

# INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

## CONFIDENCE AND SOLIDARITY

### AJR Board Meeting

This year's Board Meeting of the AJR, held on January 30 in the Hall of Hannah Karminski House, excelled by its particularly large attendance and the lively discussion, which followed the reports and which reflected the Board members' deep feelings of co-responsibility for the numerous present activities of the AJR and the tasks it might have to fulfil in the future.

The Meeting was opened by the Chairman, Mr. C. T. Marx, who extended a special welcome to the considerable number of members from the Provinces. He paid tribute to the members who had died during the year: Mr. W. M. Behr, the former Chairman of the AJR, Rabbi Dr. I. Maybaum, Mr. E. Speyer, Mrs. M. Schurmann, Prof. Albert Reimann and Dr. L. G. T. King, and to Sir Henry d'Avigdor Goldsmid.

Although the date of the Meeting marked the 44th anniversary of a particularly inauspicious day for German Jews, he hoped that we would now be able to look forward to the future rather than dwell on the past.

Dr. W. Rosenstock (Director of the AJR) first reported on some impressions he had gained at recent visits to East and West Berlin. The position of the Jews in the German Democratic Republic differs from that in several other Eastern European countries in so far as several Jews hold responsible Government positions, whilst others play an active part in the cultural life of the country. However, of the total Jewish population of East Berlin, only a minority are members of the Jewish community. The 35-year-old Chairman of the Community Dr. Peter Kirchner, has succeeded in strengthening the contacts between members by literary and musical functions, which are well attended. He has twice visited London, and on one of these occasions, he was shown our Homes and also attended a meeting of the AJR Executive, informing its members on the Jewish position in the GDR. The cemetery in Weissensee is in a fairly good condition. The paved walks have been cleared. On the other hand, the graves in the rows behind the paved walks are hardly accessible. At the expense of the Berlin municipality and with the help of "Aktion Suehnezeichen" and other voluntary young Christian helpers, the clearing up work goes on, but it will take a very long time to finish it.

With regard to restitution for emigrated victims of Nazi persecution, the attitude of the GDR has, until two years ago, been entirely negative. However, when the United States opened diplomatic relations with the GDR, they made it a condition that, like the German Federal Republic, the GDR should also atone for the crimes committed against the Jews. There was no progress in this mat-

ter, but in November last, the GDR unexpectedly offered a payment of one million dollars to the Claims Conference as the representative Jewish body, with the proviso that the money should only be used for those Nazi victims from the territory of the GDR who are now USA citizens. For reasons explained in the January, 1977 issue of "AJR Information", this offer was rejected.

Turning to the position in the German Federal Republic, Mr. Rosenstock stated that, so far, she had made payments of various kinds totalling DM 50,000 million, to which a further DM 30,000 million for future payments (pensions, etc.) have to be added. There are still gaps in the existing legislation but there appears hardly any chance of further improvements.

The relationship with the Jews in the German Federal Republic had been close during the first post-war years, but now there are hardly any problems which call for joint action.

On the other hand, there is a constant contact between the organisations built up by the former Jews in their countries of resettlement. They are united under the auspices of the Council of Jews from Germany, which holds its plenary sessions at certain intervals and whose leading honorary officers are in touch with each other throughout the time. One of the activities, which at present plays an important part, is the research work on the history of immigration of the former German Jews. For the time being, the work is concentrated on four of the main countries of resettlement, Israel, U.S.A., Britain and France, and it is expected that the manuscripts of those in charge of the work will be available soon.

Dealing with "AJR Information", Mr. Rosenstock reported that for some time he has had the benefit of the editorial co-operation of Mrs. Margot Pottlitzer. Financially, the journal is the largest single expenditure of the AJR. However, if the production of AJR Information were discontinued the loss of income from contributions would certainly exceed the savings thus achieved. In its contents the editors always aim at keeping an equilibrium between news and feature articles.

In conclusion, Mr. Rosenstock paid tribute to the work of his successor as General Secretary, Mrs. S. R. Taussig. With regard to the wider issues involved in the present and future position of the AJR he quoted from a letter by Professor Otto Kahn-Freund, received after the AJR had congratulated him on the conferment of a Knighthood. In this letter, Professor Kahn-Freund described the AJR as a good example for what used to be called "Funktionswandel". The purposes of the AJR, the letter says, have undergone tremendous changes under the impact of a rapidly chang-

ing environment, and it is an achievement that, notwithstanding this "Funktionswandel", the AJR has preserved its identity.

The Director's report was followed by a report of the General Secretary of the AJR, Mrs. S. R. Taussig. She stated that although there had been an actual increase of our income over the year, in view of the inflation it was not sufficient to cover the expenditure. The sharing of premises with Self Aid will certainly help to some extent but still be insufficient. On membership, in spite of the inevitable losses in the course of the year, 169 new members had been enrolled, leaving the total membership at 4,000.

Dealing with the various services of the AJR, Mrs. Taussig reported that the Meals-on-Wheels Service, which was operating under the direction of Mrs. R. Anderman, sent out 950 meals in December. The extension of the service, made by the installation of a freezer in Eleanor Rathbone House, had proved very successful. The Meals-on-Wheels Service is an extremely useful and highly popular one and in spite of all the difficulties of inflation, the cost and charges have increased only slightly. It is subsidised by the AJR Charitable Trust.

The Social Services Department, of which Mrs. M. Casson is in charge, faces a growing demand for services and a considerable increase in office consultations. People now seeking work tend to be in a younger age group and are in the main sufficient to answer most calls for help. Having Self Aid on the premises has turned out to be a valuable step in co-ordinating the services.

### Accommodation Problems

The accommodation problems are still grave, particularly for the younger people who are not ready for the Old Age Homes and who have great difficulty in finding reasonable accommodation since this has virtually disappeared from the market. The total of 13 rooms available to us in Hannah Karminski House and Marie Baneth House (both owned by the AJR Charitable Trust) are occupied for the most part by people who were very much in need of such accommodation but the Committee has decided to seek a further property to increase this type of accommodation.

On the Old Age Homes, Mrs. Taussig reported that Occupational Therapy was attempted again towards the end of 1976 but has still not been successful and will not be until the right therapist has been found. At the expense of the AJR Charitable Trust communal television aerial systems are now being installed in the three Homes in The Bishop's Avenue, and this will be greatly welcomed by the residents.

With regard to the admissions procedure, Mrs. Taussig expressed the view that the procedure could be simplified. She also referred to the restrictions on the admission of frail people to Osmond House and suggested that more money should be spent if necessary on



## AJR BOARD MEETING

Continued from page 1

additional staff, in order to be able to accommodate those who are in need of a great deal of care and attention. She also suggested that the functions of the House Committees should be looked into and discussed with the view to defining more clearly their terms of reference, and she appealed for younger members to join in the work of the House Committees.

Dr. F. E. Falk (Vice-Chairman of the AJR), reviewing the use of the *AJR Charitable Trust* funds paid tribute to the Trust's Secretary, Dr. E. A. Lomnitz, by whose efforts the Trust had received, over the years, substantial legacies. In addition to bearing the expenses for Hannah Karminski House and Marie Baneth House, the Trust makes welfare payments and grants which, in the last year, amounted to £5,000. In this sum are included a number of scholarship grants, in particular for post-graduate Jewish students from abroad (especially Israel), which, in some cases, are given in co-operation with the Scholarship Fund Committee of the Leo Baeck Lodge of B'nai B'rith. Certain welfare grants are made jointly with Self Aid.

Dr. Falk then referred to the realisation by the Executive and the Trustees that the *scope of the Association's activities* could be extended. This led to the setting up of a special Sub-Committee of the Executive which gives detailed consideration to projects falling under the terms of reference of the AJR and the Trust.

Dr. Falk then turned to the *taxation of German and Austrian pensions* paid to refugees from Nazism. The 50% exemption of the Public Servants' and Social Insurance pensions introduced in the Finance Act 1974 is working well in practice and comparatively few difficulties are experienced. The official concession obtained in 1975 which exempts completely from U.K. tax Invalidity Pensions paid by foreign countries has also in practice, so far, been fully implemented. Occasional queries and difficulties arise however, and the AJR has given guidance and help whenever it was approached.

The 50% exemption has caused a few technical problems which we are trying to resolve for the benefit of the Nazi victims. For the *Age Allowances* to be given to persons over 65 years, their total income must not exceed certain limits. In calculating the total income, many Tax Inspectors included the pensions at their full amounts. This was resisted in all cases and it appears now that practically all Inspectors include the pensions at one half only, which results in some further benefit to the taxpayer.

We are also endeavouring to secure that the Austrian so-called *Hilflosenzuschuesse* are treated as incapacity supplements, wholly exempt from tax in the same way as invalidity pensions are. The assistance of the Austrian Embassy has been sought in this matter.

Another problem has arisen with the Local Authorities. These grant *rent and rate rebates* based on the total income of a person, where the income does not exceed certain limits. The local authorities, in their calculations, include the whole of the German and Austrian pensions received by the applicant. Efforts are being made to persuade the local authorities to adopt the same treatment as for Income Tax, that is to include only one half of the pension, which would have the result in many cases, of rebates being available which otherwise would not, or greater rebates being

granted. The Department of Environment was asked by the Camden Borough for a ruling in this matter, but it has shown little understanding for the problem. Energetic efforts in this direction are continuing.

Mrs. M. Jacoby (Chairman of the AJR Club) gave her always welcome report on the *AJR Club's* activities which had been very considerable in 1976. The highlights were the Club's 20th anniversary party, the Purim, Seder and Chanukah celebrations and her own 94th birthday party. She also mentioned that one Club member, Mrs. Kate Mamlock, who died last year, had left a legacy for the Club and referred to the assistance rendered in cases of need by the Margaret Jacoby Fund and the Gertrud Schachne Fund. The Club, she stressed, is very much more than a card playing venue, and its function in keeping the spirit and continuity of the community and providing a forum for people to discuss matters of mutual interest is paramount. At the end she expressed her thanks to the helpers, who acted as hostesses and in other capacities, and to the Club's Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Dora Segall. At the same time, she stressed the need of enlisting the co-operation of younger members of the community.

### Lively Discussion

Mr. L. Spiro (Hon. Treasurer of the AJR) opened the discussion in the second part of the Meeting. He referred to the discussion of the 1976 Board Meeting, when it was suggested that every Board member should help to increase the membership. This is particularly necessary, because the work of the AJR will have to go on for a long time to come. He also asked Board members to come forward with their own thoughts on the future of the organisation, thus contributing constructively to the forging of a philosophy which we require to retain the impulse of earlier years.

The introductory remarks by Mr. Spiro were followed by a particularly vivid discussion, in which the following members took part: Mrs. E. Trent, Dr. L. Nelken, Dr. Laura Stein, Mrs. S. Friedlaender, Mrs. M. Mautner, Mrs. Rita Lehmann, Mrs. M. Casson, Mrs. K. Freyhan, Mr. M. Kochmann, Mr. W. Salinger, Dr. S. F. Hallgarten, Miss M. Babington, Dr. J. Loeb, Mr. J. Sachs, Mrs. G. Meyer, Mr. H. C. Mayer, Mrs. D. Segall, Miss I. Fuss (Glasgow), Mrs. I. Lowenthal, Mrs. Ruth Wolf (Birmingham). The fact that so many speakers contributed to the discussion and made constructive suggestions in itself testifies to the inner strength of the organisation.

Among the questions raised the generation problem played a large part. Whilst some Board members expressed the view that it would not be possible to retain an organisation like the AJR for a number of generations, others were of the opinion that the sense of identity, based on the common background and origin, would persist for quite some time to come. As on previous occasions, the problem of a change of name of the AJR was raised anew. The protagonists of a change argued that for all intents and purposes we had ceased to be refugees and that for this reason the name also presented an obstacle in obtaining new members, especially younger ones. Others felt that we had no reason to eliminate the reference to our origin and that it might also be difficult to find a more suitable name, especially if one wants to retain the initials "AJR", which have become a household word.

With regard to the Homes, it was suggested

to hold an Open Day for ordinary members thus giving them an opportunity of acquainting themselves with the atmosphere and facilities provided for in the Homes. Several Board members who are also members of one of the House Committees reported that for various reasons they often felt frustrated in bringing their efforts to fruition. One House Committee member stated that sometimes residents who, rightly or wrongly, felt to have reasons for complaints were reluctant to come forward and suggested that one or two representatives of the residents should be present at the beginning of the House Committee meetings.

The need for looking also after the numerous lonely refugees who are not accommodated in Homes was also stressed. To organise regular visits to them, members who are able to volunteer for this important task were asked to report to the Office. Conversely, a list of people to be visited would be compiled, and in this respect the co-operation of the Board members would be equally welcomed.

Several Board members suggested an intensification of the propaganda by the production of an attractive brochure describing the wide field of the AJR's activities. More information should also be given to members about the procedure regarding the applications for admission to the Homes. Last but not least it was proposed to hold annual social functions, at which members could meet in an informal way and discuss matters of mutual interest.

The Chairman summed up and expressed his delight that there had been more than 20 contributions to the discussion. He replied to a number of questions and assured the Board members that all their suggestions had been noted and would be carefully considered by the Executive.

Dr. Laura Stein moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman and stated that she had felt greatly encouraged by the constructive spirit which prevailed throughout the proceedings.

### NEWS FROM THE AJR SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

#### 1. Fuel Charges

##### (a) Electricity Discounts

Householders who are on Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement are entitled to a discount of one quarter of the cost of current they have consumed in the quarter ending in February, March or April. A leaflet describing this scheme in detail is available at their local office of the Department of Health and Social Security (D.H.S.S.) and can also be obtained at the Post Office when people claim their benefits.

##### (b) Disconnections

The Gas and Electricity Supply Industries have published a code of practice on domestic fuel bills which is concerned mainly with disconnections in cases of debt. The provisions include a limited time to make arrangements for payment to people on Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement, the unemployed and families where there are young children. The supply of pensioners will not be disconnected during the winter.

#### 2. Earnings Rule for Retirement Pensioners

At present, men under 70 and women under 65 years of age can earn £35 per week without a deduction in their Retirement Pension. The Social Security Act 1975 provides for this limit to be raised to £50 from April 4, 1977. However, a Bill now before Parliament would maintain the limit of £35 until November, 1977. It would rise annually in line with the general movement of earnings.

Any inquiries about changes in the Earnings Rule should be made to the D.H.S.S.



# HOME NEWS

## INTERESTING BROADCASTS

By a strange coincidence, three broadcasts, which had some bearing on the past and present of the Jews from Germany, were presented during the recent weeks. The first, on January 23, was part of the Radio London programme, "You don't have to be Jewish", performed every Sunday morning from 10.30 to 11 a.m. One of the participants was Mr. Herbert Sulzbach. He referred to the recently published book, "Total War—Total Trust" (Oswald Wolf in co-operation with the German Embassy, London), to which he had contributed a chapter on his experience as education officer of the German prisoner of war camp, Featherstone Park. He considered it as one of his tasks as a former German Jew to make the inmates of the camp aware of the Nazi atrocities and the extermination of six million of his fellow Jews. The dignified way in which, referring to his own fate as a former German Jew, he dealt with the subject was bound to leave a deep impression on the listeners.

On the same day, during the interval between two acts of a recorded "Meistersinger" performance under Georg Solti on Radio 3, a Jewish former refugee from Nuernberg, Ida Herz, spoke about the personal reminiscences she had of her city of birth. Her task was not an easy one; she had to face the dichotomy with which every one of us is confronted when he thinks of his past life in Germany. On the one hand, there are happy memories of a more or less carefree youth and, on the other hand, we also experienced limitations in the personal relationship with non-Jews ranging from dissociation to outright antisemitism. Ida Herz kept the balance between these two conflicting aspects. She described the beauty of the ancient city with its historical buildings, the local pride of the citizens of the once "Freie Reichsstadt", and at the same time recalled antisemitic incidents she had to experience already as a school girl and the role played by Nuernberg under the Nazis as the town of the Nazi Party rallies.

The third feature, broadcast on Radio 3 on February 1, led us back to Jewish life in Germany in the first part of the past century. Under the title heading "A General's Grandfather", Mr. Peter Fraenkel, head of the B.B.C. East European Service, produced the memoirs of Baer Loew Monasch of Krotoschin, the grandfather of Australian General Sir John Monash, whose father, Louis Monash, had emigrated to Australia. It was a moving story of a Jew in Prussian Poland, who had to struggle very hard and more often than not was struck by misfortune. The most touching aspect of poor Monasch's attitude was that he would never complain when things went wrong but always expressed his thanks to God on the few occasions when things took a temporary turn for the better. He became best known to posterity as a printer of Hebrew books. Peter Fraenkel, who translated the memoirs from German (with its slight tinge of Yiddish) into English is, through another line of the family, a great-great-grandson of B. L. Monasch. In his commentary he mentions that to get an idea of the way of life of his ancestor, he paid a visit to Krotoschin. This is interesting from a more than personal point of view. There are quite a few younger members of German Jewish families in this country who, though they have spent the major part of their youth in this country and later attained recognised positions, all the same feel the urge to get some first-hand knowledge of their roots and to make the pilgrimage to the places where their families originally stem from. W.R.

## JEWISH CHOIR AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

The Zemel Choir from East Barnet gave a concert at the Roman Catholic Westminster Cathedral. The programme consisted of Jewish liturgy and folk and secular music by Jews and of a contemporary cantata on an Old Testament text.

## HAROLD WILSON FOREST

Sir Harold Wilson has agreed to the planting of a Forest in his name in Israel. The Forest will be sited at Cana near Nazareth. It is learned that in the three weeks since its launching 40 per cent of its minimum target has been subscribed. The list of patrons includes parliamentarians of all three political parties as well as leading Anglo-Jewish personalities. Any contributions should be forwarded to the Chairman of the Appeal, Mr. Harold Miller, c/o. Rex House, 4/12 Regent Street, London, SW1Y 4PG, and made payable to the Sir Harold Wilson Forest Appeal.

## JEWIS IN GERMAN ARMIES

At a reception held at the German Embassy in London on January 19, a German language book "Ein Stück von uns" was launched, which describes the war services rendered by the German Jews from the 1813 War of Liberation onwards up to the First World War. The author, Rolf Vogel, of Bonn, is editor of the monthly press bulletin "Deutschland-Berichte", which deals with events pertinent to German-Jewish and German-Israel relations. At the reception, the Ambassador, H.E. Karl-Günther von Hase, welcomed the author, who had come over from Bonn for the occasion. Quoting from the book Herr von Hase stated that during the First World War out of half a million Jews, 100,000 had served in the German Army and that 12,000 had fallen. The formal proceedings were concluded by a speech by Mr. Herbert Sulzbach who said that the book was designed as a weapon against antisemitism. Mr. Rolf Vogel reported about the efforts of the post-war Bundeswehr to keep the memory of the Jewish war contributions in the pre-Nazi period alive and mentioned by way of example that barracks had been named after Ludwig Frank, the first Reichstag member who joined the army as a volunteer, and the air pilot, Wilhelm Frankl, both of whom had lost their lives in the war. The book also carries reminiscences of Jewish soldiers, some of whom had to endure antisemitic treatment by their superiors and comrades as well as references to the infamous "Judenräumung" of 1916. It also mentions attempts of German Army officers to counteract the atrocities of the S.S. units during the Second World War.

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## LORD CARADON'S ADVICE

Lord Caradon who was Britain's UN representative during the period of the Six Day War, has returned from a visit to the Middle East, convinced that the next six months present the best chance ever of ending the hostility between the Palestinians and Israel and of resolving peacefully the Arab-Israeli conflict. He had talked to King Hussein and government officials in Amman, Damascus and Cairo as well as with PLO members and ordinary Palestinians. It had left him with the impression that the overwhelming majority wanted a peaceful settlement. He had introduced Resolution 242 in the Security Council in 1967, but this did not mean return to the previous rotten boundaries which were merely cease-fire positions from way back in 1947/48. It laid down that territory could not be acquired by war, but withdrawal must be to secure and recognised frontiers which would have to be negotiated. The Israelis were entitled to demand and to obtain security "which comes from recognition by one's neighbours".

## SHYLOCK ROCK OPERA

A rock opera version of the "Merchant of Venice" will open at Her Majesty's Theatre in London this month. The play is set in Little Italy in New York, and all Christians are shown to be members of the Mafia. One script ended the play with Shylock, called Baruch here, appearing on a balcony above the celebrating Christians and singing a song of vengeance. Dr Gewirtz, director of Defence at the Board of Deputies, approached the director of the show, Braham Murray, and asked to be allowed to see the show before it opens, in the company of some other Jews. He said he was worried about jingles being sung out of context with Shylock saying that the loss of his money mattered more than the loss of his daughter. Mr Murray replied that he would not dream of staging an antisemitic work. He said any West End musical was only a hit if the Jewish audience crowded the theatre for the first three months.

## JEWISH CIRCUIT JUDGE

Mr. Anthony Tibber of Hampstead Garden Suburb was appointed a circuit judge of the South Eastern circuit. Initially he will be sitting at Snaresbrook and Knightsbridge Crown Courts. Mr. Tibber was for six years a Liberal Councillor at Finchley and Barnet. He has represented the St. John's Wood Synagogue at the Board of Deputies and has been a board member of the Norrice Lea Synagogue where he takes the children's services.

## ANTISEMITISM IN BARNET

Mr. Dennis Signy, editor of the "Hendon Times" said in a recent editorial that in the Borough of Barnet, antisemitism was a worse problem than the colour issue. Mr. Signy, himself a Jew, has lived in the Borough for 45 years and subsequently reported that the letters he received in reply to his article were divided 50-50 on antisemitism. Out of the total population of 300,000 an estimated 58,000 are Jews, and 10,000 Hindus. A high proportion of Barnet Council are Jewish, and the Borough has twinned with Ramat Gan in Israel.

## HOFFNUNG BEQUEST TO HIGHGATE SCHOOL

Mr. Altham Parker who taught modern languages at Highgate school from 1928 to 1962 and who died last year, has bequeathed to the school 12 illustrations of German fairy stories and 12 caricatures of masters by the late Gerard Hoffnung who attended the school for a few years during the war. Hoffnung who died in 1959, came to Britain from Berlin as a small boy.



# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Antisemitic Propaganda in America

According to a B'nai B'rith report, a lot of antisemitic propaganda is at the moment circulating in the States and in particular on the West Coast. In Los Angeles, three men were arrested for illegal possession of weapons after an enormous arsenal of weapons which had been buried underground some years ago, was brought to light. There were also a great number of antisemitic and racially provocative pamphlets. It is known that some years ago the so-called Christian Defence League had set up a para-military organisation which was to fight Jews, negroes and communists, and had their headquarters in Los Angeles. They were subsequently banned. Recently there has even been a new party which recruits "homosexual Nazis".

### Revenge on French Wine

A group of Jews in Beverly Hills showed their condemnation of the release of Abu Daoud by the French Government by pouring 500 bottles of French wine and many gallons of French perfume into the gutter outside the French Government's Tourist Office. The Synagogue for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles have launched a boycott of France and French products.

## CANADA HONOURS JEWISH CITIZENS

Mr. Norman Vickar, the Mayor of the prairie town of Melfort, has become the first Jewish member of the Saskatchewan Cabinet as Minister of Trade and Commerce. Mr. Vickar was born on a farm in the "Jewish colony" of Edenbridge, founded by his family at the turn of the century. The Order of Canada was awarded to Mr. David Lewis QC, former leader of the New Democratic Party, who came to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar 50 years ago, to Professor Maxwell Cohen, a former dean of law at McGill university and to Mr. Louis Applebaum, a Toronto composer and conductor who has produced musical works for the National Film Board and the Stratford (Ontario) Shakespeare Festival.

## FRANCE

### Prizes for Jewish artists

The French 1976 Great National Literature Prize has been awarded to 82-year-old French Jewish author Armand Lunel who has described Jewish life in Provence in a series of picturesque novels. He also received the Gobert history prize of the French Academy for his book "The Jews of Languedoc, Provence and the French States of the Pope". He has collaborated with Darius Milhaud in the composition of the operas "Esther de Carpentras" and "King David". Mr. Lunel, who now lives in Monaco, is a descendant of the eighteenth-century rabbi and poet Jacob de Lunel.

The silver medal of the city of Paris, which is reserved for painters and sculptors, was awarded to Maxa Nordau, the daughter of Max Nordau, one of the early Zionists and friend and collaborator of Herzl.

### Snub for Dayan

During a recent visit to Paris, Moshe Dayan, Israel's former Defence Minister, asked for permission to see the 3,200 years old mummy of Pharaoh Ramses II which is being treated by French experts to stop the deterioration which it had suffered exhibited in an Egyptian museum. At the request of the Egyptian Embassy, the French refused to let him inspect it. Ramses II is supposed to be the Pharaoh under whose reign the Jews in Egypt began to be treated as slaves.

## MOSCOW RABBI ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION

In an agency interview, the Moscow Rabbi Fishman criticised the "distorted" picture of Jewish life in Soviet Russia given by Western media. Nobody was prevented from fulfilling what he considered his religious duty, and it was only Zionists who by their "strident campaign" talked about lack of religious freedom. The president of a small Jewish community in Alma-Ata said the provocation by self-appointed rescuers presented the greatest insult to all citizens of Jewish nationality in Soviet Russia.

## BRITISH APPEAL FOR DR. SHTERN'S RELEASE

The Soviet Government has received an appeal from nearly 200 leading members of the British medical profession to release Dr. Mikhaïl Shtern who is serving an eight-years prison sentence. Nobel prizewinner Sir Hans Krebs, and Sir Ludwig Guttmann are among the signatories. Dr. Shtern was arrested after he refused to withdraw his consent to his son's application to emigrate to Israel. During March, an international tribunal which has been collecting evidence in his case, will meet in Amsterdam. Heinrich Böll and Simone de Beauvoir will attend. The findings of the tribunal will eventually be presented to the Belgrade conference in June which will monitor violations of the Helsinki agreement.

## A QUESTION OF PASSPORTS

When 23-year-old Amner Zavurov was given permission to emigrate to Israel in 1975, his Soviet internal passport was kept by the authorities. For a number of official hitches, he was unable to leave. In December, 1976, he was arrested and sent to jail for three years for not possessing an internal passport, "hooliganism" and "parasitism" (failure to work). Nobody can be employed without an internal passport. When she heard of her husband's sentence his wife tried to commit suicide, but was rescued.

## RABBI SUES CONGREGATION

At Perth, Western Australia, 37-year-old Rabbi Uri Thernal has issued Supreme Court Writs against members of his congregation, claiming that they had sent a defamatory letter about him to a journal. Rabbi Thernal was born in Germany, but spent much of his life in Israel. Between 1971 and 1973 he was minister of the Sinai Reform Synagogue in Leeds and resigned to take up a post in Berlin. A year later he left Berlin rather abruptly to become senior minister of the Perth Temple David Congregation which has just refused to renew his contract.

## AMIN'S VERDICT

President Amin of Uganda said that the British actor Peter Finch who died suddenly while starring in a film about the Israeli rescue operation at Entebbe, had been punished by God.

## 25 YEARS JEWISH RADIO IN ARGENTINA

Mr Haim Steinmann has received many tributes on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of his Hebrew radio programmes. His regular Sunday morning broadcasts of Jewish music and information have become an institution.

## HOLLAND HONOURS NAZI VICTIMS

A monument to the people killed in Auschwitz and Birkenau was erected in the Municipal cemetery in Amsterdam.

## NEWS FROM GERMANY

### PAROLE FOR S.S. MURDERERS

The Parole Committee of the Hamburg Senate has provoked a spate of protests by releasing four Nazi criminals, sentenced to life imprisonment for mass murder, for periods of six months. Wilhelm Rosenbaum, 61, was sentenced to hard labour for life in 1968 for the murder of 168 Jews in the Bad Rabka area of Poland. Max Krahnert, 72, received the same sentence for complicity in the murder of more than 500 Jews in Poland and Russia. He headed a special operations unit which destroyed evidence of wartime atrocities and subsequently killed Jewish prisoners who were forced to assist him in this task. Otto Drews and Otto Goldapp, both 78, were punished for the same offence. Drews committed suicide when he was due to return to jail after six months.

The action of the Parole Committee was attacked by members of all parties in the Senate, but Justice Senator Professor Klug said that Nazi criminals should not be treated differently from other life prisoners. The Christian Democratic Union proposed a vote of no confidence and demanded the resignation of Senator Klug, but the Socialist/Free Democratic Coalition Government did not support them. The leader of the C.D.U., Jürgen Echter-nach, said the outcome was an insult to the survivors of Rosenbaum's victims. Hamburg's Lord Mayor Klose had been in Israel when this happened, but on his return said that he, too, was of the opinion that even Nazi prisoners were eligible for parole.

### TOO LATE FOR JUSTICE

The Kaiserslautern Criminal Court suspended proceedings against former police officer and Lieutenant of the Federal Army, Wolfgang Abel accused of having participated in the murder of more than 150 Russian Jews during the last war when he was chief of the Information Section of the Police Brigade South. The prosecution withdrew the case because after a lapse of 35 years it was unable to provide proof that Abel had acted from base motives—the only proof which would not have been affected by the Statute of Limitation.

### POSTHUMOUS EXHIBITION

#### Julo Levin

To mark the 75th anniversary of the birth of the painter Julo Levin, who perished in Auschwitz, an exhibition of his works is being held in the "Ostdeutsche Galerie" (Regensburg) from January to March. It is shown as part of the gallery's permanent exhibits of works by Jewish artists. Julo Levin's paintings were saved by Frau Mieke Monjau, the widow of the painter Franz Monjau, a friend of Julo Levin, who was beaten to death at Buchenwald. Monjau's works were also on show at the Exhibition. At the end of March, the Exhibition will be transferred to Munich, and in June works by Levin and Monjau will be shown in Muelheim/Ruhr under the heading "Zwei Rheinische Maler". Frau Mieke Monjau, due to whose courage the works of the two masters could be saved, was awarded the German Federal Cross of Merit a few years ago.

### ISRAELI PRODUCTS IN BERLIN FAIR

Forty countries sent products to the Berlin "Green Week", an agricultural fair. Israel had the highest number of special products—31—on show, they included many kinds of vegetables and fruit, convenience foods, vegetable fats, wines, liqueurs and fresh flowers.

### WAR MEMORIAL NOT NAZI PROPAGANDA

During a demonstration on November 7, the Mannheim police confiscated a memorial plaque reading "Our heroes live in our hearts", because they alleged it was a profession of National Socialism. The Mannheim appeal court has now decided that the plaque must be released as it was only a testimony to the last memory of the soldiers killed in the war.



# NEUE OESTERREICHISCHE BESTIMMUNGEN

## OESTERREICHISCHER HILFSFONDS

Auf Grund des Bundesgesetzes vom 13. Dezember 1976, welches am 2. Januar 1977 in Kraft trat, werden dem österreichischen Hilfsfonds für Zahlungen an bedürftige Verfolgte des Naziregimes von der österreichischen Bundesregierung Sch 440.000.000 zur Verfügung gestellt.

Der Hilfsfonds, der am 3.2. 1977 in ein neues Büro (Wiedner Hauptstrasse 23-25, A-1040, Wien, POB 126) übersiedelt, teilt uns hiezu folgendes mit:

"(1) Verfolgte, welche früher einen Antrag an den Hilfsfonds oder an eine der beiden Sammelstellen gestellt haben, werden in kurzer Zeit eine Karte erhalten, aus der sie ersehen können, wo sie Antragsformulare erhalten können.

(2) Anträge müssen bis spätestens 31. Dezember 1978 eingeschrieben zur Post aufgegeben werden.

Anträge werden zwar unter Berücksichtigung des Alters des Verfolgten bearbeitet werden, es liegt aber trotzdem im Interesse der Antragsteller, ihre Anträge möglichst bald zu überreichen, auch wenn sie einem jüngeren Jahrgang angehören.

(3) Zur Antragstellung berechtigt sind bedürftige Personen, die

1. in der Zeit zwischen dem 5. März 1933 und dem 8. Mai 1945, jedoch vor dem Zusammenbruch des nationalsozialistischen Regimes in ihrem Aufenthaltsort aus politischen Gründen welcher Art immer, insbesondere wegen ihrer Abstammung, Religion oder Nationalität — mit Ausnahme wegen nationalsozialistischer Betätigung — verfolgt worden sind und

2. am Tage des Inkrafttretens dieses Bundesgesetzes die österreichische Staatsbürgerschaft besessen haben oder vor dem 13. März 1938 österreichische Bundesbürger gewesen sind oder vor dem 13. März 1938 mindestens 10 Jahre ununterbrochen ihren Wohnsitz und ständigen Aufenthalt in Oesterreich gehabt haben.

3. Einem Verfolgten gleichgestellt ist die nicht wieder verheiratete Witwe oder unverheiratet gebliebene Lebensgefährtin (Hinterbliebene) eines Verfolgten, der in der Zeit zwischen dem 5. März 1933 und dem 8. Mai 1945 entweder als Opfer der politischen Verfolgung das Leben verloren hat oder als Opfer des Kampfes um ein freies demokratisches Oesterreich (a) gefallen ist oder (b) hingerichtet worden ist oder (c) an den Folgen einer in diesem Kampfe erlittenen Verwundung oder erworbenen Krankheit oder an den Folgen einer Haft oder erlittenen Misshandlung gestorben ist, wenn die selbst nicht verfolgte Hinterbliebene die Voraussetzungen unter Punkt 3, Ziffer 2 erfüllt.

(4) Eine Person gilt stets als bedürftig, wenn sie aus den oben angeführten Gründen verfolgt worden ist und nachweisbar in diesem Zusammenhang entweder mindestens ein Jahr, sofern die Haft mit besonders schweren körperlichen oder seelischen Leiden verbunden war, mindestens 6 Monate in Haft war oder durch eine dauernde Gesundheitsschädigung als Folge einer Haft oder Misshandlung im Zusammenhang mit ihrer Verfolgung in ihrer Erwerbsfähigkeit um mindestens 50 Prozent vermindert ist und entweder

(a) selbst oder deren Ehegatte oder Lebensgefährtin an beiderseitiger Blindheit

oder Taubheit, an Krebs, an Lähmung infolge eines Gehirntumors, an multipler Sklerose oder an Herzschwäche leidet, die das Verlassen der Wohnung unmöglich macht oder an beiden Beinen oder Armen gelähmt ist oder diese verloren hat oder

(b) in einem aus öffentlichen oder privaten Mitteln subventionierten Alters- oder Pflegeheim wohnt und die Kosten zum überwiegenden Teil von einem Dritten bezahlt werden oder

(c) im Jahre 1908 oder vorher geboren ist.

(5) Bedürftigkeit ist zu vermuten, wenn ein Verfolgter entweder

(a) im Zusammenhang mit der Verfolgung nachweisbar mindestens ein Jahr, sofern die Haft mit besonders schweren körperlichen oder seelischen Leiden verbunden war, mindestens 6 Monate in Haft war oder

(b) selbst oder deren Ehegatte oder Lebensgefährtin an beiderseitiger Blindheit oder Taubheit, an Krebs, an Lähmung infolge Gehirntumors, an multipler Sklerose oder an Herzschwäche leidet, die das Verlassen der Wohnung unmöglich macht oder an beiden Beinen oder Armen gelähmt ist oder diese verloren hat, oder

(c) durch eine dauernde Gesundheitsschädigung als Folge einer Haft oder Misshandlung im Zusammenhang mit einer Verfolgung in seiner Erwerbsfähigkeit um einen erheblichen Prozentsatz vermindert ist oder

(d) in einem aus öffentlichen oder privaten Mitteln subventionierten Alters- oder Pflegeheim wohnt und die Kosten zum überwiegenden Teil von einem Dritten bezahlt werden oder

(e) 1908 oder früher geboren ist oder

(f) sich in wirtschaftlich beengten Verhältnissen befindet und diese Lage aus persönlichen und am Wohnsitz des Verfolgten gegebenen Verhältnissen abgeleitet werden kann.

(6). Die Aushilfe beträgt nach dem Grad der Bedürftigkeit einmalig mindestens S 3.000.— bis höchstens S 15.000.—. Verfolgte, die die Voraussetzung der unwiderlegbaren Vermutung erfüllen, erhalten vorweg S 15.000.—.

(7) Der Hilfsfonds erhält den Betrag von S 440.000.000 in Vierteljahresraten von S 30.000.000.—. Antragsteller, welche die Voraussetzungen der unwiderlegbaren Vermutung nicht erfüllen, können nur Zahlungen erhalten, wenn die "Vorwegzahlung" gemäss vorstehendem Punkt 6 gesichert ist. Da eine grosse Zahl der Antragsteller 1908 oder vorher geboren ist, müssen wir die jüngeren Jahrgänge um Geduld bitten.

(8) Ein Rechtsanspruch auf Zahlung der Aushilfe besteht laut Gesetz nicht.

(9) Wer vorsätzlich oder grob fahrlässig unrichtige oder irreführende Angaben macht, veranlasst oder zugelassen hat, die für die Leistung einer Aushilfe von wesentlicher Bedeutung sind, ist von einer Aushilfe ausgeschlossen."

Unsere Leser werden aus Obigem entnehmen, dass es sich nicht um Entschädigung für unter dem Nazi-Regime erlittenes Unrecht handelt, sondern um Hilfeleistung in Fällen von Bedürftigkeit.

## NOVELLE ZUM SOZIALVERSICHERUNGSGESETZ

Gegen Ende des Jahres 1976 ist in Oesterreich die 32. Novelle zum Allgemeinen Sozialversicherungsgesetz (ASVG) publiziert worden. Sie enthaelt einige Bestimmungen, die fuer die Opfer des Nazismus aus Oesterreich von Interesse sind.

(1) Die auf den Paragraphen 500ff des ASVG basierenden Beguenstigungen fuer Opfer der Verfolgung fanden bis nun keine Anwendung auf Personen, die sich nach Kriegsende in Oesterreich (z. B. im KZ-Mauthausen) befanden oder die nach Oesterreich aus anderen Lagern z. B. Auschwitz und Theresienstadt gebracht wurden, bezw. in den Jahren 1946/47 aus Shanghai nach Oesterreich zurueckgekehrt waren und erst spaeter ausgewandert sind.

Die 32. Novelle bestimmt nun, dass auch Personen der Beguenstigungen teilhaft werden, die nachweislich aus Gruenden, auf die sie keinen Einfluss hatten, erst nach dem 9. Mai 1945, jedoch nicht spaeter als am 31. Dezember 1949, ausgewandert sind. Diesen Spaetauswanderern gebuehren Leistungen ab 1.1.1977, wenn der Antrag bis 31.12.1977 gestellt worden ist, sonst ab dem der Antragstellung folgenden Tag. Spaetauswanderern, die bereits am 31. Dezember 1976 im Genuss einer Pension waren, kann moeglicherweise der Sachlage nach eine Erhoehung der Pension gebuehren. Eine solche Erhoehung wird gleichfalls ab 1.1.1977 gewahrt, wenn der diesbezugliche Antrag bis 31.12.1977 gestellt wird, ansonsten ab dem der Antragstellung folgenden Tag.

(2) Mit dem Ziele der schrittweisen Erreichung eines fuer alle Pensionisten in gleicher Hoehe gebuehrenden Hilflosenzuschusses, wird der Mindestbetrag ab 1.1.1977 auf 1231 Schilling erhoeht. Eine weitere ueber die alljaehrliche Anpassung an das Lohnniveau hinausgehende Erhoehung von 200 Schilling ist im Gesetz fuer den 1.1.1978 vorgesehen.

(3) Andererseits werden die Beitrage fuer freiwillige Weiterversicherung ab 1.1.1977 von 17% auf 17½% erhoeht.

(4) Es sei vermerkt, dass die Novelle umfangreiche Verbesserungen fuer Rehabilitation und Gesundheitsfuersorge auch fuer Pensionisten vorsieht. Von diesen Bestimmungen werden aber Personen, die im Auslande leben, wohl nur in besonderen Ausnahmefaellen und nur dann Gebrauch machen koennen, wenn sie nach Oesterreich zurueckkehren.

(5) Schliesslich sei noch bemerkt, dass die Novelle die Moeglichkeit des nachtraeglichen Einkaufes von Versicherungszeiten, die zwischen dem 31.12.1955 und dem 1.1.1977 liegen, schafft. Die aufzuwendenden Betraege sind sehr erheblich. Wir werden nach sorgsamer Pruefung aller Umstaende auf diese Frage in einem separaten Artikel zurueckkommen, der baldmoeglichst erscheinen wird.

Derzeit wollen wir nur unseren Lesern mitteilen, dass Antraege auf nachtraeglichen Einkauf von Versicherungszeiten bis 31.12.1980 gestellt werden koennen und dass die bisherigen gesetzlichen Bestimmungen (§ 17 Abs. 5 ASVG), die Personen, denen die Emigrationszeiten beguenstigt angerechnet worden waren, die Leistung freiwilliger Beitrage zwecks Erlangung einer Pension ermoeglichen, auch weiterhin aufrecht bleiben.



Egon Larsen

## CARL ZUCKMAYER

Scandals are the spice of theatrical life, and there were many splendid ones in Berlin's cultural heyday in the 1920s and early 1930s. The first night of *Der fröhliche Weinberg* in 1925, however, brought a scandal that not only electrified the audience—it also established the fame of a young new playwright, Carl Zuckmayer; and his work fulfilled the hope of all who cared for German literature: that one day the stage would again be blessed with a truly comic piece. Humour has always been rare in the German theatre; Sternheim was the notable exception.

Zuckmayer, who died in January shortly after his 80th birthday, had set his comedy in the village scene he knew from his youth. He was born in Nackenheim amidst the vineyards of Rhenish Hesse, the son of a Christian father and a Jewish mother, née Goldschmidt, from Mainz. Some sectors of the first-night audience had probably expected rustic frolics of the *Blut-und-Boden* type, but Zuckmayer gave them nothing of the kind, and when his hero stepped out of the bushes buttoning up his fly, the storm broke. The play became one of the greatest successes of the Weimar era.

At that time, Zuckmayer's political profile began to take shape. His experiences in the First World War—he had volunteered for the army in 1914 and served in the trenches of France until the armistice—had made him, like so many of his generation, a left-wing pacifist who wanted to express his beliefs on the stage; but his first play, produced by Jessner in Berlin in 1920 under the title *Kreuzweg*, was such a flop that it had to be put off after only three performances. Clearly, he had still a lot to learn about the theatre; and Reinhardt gave him the chance when he engaged him as one of his assistant producers, alongside with Bertolt Brecht and Erich Engel, at the *Deutsches Theater* in Berlin in 1924—and Zuckmayer's years of unemployment and hunger were over.

After the *Fröhliche Weinberg*, of course, he never looked back. In 1928 two plays of his were quite successful, *Schinderhannes*, the life of the famous robber, and the circus play, *Katharina Knie*; two years later came his great triumph of the pre-Hitler era, the *Hauptmann von Köpenick*, humorous and serious at the same time, a scathing condemnation of Prussian militarism and blind obedience. In that year he also wrote the scenario of the *Blue Angel*, adapted from Heinrich Mann's novel *Professor Unrat*.

Zuckmayer had made his home near Salzburg, from where he emigrated after Hitler's occupation of Austria. He went first to Switzerland and then, via Cuba, to the United States. He tried hard, but without much success, to work in New York and Hollywood—and then decided to become a farmer in Vermont, where he spent the war years, and where he wrote his famous *Des Teufels General*, the tragedy of the air ace Udet under Hitler. It had its première in Zurich in 1946 and became immediately a world

success. His play about the resistance, the symbolical *Gesang im Feuerofen*, was not so well received, nor was his drama *Das kalte Licht* (1955), based on the story of Klaus Fuchs, the atom spy. In 1961, the Vienna *Burgtheater* produced his play *Die Uhr schlägt Eins*, about the international arms racket, but it was not a success either, despite Paula Wessely's performance as a tragic heroine in the Third Reich.

But his autobiography, *Als wär's ein Stück von mir*, published in 1966, has had an enormous readership, especially among German refugees all over the world. Zuckmayer also wrote a number of poems, short stories and novels—such as *Das Engele von Loewen* and *Der Seelenbräu*—before embarking on another new play, his last: *Der Rattenfänger*, the dramatisation of the medieval German legend, but incorporating scenes of a small-town pogrom, typical for the era of the crusades. It had its première only in 1975, and it may still turn out to be a posthumous success for one of the greatest German playwrights of our century.

His wife, the Austrian-born Alice Herdan, described the couple's years in Vermont in a splendid novel, *Die Farm in den grünen Bergen*.

### A. Rosenberg

#### HANS FEIBUSCH EXHIBITION AT BEN URI GALLERY

For anybody who knows anything of Hans Feibusch's work the exhibition might have seemed like Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. The painter is, of course, especially renowned for his big murals in about 15 English churches. The exhibition makes hardly any reference to them. But the fact as such might have reminded Jewish visitors in particular of quite a few Jewish artists who have contributed to the embellishment of Christian places of worship as for instance Epstein in Coventry and elsewhere, Elkan in Westminster Abbey, Chagall in France and, the other way round, the non-Jewish refugee Nonnenmacher who worked for a synagogue.

Feibusch, probably a unique case, dedicated the best years of his life to Christian art, seemingly by way of accident. When he came to this country from Germany, he was "taken up" by some clergymen and in particular by the then Bishop of Chichester, Dr Bell. Yet Mr Feibusch feels that the New Testament is the logical sequence to the Old. In later years he started sculpturing, and it is his sculpture which took pride of place at the exhibition.

There the dominant theme was antiquity or at least the Greek inspiration. Nobody can deny his great skill, his perfect knowledge

of the human anatomy and his enthusiasm for the beautiful in art. Furthermore he did a great number of portrait busts: the Bishop of Sheffield, Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, the famous architect, Lady Raglan, and Lady Lloyd of Hampstead. It was Lord Lloyd who opened the exhibition.

Like a wreath of leaves and flowers, 29 gouaches and some drawings surrounded the sculptures. Most conspicuous in these landscapes and garden pieces was the colour green. His deep love and understanding of nature is vigorously expressed.

In connection with the Ben Uri Art Gallery it may be mentioned that a new director has been appointed, the young art historian Julian Freeman. He publishes a Bulletin which gives you a good idea of his spirit of enterprise and his enthusiasm for his new job. He arranges or gives lectures on the history of art, there are evening classes in drawing and other activities.

### THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

**Visitors to London.** Maxim Gorki's play "Sommergäste" is to be the first German language production to be shown at the National Theatre between March 3 and 12. Staged at the "Lyttelton", this will be the first visit to London of Peter Stein's Berlin "Schaubühne am Halleschen Ufer".

**Kurt Weill — every Wednesday.** This month, the London Sinfonietta will perform Weill's compositions every Wednesday at the Royal Festival Hall; they will include the Berliner Requiem, the "Klopssied" and "Kleine Dreigroschenmusik".

**Hamburg.** The Thalia Theatre workshop performed Brecht's "Furcht und Elend des Dritten Reiches". The main part in the scene "Die jüdische Frau" was played by Ursula Lingen, Theo Lingen's daughter.

**Statistics.** A recent world-wide survey of Opera Houses (and theatres where opera is given regularly with an ensemble engaged on a permanent basis) puts the number of such theatres at between 300 and 350, of which nearly 100 are in West and East Germany.

**Our "50 years ago" column:** Whilst in 1927 Franz Lehar wrote "Friederike", which became a world success by virtue of its link with Richard Tauber, subsequently in the same year Emmerich Kalman put the finishing touches on his operetta "Herzogin von Chicago". Although very rhythmical and melodious ("Armer Prinz", "Rose der Praerie"), it did not quite get into the front rank of the composer's many successes, of which "Die Csardasfürstin" is still played and sung all over Europe.

**Birthdays.** Käthe Gold, an actress for over 50 years, distinguished in character parts at the Vienna "Burg" since 1947, celebrated her 70th birthday in Vienna. Heinz Rühmann, whose stage and film career was the object of appreciation in an earlier issue, has now reached the age of 75, and is still going strong. S.B.

### LIEBERMANN IN EAST BERLIN EXHIBITION

The East Berlin National Gallery held an exhibition "German Impressionists" which contained a number of important works by Max Liebermann, Lovis Corinth, Max Slevogt, Max Beckmann and Lesser Ury. Max Liebermann was represented by 24 paintings lent by museums and private collections in East and West Europe. Among them were early realistic pictures like the "Cobbler's Workshop" which Wilhelm II disliked and called "gutter art".

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## TWO PRUSSIAN JEWS

### Centenaries of Johann Jacoby and Rudolf Borchardt

In October 1850, two writers, Adolf Stahr and his wife Fanny Lewald, called on Heine, then lying ill in Paris. During their lively conversation, Heine asked his friends: "Erklären Sie mir den jetzigen Königsberger par excellence, Johann Jacoby". Stahr replied: "Er ist ein Mensch, der im Allgemeinen aufgeht: ein durchaus antiker Charakter und sicher der selbstloseste Mensch, der mir vorgekommen ist".

In these striking words, Stahr summed up the character of a man still remembered as one of the foremost champions of a democratic Prussia.

As a reward for his people's loyalty and sacrifices in the war against Napoleon, King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia had promised them a constitution. Napoleon fell—but the promise was not kept and the King continued his autocratic rule, supported by the military caste, the powerful Junkers, the Church and a rigid bureaucracy. Königsberg, however, the city in which the kingdom had been established in 1701, became the centre of a liberal counter-movement within Prussia, a movement which received great impetus from the Paris revolution of July 1830, in which the progressive ideas of European liberalism won the day.

This was the intellectual climate in which Johann Jacoby grew up. He was born in Königsberg on May 1, 1805, of Jewish parentage, and, on leaving school, studied medicine. He became a physician, but his heart was in public affairs. In 1841, he published a pamphlet entitled "Vier Fragen, beantwortet von einem Ostpreussen", advocating a reform of Prussia on democratic lines. The pamphlet caused a sensation and led to a charge of sedition against the courageous author: he was however, acquitted.

Jacoby was acknowledged as spokesman for the democratic cause all over Germany. He was one of a deputation to King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia, asking for political reforms. The request was refused, and Jacoby cried out: "The misfortune of kings is that they have no wish to hear the truth". Taken aback, the King could find no answer.

In 1848, the year of the unsuccessful German revolution, Jacoby became a delegate in the German National Assembly in Frankfurt a.M. He continued to serve in the "Rumpfparlament" in Stuttgart, which was dissolved on June 18, 1848. The Frankfurt National Assembly failed to create a free, liberal and unified Germany, but this came as no surprise to him. Although the well-organised reactionary forces of the autocratic German princes had thwarted a noble attempt, Jacoby was convinced that the Assembly's endeavours were based on truth and justice, while he considered the victorious reaction to be disloyal and treacherous.

Johann Jacoby was endowed with all the glory of a fighter for a cause which would eventually triumph, but in his own time he had no power. He stood for a great principle, but was forced into sterile opposition, both as a member of the German Nationalverein striving for a liberal and unified Germany, and also as a deputy, in 1863, of the Prussian House of Representatives, where he belonged to the left wing of the Progressive Party. Later, in Imperial Germany, his frustration

was so great that he did not take up his Reichstag mandate. He felt estranged from the younger generation who saw him as a stubborn doctrinaire.

As Adolf Stahr recognised, however, Jacoby possessed the moral strength of the heroes of antiquity. Like his contemporary, the historian, Gervinus, he considered a republic to be the only form of state worthy of a free nation. He wished the Prussia of generals and Junkers to be replaced by a Prussia governed by constitutional laws. He fought against opportunists who, in their lust for national power, overrode the principles of liberty and justice. Aware of the dangers of modern imperialism he supported the international pacifist movement. When Bismarck developed Germany into a national power-state guided by a patronising bureaucracy, Johann Jacoby became one of his most determined opponents. He had the courage to withstand the tide of rampant nationalism and to protest strongly against Bismarck's annexation of Alsace-Lorraine. Although this led to a charge of high treason and a sentence of imprisonment in a fortress, he remained firm.

During the latter part of his life, he realised that the progressive middle class and the working class must join forces in the fight for a modern democratic state. He accordingly sided with the Socialists in 1870—a decision praised by Karl Marx, who wrote to a friend: "Welcher 'old radical' in Europa hat diese Ehrenhaftigkeit und diesen Mut besessen, so direkt sich auf die Seite der proletarischen Bewegung zu stellen!"

Although Jacoby could not but suffer the stings of antisemitism, he remained a proud Jew. Within the Jewish community, he advocated religious reform and was one of a committee for the revision of the order of Jewish worship. Moreover, he cooperated with Gabriel Riesser in defending the emancipation of German Jewry. When Karl Streckfuss, a high Prussian official, published a book in 1833, in which he proposed curtailment of Jewish civil rights, Riesser and Jacoby attacked his views in militant pamphlets: they not only branded Streckfuss's arguments as an outburst of reaction, but also showed that equal rights for the Jews of Germany were fully justified by the tenets of modern liberalism.

Johann Jacoby died in his native town on March 6, 1877. But the principles for which he had fought throughout his life lived on, as testified by the posthumous edition of his writings and speeches. Nevertheless, it is but too clear that his dream of a free, democratic and unified Germany has yet to be fulfilled.

(An article on Rudolf Borchardt, who was born on June 9, 1877, will follow.—The Ed.)

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## PERSONALIA

### ACADEMIC HONOURS

An honorary doctorate of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Basle was conferred on Sir Ludwig Guttman.

Dr. Alfred Bloch (Wembley), a member of the AJR, was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Technology by Brunel University (Uxbridge, Middlesex) in recognition of his long and distinguished career in engineering both as an academic, in the Universities of Munich and Dublin, and as a research engineer for the German State Railways and the GEC. After his emigration from Germany, Dr. Bloch obtained a position with Dublin University in 1934. In the same year he joined the GEC Research Laboratories at Wembley, where he stayed until 1964. He has many publications to his credit which range from papers in applied mathematics and electrical engineering through to optical and photographic theory. His inventions include a method for improving the quality of TV pictures when viewed in daylight.

### PRIZE FOR DR. J. MAITLIS

Dr. Ya'acov J. Maitlis (London), a personal friend of many in our midst and a frequent and highly esteemed contributor to this journal, has been awarded the Ganapolsky Literary Prize for Yiddish Literature in Paris for his book "In Gang fun doyses" (In the Wake of Generations), published in Israel. The book contains a collection of historical essays on modern Hebrew and Yiddish writers. Another work by Dr. Maitlis, a study on "An Old-Yiddish Midrash to the 'Sayings of the Fathers'" (a manuscript written in the sixteenth century), which contains a most valuable collection of folk tales, talmudical stories and other narrative material, is now being published by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Jerusalem.

### REFUGEE PHOTOGRAPHER

Felix Man who came to this country as a refugee, had two exhibitions in London during the last few weeks. The first was one of portraits at the National Portrait Gallery, the second a retrospective of his work from 1915 to 1974 at the National Book League in Albemarle Street, London. It contained photos taken in the first World War when Man was an officer in the German Army who took his Waistpocket Kodak with him to the trenches. Very few of the large collection of his Great War photos still exist—most of it was destroyed during an air raid in the last war.

### A RECITAL OF PIANO MUSIC BY FRANZ REIZENSTEIN

A recital devoted to piano music by the late Franz Reizenstein will be given on Sunday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at the Purcell Room on the South Bank. It will include his Suite for Piano, published in 1936 when the composer was in his 20s. It was his first published work. The pianist will be Philip Martin, who studied under Franz Reizenstein.

### SEESON JACOBSON FOUNDATION

The Jacobson Foundation, endowed in 1801 by the Jewish reformer and founder of the Jacobsonschule in Seesen and dissolved in 1922, was reconstituted at the end of last year. The capital, at present amounting to DM 8,000, is to be used for the assistance of gifted and needy pupils of the school in Seesen. Gradually, the original object of the school, conceived at the beginning of the emancipation to provide for joint education of Jewish and non-Jewish pupils, receded into the background, until it entirely disappeared under the Nazis. The new school building, completed a few years ago, was officially named "Jacobson-Gymnasium".—(E.G.L.)



## THE ISRAELI SCENE

### SETTLEMENTS FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Special suburban settlements for Gaza strip Palestinians are being built by the Israeli Government. 5,200 houses are being constructed, 2,000 have so far been completed, at a cost of about £3,500 each. The government pays one fifth of this, the refugees have to contribute about £1,600 in cash and get an interest-free loan for the remainder. In spite of this, there is already a long waiting-list for homes which will provide the refugees with electricity, indoor lavatories and other amenities lacking in the camps. By moving into them, they do not lose their refugee status and continue to receive UNO rations.

### EVICTED OF ARABS ESSENTIAL?

Mr. Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem, stated that it was essential to remove Arab families from the Jewish Quarter of the Old City which is being rehabilitated. He said this was an unpleasant matter, but traditionally Jerusalem was built on the basis of ethnic quarters. There were no Jews in the Armenian Quarter, and no Armenians in the Moslem Quarter. The problem would not have arisen if the Jewish Quarter had not been destroyed in 1948 and its population expelled. However, 30 of the 45 Arab families still living in the expropriated area would be able to remain and the 100 Arab-owned shops would be left intact. Extensive modernisation was also being carried out in the run-down Arab quarters.

### ABORTION LAW PASSED

The Bill legalising abortion which was hotly opposed by the religious parties, has been passed by the Knesset. During the crucial session, hundreds of women protesters wailed and prayed outside the parliament building. Abortion is now permitted for unmarried mothers, victims of rape, women over 40 and cases where there is a serious danger of a child being born handicapped. In the past, about 60,000 abortions a year have been performed illegally and women were expected to pay about £130 for each operation.

### GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE LEBANESE

Lebanese Christians continue to visit Israel for medical treatment and for small bartering transactions. In Jerusalem, a Public Committee for Aiding Lebanon has been established. Its members are Jews and Christian and Moslem Arabs. A campaign to raise about £300,000 to provide blankets, shoes, clothing and other necessities for Lebanese war victims, irrespective of religion, has been launched. In Metulla, Israel's northernmost settled point, a soccer match between Right-wing Christian Lebanese militiamen and a team of the Israel Defence Forces ended with a 2-0 win for the Lebanese. The Israeli Defence Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, has promised to study a request from Lebanon villagers to make more jobs available for them in Israel because of growing unemployment in southern Lebanon. 500 Lebanese cross the border daily to work in Israel.

### BLOCH FAMILY SEEKS FILM CHANGES

The family of Mrs Dora Bloch, killed at Entebbe, have taken legal steps against the American National Broadcasting Company which produced the film "Raid on Entebbe". They allege misrepresentation. Mrs. Bloch's son, Mr. Hartuv, said the film had adopted President Amin's version that British diplomats had visited Mrs. Bloch in hospital before the Israeli freeing of the hostages and found that she had disappeared after the raid, implying that the Israelis had taken her with them. The Bloch family say they are acting for all the hostages for defamation of character. The film claims that they had written to the Israeli government from Entebbe insisting on the freeing of Arab terrorists in Israel. Mr. Hartuv, himself one of the hostages, said that they would not have presumed to tell the Israeli Government what to do. A New York law firm has been instructed to demand a rectification of such "gross distortions".

### BANKER RECEIVER OF STOLEN PROPERTY

Yosef Epstein, a former banker, confessed in a Tel Aviv court that he had received property worth about £460,000 which was stolen from Barclays Discount Bank in January 1976. The robbers had pulled down a wall to reach the bank's vaults during their nighttime raid and stolen money, securities, gold and jewellery from 249 safe-deposit boxes. The total value of the loot is said to be about £13 million. Epstein returned gold, jewellery, medals and unregistered stock worth over £300,000, when he was arrested. According to the police, a great part of the stolen property was smuggled out of the country, especially to Switzerland.

### FIRST BEDOUIN NURSE

Twenty-one-year-old Safia al-Aleoni is the first Bedouin girl to qualify as a nurse in Israel. She works at a newly opened clinic in the Negev which serves the Bedouin in the area.

### LIBEL AWARD FOR MEN OF PEACE

The Jerusalem magistrate Mrs. Miriam Ben-Porath awarded nine members of the Council for Israel-Palestine Peace about £330 damages against the Jerusalem Sephardi Council which had called them "anti-Zionists and Communists". She said this was a flagrant insult to any Jew living in Israel. The nine include a former Army quartermaster general, Mr. Peled, a member of the Knesset, Mr. Eliav, and Mr. Uri Avneri, editor of the sensational weekly "Haolam Hazei."

### FIRST SABRA ROTHSCHILD

Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild and his wife Nili made a special trip to Israel so that their first child, the future Baron Rothschild, could be born an Israeli. The Baroness is the daughter of Vice-Admiral Mordecai Limon, a former head of the Israeli Defence Ministry's purchasing mission in Paris who helped to organise the escape of five French-built missile boats from Cherbourg to Israel in 1970. The French had refused to deliver the boats because of De Gaulle's embargo on arms for Israel.

### SCENTED PARK FOR THE BLIND

The city of Vienna and the Antwerp Jewish community have provided the funds for a park for the blind recently opened in Jerusalem. It includes a garden with scented shrubs, flowers and trees with signs in Braille identifying them. At the opening ceremony, blind Jewish and Arab choirs sang "Jerusalem the Golden" together in Hebrew.

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# NATIONAL SOCIALIST TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE

## A Standard Work on the People's Court

Shortly before he was killed by Allied bombardment early in 1945, Roland Freisler, the notorious president of the People's Court, in a publication for Nazi speakers, praised it as the highest tribunal of the Greater German Reich destined to secure its political consistency, entrusted with the task of protecting the country against treason and the people against disintegration of its fighting power in the struggle for its life and freedom. According to Freisler, the judges of the Court were acting as loyal representatives of the "Führer", marching in the ranks of the people, guided by the "inner law of the People's soul". The harshness of the verdicts, Freisler maintained, was motivated by love for the people and was directed against the defeatists in order to protect the healthy and strong from succumbing to weakness. These were obviously the guidelines for the judicature of the Court which abandoned the traditional concepts of administration of justice, abolished all legal safeguards for the accused and constituted one of the main instruments of Nazi tyranny and brutality.

The Court's practices are unrolled in detail in a standard work which forms part of a comprehensive investigation into the various aspects of Nazi law and its application.\* It explains the composition and the competence of the Court, analyses its verdicts and describes, among others, the trials against men and women who dared to resist the Nazi evil. Jews played a minor part among the persons arraigned before the People's Court; they were easily dealt with by the notorious administrative measures of the Gestapo and other outfits. It was, however, held against defendants brought before the Court on other counts if they had tried to help persecuted Jews or had criticised the Nazi policies and actions of mass murder and elimination of the "Jewish enemy" from German cultural life. There is no trace of human sympathy noticeable in the judgements pronounced by the judges with those who had fallen into their clutches; defending counsels were practically helpless and death sentences were handed down even when it would have been possible to refrain from imposing the ultimate penalty.

Roland Freisler was the best-known and particularly feared member of the Nazi judiciary, but already prior to his appointment as president of the Court in August 1942 and after his replacement in February 1945, the People's Court excelled in spreading fear and

terror. Freisler was a great showman who enjoyed playing cat and mouse with defendants, ridiculing and offending them. His judgements abound in demagogic rhetorics and manifestations of sycophantic devotion to the "Führer". He hated and treated with particular venom aristocrats, intellectuals and priests and gave full vent to his feelings in the trials against the unsuccessful conspirators, who had tried to assassinate Hitler and against those truly noble men who had engaged in planning for a better Germany after the fall of Nazism. Quite a number of the accused reacted to his rantings with exemplary dignity and courage. In contrast, the apparently willing participation of many jurists in what amounted to a blatant violation of elementary legal principles was one of the most depressing features of the era of the Third Reich.

One would wish that a younger generation of Germans and others engaged in the legal profession would take note of the tragic consequences of a judiciary slavishly serving a system which determinedly replaced the observance of the rule of law by fanaticism and arbitrariness and had nothing but contempt for the basic principle of human dignity.

\* Walter Wagner: *Der Volksgerichtshof im nationalsozialistischen Staat*. (Teil III von "Die deutsche Justiz und der Nationalsozialismus".) 992 Seiten. Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, Stuttgart. DM 168.

### Nelly Engel

#### VERSCHOLLENE UND VERGESSENE

Zur reinen Freude von Menschen der älteren Jahrgänge, in deren Leben die Literatur eine Rolle gespielt hat, und mit dem noch viel wichtigerem Ziel vor Augen, den jüngeren Generationen zu helfen, eine wesentliche Lücke in ihren literarischen Erfahrungen auszufüllen, gibt die Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur in Mainz im Franz Steiner Verlag in Wiesbaden eine Bücherreihe heraus, die, schön ausgestattet und gut gedruckt, den rührenden Titel trägt: "Verschollene und Vergessene".

Autoren, die im Geistesleben der ersten Hälfte dieses Jahrhunderts eine angesehene Rolle gespielt haben und deren Namen und Werke, vielfach aus unerklärlichen Gründen, im Gesichtskreis der modernen Welt verblassten oder gar völlig aus ihm verschwunden sind, bilden den Gegenstand von bisher 18 Büchern. Jeder Band enthält den Lebensabriss und eine Auswahl aus den Werken des betreffenden Autors. Wir finden unter ihnen Namen, die noch immer Erinnerungen wachrufen, so wie z. B. Theodor Däubler, Else Lasker-Schüler, Rudolf Borchardt, Karl Kraus und manche andere.

Vor mir liegt der Band, der das Leben und Werk des aus der Tschechoslovakei stammenden und in Jahre 1955 in London verstorbenen Dichters und Schriftstellers *Ernst Sommer* behandelt. Dieser Band ist 170 Seiten stark, von denen 36 Seiten die Einleitung einnimmt, die von der einstigen Prager Universitätsprofessorin Dr. Vera Machackova-Riegerova geschrieben ist. Dr. Machackova versteht es in dieser Einleitung, den Lebenslauf Ernst Sommers mit der Analyse jedes

einzelnen seiner Werke zu verknüpfen. Indem sie das Schicksal dieses einen sensitiven Menschen schildert, der seiner jüdischen Abstammung wegen zum Flüchtling wird, hat sie gleichzeitig dem jüdischen Flüchtling aus Zentraleuropa schlechthin ein Denkmal gesetzt, das dem Einfühlungsvermögen und der humanen Weltanschauung dieser Christin alle Ehre macht. Ungeachtet der Tatsache, ob das Judentum im bisherigen Bewusstsein eines Flüchtlings eine wichtige, eine nebensächliche oder gar keine Rolle gespielt hat, wird die Zugehörigkeit zum jüdischen Volk mit einem Male das treibende Motiv seines Schicksals, macht ihn zum Verfolgten und Vertriebenen, der den erfolgreichen und behaglichen Platz in der Gesellschaft, den er sich geschaffen hatte, verlassen muss und vor die Aufgabe gestellt ist, in einem völlig fremden Land, seiner Muttersprache beraubt, für sich und seine Familie eine neue Nische zu finden. Robuste Naturen und Menschen, deren Berufe und Fähigkeiten nicht von Sprache und Umgebung abhängig waren, konnten die Schwierigkeiten der Umstellung meistern, bei Sommer wirkten sich die Ereignisse dahin aus, dass er sie zu Romanen verarbeitete, die zum Grossteil jüdische Probleme behandelten, nur von Wenigen verstanden wurden und nicht zum Aufbau einer neuen Existenz sondern zu Sommers eigenem tragischen physischen Zusammenbruch führten.

Sommer ist der Autor von 15 gedruckten Büchern, einer Anzahl Artikeln und Kurzgeschichten, von einem als Manuskript hinterbliebenen, von Fachleuten als bedeutend bezeichneten Roman und schönen Gedichten. Aus dieser Fülle haben die Herausgeber des vorliegenden Buches eine kluge Auswahl getroffen, die imstande ist, dem Kenner seiner Werke ihren ästhetischen und moralischen Inhalt ins Gedächtnis zu rufen, im Liebhaber guter Literatur, der niemals vorher von Sommer gehört hatte, den Wunsch zu entfachen, diese Lücke in seinem literarischen Wissen auszufüllen.

Als Sommer starb, schrieb der Literaturhistoriker und Religionsphilosoph Friedrich Thieberger von ihm: "Er ist ein Meister des historischen Romans, dessen Wert erst kommende Geschlechter voll begreifen werden".

Dieses neue Buch ist dazu angetan, die Erfüllung dieser Prophezeiung näher zu bringen.

### YAD VASHEM'S HALL OF NAMES

#### Roll of Holocaust Victims

In our June 1976 issue we published a Letter to the Editor, in which readers were asked to record the names of relatives and friends on special forms to be asked for from the office of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Meanwhile, the Jerusalem Office has, at our request, supplied us with a number of forms, which may thus be ordered from our office, 8 Fairfax Mansions. So far, well over two and a half million names have been received in Jerusalem but to commemorate as many of the six million perished Jews as possible, the co-operation of all Jews who may supply information is required. To house the "pages of testimony" and thus to preserve the names of the martyrs, a Hall of Names has been constructed at Yad Vashem.

### FORESTS TO HONOUR GENTILES

To mark the centenary of the publication of George Eliot's "Daniel Deronda", the subject of which is a Jew brought up by Gentiles and finding his way back to Judaism, a 1,000 tree forest has been planted in Galilee. Another forest was planted to honour Mr. Robert Hawke, the Australian trade union leader and staunch friend of Israel. At the planting ceremony, his father, a Protestant clergyman, read a passage from Isaiah.

#### CLUB 1943

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

- 7 März. Dr. Kurt Pflüger: Die Revolutionierung des Europäischen Theaters. Das Meininger Hoftheater.
- 14 März. Grete Sachs: Die Sassoons und die Rothschilds.
- 21 März. Dr. Erwin Seligmann: Theodor Herzl.
- 28 März. Dr. Finni Lesser: George Elliot.
- 4 April. Keine Veranstaltung.
- 11 April. Keine Veranstaltung.



# BIRTHDAYS

## OTTO KUESTER 70

The lawyer Otto Küster, one of the earliest champions for the indemnification of the victims of Nazi persecution, recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Immediately after the war, he was put in charge of Indemnification affairs in Wuerttemberg-Baden. He held this office from 1945 until 1954. For several months, he was also deputy leader of the German delegation at the historical Hague Conference held in 1952 between the representatives of the Federal German Republic and of Jewish victims. There his sense of justice and his ethical approach to the problem gained him the trust and respect of the Jewish delegates. When he was awarded the honorary doctorate of the University of Tuebingen about ten years ago, the laudatio especially referred to Küster's writings in the field of philosophy of law, in which he dealt with the question of indemnification in the wider context of the general idea of atonement.

## DR. OTTO BENTAL 80

For those who know Dr. Otto Bental, the head of the Berlin Office of URO, it will be difficult to believe that he recently became an octogenarian. His alertness and appearance seem to belie his age as those of his colleagues who met him at the latest URO Board Conference in Frankfurt noticed anew when he reported about the specific position of his office with his traditional vigour and clarity. Numerous former Berliners owe the settlement of their claims to his knowledge and energy. We wish our friend Dr. Bental many more years of undiminished strength.  
W.R.

## ERICH LUETH 75

The name of Erich Lueth (Hamburg), who recently celebrated his 75th birthday, is in- solubly associated with the first public efforts in post-war Germany to overcome the happenings of the Nazi régime. Together with Rudolf Kuestermeier, he started the "Action Peace with Israel" as far back as 1951. He was the first German who, in 1952, visited Israel as the guest of the Government. Throughout the following decades he has continued his work for German-Jewish and German-Israel understanding, and he has summed up his activities in this field in his latest book "Die Friedensbitte an Israel 1951" (1976). Erich Lueth, who was Chief Press Officer of the City of Hamburg until his retirement in 1964, wrote, among other works, several books about famous Hamburg Jews of the past, e.g. Gabriel Riesser, Isaak Wolffson and Salomon Heine. We wish him many more years of creative activities.

## DR. ADELHEID LEVY

Eight years have passed since Ada Levy retired from the AJR staff. Yet this does not mean that the continuous contact between her and her former colleagues has ceased and that all of those who worked with her are not retaining an active interest in her well-being. Her 28 years' devoted work as head of the AJR Social Services Department will always be gratefully remembered.

As on the occasion of previous milestones in Ada's life, there will be no official celebration of her 80th birthday on March 19. However, we cannot let the event pass without expressing to her anew our feelings of affection and our most cordial wishes for good health and happiness.

## ALFRED UNGER 75

Alfred Unger, the German Jewish author who has been living in London since 1937, celebrated his 75th birthday. Born in Hohen- salza, he was hailed as a promising young author when he published his novel about Jesus, "The story of the great Nazarene" in 1926. His first plays were published by S. Fischer, and in 1929 he was awarded the German Drama Prize and the Prize of the German Stage Confederation. In this country he wrote the scripts for a number of successful German and English films, and translated Charles Morgan, Terence Rattigan and Peter Ustinov into German. The West German Government awarded him the Federal Service Cross First Class. He also holds important posts with a number of international writers' federations and is a member of the Inter- national PEN Club.

## MEALS ON WHEELS FOR FLATLET HOME

Some months ago, the Meals-on-Wheels Service was extended to Eleonor Rathbone House, the Flatlet Home in Highgate. This was made possible by the installation of a freezer, acquired out of the funds of the AJR Charitable Trust. In a letter to the AJR one of the Home's residents, Mrs. M. Ries, expressed her special thanks for this arrange- ment to the AJR and to the members of the Home's House Committee. "The Meals-on- Wheels Service provides us with very good cooked meals and soups in cellophane bags, so that we only need to heat them up. This is a very great help indeed, especially for those of us who are old and not exactly in the best of health. To me personally it is a boon", she writes.

## FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge; any voluntary donation would, however, be appreciated. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

### Birthdays

The AJR Club expresses its gratitude to Dr. Adelheid Levy, its founder-mother, for her devoted work for the Club, and its sincerest congratulations on the occasion of her 80th birthday, wishing her health and happiness.

The AJR Club also extends very good wishes to its members, Mrs. Camella Renney, on her 90th, and Miss Margaret Ziffer on her 80th birthday.

Steiner.—Mr. Kurt Steiner, of 790 North Circular Road, London, N.W.2 will celebrate his 65th birthday on March 23. With love and good wishes from his wife, family and all his friends.

### Thanks for Congratulations

Philipps.—Miss Else Philipps, of 108 Vivian Court, London, W.9, wishes to thank all her friends and acquaintances for their good wishes on the occasion of her 80th birth- day.

### Deaths

Liebel.—Camilla Liebel (born Vienna), resident of the Otto Schiff House, beloved mother and aunt, passed away peacefully in her 98th year. A most remarkable person who will be sadly missed by all who knew her.—Willy, Hanni, Beryl.

Muskat.—Mrs. Nelly Muskat (née Nahab), widow of Dr. Walter Muskat, formerly of Breslau, died on February 3, aged 82. Deeply mourned by her son, Herbert, daughter, Lotte Spear, son-in-law and granddaughter and many good friends. 10 Manorway, En- field, Middlesex.

Rosenberg.—Mr. Jakob Rosen- berg, of 17 Gainsborough Gardens, London, N.W.11 (formerly Bres- lau), passed away on January 21. Sadly missed by his wife.

Schuster.—Dr. Friedl Schuster passed away suddenly on Thurs- day, February 10. A dedicated worker for community welfare, member of the Leo Baeck Lodge and founder member of the Surrey B'nai B'rith Women's Lodge, she will be sadly missed by all her many friends and colleagues.

Wiener.—On February 6, Dr. Fritz I. Wiener, of Morris Fein- mann House, Manchester. Deeply mourned by his only son, Harry, relatives in Israel and U.S.A., former pupils (Mittelschule Ber- lin and Liverpool University) and a large circle of friends.

Wiener.—Mrs. Hedwig Wiener, our beloved mother, passed away on February 7, shortly before cele- brating her 92nd birthday. Deeply mourned by children, grandchild- ren and one great-grandson.—E. H. Wiener and family, 115 The Vale, London, N.W.11.

### Memorial Stone

Fisher.—The memorial stone in ever-loving memory of David Fisher, beloved husband of Irene (née Wiener), will be consecrated at Bushey Cemetery on Sunday, March 13, at 2.15 p.m.

## CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 25p for five words plus 20p for advertisements under a Box No.

### Miscellaneous

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ENGLISH / GERMAN speaking author researching for a book on German Anti-Nazis 1919-1939 would like to interview in London people who had lived in Germany at that time. Please contact Eve Dessarre, 11 Rue Condorcet, 94800 Villejuif, France, after March 15.

GERMAN AND ENGLISH coins wanted. High prices paid. Phone 01-455 8578 after 6 p.m.

### Situations Vacant

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### Personal Enquiries

Oettinger.—Ruth Oettinger, pupil of the North London Collegiate School between 1929-1934, last known address before the war: 2 Chatsworth Road, London, N.W.2, is wanted by former school friend. —Box 644.

### AJR Enquiries

Glaser.—Mr. Guido Glaser, last known address: 25 Burford Road, Manchester, M16 8EW.



## Letters to the Editor

### "THE GREAT PARADOX"

Sir,—May I add a few comments to the article "The Great Paradox" by Eva Reichmann, which was published in your December 1976 issue and in which she reviews Robert Wistrich's book on Revolutionary Jews. My criticism is not directed against Mrs. Reichmann's review, which, as always, is very much to the point and objective but against certain aspects of the book.

Eva Reichmann rightly stated that after the first period the Socialist movement became a party of absolute fairness towards the Jews within its midst and that Socialists were their very reliable defenders, convinced campaigners against antisemitism. Mrs. Reichmann is particularly justified in making this statement, because her late husband, Hans Reichmann, formed a liaison between the greatest Jewish organisation in Germany, the Central-Verein, and those Socialist and Liberal politicians who took a stand against antisemitism.

My doubts concern certain remarks by Wistrich referred to by Eva Reichmann, where he singles out ten prominent early Socialists of Jewish origin of whom seven are classified as Jewish antisemites. They include not only Marx but also Austrian Socialists like Victor Adler. Eva Reichmann rightly mentions that there were special circumstances in Austria due to which many Jews were baptised or romantics. Furthermore, Lassalle does not be-

long to Mr. Wistrich's list of Jewish antisemites because, in my view, he was rather a "man about town" (albeit an intelligent one) than a reliable leader of Socialists.

On the whole, I agree with Eric Heffer, who wrote in a recent issue of the "Tribune" that both Marx and Trotsky are outdated and can no longer be regarded as spiritual leaders of modern Socialists. Wistrich rightly mentions leading socialists, who were definitely not Jewish antisemites, e.g. Leon Blum and Eduard Bernstein. One could add many other names, e.g. Oscar Cohn, and one should in any case not generalise on the basis of a few examples, even though they were well-known personalities.

(Dr.) W. BRESLAUER

17 Southwood Lawn Road,  
London, N6.

### COMMEMORATION STAMP FOR VIENNA CITY TEMPLE

Sir,—In your January issue (page 4) you reported about the special stamp issued by the Austrian Postal authorities in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Vienna City Temple. Having been associated with Austrian philately for more than 56 years, I always receive in advance blackprints about new stamps to be issued.

The blackprint of the Commemoration Stamp describes the history of the building and of

the Vienna Jewish community. Yet I resent the way, in which the last chapter of the pre-1945 epoch is belittled. The text only briefly refers to the "Reichskristallnacht", but it does not mention the events leading up to the brutalities of 1938-9 and the part played in it by the authorities and the intelligentsia. Neither does it record that of the 180,000 Jews in Austria some 60,000 perished in concentration camps and that some 20,000 houses once belonging to Jewish citizens were declared as "herrenloses Eigentum", and taken over by the Austrian Government.

One should also have expected the enumeration of at least some Austrian Jews who, in recognition of their outstanding achievements in the field of scholarship and science, were awarded the Nobel Prize or other honours. The irony is that not even those of them are referred to who were depicted on previous post-war Austrian stamps.

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KAMILLO WEISS

### DISCOUNT DIRECTORY

The IPCA — Israel Products Consumers Association—has published the first discount directory listing shops and services available at a discount to members in Britain and Israel. In Britain discounts are given on Israeli fashion and baby wear, records, books and gifts, in Israel on touring, and at coffee shops, night clubs, restaurants, menswear shops, boutiques and art galleries. The membership fee is only £1 a year.

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# OBITUARY

## JUSTIN THANNHAUSER

Munich-born art dealer Justin Thannhauser died during a holiday at Gstaad, Switzerland, aged 84. In 1963, after the death of his first wife and his two sons, he donated his collection of art treasures, including Impressionists, 34 Picassos, Van Goghs and Modiglianis to the New York Guggenheim Museum. His father's gallery in Munich had become known all over the world for the first exhibitions of expressionist art and of the "Blaue Reiter". In 1913 Justin joined his father and opened the first exhibition of Picasso pictures in Germany. After the first world war, he opened galleries in Luzern, Berlin and New York and became one of the most important agents for impressionist and expressionist paintings in the USA. Several of his collections were looted or destroyed by the Nazis in Germany and France, but he went to New York himself in 1941 and started collecting from scratch.

## MR. H. H. GOLDSTAUB

Mr Henry Herbert Goldstaub, a long-standing member of the AJR, died on January 27 in his 62nd year. He was founder and co-director of Electrothermal Engineering Ltd (London) and has made several inventions in the field of electrical heating. At the same time, he played a leading part in a number of trade associations in the UK and was the co-founder of a European Trade Association even before the U.K. became a member of the European community. He held the vice-presidency of this Federation from 1967 until 1974 and was its president from 1974 until he passed away.

## YVONNE DE ROTHSCHILD

Mrs Yvonne de Rothschild, widow of the late Anthony de Rothschild, died at Ascot, aged 77. She came of a distinguished family of bankers and race-horse owners, the Cahen d'Anvers, and was married at the Paris Grand Synagogue in 1926 with the Chief Rabbi of France officiating. Before and during the last war, she was very active on behalf of refugees from Nazi oppression. She was president of the Women's Appeal Committee for German Jewish Women and Children, part of the Jewish Refugees Committee, and at her Mayfair residence many appeal meetings on behalf of German and Austrian Jewish refugees were held. She was also a life-long supporter of the Ben Uri Art Gallery.

## HERTA FEINER

Herta Feiner, well-known all over Wales for her fund-raising activities for Zionist organisations, has died in Pontypridd. In 1938 she came to this country with her doctor husband and baby son as a refugee from Austria and took on a job as cook and house-keeper to enable her husband to study for a British qualification. After three years, the family settled in Pontypridd where they had to overcome a great deal of suspicion and animosity. During the years that followed they gained the respect and admiration of the local population. Herta Feiner's special concern was the Jerusalem Baby Home where her name is marked on a panel of honour.

## DR. DR. JOSEF NEUBERGER

Professor Dr. Dr. Josef Neuberger, from 1966 to 1972 Minister of Justice of the State of North Rhine Westphalia, has died at Düsseldorf, aged 74. He was born in Antwerp, but at the outbreak of war in 1914 his family were expelled from Belgium and settled in Düsseldorf. He studied at Cologne during the German inflation period and worked at the same time to pay for his studies. He was a member of the "Blau Weiss" Youth organisation and a co-founder of the Poale Zion in Germany. In 1932 he started practising as a lawyer in Düsseldorf, but was prevented from continuing soon after the Nazis came to power. As early as 1920 he had joined the Social Democratic Party. During the November pogroms in 1938 he was thrown out of the window of his parents' flat and severely injured. Friends helped him to escape to Holland and later he went to Palestine with his parents. He returned to Germany soon after the war and was soon elected to the North Rhine Westphalia State Parliament. As a member of the Düsseldorf City Council he became chairman of the restitution committee and spokesman on economics and science. In 1959 he became a member of the W. German Parliament, in 1966 Minister of Justice in North Rhine Westphalia. In this capacity he worked for the liberalisation of Justice and for humane sentences. In some of the early concentration camp trials, such as Treblinka and Sobibor, he acted as public prosecutor. He also took an active interest in Jewish affairs, was a member of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and of the Düsseldorf Synagogue Board. He was an expert on restitution matters and gave a talk on the developments during a visit to London some six years ago. Members of the Government, of Parliament and of the Lawyers' Association attended his funeral where Prime Minister Heinz Kühn stressed his humanitarian and liberal attitude. L.M.

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