he told me, Lord Robbins's inaugural lecture 'On Academic Freedom' and the series of three lectures by Lord Blake on 'The Office of Prime Minister'. His friendly face will be greatly missed on these occasions at Burlington House, yet his name will be kept green by the British Academy.

NEVILLE WILLIAMS  
Secretary of The British Academy

### A PERSONAL APPRECIATION

It seems but a short while ago that I was privileged to pay tribute in your columns to Werner Behr on the occasion of his 70th birthday and to wish him many more years of good health and activity. And now, all too soon, we have been called upon to mourn his passing and to share with his family this sad and grievous loss.

Werner Behr came to this country shortly before the outbreak of War and established himself as a Financial Consultant. Those were not easy times in the City, but through his intelligence and hard work he was able gradually to extend his clientele beyond that of his former connections who had likewise immigrated. His judgement was good and he always seemed to be well informed. Indeed, he proved himself to be a wise Counsellor.

Of his work on behalf of refugees, his colleagues at the AJR are in a better position to evaluate his long and devoted services. But as someone who had dealings with him over many years, I can testify to the esteem in which he was held. He had a clear and grasping mind, and at meetings his contributions were invariably constructive and helpful. It was easy to discuss matters with him for he was completely frank. However, whilst not reticent in expressing his views, he was at the same time ready to listen to another opinion.

Werner Behr was a modest and humble man and certainly he never sought office but accepted it as a duty. That he emerged as a leader was because of his sound judgement, his integrity and the trust that he inspired; above all, he was a fair man. He earned the respect of all those with whom he came into contact and he was the friend of many by whom he will be sorely missed.

H. OSCAR JOSEPH

### DR. PETER EINSTEIN

#### Early death of an outstanding scientist

Dr. Peter Einstein, a senior scientific officer at the Bracknell Meteorological Office, died at the early age of 50. An appreciation of this outstanding scientist was published in the Reading local paper. The son of the late Mr. O. L. Einstein, who took an active part in the AJR work in Manchester, he was born in Hamburg and came to this country in 1937. He joined the Meteorological Office after the laboratory of Vickers' Central Research Establishment, where he had worked for 11 years, was closed in 1974. Dr. Einstein, an expert on electro optics, was a member of the AJR, and we extend our sincerest sympathies to his widow.

Egon Larsen

## LILLI PALMER TELLS HER STORY

*Dicke Lilli—gutes Kind* is the German title of Miss Palmer's autobiography, no doubt written in the wake of Hildegard Knef's. As the title of the English-language edition Lilli Palmer has chosen a quotation from *Alice in Wonderland*, rather more obscure than the evocative "fat Lilli": *Change Lobsters and Dance* (W. H. Allen, 1976, £5.00). It turns out that her "lobsters" are her husbands, Rex Harrison, whom she married in 1943, and now Carlos Thompson, who describes himself as an actor and author.

She never made the grade as a world-famous film star, yet we all love her as a charming sensitive, heart-warming actress who had a hard struggle as a refugee in Paris, London, and Hollywood. Her story is essentially a private one, written without bitterness or animosity but with great sense of humour. On the surface the reader gets the impression of too much names-dropping as Lilli Palmer lists her encounters with the famous—Bernard Shaw and Greta Garbo, Fritz Lang and Laurence Olivier, Gary Cooper and Clark Gable, Fred Astaire and Helen Keller. She describes a catastrophic dinner party with the Windsors on their yacht at Portofino, paints a vivid portrait of Noel Coward, who called her and Marlene Dietrich "my two Prussian cows", and admits that as a non-drinking observer at Hollywood parties she was cast in the role of a "dreary Teutonic wet blanket".

Yet on a deeper level this is the story of a Jewish girl from Berlin who had to fight for herself and for every step in life right from the start. She gives us a candid picture of her bourgeois family life in the Weimar era and particularly of her strangely puritanical father, a well-known doctor who refused to enlighten his three daughters on the facts of life—in other words, sex. But he also refused, quite rightly, to let her convert to Christianity as a schoolgirl when she was told she could not be the Virgin Mary in a Christmas play because she was Jewish. "Why not? Mary was Jewish too, wasn't she?" Lilli protested in vain.

As a young actress she had much more traumatic experiences. Once, on a provincial stage, she found herself facing two rows of SA men ready to demonstrate against her; someone made them give up that idea by telling them that Lilli's father had got the Iron Cross in the First World War. Behind the stage, however, a fellow actress spat at her, and not for good luck. Soon after this, at Darmstadt, she was dismissed from the theatre because of her "non-Aryan" blood. "The writing on the wall stood out in capital letters as far as I was concerned," she recalls. "Get out, it said. Get out of Darmstadt. Get out of Germany".

To England, was her first idea; as a child she had been sent there on summer holidays to learn the language. But she had fallen in love with a Franco-German artist and went to Paris instead. With her sister Irene (now the actress Irene Prador in London) she did a night-club act. But there was no chance of a stage or film job. With a visiting card from Alexander Korda she went to London. He gave her a contract for £7 a week: that was the beginning of her film career.

A few years and several films later she married Rex Harrison and went to Hollywood with him. At first it was a life of glamour and success, but it ended in scandal. Carol Landis, an actress whose name had been linked with that of Harrison, committed suicide. Lilli Palmer stood by him faithfully, but they both

had to leave Hollywood. Their marriage lasted for fifteen years. Then, she writes, he took pity on Kay Kendall, the beautiful and gifted actress (remember her playing the trumpet in *Genevieve?*), whose doctor told him in confidence that she was dying of leukaemia. Lilli agreed to a divorce so that he could marry Kay and "lead her to her death in dignity"; later, they planned, they would remarry. But when that version of the story appeared in Lilli Palmer's English-language autobiography (the German version does not contain it), Rex Harrison protested energetically—eighteen years after their divorce. There was, he says, no agreement to remarry.

Now Lilli is happily married to Carlos Thompson, ten years her junior. She does not act very often now; she paints, and she does it very well. Hers has been, despite all her troubles, a fulfilled life: this is clear from her honest book. With that honesty, she also answers a question which many refugees have put to themselves: "If you hadn't happened to be Jewish, would you have left Germany?"

"Maybe . . . not. I loved my life in Germany. I'm afraid . . . I'd have stayed. But I would never have joined the Party or even paid lip service to that insane racial business, or denounced other people—"

She was asked that question on her first post-war visit to Germany when she looked around in the film studio and wondered how all these people had behaved under Hitler. Most of them, she felt, had done what she herself would have done: they "just stayed".

F. Thorn

### COMPASSION AND AFFINITY

It does not often happen that a writer, whose task it is to interpret and analyse the work of others, decides to provoke instead. When it does happen, the result is usually disappointing or sad or both. If, however, a biographer, historian and critic writes a novel because his reserves of creative perception overflow the self-given boundaries of authority, the result is unity: the fictitious work and the historical commentary enlarge each other, and the disparity of subjects becomes the key to understanding the personal involvement with events and individuals. This is the case with two new books by the art historian J. P. Hodin, published almost simultaneously\* in Germany.

With the first of the two Dr. Hodin is on familiar ground. After his masterly biographies of Kokoschka and Munch (these at least are the two the present reviewer knows best), he writes about a friend of his youth in Prague, the painter Berger-Bergner, who was 72 recently and who has worked through a critical half-century of European art. Berger-Bergner is not well known in this country—although he once exhibited in Swansea of all places—because he was never considered a 'seminal influence' and probably would not have liked to be one. He was and is, however, a magnificent instance of the *Kleinmeister* whose sublime skill and deep, almost religious commitment to his time confer greatness upon him.

Dr. Hodin's biography, leading in six parts from childhood to Berger-Bergner's present mature work in Mannheim shows a rare ability to relate life experience, adversity, and creative power in their intricate pattern without having recourse to the arrogant verbiage of contemporary art commentary. More than

fifty impeccable reproductions of Berger-Bergner's work—including a poignant lino-cut "Ehebruch" and a series of children's paintings with the fascinating "Mädchen mit Rosen (Kinderwitwe)"—make Dr. Hodin's sober and loving book a real joy for all those for whom the human figure is still the ultimate means of understanding and compassion. It is to be hoped that an English translation will bring both author and painter nearer to art lovers in Britain.

"Die Leute von Elverdingen" is Dr. Hodin's third novel (after the now unobtainable short novel "Der Mörder" and "Die Brühlsche Terrasse"). It is set in Flanders, the part of Europe where one feels nearer to the late seventeenth century than anywhere else. That Dr. Hodin's *Schicksalsroman* is set there has many inherent reasons, but one wonders whether a very sensitive art historian could find any better stage for actions and events which are permeated by the author's own emotions.

This story of a Flemish writer's life—"branded" as it were by a traumatic experience, which turned his hair white overnight—this account of life in a small community in the uneasy expanse of Europe between the wars is a *Condition Humaine* without pretension. It is an old-fashioned book: old-fashioned passions and values are confronted with the new ruthlessness of an upheaval which we still try to understand. Dr. Hodin's book is poetic, tender, candid and very comforting.

Any summary or synopsis of so complex a life-story, related by the author as the hero's friend, would fail to do it justice. The slow and sad development of a delicate love in prosaic circumstances for instance, and the affinity of the two writers—the author and his heroic friend—warrant at least a quotation, one of the many beautiful examples of virile prose: In a chapter under the heading "Der Kampf mit dem Engel", the narrator prepares for a journey and says: "Nun hiess es, von Joris Abschied nehmen. Ich hatte es bisher aufgeschoben. Der Zweifel, dass ich ihn vielleicht nie mehr wiedersehen würde, hielt mich lange davon zurück. Ueberall, wo mich diesen Sommer die Züge hingeführt hatten, machte sich lähmende Spannung und Gereiztheit bemerkbar, ein dumpfes Brüten und eine unnatürliche Hast. . . . Greifbar und wiederum unfasslich zerfloss diese Vorahnung, wenn man sie näher untersuchen wollte. Wie ein böses Hirngespinnst, eine beunruhigende Phantasmagorie hinterliess sie beängstigende Symptome. . . ." Few people who travelled in Europe in "this" and many other summers between the wars could have escaped the "paralysing tension and irritation" in the air.

Strangely enough there is a link between Dr. Hodin's two books, the one following the real and pulsating life of a painter, the other a fictitious travel through an invented life of one (and many) in Europe: it is his compassion with his fellow-men and his affinity to hero and anti-hero alike—the dividing lines become blurred and finally obliterated.

\* "Paul Berger-Bergner, Leben und Werk" and "Die Leute von Elverdingen", both by Josef Paul Hodin, Christians Verlag, Hamburg.

### SIX MINUTES OF SORROW

At the Edinburgh Festival, Claudio Abbado and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra performed Arnold Schoenberg's "A Survivor from Warsaw" which concentrated a terrifying experience into a mere six minutes. Gunther Reich spoke the text in English, after which an ensemble of 44 male voices, specially assembled for the occasion from the Glasgow area, sang the unison setting of the Sh'ma in Hebrew.

Fritz Friedlaender (Melbourne)

## THE BACKGROUND OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY

My wife and I were horrified when we visited the Australian penal settlement at Port Arthur, Tasmania, and saw the dreadful conditions under which the prisoners were forced to serve their sentences. Afterwards I found out that the conditions prevailing in the other Australian penal settlements were just the same or even worse.

At that time, however, I did not know that among those miseries suffering from those conditions were also people of Jewish extraction. I learned this remarkable fact from a book throwing light on this peculiar situation for the first time: J. S. Levi/G. T. J. Bergman: "Australian Genesis—Jewish Convicts and Settlers 1788-1850" (London: Robert Hale & Company—£6.00; Adelaide: Rigby Limited).

Since its publication in December 1974 this book has been appreciated as a major achievement in the field of Australian historiography. Rabbi John S. Levi, born in Melbourne in 1934, studied philosophy and education at the Melbourne University till his graduation. He also studied at the History Department of Australia's Monash University where he received his second M.A. for his thesis "The Beginnings of Australian Jewry". After five years of rabbinical studies in USA and Israel he served as rabbi of Temple Beth Israel, Melbourne's Jewish-Liberal Congregation, and he was appointed its senior Rabbi in July 1974.

His co-author, Dr. George Bergman, born in Germany in 1900, is a lawyer and a Doctor of Economics. A fugitive from Nazi Germany, he arrived in Australia in 1947 and joined the Public Service and also specialised in studying Australian Jewish History.

The book "Australian Genesis", well documented and lavishly illustrated, leads us into a remote and gloomy era in which Australia was used by Britain as a dumping place for lawbreakers who, as a rule, were monstrously punished for petty crimes, they had committed because of poverty.

When the first transport of convicts arrived in Australia in January 1788, there were eight Jewish people among them. One of them was Esther Abrahams, sentenced to seven years imprisonment for having stolen silk lace worth twenty-five shillings. Esther, however, possessed the asset of beauty, like the biblical Esther, and this brought her luck. A high-ranking officer, George Johnston, befriended and later married her. Both built a beautiful mansion in the colonial style.

But there were also undesirable elements among the Jewish convicts: men like Ikey Solomon who is said to be the model for Fagin in Dickens' "Oliver Twist", and Edward Davies, the Jewish chief of a gang of Australian bush-rangers. Another Jewish criminal was Joseph Samuel who is remembered in early Australian history as "the man they couldn't hang". Sentenced to death, he slipped from the hangman's noose three times. After this miracle the Governor of New South Wales commuted Samuel's death sentence to life imprisonment.

The first eight Jewish convicts who arrived in Australia were followed by hundreds more; among them were also infamous characters. But it would be entirely wrong to draw the conclusion that the moral basis of Australian Jewry was shaky and marked by depravity. The percentage of Jewish criminality was keeping in line with the general trend. He who considers this state of affairs has to bear in mind that the majority of Australian convicts were, on the one hand, victims of extreme social misery and, on the other, of an exces-

sively cruel and merciless administration of justice. I have mentioned above the case of Esther Abrahams which, in a grotesque way, illustrates that the punishment did not fit the crime but was, in fact, a travesty of justice.

The example of Esther Abrahams is not exceptional but stands for many. For instance, the utmost cruelty of this kind of jurisdiction: two Jewish children, Moses Solomon and John Morris, aged ten and nine respectively, were, together with another child, sentenced to death for stealing a pair of shoes. By an "act of grace" the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment; they were transported to Australia, and Moses Solomon who escaped from the colony later on was recaptured at the Cape of Good Hope and brought back to receive a hundred lashes [sic!].

### Convicts among early immigrants

Certainly, many of those Jewish convicts who constituted the beginnings of Australian Jewry were not habitual criminals but poor wretches, victimised by a miscarriage of justice. This is proved beyond doubt by the fact that, pretty often, they rehabilitated themselves morally and became valuable and productive members of Australian society. For example, men like Samuel Lyons and James Simmons developed from ex-convicts into very successful businessmen.

Another Jewish ex-convict, Solomon Levey, did extremely well in business in Sydney. Unfortunately, after his return to London he lost large sums of money by financing the so-called Swan River scheme, that ill-fated project commencing the first difficult phase of White Settlement in Western Australia. This misfortune broke the heart of the once so successful Solomon Levey. He died in London in October 1833, only thirty-nine years old.

Lured by his initial success in Sydney, his brothers Barnett and Isaac, his sister Rebecca and other relatives followed him to Australia as free settlers. Barnett Levey made his mark by founding the first theatre in Australia, while Isaac Levey acquired a leading position in the Sydney Jewish community. After another former Jewish convict, Moses Joseph, made a commercial success, his brother-in-law and first cousin, Louis Nathan, and another brother-in-law, David Nathan, came to Australia likewise as free settlers. Louis prospered

in Hobart, Tasmania, while David laid the foundation of a commercial empire in New Zealand.

On the other hand James Larra, in Parramatta, New South Wales, won and lost a big fortune and died in distress, although he still possessed some means.

Of course, many Jewish convicts succumbed to the dreadful treatment in the penal settlements: they either died prematurely or took their own lives. But a considerable number of them survived by an unshakeable determination "sich allen Gewalten zum Trutz zu erhalten".

Both authors of the book provide a lot of information testifying to the ability of the Jews to adapt to any situation and to make a living trying this and that. Jews worked in this former British colony as merchants, farmers, landowners, shipowners, politicians, journalists, but also as actors, boxers and detectives.

Although this book is written in an academically sober fashion, it is occasionally not void of a sensation. So we come across a Jewish convict named John Harris whose granddaughter happened to be the mother of an eminent Australian statesman, Lord Casey, who finished his career as Governor-General of Australia. But while in countries, diseased by racial prejudices, this might be a handicap, in a country like Australia, it does not impair the tremendous stature of Lord Casey.

In the same way the reputation of Sir John George Davies who was speaker of the Tasmanian House of Assembly from 1903 to 1913, was not damaged by the fact that he was the son of a Jewish ex-convict.

### Gold Rush trebles Jewish population

Owing to the vast opportunities, which Australia offered, the influx of free settlers began to outgrow the number of convicts transported to the colony. The discovery of gold in the last century had the effect to increase the Australian population considerably. The gold rush brought 740,000 people to Australia between 1851 and 1860. The Jewish population trebled and Jewish communities of free citizens and settlers emerged.

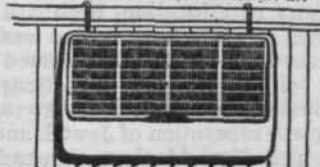
During this period men like Jacob L. and Joseph B. Montefiore, George Mocatta and David Furtado formed a social élite, doing business in various places while in Melbourne Michael Cashmore, a prosperous merchant, became the first president of the Orthodox Melbourne Hebrew Congregation, founded in 1841.

Like all Jews in the Diaspora, the Jews of Australia had to struggle with the evil of disintegration; mixed marriages and baptism took their toll. But, fortunately, the will to Jewish self-preservation prevailed. Since the middle of the last century Jewish community life began to flourish: Synagogues, community centres were built and religious schools, libraries, sport facilities established. Excellent day schools, founded in Melbourne and in Sydney in recent times, convey the Jewish heritage to the young generation. A very active Zionist movement maintains the link with Israel. Indeed, the shadows of a dismal past have vanished.

Today approximately thirteen million people live in Australia of whom 70,000 are Jews. But despite their limited number the Jews of Australia have rendered a great contribution to the development of the continent. One of Australia's greatest statesmen, the former Prime Minister Sir Robert G. Menzies, has acknowledged this. "There is a long history in Australia of distinguished service to our country by Jewish citizens. The Jews in Australia are good Australians".

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F. L. Brassloff

## ROBERT HECHT—AUSTRIA'S “GREY EMINENCE”

Austria is a prosperous and contented country today; in the period after the collapse of the Habsburg monarchy in 1918 its “rump,” left after the disintegration of the Empire, and consisting of the Alpine German speaking provinces with the oversized capital Vienna, seemed hardly viable. The people of the small and weak republic had to cope with grave economic and social problems. Moreover, they lacked confidence in themselves and the new state; the often bitter and violent power struggle of the Conservative and Socialist blocs, with a strong German nationalistic “third force”, created an unhappy atmosphere of polarisation. With the ascendancy of fascism in neighbouring Italy and of National Socialism in the “great brother”-country Germany, authoritarian tendencies asserted themselves increasingly in Austria, too. From 1932 to 1934, Austrian democracy succumbed to a totalitarianism, usually, but not quite correctly, labelled “Austro-Fascism”, and imposed against the will of the overwhelming majority. This situation facilitated the rise of National Socialism and finally the disastrous Anschluss in 1938 which put an end to Austria's independence until the country was resuscitated by the victorious Allied Powers eight years later. The Austrian brand of anti-Semitism, a mixture of religious and racist prejudices, had already been strong and often vicious in the era of the Habsburg empire; it subsequently gained momentum among large sectors of the population. The brutality with which Austrians treated the Jews after annexation surprised and shocked the German “liberators”. Even today, when the former Jewish minority of nearly 200,000 persons has dwindled to an insignificant group of 10,000, anti-Semitism makes itself felt in Austria and occasionally erupts in nasty manifestations.

### A baptised Jew

Among the mostly ephemeral and deservedly forgotten men who shortsightedly destroyed Austrian democracy and thus paved the way for the takeover by Nazi Germany, a high civil servant of Jewish extraction played an outstanding role—Robert Hecht. A young Austrian historian, Peter Huemer, has devoted a thorough, well documented and balanced study to this somewhat mysterious “eminence grise”.\* Hecht belonged to a typical assimilated Jewish family. Born in 1881, he converted to protestantism at the age of 19. Such a change of religious affiliation was quite common. He later became a Roman Catholic—hardly motivated by any religious convictions but rather in order to belong to the dominant faith.

Hecht's “Weltanschauung” was formed in the allegedly “good old days” of the empire. Like many members of his generation, he had an elitist outlook, with only scant sym-

\* Peter Huemer: *Sektionschef Robert Hecht und die Zerstörung der Demokratie in Oesterreich*. 372 Seiten. Oldenburg Verlag, München. DM 48.

pathy for parliamentary democracy and a strong aversion against socialist tendencies. Already at an early stage of his career, he made his mark as an able and ambitious civil servant with the preparation of legislation on military matters; he became indispensable first to the Minister of Defence and later to Federal Chancellor Dollfuss as the jurist who readily and skilfully provided legal justification for the policies and actions by which the democratic state was transformed into an authoritarian regime. Highly respected by his masters, disliked by colleagues as a successful careerist, feared and hated by political opponents who did not fail to refer to his Jewish origin, Hecht was widely regarded as a sinister and powerful man; actually he was rather an eager, efficient and unscrupulous practitioner in the application and perversion of constitutional law.

Hecht's final fate was as tragic as that of many Jewish Austrians whose exclusive loyalty was reserved for the State and what they imagined to be its legitimate concerns. He was arrested immediately at the collapse of Austro-Fascism and soon afterwards sent to Dachau concentration camp. The exact date of his death is not known; he is likely to have committed suicide already in May 1938—at the age of 57—thus avoiding more cruel treatment to which he would certainly have been subjected. Today a memorial tablet in Vienna, at the building of the Postal Savings Bank Institution, which he had actually headed as Deputy-Governor, pays tribute to him for having given his life for Austria's freedom. This accords no doubt with Robert Hecht's outlook, but it is also true that he ranks prominently among those who have contributed to the emasculation of the State whom he had served single-mindedly.

### JEWISH CHILDREN IN NAZI GERMANY

The Institute for the Research of Diaspora Jewry at the Ramat Gan Bar-Ilan University has undertaken research into Jewish education under the Nazis. The results of this research have just been published in a book by Dr. Joseph Walk\* who in his introduction gives a brief picture of Jewish education in Germany and the economic situation of German Jews on the eve of the Third Reich. The book shows the various stages of Jewish education under the Nazis. The first phase covers the time from 30th January, 1933, to the promulgation of the Nuremberg laws in September 1935. During that time, the long expected law about a Jewish educational system failed to materialise, although there was a draft prepared by the Ministry of Education. Bernhard Rust, the responsible Minister, was rather weak and undecided and his Ministry confined itself to sporadic circulations of directions, decrees and ordinances. None of these steps achieved the complete separation of Jewish and “Aryan” pupils which Nazi ideology demanded. After the events of 10th November 1938, Jewish pupils were excluded from German schools and the *Reichsvereinigung* of Jews in Germany was made responsible for setting up and maintaining a Jewish educational system. However, strangely enough, Walk can report that as late as July 1939, some German municipalities such as Hagen, Duisburg and Hamburg continued

\* Joseph Walk. *The Education of the Jewish Child in Nazi Germany—the Law and its Execution. Yad Vashem—Leo Baeck Institute, Jerusalem 1975. 383pp.*

to contribute to the expenses for Jewish education. Two years later, the same Hamburg administration was to suggest that the wash-room of the mortuary was suitable for Jewish children's sports activities. After October 1939 the Nazis decided that Jewish children, soon to be deported to Auschwitz and other camps, no longer needed education or training.

Walk's well-substantiated book with its exhaustive statistics, annotations and documentary material has certainly filled a big gap in our knowledge of Jewish life under the Nazis. Its only drawback is that it is published in Hebrew and it is to be hoped that by translating it into German or English, the author will make it available to a vast number of potential readers and students who are for the time being unable to peruse it.

RAANAN MELITZ

### A YIDDISH COLLOQUIUM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TRIER

The study of Yiddish in West Germany has in recent years become known as “Jiddistik” and gained an appreciable foothold at the University of Trier. Professor Walter Roell, the Germanist and an enthusiastic and devoted Yiddish-researcher, heads the department at the University for the study and research of Old-Yiddish and its extant literature.

Due to the initiative of Professor Roell an intensive working-group of scholars and research students from Germany and abroad was convened at the end of July, 1976, for a two-day colloquium to discuss linguistic and literary problems of the Old-Yiddish language, which proved to be highly successful.

### Jewish and Non-Jewish Participants

Among the variety of scholarly papers read at the colloquium reference should be made to the one by Professor Roell on the ethical treatise “Sepher ha-Gan by Isaac b. Eliezer”, published in Cracow in 1579, but compiled at a much earlier date. Theresia Friderichs, Trier, examined the Yiddish folk-book “Florus and Blanche-fleur”, while Dr. Erika Timm, Trier, dealt with the “Glosses of the Bernese Small Aruch”. Dr. Wulf-Otto Dreesen, Stuttgart, discussed broadly “Synonymic problems in Old-Yiddish.” Of historico-literary interest was the contribution by Dr. Guenther Marwedel, Hamburg, “Yiddish letters of the period and environment of Glueckel von Hameln”.

Of the contributions by Jewish scholars from abroad mention should be made *inter alia*, of the subject propounded for consideration by Dr. Florence Guggenheim, Zuerich (and based on records kept at the archives in Zuerich), on “Did Jews in Zuerich read and speak Yiddish by the end of the fourteenth-century?” The paper of the Amsterdam scholar Dr. L. Fuks was on “The influence of the Netherland culture on the Yiddish literature in the seventeenth-century and eighteenth-century”. The London literary-historian, Dr. J. Maitlis, discussed in his comprehensive paper the state and development of Yiddish in the course of the sixteenth-century with its linguistic properties and growing vocabulary consisting of manifold rabbinic compounds and expressions which have greatly modified the vernacular, enriched the language and later developed into a highly creative vehicle of the modern Yiddish literature up to the present days.

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## THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

**Berlin.** The Schillertheater started the autumn season with an unusual presentation, called "Betrachten Sie die Verhaeltnisse dieses Planeten", words by Brecht, with Erich Schellow, Marianne Hoppe and Curt Bois.

**Munich.** In the successful comedy "Don Gil mit den Grünen Hosen" with Johanna von Koczan in the lead, Eric Pohlman made a welcome return to the Bavarian capital. Pohlman then proceeded to Vienna to resume his part in the German version of the musical "Billy", the current production of "Theater an der Wien".

50 years ago, 1926 was a real bumper year for operetta: Bruno Granichstaedten wrote "Orlow", Sigmund Romberg "Desert Song", Kalman's "Zirkusprinzessin" showed first signs of a visible modernisation of the Austrian musical, and Benatzky's "Adieu Mimi" was sung and hummed by everyone.

**Walter Kollo**, known for innumerable tunes of German song hits, was the subject of a talk on Radio 3, when within the framework of "The World of Operetta", excerpts of Kollo's music were played, among them his famous song "Das war in Schoeneberg" from the operetta "Wie einst im Mai".

**Obituary.** The death of Lotte Lehmann at 88, in the United States, was widely reported and regretted. Readers originating from Hamburg, Berlin and Vienna were probably fortunate enough to have heard and experienced one of the greatest soprano voices of this century,

whose Sieglinde, Eva, Elsa and Leonore earned her world fame. Lotte Lehmann left Vienna in 1938 in sorrow and disgust, finding it intolerable to work in the "Anschluss" atmosphere, where a Bruno Walter was not permitted to conduct. When she returned for the re-opening of the Vienna State Opera in 1955, she was greeted by the public and old singers like royalty. Her book "Anfang und Aufstieg" (translated into "On wings of song") is an excellent and modest autobiography.

S.B.

### ISRAEL AT THE PEN CONGRESS

Two Israeli representatives took part in the 41st annual congress of "PEN International" in London. There were 50 delegations present, including several from Communist, Afro-Asian and Arab countries. At one time Egypt had threatened to demand the exclusion of Israeli writers, because the Israeli Pen Club had protested against antisemitic articles by Dr. Anis Mansour, an Egyptian journalist who led his country's delegation at the last PEN congress in Vienna. Dr. Mansour had written that "Jews need the blood of other people to prepare unleavened bread for their Holy-days" and that Hitler was not absolutely detestable. This year, Dr. Mansour stayed at home, allegedly because of illness, and was replaced by a conciliatory writer.

### BUBER-ROSENZWEIG MEDAL FOR DUERRENMATT

The German Council of Christians and Jews has awarded the 1977 Buber-Rosenzweig medal to the Swiss author and dramatist Friedrich Dürrenmatt who, after the Yom Kippur war in 1973, declared in public: "I am behind Israel". He has also repeatedly defended Israel's right to survival in subsequent writings. The subject on which the work of the Council in 1977 will be based has been formulated as "Zionism, the liberation movement of the Jewish people".

### BUBER'S FORMER HOUSE IN HEPPENHEIM

Under the guidance of Werner Wirt, a teacher of history, a Committee of Heppenheim citizens has been formed to fight for the preservation of the villa, in which Martin Buber lived for 22 years. The house is at present used as a youth centre. The City administration intends, however, to demolish it and to use the site as part of a new administrative office block to be erected.

### ELSE URY, AUTHOR OF "NESTHAEKCHEN"

Eva Meier, a student of the Cologne Pedagogical Academy, has written a thesis on "Society as depicted in the books of Else Ury". Else Ury was the author of the immensely popular "Nesthaekchen" books for young girls. She was born in Berlin in 1877 and published her best-selling books between 1905 and 1933. In 1943 she was deported to the East. The thesis also investigates the history of her family, several members of which came to live in this country, among them our late executive member F. W. Ury and our executive member E. K. Heyman.

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### LOTTIE REIZENSTEIN EXHIBITION

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A good fairy, as it were, put music and painting into Miss Reizenstein's cradle. Her father was a distinguished physician at Nuremberg who not only had a great love for the arts but also practised them in a competent way. His daughter has with admirable perseverance, undaunted by emigration, war and difficulties of all kinds believed in her calling as a painter and is now presenting the fruit of decades of single-minded endeavour. She creates a world of her own without acknowledging any dominant influence.

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A. ROSENBERG

### GINA BACHAUER

Gina Bachauer, the Greek-born Jewish concert pianist who died at the age of 63, gave many concerts for Jewish and other good causes. She played several times with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and during her last tour of Israel gave a concert, together with the violinist Isaac Stern for the benefit of Jerusalem handicapped children. Together with her husband, the conductor and impresario Alec Sherman, she endowed scholarships for Israeli musicians.

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# THE ISRAELI SCENE

## SPIES AMONG IMMIGRANTS

A Soviet film crew produced an anti-Israeli film made in Israel. The Soviet Security Police has publicly admitted having infiltrated the Jewish emigration movement in the USSR. The author Jozef Ehrlich, an editor with Odessa radio, made frequent trips to Vienna where he infiltrated the offices of the Jewish Agency, posing as a Jewish activist. He published a 10,000 word article about the Jewish emigration movement inside and outside the Soviet Union which has obviously been edited by the KGB. Jozef Ehrlich is not a Jew. The film about Israel stresses the absorption difficulties met by Russian immigrants in Israel and, like the article, is intended to deter would-be emigrants.

## RABBI OF THE TECHNION

Rabbi Dr. Aharon Shear-Jashov was elected from a number of applicants for the post of campus rabbi at the Haifa Technion which is attended by a large number of religiously indifferent sabra. He was born Anton Schmidt in one of the Ruhr towns and emigrated to America after the war in order to become a Protestant minister. Together with other Christian students he went to the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati to study Jewish History and traditions, and eventually asked to be admitted to the Jewish Faith. He insisted that this should be done in the Orthodox way and went on to study to become a rabbi with the Jerusalem Orthodox rabbi Zwi Jehuda Kook. He has since been ordained and also become a Talmud scholar.

## MODERN SPA ON DEAD SEA SHORE

The healing properties of the Dead Sea and of the hot mineral springs on its shore combined with the favourable climate made the area a well-known health resort in Roman times. This tradition has now been revived with the opening of an ultra-modern clinic, the Moriah Hotel, with 229 rooms and facilities for the treatment of a variety of illnesses. There have been recent reports in British and Continental papers that the skin disease psoriasis for which there is no efficient remedy known has responded to treatment which includes bathing in the Dead Sea.

## ARAB VILLAGERS KILL EL FATAH RAIDERS

When El Fatah terrorists attacked the Christian Maronite village of Ein Ebel in southern Lebanon, the villagers dismantled bazooka bombs which were to be fired at Israeli settlements. The village is in the district which receives medical and other aid from Israel. Four terrorists and three villagers were killed in the clash, and a 17-year-old Christian boy was wounded. The villagers subsequently crossed the border, three miles away and brought their dead and the boy to Safed hospital. Afterwards they went to Haifa to appeal to the Israel authorities for help against similar attacks.

## NEW MARRIAGE REGULATIONS

Israelis wishing to marry in Israel will have to notify the registrar 30 days in advance instead of ten days as hitherto. This rule was introduced in order to reduce the blacklists of people who cannot be married because of religious impediments. According to an official statement five to ten "suspected new ineligible" have to be investigated every month, and the list is now reduced to 1,000 names.

## BRITISH SHIPWORKERS IN HAIFA

Because they are a year behind with an order for four cargo boats for Israel's Zim shipping line, Israeli shipyards in Haifa have engaged about 100 British shipyard workers on short-term contracts. There is a shortage of qualified welders and fitters in Israel.

## ISRAELIS ADVISE BRITAIN ON DROUGHT

A team of experts from Tahal, Israel's water-planning authority, have toured Britain and carried out a study of the water shortage in East Anglia and the South of England. Mr. Yitzhaki, agricultural attaché at the Israeli Embassy in London, said: "We have had to deal with a water shortage all our lives and will be able to make suggestions".

## CANADA'S PRIME MINISTER IN ISRAEL

During a four-day visit Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada promised that his country would do all she could to help Israel solve her problems. He was the first visiting Prime Minister to visit Israel by crossing the Allenby Bridge from Jordan.

## FAMILY EVENTS

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

### Birthday

**Schwab.**—Mrs. Kaethe Schwab (formerly of Chemnitz), of 78 Audley Street, Hendon, London, N.W.4, will celebrate her 80th birthday on November 17.

### Deaths

**Cohn.**—Edward Harry Cohn, formerly Offenburg, passed away after a long illness on September 21. Deeply mourned by his wife, Kate, née Brieger, daughter Eva Mendelson, son-in-law, grandchildren and many friends. Flat 24, Melvin Hall, London, N.W.11.

**Friedeberg.**—The staff of the AJR deeply regret to announce the death of Ruth Friedeberg on September 8. She was a devoted worker for the AJR, and we shall all miss an always willing and helpful colleague.

**Knight (Nachtlucht).**—Ilse M., sister of Ursula, on Tuesday, August 10, in Bulawayo, Rhodesia. "For there is no friend like a sister in calm or stormy weather". 109 King Henry's Road, London, N.W.3.

**Lecker.**—Bluma, formerly of 69 Foulden Road, London, N.16, passed away peacefully in a private nursing home on September 4, aged 81. Deeply mourned by her son, Paul, daughter-in-law, Denise, sisters, Gertrude, Eve, and brothers, Isaac and Charles Teller and families.

**Rachwalsky.**—Mrs. Frieda Rachwalsky, of 17 Parsifal Road, London, N.W.6, passed away on September 9, in her 91st year.

**Rankl.**—Mrs. Elise Rankl (née Loeb), aged 80, passed away suddenly on August 26. Deeply mourned by her son, Heiner, her beloved partner, Herbert L. Galliat, friends and all who knew her.

## CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 15p for five words.

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**ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT WIDOW**, late forties, is looking for a suitable friend, car owner preferred. Box 614.

**ATTRACTIVE DIVORCEE**, mid-forties, North West London, wishes to meet intelligent man or professional gentleman. Car and telephone essential. Box 616.

### AJR Enquiries

**Sax.** — Mrs. V. Sax, last known address: 32 Kingsley Court, 81 St. Paul's Avenue, London, NW2 5TS.

### Personal Enquiries

**Burkhard.** — Relations of Mrs. Christine Burkhard, née Driesen (known as Christel), last known address 142 Wellington Road South, Stockport, Cheshire, want to get in touch with her as there is an inheritance of some land which the other cousins want to sell. Replies to Mrs. M. Setterfield, Lynwood, Eastcourt Lane, Gillingham, Kent.

**Nelken.** — The addresses of the children of Felix and Marie Nelken (née Habert?) who lived in Berlin, Meinekestr. 23 (?) 21 (?) are wanted. Georg, born abt. 1917, Eduard, born abt. 1922/23, Bronek, born abt. 1925, and Halina, born abt. 1918. Replies to Box 618.

**Sander.** — Dr. Ralph Sander from Kolberg, Pommerania, is wanted by his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Chaim (Hans) Aronowiz, Rechov Mordechai, Kiryat Tivon, Haifa.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## DR. FRIEDA SICHEL

Dr. Frieda Sichel whose memoirs, "Challenge of the Past", were reviewed in the January, 1976, issue of AJR Information has died in Johannesburg aged 87. Born in Kassel, she graduated in political science and, for some time, was a member of the editorial staff of the "Kasseler Tageblatt", which was owned by her family, the Gotthelfs, for three generations until it was closed down under the impact of the rising Nazism in 1932. She recorded the history of the Kasseler Tageblatt in the Leo Baeck Institute Year Book 1974. After 1933, she was active in Jewish welfare organisations until, in 1935, she emigrated with her late husband, the architect Karl Sichel, and her two children to South Africa. There, she helped in setting up a number of welfare organisations for refugees and South African Jews. In 1966, she published a symposium "From Refugee to Citizen", a well-researched survey of the fate of the German Jewish Refugees in South Africa.

## PROF. PAUL SCHREIBER

Paul Schreiber, who is well remembered in many countries by his activities in the German-Jewish youth movement, suddenly died in New York. He was only 65 years old. After having obtained his academic qualifications in the United States, he was for many years Dean of the School of Social Work of Hunter College (New York). His numerous voluntary activities included the vice-presidency of "Selfhelp", the welfare organisation built up by the Jews from Germany. He was the son of the last rabbi of Potsdam who, together with his wife, had found refuge in London. Especially after his father's death he repeatedly came to London to meet his widowed mother. On such occasions, he always made a point of calling on the AJR to revive old memories and to exchange experiences on the welfare work for the Jews from Germany. His last visit took place only a few months ago on the sad occasion of his mother's death. Little did we expect then that this would be the last opportunity of meeting him.

W.R.

## ERWIN ROCKWELL

Erwin Rockwell's death on August 12, 1976, at the age of 66 has come as a great shock to his family and many friends. He was born in Berlin where he qualified in 1933 as Diplom Ingenieur at the Technische Hochschule, Charlottenburg, with distinction. In the summer of 1933 he managed to join the Danish Traffic Research Institute in Copenhagen where he worked until December, 1936. His work record was impressive and enabled him to join the London Transport Authority on January 1, 1937, where during the ensuing 39 years he played an increasingly major part in the planning of London's Underground transportation system. He was greatly involved in the planning of the Victoria, the Fleet and the proposed River lines and contributed much to the extension of the Piccadilly line to Heathrow Airport. As a senior member of London Transport's Consulting group his advice was not confined to rail transportation; the introduction of the "shuttle traffic" arrangement of Hammersmith Bridge was based upon his thinking.

His fluency in nine languages and his technical expertise greatly assisted many transport authorities the world over, who sought and took advice from London Transport's consulting service.

Erwin Rockwell was also admired, respected and loved by his large number of friends, colleagues and acquaintances who cherished his modesty, his gentle courtesy and the high degree of compassion which he displayed both in his work and private life.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow Mrs. Carla Rockwell and the other members of his family.

## DR. LEONARD SNOWMAN

Dr. Leonard Victor Snowman who died at the age of 76 was a well-known physician and mohel. He followed his father Jacob Snowman as a performer of circumcision on Royal babies and trained a whole generation babies and trained a whole generation of and translator from Hebrew into English.

## PETER URY

One of the most talented and artistically active members of the refugee generation which came to Britain in their teens has died, only 55 years old, of heart failure. Peter Ury was a composer, pianist and musicologist; many of his radio features on musical subjects and personalities were broadcast by the BBC and continental stations. He had emigrated from his home town, Ulm, hoping to be reunited with his parents in England. But they perished in one of Hitler's extermination camps.

Socialism and Judaism both attracted Peter Ury emotionally. He was proud of his ancient Jewish name, and during the last few years he was fascinated by the Christian world's great scapegoat—Judas Iscariot. He studied biblical and medieval sources and became convinced that Judas had been maligned for 2,000 years. He set about to rehabilitate Judas, first in a radio play which was broadcast in Germany, and then in a musical drama which will soon be produced—too late, alas, for Peter Ury to enjoy the success it will no doubt have, especially his highly individualistic, modern yet tuneful music. Just before his death he had begun to set a number of psalms to music. He always found time for humanitarian causes: not so long ago he helped to free a cousin who had been unjustly imprisoned in Bulgaria.

E.L.

## WOLFGANG MEYER-MICHAEL

Wolfgang Meyer-Michael whose death at the age of 86 was announced in the September issue of AJR Information, was born in Berlin and studied at the Berlin Academy of Arts. Until 1936 he worked as a sculptor in Germany. After emigrating to Palestine, he concentrated on creating masterworks of pottery. In 1963, after the death of his wife, he came to England and became well known not only as a sculptor and painter, but also for his pioneer work in glass mosaics, similar to stained glass windows, but with their own source of light. A pottery firm which he had set up in Israel has now become a multi-million pound enterprise with a large export trade. Shortly before his death he experimented with the casting of figurines in his Hampstead Garden Suburb studio, using the lost wax process.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### OLDEST HEBREW BIBLE MANUSCRIPT

A facsimile edition of the Aleppo Codex, the oldest authentic manuscript of the Hebrew Bible, has been published by a research team of the Hebrew University. It contains some 600 of the original 800 pages written in Tiberias by Aharon ben Asher. The missing pages, including most of the Pentateuch, were lost in a fire during the attacks on Syrian Jews after Israel's War of Independence in 1948. The Codex was found in Cairo towards the end of the 11th century and transferred to Aleppo where the Jewish community looked after it. In the mid-1950s it was smuggled out of Syria and handed to Mr. Ben-Zvi, then Israel's president, for safe-keeping.

### HAMBURG INSTITUTE FOR EXILE LITERATURE

The literary historian Hans-Albert Walter has been appointed head of the "Arbeitsstelle fuer deutsche Exil-Literatur" at the University of Hamburg. The Institute was established in 1970 under the directorship of Professor Hans Wolffheim. After the death of Professor Wolffheim in 1973 it was administered on a temporary basis by the Germanist Jan Hans.

### RUSSIA'S OLYMPIC PLEDGE

The head of Israel's television sports section revealed that he was informed in a private conversation in Montreal that the Russians were determined to show their open-minded attitude to sport by admitting Israel to the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. This attitude has, however, not prevented them from boycotting the chess Olympics in Israel this month. A number of other Communist countries have also withdrawn.

### Congress of Bee-Keepers

In December bee-keepers from all over the world will attend a congress and study circle in the Land of Milk and Honey and visit a number of kibbutzim which have specialised in bee-keeping.

### THE PRIVILEGES OF THE ALTONA JEWS

The Hamburg Institute for the History of German Jews, established in 1966, has just published a book, edited by Dr. Günter Marwedel, on the privileges of the Jews in Altona, a collection of all the documents about the special position of Jews in Altona between 1584 and 1863. For the greater part of this period, Altona was under Danish rule, and the documents include letters of protection, permits for settlement, trade and professions and recognition of a certain autonomous Jewish legal system. The last document is the emancipation law of July 14, 1863, which granted Jews equal rights and removed all restrictions. The publication which forms volume V of the Hamburg Contributions to the History of German Jews, supplies interesting source material for the legal, economic and source history of the Jews in Schleswig-Holstein and in the whole of Germany.

E.G.L.

### LUDWIG LOEFFLER 70

Senatsdirektor i.R. Dr. Ludwig Loeffler who was 70 on September 2, worked in the Hamburg Jewish community until he was deported in 1943. He survived Theresienstadt and Auschwitz Birkenau and after the return to his home town in 1945 became the first chairman of its reconstituted Jewish community. From 1946 to 1949, he was head of the Hamburg Restitution Office. He worked untiringly for the community, for Children and Youth Aliyah, for the Solidarity Campaign with Israel and for the Joseph Carlebach B'nai B'rith Lodge whose president he was from 1971 to 1973. By now, he has given up most of his voluntary work, but he has continued to look after the Hamburg Jewish Hospital and is still a member of its Board. His administrative talents and his devoted work for the high standards of this hospital which was originally built with funds provided by Heine's uncle Salomon in 1843, are as much in demand as ever.

E.G.L.

### MEMORIAL FOR WERTHEIM'S JEWS

The romantic mediæval town of Wertheim in the Odenwald where Jews had lived since the early middle ages, has erected a memorial on the site of the destroyed synagogue. During an impressive memorial service which was attended by 14 former Wertheim Jewish citizens from the US, by representatives of the Jewish communities of Mannheim and Würzburg, by the chaplain of the US Forces in Nürnberg and by ministers of the Christian churches, the Lord Mayor Mr. Scheuermann remembered the persecution which had driven old established fellow-citizens from the town and to the death camps and vowed that everything would be done to fight any recurrence of prejudice and racialism. The memorial tablet records the history of a community which was twice destroyed in 1200 and 1349. The synagogue had been rebuilt for the third time in 1700.

### SYNAGOGUE INTO THEATRE

The former synagogue at Wittlich in the Eifel hills, a town of some 8,000 inhabitants, is being restored as a culture centre for the whole population. The town council wants it to be used for theatre and concert performances, for conferences, exhibitions and other events. A small number of Jews lived in the town since the 14th century. In 1925, 65 Jewish families were members of the community.

### JEWISH SCHOLARS MEET

Some fifty Jewish and non-Jewish scholars met for the second annual conference of the British Association for Jewish Studies at Durham University. The subjects discussed ranged from Biblical times to the present and from discussions on the Babylonian Talmud to the origins of Jewish marriage. Dr. Erwin Rosenthal of Cambridge University who came to this country from Germany, was elected next year's president. He is a member of the London Board of the Leo Baeck Institute.

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