

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Robert Weltsch

## PITFALLS OF MESSIANIC THINKING

What the Shofar teaches us

The Holy-days at the beginning of the Jewish Year are designed as a period of moral stock-taking for the community as well as for the individual. When the Shofar indicates that the world is re-born, the time has arrived not only for introspection and an account for man's conduct and even for his emotions, but the New Year's Day, also called *Yom Ha-zikharon*, the Day of Remembrance, means looking back at what has happened in the last year or years and what may sometimes be better understood with the help of experience gathered in the past. Is this the stuff History is made of? In the turbulent years of the 19th and 20th century, Jews were shaken by history, and the nationalist "awakening" has been hailed as the re-entry of the Jewish people into the orbit of active history-making. In the post-assimilation period in which we live, this is a new phenomenon deriving from the contact of Jews with the Gentile world and with modern ideas.

The relation of the Jewish people to History has become a problem to the modern scholar because from the destruction of the Jewish State onwards, and owing to the dispersion, normal standards were not applicable. Jewish thinking about current events was confined within theological terms and derived from Biblical analogies. In Jewish historiography there is a gap from Josephus Flavius (37-100) until the Enlightenment of the 19th century. The causes and consequences of this situation are explained in a learned and instructive book by Lionel Kochan\*. The new era was inaugurated by pioneers like Solomon Juda Rappaport (1790-1867), Nachman Krochmal (1785-1840), Isaac Marcus Jost (1793-1860) and the sponsors of *Wissenschaft des Judentums* in Germany. One of the peculiar results of 1800 years of negative attitude to History as worked out by Kochan was the priority of the concern with the future over the pursuit of the past. The records were mainly of martyrology; speculation was directed towards redemption. Consciously or unconsciously, the expectation of a Messiah and the dawn of a Messianic age permeated Jewish group mentality throughout the ages.

The overall effect of this fact is thoroughly elaborated in Kochan's treatment of the works of major writers of the Middle Ages and of the pre-enlightenment period; only singular figures like the chronologer David Gans in Prague (1541-1613) established contact with Gentile scientists and acquired secular knowledge. Yet, despite the more rationalist approach from the 16th century onward and of what Kochan calls (Chapter 5) "The De-

cline of the Messiah", Messianism—in the literal sense or in disguise—remained the "Spirit of History" (Chapter 6) even after the spreading of secularisation and Hegelian influence and after Jewish national ambitions and a new sort of political activity had appeared on the stage. Now, in real life, two awkward consequences evolved from misapplication of the Messianic idea: one was the appearance of figures, impostors among them, who were falsely regarded as Messias and created turbulence among the credulous masses of their followers. This happened also in Christian societies which awaited the "Second Coming" during the religious struggles at the close of the Middle Ages. Assuming that the end of mankind was arriving, chiliastic sects like the Anabaptists preached a new morality which actually led to lawlessness and horrors. The notorious Münster uprising of 1532-35 (theme of Robert Hammerling's poem *Der König von Zion* and of Meyerbeer's opera *Le Prophète*—recently successfully re-emerging from the archives—) presumed to have founded the Kingdom of God, the new Zion. It ended in catastrophe.

The second and more confusing distortion is the use of Messianic phrases in a rather metaphysical way in matters of temporal life and about down-to-earth events which one wants to describe as god-sent. Jewish pronouncements throughout the ages were often misleading, rhetorically greeting some favourable development like the benevolent act of a ruler, as announcing the coming of the Messias. At the time of emancipation in the 19th century, Jewish reformers eliminated from the liturgy all hints to Messias because the granting of civil rights to the Jews had anticipated redemption and made the Messias redundant. Germany—or France—had now become their Zion; so was America where full equality was taken for granted from the very beginning.

## Events in Palestine

More plausible, for nationalist and geographical reasons, was the application of Messianic concepts to various phases of contemporary events in Palestine, e.g. in 1917, 1920 (San Remo), 1947-48, 1967, when at least one part of the two-fold Messianic Promise seemed to be fulfilled, namely the return of the dispersed tribes to the land of Israel, while there was no sign of making good the other intrinsic part, namely Redemption of Mankind in a transcendental sense. Yet, the elevation of—possibly transient—political or military events to the rank of eschatological consummation is nothing but heresy. The blowing of the Shofar was premature.

True, some unexpected achievements or constellations after the unprecedented sufferings and catastrophes of the Holocaust were apt to be interpreted as miracles in accordance with the age-old vision of the Prophets. There had always been an element of messianic belief in Zionist ideology, but confusion of earthly occurrences within history with the concept of *absolute* (outside history) future, what the Prophet called *acharith hayamim*, the end of time, ought to be avoided. Such phantasy could easily be an inducement to exaggerated hopes and the cause of aberrations in practical politics. It was likely to lead to disappointments and setbacks.

Disregard of realities and replacement of "politics of the possible" by wishful thinking has been noticeable in Zionist policy during the past thirty years, if not earlier. A classical case of miscalculation of this kind, one of the fundamental causes of the present-day crisis, is analysed by Amitzur Ilan in the recent issue of the *Wiener Library Bulletin* (Vol. XXX New Series 41/42, 1977) under the characteristic title "Messianism and Diplomacy 1945-48". We cannot enter into the whole scope of the problems discussed in this essay; it serves to correct some deep-rooted and almost generally accepted views on Israel's recent history and the role played by the outstanding personalities in this drama. In essence it is a well documented attempt at contrasting the views of Weizmann and Ben-Gurion who became sharp antagonists in the last phase of the struggle for the State. Under the guidance of Ben-Gurion, relying on his army (the Hagana), Weizmann was removed from all power and even reviled because of his cautious and long-range deliberations which avoided all unrealistic pretensions. When the State was proclaimed in 1948, Ben-Gurion could not avoid offering Weizmann the Presidency, making him a figure head, as he later (1952) unsuccessfully tried with Einstein. Actually, Weizmann became "the prisoner of Rehovoth" without any say in Israel's policy, which he regarded critically and apprehensively. The nadir of popular sentiment that had been fabricated was indicated by slogans painted on walls, like "down with Weizmann-Pétain".

Ilan's analysis demonstrates the fallacy of Messianism in actual politics. Quite justly, Ben-Gurion has been glorified as the creator of the State. It is only natural that a whole myth was built around his personality and achievements. As one commentator, Noah Lucas, put it: "... Only Jabotinsky more incisively sounded the national spirit, but Ben-Gurion silenced his voice... by adopting his political strategy in all its essentials... he came finally into the capacity of military leadership."\*\* Professor Lucas also quotes a characteristic paragraph from Ben-Gurion's speech at a Mapai meeting in January 1948,

\*\* Noah Lucas: *The Modern History of Israel*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 1974, p.246. The author, now in Sheffield, has also lectured at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

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\* *The Jew and his History*. By Lionel Kochan. Bearsted Reader in Jewish History, University of Warwick. Macmillan, London, 1977.



## PITFALLS OF MESSIANIC THINKING

Continued from page 1

where he passionately assessed the importance of the forthcoming war on which all energies must be concentrated because it would decide Israel's fate:

"The eight months before us are not like any eight months we have known, nor perhaps like any eight years or any eighty years, and I have no hesitation in saying—nor like any eight hundred years that have passed or that will come. For there is a clear feeling that into the seven or eight months before us is compressed the whole of Jewish history: that which has continued for over three thousand years and on which will depend the Jewish history to come, perhaps for hundreds or even thousands of years . . ."

Such words sound somewhat uncanny in our ears. Anyhow, the war was won. The Labour administrations from Ben Gurion, through Golda Meir and Dayan, Rabin and Peres, followed, as Lucas said, the revisionist line. But the fulfilment of Messianic hopes left much to be desired.

### The Ben-Gurion Myth

Looking back, it is evident that Ben-Gurion surprised the world by military prowess, but otherwise erred in almost all respects. His slogans like the Biltmore Programme (1943), *Ingathering of the Exiles (Kibbutz Galuyoth)*, Law of Return, Millions of Immigrants, were without foundation in reality or logic. Messianic thinking led to building castles in the air. In apocalyptic terms the Jewish State was described not only as the only secure refuge for the mass of Jews likely to be persecuted in, or expelled from, all countries of the dispersion, but also as the one-time chance to become an independent mighty factor on the international scene. It was also promising abolition of poverty, and material prosperity. These prospects, although applauded and repeated by Diaspora leaders, were not convincing. They extracted enormous material support, but otherwise remained lip service; they did not set in motion masses of would-be immigrants. The opportunity of making the state attractive for ethical and idealistic reasons was missed. Immigrants often felt they had been deceived and reported back to those they had left behind. The fact completely disregarded in Ben Gurion's fantastic predictions was the lack of will of the Jews to emigrate in spite of the allurements of having their own state. After the downfall of Hitler Jewish communities felt comparatively secure in the countries of their domicile and not inclined to mass migration. Moreover, after the cruel extermination of the main corpus of East European Jews, for whom the Zionist idea was originally conceived, the number of displaced refugees willing and able to take part in the building of a new home in an unknown country, was significantly reduced. Contrary to Ben-Gurion's "messianic" prediction, even of those compelled to emigrate only a small section went to Israel, despite all kinds of material inducements. Many preferred to remain in war-ridden Europe, many tried to make money in post-war Germany; when France had to abandon Algeria, her Jews went to Metropolitan France, not to Israel; and recently the question arose whether Jewish organisations are entitled to force emigrants who were holders of Israel visas, to stick to that destination.

Faced with this situation, the failure of voluntary mass immigration after the establishment of the State, the Zionist leadership had to look for inhabitants to fill the vacant territory from which the Arab population had been removed (leaving aside the controversial question whether it had been driven out or had left of its own free will). Thus one turned to the oriental Jews who preponderantly had been ignorant of Zionism. These were brought to Israel in various ways, not without the help of pseudo-messianic propaganda appealing to the religious masses who still lived in medieval conditions. Thus, the problem of the so-called "second Israel" was created, with all the consequences unsolved and topical until the present.

### Moderates and Extremists

But the "messianic" ideologists, among whom Dr. Ilan picks out—besides Ben-Gurion—primarily the American Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, did not heed reality and psychological factors. The author quotes from the minutes of relevant Zionist bodies, from programmatic pronouncements, etc., many passages showing how extremist demands and inclination for terrorism ("activism") got hold of the Zionist movement. Even moderates adopted Ben-Gurion's Biltmore programme which they had formerly rejected. At a meeting of the Jewish Agency on 20 June, 1954, Ben-Gurion said:—"After the war, when one million Jews have come to Palestine, the conflict with the Arabs will be over".† He and Silver united in order to overthrow Weizmann. They succeeded at the Basle Congress of December 1946. The victorious policy was no longer distinguishable from Jabotinsky's revisionism although personal rivalries and animosities, the struggle for power and the dissensions about "socialism" persisted. In the ensuing years and during the Labour domination of the Jewish Agency and later of the State, policy was inspired by the sort of "messianic" (or rather pseudo-messianic) aspirations described in detail by Dr. Ilan. Weizmann tried in vain to stem the tide. He warned against extremist motions and strongly condemned Jewish terrorism. More than his adversaries Weizmann also appreciated what it would mean if Zionist actions led to a "head-on collision with a great power".

### Abyss in ideology

It is not intended here to pass judgement on the various trends revealed within the Zionist ideology after it has led to the formation of a friendly state compelled to conduct earth-bound foreign and military policy. It is a reflection on the abyss separating actual practical policy from messianic thinking ingrained in the Jewish mind, the after-effect of mental developments discussed in Kochan's important book. When the Zionist movement was hailed as return to History after a suspense of 1800 years, and following the Holocaust Zionism was acclaimed by practically the whole Jewish people, it was perhaps inevitable that the messianic trend in secular matters should prevail in various disguises. Yet, Jewish—and also Gentile—history teaches us that Pseudo-messianism is liable to lead astray.

On Rosh Hashanah we are called upon to remember. In a certain sense—though not associated with any particular historical event—it is the peculiar festival of History.

† Ilan, op.cit., p.37.

## TO COMMEMORATE OUR NEAREST ONES

### Yad Vashem Hall of Names

On several previous occasions we informed our members that a "Hall of Names" had been constructed at "Yad Vashem" (Jerusalem) to preserve the names of the martyrs.

This month, during the Holy Days, our thoughts are particularly concentrated on the memory of relatives and friends who had not the good fortune of finding refuge from persecution and who perished under the Nazis. There are no tomb stones which perpetuate their names, and often we do not even know the date and place of their death. Yet there is one place, where their names may be enshrined: the "Hall of Names" at Yad Vashem, that unique dignified plot which keeps the memory of the holocaust alive for posterity.

Whilst it is impossible to get the records of all the millions of victims, because very often whole families have been exterminated, it is the object of the "Hall of Names" to record at least those names which are still available. It is certainly also the wish of the relatives that the names of their perished nearest ones should not fall into oblivion.

To co-ordinate the collection of names, societies of "Friends of Yad Vashem" have been established in this country and abroad. The AJR is associated with the work of the British "Friends of Yad Vashem".

We urgently appeal to those of our readers who have not yet completed pages of testimonial or require an additional supply to apply for the requisite number of forms (one form for each person) to: Mrs. Ursula Webster, Secretary to the Honorary Officers, The Board of Deputies of British Jews, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1H 0EP.

We should like to add that the archives of Yad Vashem also collect documents, e.g. letters, diaries and other items which bear witness to the sufferings of the victims. It is realised that, if and as far as relatives have such material in their possession, they will, as a rule, not wish to part with them. If, however, they feel that Yad Vashem would be the best place of preserving them, they should send them to Woburn House.

### DANGEROUS FILM ON HITLER?

More than 300,000 people have already seen the Film "Hitler—A Career", the first feature length film about Hitler made in West Germany and based on Joachim Fest's critical biography. Professor Fetscher of Frankfurt University said the film was dangerous because there was very little knowledge of the Nazi era among young people who were not told the facts at school or by their parents and who were often misled by their grandparents who still lived in the past. The film is made up of newsreel and other original film clips showing the adulation Hitler evoked wherever he went. The audiences, mainly of young people, watch in baffled silence endless scenes of his speeches. East German commentators have called the film "amoral" because it does not expressly condemn Hitler. Non-Germans, even Israelis find the criticism exaggerated and say that young Germans laugh at the ranting rhetoric and fail to understand how educated people could fall for it.

The Director of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Werner Nachmann said in a radio interview that the film did not remind people sufficiently of Hitler's responsibility for the deaths of millions of people and the devastation of Germany in an unnecessary war. There was at present a Hitler nostalgia being fostered from both political and commercial motives which might easily end in a new phase of anti-semitism.

† Ibid. p.248 (translated from Ben Gurion's own Hebrew book "Toledoth Milhemeth ha-Kommunistuth", Tel Aviv, 1959).



# HOME NEWS

# Anglo-Judaica

## MRS. WILLIAMS' EDUCATION PLEDGE

At a dinner of the Friends of the Zionist Federation Educational Trust, Mrs. Shirley Williams, the Education Secretary, promised full co-operation in obtaining more Jewish schools. She said schools made redundant or underused because of the declining birth-rate, might be utilised for Jewish education. She praised the contributions Jewish schools made to society.

## MORE SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL FRONT

Dr. Gerwitz, head of the Board of Deputies Jewish Defence Committee, said that a recent survey by Essex University revealed that support for the National Front was steadily growing. People who traditionally have voted Labour and are disappointed, find it difficult to vote Tory and prefer the Front. Under a system of proportional representation, the Front could win 25 seats at a general election.

## MAYHEW SPEAKS FOR ARABS

When the Council for Advancement of Arab-British Understanding, (CAABU) celebrated its tenth anniversary with a dinner at the House of Commons, Christopher Mayhew, MP, its vice-chairman, said Zionists had dual loyalties and were racist. Caabu had become part of the Establishment and had been officially visited by the Foreign Secretary. Britain had accepted that Israel had inflicted a grave injustice on the Palestinian Arabs. Israel had a right to exist within its proper frontiers, but people now questioned the moral and historical basis of Zionism. Caabu was financially independent and owed no obligation to any Arab government. It was strengthened by "the loyal support of our small but gallant band of Jewish members". The pro-Israel group was, however, one of Britain's most powerful pressure groups.

## US PROFESSOR DENIES HOLOCAUST

An American, Professor A. R. Butz, has published a book "The Hoax of the Twentieth Century" in this country. He claims that no systematic extermination of Jews by the Nazis ever took place. The book has previously been serialised in the ultra Right-wing and anti-semitic "Deutsche National und Soldatenzeitung" in Germany. In Britain it has been published by the Historical Review Press of Chapel Ascote, Warwickshire. At a press conference at the St. Ermine's Hotel in Westminster, Professor Butz, an associate professor of electrical engineering and computer sciences, refused to give the sources for his book, but stated that he had had no research assistants. When he read the literature about the Holocaust, he said, he had become convinced that it was a hoax and that he would have to write a book about it. There had been no gas chambers, but perhaps one million Jews had died of starvation in camps like Bergen-Belsen. Some documents of the Holocaust period were forged, in other cases the historians writing about it had been terrorised. Professor Butz said he was neither an antisemite nor a racist, but he was certainly trying to discredit the Zionist movement. An advertisement for the book appeared in the "Spectator", but the advertisement manager was unable to contact the advertisers whose address does not appear in the telephone directory.

## THE MOSQUE IN LONDON

The new £4 million mosque in London's Regent's Park, which was recently opened, is administered by trustees from 29 Islamic countries. When the mosque was built, the architect, Sir Frederick Gibberd, placed a star-shaped window, based on an ancient Islamic design, into the wing facing Mecca. It will, however, have to be removed because it has frequently been mistaken for the Star of David. All rooms are open to the general public.

## NEW ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO BRITAIN

The new Israeli Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, Mr. Avraham Kidron, spent his early youth in Germany and was one of the first Youth Aliyah children to leave Berlin in 1934.

## ISRAEL AID FOR BRITISH AGRICULTURE

The Agricultural Research Council in Britain has entered upon a joint research venture with the faculty of agriculture at the Hebrew University which is expected to be of great assistance to British agriculture.

## RESTRAINT OVER DISSIDENTS URGED

Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Foreign Office Minister of State, said in answer to a parliamentary question that in the Government's view, public intervention in the case of dissidents like Anatoly Shcharansky were unlikely to help and might even have adverse consequences.

## LORD ASHBY ON REFUGEES

In a talk on Radio 3, Lord Ashby stressed the enrichment which former refugees had brought to the intellectual and economic life of the country. Fifty-three Fellows of the Royal Society who were refugees or children of refugees and 15 Nobel Prize winners who were former refugees were proof of this fact.

## THE PRIVATE HOSPITALS OF LONDON

The two newest and most expensive private clinics in London, much used by Arab patients, are the Wellington Hospital owned by Humana Inc. of America and the Princess Grace Hospital, owned by the American Medical International Inc. Both medical directors, Dr. Arthur Levin of the Wellington, and Dr. Stanley Balfour-Lynn of the Princess Grace, are members of the Marble Arch Synagogue and personal friends of its minister Rabbi Unterman who was present at the openings of both.

## INTERDENOMINATIONAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

The seventh annual interdenominational service, organised by the Willesden Branch of AJEX, in memory of those who died in prisoner of war camps and in concentration camps, will be held on Sunday, September 11, at 3 p.m. at the Prisoners Memorial, Gladstone Park, N.W.2

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## Tony Benn's Mother

Viscountess Stansgate, vice-president of the women's group of the Friends of the Hebrew University, was presented with a third-century scent bottle in an inscribed olive-wood box by Lady Karminski at a tea party in honour of her eightieth birthday. Viscountess Stansgate who is the mother of Anthony Wedgwood Benn, was a personal friend of Chaim Weizmann.

## The "Gay News" Judge

Judge Alan King-Hamilton who presided over the "Gay News" blasphemous libel case at the Old Bailey, has recently resumed the presidency of the West London Synagogue after the death of Mr. Edward Mocatta. He had previously been its president from 1965 to 1972. During the war, he was an RAF squadron-leader. He has been a judge at the Old Bailey for thirteen years. After one 81-day trial, he presented flowers to the only woman juror who turned out to be Jewish.

## Jewish Treasures at British Museum

The Royal Jubilee Exhibition in the King's Library Gallery at the British Museum includes some valuable Hebrew material. One is a manuscript Hebrew Bible written in Spain in 1385 which once belonged to King George III, another one volume of Henry VIII's Talmud, printed by a Flemish Protestant at Venice in 1520/23.

## New Chairman for CBF

Lord Nathan who has been chairman of the Central British Fund for the last six years will retire in October. His successor will be Mr. Kenneth Rubens.

## Gatwick Chapel dedicated

At Gatwick Airport, an interdenominational chapel was dedicated in a joint service by the Anglican and Roman Catholic chaplains of the airport, a representative of the Moslem community at Crawley, and Rabbi Dr. Unsderfer of Brighton. Emblems of the various faiths, including the Magen David, are placed on the outside walls.

## Exchange of Preachers

At an all-faith service of the International Friendship League at Sussex University, Mr. Leonard Goss, a Jewish member of the Council of Christians and Jews gave the sermon, wearing his yarmulka. The service was held at Brighton Parish Church. At the same time, the Bishop of Chichester took part in an evening service at the Brighton and Hove Synagogue.

## The Fate of the Montefiore Synagogue

As the Jewish community in Ramsgate gets smaller all the time, the Montefiore Endowment Committee has converted one of its cottages into a house for visiting ministers. When Sir Moses Montefiore died in 1885, one of his last wishes was that the synagogue he built in 1833, should continue as a place of worship for as long as possible. Over the last few years, especially after the Judith, Lady Montefiore College moved to London, it has hardly been open except for the High Holy-days.

## Manchester Twin-town of Rehovot

A performance in Manchester by the Rehovot Youth Orchestra will seal the twinning of the cities of Manchester and Rehovot. Both places had the privilege of housing the late President Weizmann for many years.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.



# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Israeli conducts mixed orchestra

For the first time in South African history, the government has sanctioned a concert by a joint symphony orchestra of White, Black African, Coloured and Indian musicians which will be conducted by Israeli Avi Ostrowsky. The 100 musicians are taking part in a series of advanced orchestral music training courses under the auspices of the Society for Music teachers. The courses were initiated by a Jewess, the late Betty Pack, who had previously led a South African Youth Orchestra on a tour of Israel.

### Ban on antisemitic pamphlet

The South African Publications Committee has banned the sale of the pamphlet "Did six million really die" as "undesirable and harmful to the relations between sections of the inhabitants of South Africa". A group of Rightists, including the editor of the South African "Observer" which published parts of the pamphlet, and the secretary of a German organisation have appealed against the ban to the Supreme Court.

### Ninth Jewish Judge

Mr. Henry Preiss, a leading Pretoria barrister and former chairman of the Jewish Ex-Service League, has been appointed a judge at the Transvaal Supreme Court. He is the ninth Jewish judge at present in South Africa.

### Dr. Harry Abt

The educationist, Dr. Harry Abt, died in Johannesburg in his 76th year. Before he emigrated to South Africa, he was Studienrat at the Realgymnasium of the Adath Yisroel Community in Berlin and, later, headmaster of the Jewish Realgymnasium in Breslau. He succeeded in building up a new, widely recognised position for himself in his country of adoption as Cultural Director of the South African Board of Deputies and as Rabbi of the Orthodox Oxford Synagogue in Johannesburg. He was also the initiator of the creation of a Jewish museum in that city.

E.G.L.

## AUSTRALIA'S GOVERNOR-GENERAL A JEW

Sir Zelman Cowen, 57, the new Governor-General of Australia who has been vice-chancellor of Queensland university since 1970 is a highly respected member of the Jewish community. He was awarded a Knighthood in the Queen's 1976 birthday honours. In 1968 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) for his services as a Dominion liaison officer in Trinidad and Tobago. He will be Australia's second Jewish Governor-General. The first was Sir Isaac Isaacs whose biography Sir Zelman has written. Sir Zelman has also helped to establish legal education systems in Ghana, the West Indies and Hong Kong, and is a member of the board of governors of the Hebrew University. During the war he served with the Australian Navy.

### TV FILM ON HOLOCAUST

In Vienna, an American TV company is shooting eight hours of film for TV following the lives of a Berlin Jewish family from 1933 to 1943. The son of the family marries a non-Jewish girl who has relatives in high positions in the Nazi party. The Jewish family is broken up, and some of them end in death camps. Real locations, including Mauthausen camp, are used. British actors taking part include Robert Stephens, David Warner, Deborah Norden, daughter of Dennis, Sam Wanamaker and many others.

## NEO-NAZIS IN BELGIUM

250 demonstrators from Britain, France, Switzerland, Belgium and West Germany took part in a demonstration on the war cemetery of Langemark in Belgium, the site of a battle in the First World War that killed many young Germans ("Die Jugend von Langemark"). The British representative asked for the immediate release of Rudolf Hess, a German participant stated that Hitler had now been rehabilitated. The Belgian Debaudt demanded authoritarian government for his country. Hitler busts, T-shirts with pictures of Hitler and Hess and other Nazi insignia were sold at the entrance to the hall where a meeting was held after the public demonstration.

## FRANCE

### Chagall Bible Museum

At the start of the celebrations of Marc Chagall's 90th birthday, a new Marc Chagall Biblical Museum was opened in Nice, in the presence of the Mayor of Nice and other prominent personalities. Chagall has donated the museum to the French State. It displays 26 of his paintings, some of which have never been shown in public before.

### Vietnamese thank Israel

In Paris a group of Vietnamese staged a demonstration of gratitude in front of the Israeli embassy for Israel's decision to accept 66 refugees picked up at sea. Mr. Van Linh, director-general of the Vietnamese Human Rights Association participated and said that 30,000 South Vietnamese had committed suicide and 20,000 had drowned while trying to escape since the Communist take-over in 1975.

### Algerian Jews visit former home town

More than 100 former Algerian Jews now living in Paris have returned from a visit to Tlemcen in Algeria where they took part in the annual pilgrimage to commemorate Rabbi Ephraim el Nkaoua, which has always been attended by Christians and Moslems as well as Jews. The rabbi who fled from Spain to Algeria in the Middle Ages, is credited with having cured the sick daughter of the Sultan of Tlemcen. The party of Jews from Paris was warmly welcomed by the authorities and the local population.

## GREECE

### Jewish Aid Fund wound up

"Opaie", the heirless Greek Jewish property fund which helped to rehabilitate Jewish communities in Greece destroyed by the Nazis, will be wound up later this year. The "Opaie" committee reported the receipt of some £830,000 this year from auctions of Jewish heirless property in many Greek towns. The fund was set up by law in 1948 to give the remnants of the Greek Jewish community which once numbered some 76,000 people, the benefit of the assets of Jews deported and murdered. Today there are about 5,000 Jews in Greece. In the 29 years of its existence, the fund has financed the restoration of ancient synagogues, schools and communal centres and has also aided individual Jewish survivors.

### Jewish Museum in Athens

A Jewish Museum will be opened in Athens this year next door to the Beth Shalom Synagogue. The exhibits will include religious objects and books, items of jewellery and regional Jewish dress such as the Spanish headdress worn by Salonika women up to the outbreak of the last war.

## PLO MEMBER FOR UN AGENCY

The Palestine Liberation Organisation is the first non-State to have become a full member of a United Nations body. The Economic and Social Council, meeting in Geneva, approved its admission with 27 votes for, 11 against and 12 abstentions, the latter including Britain, the United States and all EEC countries. The Council was set up three years ago with headquarters in Beirut and 12 Arab countries as members. Israel was barred.

According to the American news magazine "Time", the Palestine Liberation Organisation is "probably the best-financed revolutionary terrorist organisation in history". During the past year, the PLO had a total income of about £53 million. Most of it consists of contributions by Arab governments and the Arab League. Arab governments also withhold 5 per cent of the money earned by some 300,000 Palestinians working in their countries. Businesses operated for the benefit of the PLO include a £4½ million chicken farm in Syria. The PLO is also reported to receive some £3 million a year from a drug market operated inside Israel where Oriental Jews are used as "pushers". The PLO spends most of the money on training and terrorist organisations, but it also maintains a bureaucracy with offices in 100 countries and paid staff.

## PHYSICIST ALLOWED TO LEAVE

Professor Benjamin Fain, a physicist and prominent member of the emigration movement, was granted permission to leave with his wife after a last grilling by the KGB. He was told that he would only be allowed to emigrate if he signed a statement implicating Sharansky, who is shortly to go on trial for treason, saying that he had sold documents to capitalist governments. He refused, but was nevertheless permitted to leave. He said that since President Carter's stand on human rights, the treatment of dissidents was no longer decided by the KGB, but at the highest political level. After a short stay in London where he campaigned on behalf of colleagues like Sharansky and Begun, he left for Israel. He was immediately appointed Professor of Chemistry at Tel Aviv University which now has 90 Soviet academics on its staff.

## SCIENTIST'S OXFORD VISIT BARRED

Professor Benjamin Levich, a member of the Soviet Academy of Science, was refused permission to attend a three-day physical chemistry and hydro-dynamics conference held in Oxford to honour him on his 60th birthday. For the past five years, Professor Levich has been refused leave to emigrate to Israel. He is the highest-ranking scientist who has applied. The conference was sponsored by 20 Nobel Prize winners. One of them, Sir Derek Barton, spoke over the telephone to Professor Levich's wife who expressed fears that her husband would be prosecuted. Professor Levich himself said he had been dismissed from his life's work at Moscow University.

## EXILE FOR ACTIVIST

Only hours before his wedding, Dr. Iosif Begun, a Moscow Jewish activist, was sent to the Soviet Far East where he had been exiled. He was sentenced to two years' exile on charges of "parasitism", because he had been dismissed from his job as an electronics engineer after applying to emigrate to Israel seven years ago and had been unable to obtain other employment.

## MEMORIAL NEAR PRAGUE

The International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia reported in its July Newsletter that members of Anti-Fascist Fighters have volunteered and erected a Memorial at the Jewish cemetery of Benesov near Prague in tribute to thirteen Jews who were deported from the town and perished in the Holocaust. An eye-witness report on the transport from Benesov has been published in "Vestnik", the Prague Jewish monthly, by Rudolf Vorisek.



H. G. Reissner

## "GOLD AND IRON"

### An Outstanding Bleichröder Biography

As readers will have noticed in our last issue, Hanns Reissner, the author of this article, died recently. We mourn the loss of a scholarly and valued contributor.—The Ed.

The title of this study, which is grounded in solid scholarship and superbly well written may sound slightly sensational.\* It is, of course, to be understood as a derivation from, or declension of, Bismarck's famous dictum about "blood and iron", which was to settle, once and for all, the paramount political questions of his day. "Gold"—or to put it more prosaically: money, loans, investments and finances—were expedients, yet subordinated in application and effect. "Gold" as such is not a primary object of historiography, Karl Marx notwithstanding.

The author, Fritz Stern, is, by definition, an émigré, born in Breslau in 1926, but living in the United States of America since the age of 12 (and, incidentally, not a member of the Jewish faith). He is a professor of history at Columbia University, New York, with substantial previous credits in the analysis of modern German political and sociological trends.

The original impulse to his present enterprise was furnished 24 years ago by the late banker, Frederick H. Brunner, who placed at Stern's disposal a substantial portion of the private Bleichröder archives, which he had taken with him into emigration. Over the years, Stern painstakingly corroborated this material with parallel documents preserved in the archives of the Bismarck, Rothschild and Disraeli families, of various Central and West European States, of the Alliance Israélite Universelle et al. He also ploughed through the abundant—antisemitic as well as apologetic—literature, publicity and memoirs of the nineteenth century.

The basic facts of Bleichröder's services as Bismarck's private banker, as negotiator of public and commercial loans, and as a spokesman for the civic rights of Jews in the Balkan states had, indeed, been previously known, as had been the circumstances of Bismarck's use of Bleichröder as a confidential go-between in international affairs and Bismarck's oral recommendation to Kaiser Wilhelm I, when Bleichröder was to be elevated to hereditary nobility. (To mention, in chronological order, only a few relevant earlier monographs and books, duly perused by Stern: Otto Jöhlinger, "Bismarck und die Juden", 1921; Carl Fürstenberg, "Lebensgeschichte eines deutschen Bankiers", 1931; Ernst Feder, "Bismarcks Grosses Spiel", 1932; N. M. Gelber, "The Intervention of German Jews at the Berlin Congress 1878" in Leo Baeck Year Book V, 1960; Robert Nöll von der Nahmer, "Bismarcks Reptilienfonds", 1968; Alfred Vagts, "Bismarck's Fortune" in Central European History I, 1968). However, it is no less significant that Bismarck himself mentioned Bleichröder by name only once in his "Gedanken und Erinnerungen", and in an unimportant context at that. The naked truth is that Bleichröder was just an accessory to Bismarck's actions, but not really a primary influence.

On the other hand, Bleichröder never formulated a coherent philosophy of his life or motivation. His aspirations must be extracted from between the lines of thousands of pragmatic letters of recommendation, warnings and pleas dealing with particular political, financial or personal situations. Endowed with an extraordinary sense of empathy, Stern draws from such raw material convincing conclusions, coined in a brilliant epigrammatic fashion. His emphasis is slanted towards Bleichröder rather than Bismarck. As to the former he says (on p.458): "In his lifetime, his allegedly evil influence was often exaggerated; posthumously, he was condemned to *undeserved obscurity* (italics added)".

The first half of the above verdict is quite correct. In spite of the millions which passed through Bleichröder's hands, he was just a cog in the big wheel of what Feder had dubbed "Grosses Spiel", not a foreground figure on the stage of history, but a supernumerary thereon. His activities and ambitions represent a characteristic detail on the background canvas of the times. In a sense he was symbolic of the impersonal forces of commercialisation, with which the "Junker" class had to contend in its struggle for retention and consolidation of power. He was, in Stern's own words, a "patriotic parvenu", no doubt genuinely devoted to a benevolent Hohenzollern monarchy and trustworthy as an informal handyman to the chancellor; but he was never accepted and absorbed as a full-fledged member and representative of the class in power, try as he might. Therefore the only authentic vindication Bleichröder may have deserved—and which he now abundantly received from Stern's pen—was within the annals of the history of the Jewish people, a marginal, though continuous corollary of world history from medieval to modern times. Given Stern's personal background and upbringing one must marvel at the degree of emotional identification with which Stern has accomplished this task.

Gerson (von) Bleichröder, 1822-1893, was the son and heir of his father Samuel, a "Lotteriekollektor" in Berlin. For himself he adhered to the Jewish faith (but failed to pass it on to his descendants). He was unanimous in his support to needy coreligionists, both at home and abroad (in addition to which he contributed lavishly to general charities). As to business dealings Stern quotes felicitously (on p.118) from the report of a French military attaché in Berlin, who compared Bleichröder to the Court Jews of yore, especially "the Jew Ephraim". Where, one might ask Stern, does Ephraim show up in a general history of Prussia under Frederick the Great, though the critical importance of purveyance, finance and currency was second only to that of the army in the consolidation of the Frederician state, and where, one might add, were the activities of Court Jews recorded but in specialised monographs or Jewish communal histories?—Frederick H. Brunner, mentioned above as the initiator of Stern's project, once wrote a—somewhat hyperbolic—essay on "Juden als Bankiers—ihre völkerverbindende Tätigkeit".

The craving for honorific, but essentially meaningless titles (such as the "Geheime Kommerzienrat") and for "Brief-Adel" in pre-World War I days was a character trait shared by successful members of the Jewish haute-bourgeoisie—not only in Germany, but in France, England, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Russia and British India as well. Thus, perforce, the Bleichröder story has to end on a deeply tragic personal note, a "story of hubris" (p.549), told by Stern in its plain, all too human impact. Not only was the identity of the firm nearly extinguished in 1931 by amalgamation with Gebr. Arnhold, Dresden-Berlin (and survives today only in the style of Arnhold & S. Bleichröder, Inc., New York), but there occurred the apostasies of Bleichröder's descendants.

The height—or the nadir—of the ongoing disintegration is described on p.548 of Stern's "epilogue". Its details had been unknown to this reviewer and will, probably, be so also to most of the readers. Bleichröder's grandson Curt appealed—in vain—on January 7, 1942 (!) to Minister of the Interior Frick for "Arisierung", winding up his petition with the salutation "Heil Hitler". His and his brother Edgar's similar requests were turned down, on May 7, 1942, by the office of SS Obersturmbannführer Adolf Eichmann. In the event both took refuge in Switzerland. Their sister, Baroness von Campe, was deported to Riga in August 1942. Of their progenitor, Stern has this to say: "his life . . . mirrors the dynamism and the faulted character of that society."

#### GOTTFRIED BERMANN FISCHER 80

Dr. Gottfried Bermann Fischer, for many decades associated with the S. Fischer Verlag, recently celebrated his 80th birthday in Camaiore near Lucca, where he lives in retirement. Originally a surgeon, he joined the publisher's firms in 1925, when he married Brigitte, the eldest daughter of Samuel Fischer. After his father-in-law's death in 1934 he carried the full responsibility for the firm, hampered by the restrictions of the Nazi régime. When forced to emigrate, he re-established the enterprise in various countries of refuge. After many vicissitudes he arrived in the U.S. where he founded L. B. Fischer Publishing Corporation. In 1950, the firm was reinstated in Germany as S. Fischer-Verlag (Berlin and Frankfurt/Main). His memoirs, written in 1967 under the title "Bedroht, bewahrt—der Weg eines Verlegers" bear witness to Gottfried Bermann Fischer's successful preservation of his father-in-law's outstanding achievements and his open mind for new ideas and projects.

E.G.L.

#### LOLITA'S AUTHOR A FRIEND OF JEWS

Vladimir Nabokov, the author of "Lolita" and many other best-sellers who died at the age of 78 in Montreux, was one of the most philosemitic authors of our time. After their flight from Russia after the revolution, his family settled in Berlin where his father, the leader of the Russian Liberal party, was murdered by political enemies in 1922. Most Russian Jews belonged to his party. He wrote an article "The bloodbath of Kishinev" and others castigating Tsarist Jew-baiting. Young Vladimir suffered at school from antisemitic remarks by fellow pupils who presented him with a cartoon showing his father "selling out Holy Russia to the Jews". He married Vera Slonim who came from a cultured St. Petersburg family and exercised great influence on his writings all of which were dedicated to her. Nabokov was a fierce opponent of antisemitism, Russian, American and others. In a short story "Conversation Piece 1945" he forecast attempts to whitewash the Nazi era and to play down the extermination of Jews.

\* Fritz Stern: Gold and Iron. Bismarck, Bleichröder, and building of the German Empire. 620pp. £11.50. By special arrangement AJR members may obtain copies at a discount. They should send orders (marked 'special offer') with a remittance of £10.85 incl. postage to George Allen & Unwin (Publishers) Ltd., P.O. Box 18, Park Lane, Heme Hempstead, Herts HP2 4TE.



Egon Larsen

## JOHN HEARTFIELD'S REVIVAL

### Exhibition in London

Among the curious nostalgic trends which have been gripping Germany's post-Nazi generations—starting with the Tucholsky cult two decades or so ago—the latest one, a revival of John Heartfield's work in the art form he created, that of political photomontage, seems particularly interesting. Organised by a West Berlin publishing firm with the odd name of "Elefanten Press Galerie", John Heartfield exhibitions are being held all over the Federal Republic, a full-length film about his montages is being distributed, transparencies with samples are shown in the schools, and a 300-page book devoted to him and his life-work is being offered to all who want to "learn from John Heartfield". It can be bought at the entrance to the present site of the exhibition—the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London's Mall (until September 15).

To those of us who knew "Johnny" well as a fellow-refugee in Prague and London, his elevation to the rank of Grand Old Man seems somewhat exaggerated, and were he still alive today he would find it ridiculous. He was a completely unpretentious little fellow, charming and friendly—anything but an intellectual. His strong political feelings were quite simple, as unsophisticated as his montages which went straight to the heart of the causes he was fighting for. Though a member of the Communist Party, he never bothered about the vacillating ideologies dictated by Moscow. He was an antifascist who felt passionately for the underdogs of society, and who saw his main task in warning mankind in general and the German people in particular of the danger of a Second World War.

The only complicated thing about Heartfield was the technique he developed for the art form he had created. He was a superb craftsman, taking his cue from the collage of the cubists and dadaists—he, his friend George Grosz and his brother Wieland were involved in the dada movement of revolutionary artists at the end of the First World War. By the mid-1920s, his photomontage was a firmly established graphic art for political posters, for illustrated journals, and especially for book covers. Nearly all dust jackets of the Malik Verlag, which Wieland founded, were Heartfield's work.

The brothers were the sons of an old-fashioned Socialist writer, the half-Jew Franz Herzfeld who used the pen-name Franz Held; their mother was a textile worker. The family had to move from Schmargendorf, where the boys were born, to other German towns and eventually to a hut in the woods near Salzburg where Franz Held was out of the reach of the Prussian police. Here the family broke up—the father disappeared, the mother's mental health broke down. The boys were sent to foster parents. Helmuth, the older brother, went for a while to an art school; eventually he landed, just before the 1914 war, in Berlin, trying to make a living as a commercial artist. The maniac hatred of everything English, which was the favourite propaganda theme of Germany's chauvinists, prompted Helmuth Herzfeld to change his name to John Heartfield (while Wieland romanticised his surname by just adding a final "e").

Heartfield's photomontage book covers for Tucholsky's volumes, for the German editions of American and Russian novels published by the Malik Verlag still stand on their own as classic examples of that art form, and some of his political pictures were supreme in their powerful impact: Hitler raising his hand in the

Nazi salute—to receive banknotes from a fat industrialist behind him; Goering, hatchet in hand, setting out from the burning Reichstag; classic examples of that art form, and some of humour—the family feeding on bicycle parts according to Goering's slogan: "Steel is better than butter".

We can see it all again in the ICA exhibition, which has found an enormous echo in the British press. "Unfortunately still timely", a London magazine headed its two-page spread, quoting what Heartfield said about his old photomontages shortly before his death in 1968.

Werner Rosenstock

### BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

#### Story of a German Gentile

Whilst the impact of the Holocaust on the Jews in Eastern Europe has been described in many works of scholarship and fiction, the literature on the life of the Jews in Germany under the Nazi régime is comparatively limited. This in itself is reason enough to welcome a recently published short German novel, "Tates Wahltochter", by Hilde Ahemm (Verlag J. P. Peter—Gebr. Holstein, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, 155 S., DM 9).

The main character of the story, which carries many autobiographical traits of the authoress, is a German woman, Ulrike Burkhard (born 1914), who from her early childhood onwards felt a strong affinity to the Jews. Her father, a pharmacist, was a close friend of a Jewish colleague, Max Kahane, whom he had met during his student years. Both friends had their pharmacies in Berlin and after they had founded their families, the social contacts between the Burkhardts and the Kahanes persisted throughout the years. Thus, the social gap between Jews and Gentiles, which was experienced by the majority of German Jews, however tenuous their Jewish affiliations may have been, did not apply to the Kahanes. Yet all the same, Max Kahane recognised the dangerous situation of the Jews already before the Nazis came to power and, together with his wife and son, emigrated to Palestine in 1932. There they settled in a kibbutz and, notwithstanding the comfortable middle-class life they had been used to in Berlin, overcame the hazards of the climate and the difficulties of hard physical work. Their son later became a physician.

It may have been the relationship with the Jewish, albeit assimilated Kahane family, which impelled Ulrike to learn more about the Jews, that strange people which had retained its identity in the midst of a different majority population. The first opportunity to fulfil this urge arose, when she spent a holiday in Czechoslovakia and became the neighbour of a Jewish family. A close relationship developed between her and the old, Yiddish speaking neighbour, Abramowitsch. Through her talks with him she got to know the

phenomenon of a self-contained undiluted Jewishness, deeply rooted in the Jewish past and without much knowledge of secular European culture. Both took to each other and Abramowitsch became, metaphorically speaking, Ulrike's godfather. That's why the book has been called "Tates Wahltochter", not a very happy choice, because the Yiddish title does not reflect the actual, German Jewish, background of the novel.

Ulrike's thirst for Jewish knowledge was increased by her encounter with Abramowitsch. After her return to Berlin, she asked the Jewish religious teacher of her school, Leo Krakauer, for permission to attend his lessons. This, of course, was not possible. Therefore, to achieve her aim, she continually visited Krakauer in his flat. This went on even during the first years of the war, and Ulrike offered Krakauer to save him from deportation by finding a hiding place for him. Yet Krakauer declined because he had attuned his mind to the fate he had ultimately to expect and did not want to put Ulrike into a dangerous position. On the other hand, Ulrike had set her mind at saving at least one Jewish persecutee. She remembered her school teacher, Dr. Recha Landau, and, with the help of the former director of her school and of a strongly anti-Nazi labourer, she enabled Recha Landau to go underground. Yet through an unfortunate chain of circumstances, Recha Landau spent one night in a house which was bombed and lost her life. Ulrike herself, who had spent the night in the same house, was severely wounded but recovered.

### Visit to Israel

After the war, Ulrike resumed her contacts with the Kahanes and paid several visits to Israel. She was deeply impressed by the country yet, in a most perceptive way, also realised the problems which the young State had to cope with. She was always welcomed in the kibbutz as long as the Kahanes were alive. Yet things changed, when after their death she went again to Israel shortly after the 1967 war. In a most careful way, she tried to make the kibbutzniks aware of the danger which might arise if Israel did not try as soon and intensely as possible after the victory to come to terms with her Arab neighbours. This did not go down very well with the members of the kibbutz. They resented criticism, however well meant, from a German woman. Forgetting, or at least wishing to forget, that Ulrike had been a friend of the late Kahanes and tried to save a Jewish persecutee at great danger to herself, they now regarded her as the member of a nation, in whose name six million Jews had been exterminated. Abruptly, she was given to understand that her presence in the kibbutz was no longer desired and she had no choice but to leave the country.

The authoress describes this experience without any bitterness. She is too balanced a personality to plead for special treatment on account of her deeds and fully realises that, in the light of the past happenings, many victims of the Nazi terror régime cannot be expected to differentiate between "good" and "bad" Germans. She pays another visit to Israel after the Yom Kippur war and, under the guidance of the son of the Kahanes, helps in a hospital for the war wounded.

The whole plot is interwoven with many personal encounters of Ulrike, which are described in a subtle and perceptive way. Written in beautiful prose, the book is not only a most valuable record of some neglected aspects of our own past but also a work of great literary value.

The Executive Committee of the  
**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH  
REFUGEES**

wishes all members a  
**VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
and thanks them for their continuous  
support.



Hans Liebeschuetz

## UNIVERSITY REMEMBERS HISTORIAN

## Wilhelm Levison Memorial Volume

From 1903 to 1935, Professor Wilhelm Levison taught history at Bonn University, where he had also studied as an undergraduate. Throughout his life he preserved a strong feeling of loyalty to this centre of learning in his Rhenish homeland. His name was known to historians throughout the world for his contributions to the critical study of sources essential to a true understanding of early Western civilisation.

Yet when in 1940, now an honorary fellow of Durham University, he was interned in the Isle of Man, the extreme modesty of his bearing made it difficult to persuade our fellow refugees that this rather small, black-bearded man enjoyed international renown. When he arrived, one doctor, almost naturalised, was quite sure that he was a very Orthodox rabbi from Bonn. Even when it was known that Archbishop Temple of York had tried to meet Levison as his transport passed through the city, the news made little impact. But the professor himself seemed to adapt comfortably to his strange surroundings. He joined in all the activities with which the inmates tried, not without success, to alleviate the shock of classification as "enemy aliens". Discussions, held in public or informally over a cup of tea, ranged from Charlemagne to Hitler; academic lectures were given; finally preparations were even made for amateur theatricals, in which Levison was cast as a learned professor lecturing on the island's history. Happily, his comparatively early release in August interrupted these activities.

In May, 1976, Levison's loyal student Paul E. Hübinger, the second successor to his chair, arranged a centenary celebration at Bonn University, which attracted an unusually large audience. Professor Horst Fuhrmann, president of the Monumenta Germania Historica, spoke on Levison's contribution to the work of his corporation, which early in the century had won him the epithet "indefatigable" from an extremely critical co-worker. Fuhrmann characterised Levison as a classic example of secular asceticism, completely dedicated to every detail in the object of his studies.

Professor Theodor Schieffer dealt with the human background of Wilhelm Levison's career. His own doctorate had been gained in 1935, while Levison was still directing his studies. His speech displayed an appreciative understanding for the Jewishness of a scholar recognised as an authority on ecclesiastical organisation and liturgical texts; the historian's eighteenth-century ancestors had been small traders under the protection of the Abbot of Siegburg Monastery, and had not taken their surname until 1846 when they complied with the law regarding names. Levison had himself collected all available information about his family origins shortly before his death; his manuscript was posthumously printed. Schieffer presented Levison's story as an example of dignified assimilation, and a reflection on the strength and fall of German liberalism.

The Nazi régime could not easily destroy the wealth of sympathy that this man of learning had acquired among his colleagues

and students. After his enforced retirement, his advice on research projects and post-graduate teaching was still considered indispensable and discreetly sought after. But the pressure to put an end to any such co-operation continued to increase and finally became effective to some extent. It is now known that at the time of Levison's emigration in April 1939, one of Himmler's henchmen had just completed a secret report on his case.

The booklet containing these papers\* also includes two letters of appreciation: one from P. de Gaiffier, president of the Jesuit Society of Bollandists, famous for their critical pioneer works on the lives of saints; the other from Professor Helene Wieruszowski, a Jewish graduate of 1918 and well known, particularly in America, as a medievalist.

F. L. Brassloff

## COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The failure of the United Nations to take effective steps towards safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms, its highly selective indignation at alleged misdeeds by some States while completely ignoring scandalous behaviour of others, have caused widespread disenchantment. Declarations, covenants and conventions may appear impressive on paper; in reality they have turned out to be pretentious and empty verbiage.

To those who, in spite of all disappointments, have remained deeply and single-mindedly committed to the cause of international human rights' protection, belongs Dr Moses Moskowitz, the secretary-general of the Consultative Council of Jewish Organisations. In a book on "The Politics and Dynamics of Human Rights", published ten years ago, he expressed his belief in "the validity of the principle of human rights as the one point of concurrence where the interests of the individual, the community, the state and the world converge". The sequel, "International Concern with Human Rights" (published by A.W. Sijthoff, Leiden & Oceana Publications, Dobbs Ferry, New York, Dfl.39), is an investigation in depth into such issues as the relevance of the right of peoples to self-determination, of the principle of non-intervention in the international affairs of states and of national sovereignty for the realisation of human rights on the international level. "In the final analysis", Dr Moskowitz maintains, "the frustrations of all international efforts to promote, defend and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms have their root cause in the absence of a genuine international concern with human rights—a concern that is informed by a great idea and strong enough to confront and master the many obstacles which stand in the way of affirmative action".

Dr Moskowitz's highmindedness deserves respect. It requires much faith to envisage that the international community, so obviously torn by power interests and ideological differences, will give place of priority to human rights concerns. It is more likely that the commitment to such concerns will remain confined to comparatively small groups of activists sincerely devoted to the cause, such as Amnesty International, which from small beginnings, initiated by an appeal published in the London *Observer* 15 years ago, has

grown into an independent movement, comprising nearly 100,000 men and women in 78 countries. Its 1650 groups adopt "prisoners of conscience" — persons imprisoned anywhere, but not in the group's country, for their belief, colour, language, ethnic origin and religion, provided they have not used or advocated violence. The groups seek to obtain the release of their "wards", to alleviate their plight in detention and to assist their families. In addition, help is extended to political prisoners generally to secure for them fair and early trials as well as to persons detained without charge or without trial and also to those who are detained after expiry of their sentences. Among Amnesty International's foremost concerns is the fight against the use of torture and the death penalty.

Due to the careful investigations of the cases taken up by Amnesty International it has gained the reputation of being a responsible organisation, but it is frequently suspected of Leftist and even Communist sympathies. On the other hand, the Soviet authorities have strong misgivings about Amnesty's revelations about the misuse of psychiatry for political purposes and its publication of an English language version of the dissident "Chronicle of Current Events", the journal of the human rights movement in the U.S.S.R. They regard Amnesty International as a bourgeois orientated outfit. Third World governments whose violations of human rights have been exposed by Amnesty International, imply that it is serving colonialism. Actually it has maintained its non-partisan character — not a mean achievement as most members hold no doubt strong political views; but they have managed, with few exceptions, not to allow their likes and dislikes to interfere with attention to the plight of prisoners of conscience and others, irrespective of political and ideological affiliation.

Jews, notoriously inclined to associate with humanitarian concerns, are also active in Amnesty International; in Israel, a small section with a distinguished membership exists, but Israeli and Jewish public opinion at large has reservations about the organisation because it has also taken up complaints about torture suffered by Arab prisoners. Allegations of an anti-Israel bias are, however, not justified. It must not be overlooked that Amnesty International has repeatedly taken action on behalf of Jewish prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union and People's Democracies and has concerned itself with the plight of Jews in Arab countries.

The largest, best organised and also financially adequately equipped part of Amnesty International is its German Section; it plays accordingly an important role in the counsels of the movement. On the basis of careful research, Thomas Claudius and Franz Stepan have, in a straightforward and easily readable manner, told the story of the foundation of the organisation and its growth, its present set-up, views and activities in an informative book, "Amnesty International—Porträt einer Organisation", with a preface by the Austrian Chancellor Dr. Bruno Kreisky (published by R. Oldenbourg, Munich, DM 28). As the authors observe, it is very difficult to assess reliably to what extent releases of prisoners are due to the efforts of the adoption groups of Amnesty International. One also wonders how much its skilled and lively publicity campaigns rouse public opinion and influence governments to mend their ways. There should, however, be no doubt that Amnesty International is an important instrument for the self-education of its adherents who learn that it requires serious and systematic attention to facts and their background to translate emotional concern for human rights into active commitment to a good and deserving cause.

\* In Memoriam Wilhelm Levison (1876-1947), Alma Mater, Beiträge zur Geschichte der Universität Bonn 40, pp. 54, Hanstein 1977.



Gabriele Tergit

## LIFE STORY OF A CARTOONIST

Will Schaber's Biography of B. F. Dolbin

B. F. Dolbin, who died seven years ago in New York at the age of 87, left 10,000 finished drawings. Now his biography, lavishly illustrated by 86 of his portraits, has been written by Will Schaber and published by the Dokumentenverlag (Munich).

Dolbin's father was a religious Jew, an industrialist in Vienna, who had found a kind of Argentinian wood which was used in leather-dressing. His sister was engaged by Gustav Mahler for the Vienna State Opera, where she sang for 30 years. Dolbin himself was a gifted mathematician and worked with the Tauern Railway construction firm. Yet he also belonged to a cabaret group which included Wedekind, Altenberg, Friedell, Karl Kraus, the French Marya Delvard and Marc Henry. In a letter to his son, Dolbin senior expressed the typical feelings of any Jewish father at that time and in that situation: "You, and we too, would be happier if you had met some men of substance interested in your career instead of Karlchen Kraus and the cabaret crowd".

Dolbin's involvement with the cabaret was shortlived. His interest in the arts was many-sided; he also took music lessons with Arnold Schoenberg. Although in the First World War he constructed a crane for the 42 cm gun, "Dicke Bertha", he returned afterwards to an impoverished Vienna which no longer offered any prospects in industry. His wife did not apparently realise that the security of a breadwinner cannot exist together with the fascination of an artist; Schaber quotes what he calls a "brutal" letter from her. After her divorce from Dolbin, however, she married Hermann Hesse.

Dolbin was fascinated by the draughtsmanship of Egon Schiele and liked to call himself a "Quartalszeichner". His first success was a portrait of Ringelnatz. There followed drawings of Schoenberg, Webern and Alban Berg. These promising beginnings impelled him to join the trek to Berlin, which had suddenly become the artistic centre of Europe. There he peddled his portraits from newspaper to newspaper, selling 57 in a single week and earning 1,710 marks, at a time when 200 marks could pay for a month's rent of a furnished room. Each issue of the weekly "Berliner Seite" of the "Berliner Tageblatt" included one of Dolbin's portrayals under the heading "In Berlin traf ein. . ."

Some of Dolbin's drawings are brilliant, though he sometimes introduced deliberate distortions of his models. The regal figure of Richard Strauss became a hunchback, and he made my neck long, whereas really it is short. Yet the enlarged portraits of Theodor Wolff, Alfred Kerr and Zille reproduced in Schaber's book reveal more insight into their personalities than any photograph could do. In a fraction of a minute he would draw any and every prominent person in Berlin, Salzburg or Bayreuth. "Die Gezeichneten des Herrn Dolbin" were published, followed by "Cats" (in German and English editions) and "Dogs". He also illustrated a book for S. Fischer. Although Polgar praised him, he was attacked in the "Weltbühne" by Rudolf Arnheim, who asserted that only 5 per cent of Dolbin's characters were recognisable. The years that followed were marked by a new marriage, the general slump and ultimately by the rise of the Nazi régime.

Like millions of Germans and many German-Jewish intellectuals, Dolbin was not interested in politics. He believed that "man kann es sich einrichten". As a historian of integrity, Schaber does not hide the truth, quoting verbatim Dolbin's correspondence with Nazis. Moreover, the cartoonist portrayed eighteen theatre managers appointed by Goebbels, and his works include scenes from Hanns Johst's "Schlageter" and a play entitled "Theodor Koerner", whose title role was meant to symbolise Hitler. He produced 176 drawings for a jubilee number of the "Theater-Tageblatt"; its cover displayed Hitler's portrait and signature.

Dolbin's letters to the Nazis include references to his Protestantism, his role as the inventor of the Dicke Bertha crane and other meritorious works during the First World War. It is beggarly and pathetic. And the answers? "Abschlägig beschieden . . ." or "Ich untersage . . .". One reply begins with the old civilised formula "I regret to inform you . . ." only to continue by enumerating all the idiocies of the Nazi race doctrine. This correspondence ends in March 1935; after then, there was no choice but emigration.

Dolbin's mother-in-law was American and the pain of departure changed into hope for a better future. His reception at the New York pierhead gave him a heartwarming impression of America and New York. His mother-in-law had rented them a flat in New York. Yet after arrival came the usual disappointments. Periodicals which had once produced his work did not remember him. After six months he received his first commission: two pages of cartoons for "The Eternal Road" by Werfel, with music by Weill, produced by Reinhardt. But his fee was to be paid, not by the publishers, but by the theatre, and the show flopped with a loss of \$100,000.

Periodical editors considered Dolbin's cartoons too sketchy. After a year he realised that his income had been just one dollar a day. He tried to take advantage of immigrants' free courses, at first in fashion design, but without success. Salvador Dali and the excellent Berlin woman painter, Annot, were window-dressing for the big stores, but this field, too, eluded him. Two exhibitions of his works failed to yield any income. Not all immigrant cartoonists faced the same difficulties. For instance, Schleiffer, a young Polish Jew, who had made sketches in the law courts of Berlin-Moabit, became a well-paid star cartoonist for "Life". As in London, in New York the immigrants' womenfolk were often the breadwinners. Dolbin's wife repaired pearl necklaces, designed hats and worked for 17 years as a saleswoman at Saks.

It was "Aufbau", founded in 1941, which became the employer of many of these desperate refugees from the Berlin scene. Between 1941 and 1945, the greatest Europeans were connected with the paper, among them Benes, Gunnar Myrdal, Count Sforza, Julius Deutsch and del Vayo. Dolbin became its art critic. He discovered that, after all, politics was not a subject to be despised.

After the war, Dolbin sketched American businessmen for "Fortune" and musicians for "Musical America". A music collector in Paris bought 30 of the cartoonist's works. In 1958, 168 of his portraits were exhibited in Berlin as "The Face of an Epoch". Six of his vistas

of New York hang in the Chase Manhattan Bank.

This book represents very hard work on the part of Will Schaber, assisted by his wife. It is based not only on 10,000 drawings, but also on a voluminous correspondence extending over 50 years with Dolbin's former wife, Ninon Hesse, as well as notes and diaries covering 70 years. In keeping with the methods of modern Anglo-Saxon historians, Schaber has documented every phrase. The American Jewish Committee collects autobiographical tape recordings for the Oral History Library and this is indeed important. But who speaks or even knows the truth about himself? The objectivity shown in Schaber's biography is exactly what is needed for future historians of our unbelievable times.

### ANNA SEGHERS CONTROVERSY

Anna Seghers (née Reiling), who was born in Mainz and, after her emigration under the Nazis returned to East Berlin, was appointed an Honorary Member of the University of Mainz. This appointment was described by the "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" (Munich) as an "Akt akademischen Buergermutes". On the other hand, efforts to make her a freeman of her city of birth on the occasion of her 75th birthday two years ago had failed. Anna Seghers is particularly famous as the authoress of "Der Aufstand der Fischer von St. Barbara" (1928) and of the novel "Das siebte Kreuz" (1939). The subject of her doctoral thesis was "Jude und Judentum im Werk Rembrandts".

E.G.L.

### PROFESSOR NORBERT ELIAS 80

We learned only now that the sociologist, Professor Dr. Norbert Elias, celebrated his 80th birthday a short while ago. Born in Breslau, where he was an active member of the "Blau-Weiss", he was after the completion of his studies assistant to his teacher, Professor Karl Mannheim in Frankfurt. He came to this country in 1938 and, from 1954 until his retirement, was professor at Leicester University. He is still active as guest lecturer at several German universities and, in 1975, was appointed an honorary member of the German Society for Sociology. Recently, he was awarded the Adorno Prize, endowed by the City of Frankfurt. His main work appeared under the title "Ueber den Prozess der Zivilisation" (1939). His book "Die hofische Gesellschaft" (1969) is a sociology of Royalty and Nobility, and his latest work deals with the question: "Was ist Soziologie?" Dr. Elias has been an interested member of the AJR for a great number of years. We extend to him our sincerest congratulations.

### GRANTS BY LEO BAECK LODGE

The scholarship committee of the Leo Baeck Lodge considered applications for grants from 25 students and allocated a total of £14,500.

### "NABUCCO" PERFORMANCE IN BERLIN

A concert performance of Verdi's opera "Nabucco", the contents of which are based on the Babylonian Exile of the Jews, was recently rendered at the Berlin Philharmonie. Readers from Berlin may remember that this opera was shown by the Berliner Juedische Kulturbund in 1935. The producer was Dr. Kurt Singer (who, in 1944, perished in Theresienstadt), and Generalmusikdirektor Joseph Rosenstock, who now, 82 years old, lives in New York, was the conductor. For the persecuted Jews in Berlin of those days, the opera was most topical. It reminded them of similar sufferings of their ancestors and, at the same time gave them encouragement and hope.

E.G.L.



Stefan Bukowitz

# FOR EXPORT ONLY

## The Longest-running Show of the Old "Blue Danube Club"

The new shops in the Swiss Cottage area of Finchley Road are, naturally, a great improvement, compared to the old ramshackle buildings they replace. Gone are the leaning wooden fences, the dirty and litter-strewn front gardens, gone the dilapidated Victorian houses with their self-effacing shabbiness and their dark dungeon-like basements. Yet one feels an almost melancholic nostalgia when passing Harben Parade remembering the demolished house, 153 Finchley Road, perhaps one of the ugliest of the former dwellings, but an almost historic ground for many of us, where bright lights shone on hundreds of Saturdays and Sundays (suitably blacked-out during the war years), where a small group of theatre-minded people entertained thousands of our friends until, for many reasons, the little place finally closed down in 1954.

I am, of course, referring to the "Blue Danube Club" which provided such a lot of pleasure during the war years, and which remained successful for another decade thereafter. It will always be to the credit of the British authorities and their tolerance that performances in the enemy language were permitted during the period of hostilities, and German and Austrian refugees were given the opportunity to enjoy themselves in their own way, especially as many could not visit English places of entertainment, be it for language or geographical reasons. Under the direction of Felix Saltenburg, with stage designs by

Guenther Wagner, and with texts and musical arrangements by Peter Herz, one topical revue after another took the stage, and all of them were enthusiastically received.

The highlight of these revues called "For Export Only", was first performed exactly 30 years ago. This may be reason enough to cast our minds back to the days of utility furniture, utility clothing and food rationing, when the slogan was "Export or die", and when this particular Blue Danube show (commonly called "Herz-Revue") hit so many nails on the head that success was assured. A non-stop show, containing all the ingredients of comedy and music, it became the Blue Danube's "Mousetrap" and was performed 47 times. Peter Herz (as always) starred together with Fritz Becker and Michael Rittermann, whilst the female parts were taken by Hilde Lederer, Hilde Lergens (freshly imported from Vienna) and Liselotte Kristian. Saltenburg directed, Herbert Kruh accompanied admirably, and the administrative staff consisted of the secretary, Berta Lübbert, and the most original usher, Werner Philippi, both, alas, no longer with us.

### The "Austro-Judaican" Method

What was the glamour of the time? Why did we laugh until tears ran down our cheeks, why was the uncomfortable little hall sold out every night? Peter Herz had an invariably sound recipe for baking the musical cake

which he called the "Austro-Judaican method". His topical reviews were presented to an audience whom the author simply addressed as "unsere Leute". Whether it was a melodramatic little number "Einsamer Schneider sucht einsame Schneiderin" (a tango-rhythm for Kristian and Rittermann) or the duet "Was faengt ein junger Mann in Nicaragua an?" (Herz-Lergens), whether Fritz Becker shouted his "Tandaradoi" in a cryptic scene from "Everyman", whether Peter Herz addressed his "customers" with his usual, surprised-looking face and excited gestures, or whether the whole ensemble sang the chorus of the rousing finale, the audience forgot to notice the hard seats and the lack of air or to think of their own particular worries. Leaving the little theatre, passing the spot where Mrs. Poldi Herz regularly stood in the doorway, beaming all over because the "Herz-Revue" had again pleased so many, we were out in Finchley Road, laughing, talking, trying to remember all the jokes of the past two hours.

### Now and Then

"For Export Only". Once more the phrase is all-important, economically essential, self-understood. But for us, a comparatively small number that lived in or around Hampstead during difficult years, it will remain the top show of the Blue Danube Club. Thirty years ago! The shops in Finchley Road are indeed fully stocked today, there is no rationing, and most of us can afford to eat more than we did at the modest basement restaurant managed by Mrs. Kohn "below" the Club theatre premises. But perhaps we should not forget the serenity and the pleasure we derived from those week-end performances; we enjoyed ourselves among ourselves, when cheerfulness and good humour were available to all, and not "For Export Only".

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# THE ISRAELI SCENE

## WAR DEAD RETURNED

Coffins containing the bodies of 19 Israeli soldiers killed in the Yom Kippur war were returned by Egypt at a ceremony in the Sinai buffer zone. Egyptian soldiers carried them past a guard of honour to the Israeli side to the accompaniment of drum rolls. Mr Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister, said he hoped these would be the last soldiers to have died in Israel's wars. "This may be possible judging by the signs and gestures bringing peace between Israel and her neighbours". President Sadat had sent two bus loads of journalists from Cairo to report on the ceremony.

## MUZZLED DIPLOMATS

Mr Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, has instructed all Israeli diplomats abroad not to discuss domestic political topics in public. He disclosed this in the Knesset during the discussion of an article in the "Manchester Guardian", according to which Israel's new London Ambassador, Mr. Avraham Kidron had said that the Likud-led Government would not last long. Mr. Kidron had denied the report, but was reprimanded by Dayan for having exceeded his authority in discussing domestic politics.

## NO EXTRADITION OF ISRAELIS

Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister, has instructed Professor Barak, the Attorney-General, to prepare legislation which would rule out that Israelis suspected of crimes committed abroad should be extradited. He wants them to be tried in Israel. Israel has extradition agreements with 22 countries. A committee of lawyers, set up under the previous government, had recommended that Israel should observe reciprocity and extradite suspects only to countries agreeing to extradite their citizens to Israel.

## INADMISSIBLE EMIGRANTS?

Mr. Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, informed the Knesset that he would follow his own personal conscience and beliefs in seeking to amend the Law of Return so that only converts who had been admitted to Judaism under the proper rabbinical law would be admitted to Israel. He added that this was his own decision, not a capitulation to the National Religious Party or the Aguda.

## SECRET TRIAL

Three Arabs and two West Germans are on trial before an Israeli military court charged with conspiring to shoot down an El Al airliner at Nairobi airport with ground-to-air missiles. The airliner was en route from Johannesburg to Ben-Gurion airport with more than 100 passengers, but the Kenyan authorities caught the group in a gully only an hour before the aircraft was due. The three Arabs and two Germans—Tomas Reuter, 24, and Brigitta Schultz, 23, were handed over to Israel between January and June 1976, but this was only announced in March 1977, after the German press had been alerted by the girl's parents. The trial is being held at an unnamed location and in camera. The accused are defended by Israeli lawyers, and an official of the West German consulate has been allowed to attend.

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## SPIES AND TERRORISTS

Bruno Breguet, 27, a Swiss terrorist, jailed in Israel in 1970, has been released and flown back to Switzerland. When he arrived in Haifa by sea in 1970, he was found to have 10 explosive charges in his luggage which he had been ordered by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine to plant in the multi-storey Shalom Tower in Tel Aviv. Shalom Tower houses a large department store which is always crowded with shoppers. Breguet had been recruited by the Popular Front in Lugano where he attended school. He was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment, but the sentence was reduced on appeal to 10 years. In prison, Breguet was allowed to study for and sit his university examinations.

Keynan Moss, 34, a South African-born Israeli architect, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in Beersheba for illegally crossing into Jordan and passing on important military information to the Jordanians. He said in his defence, that he hoped the Jordanians would help him to get to Britain where he had sent his family, but he was sent back to Israel after spending three months in a Jordanian jail. His British wife started a flurry in the British press by falsely stating that he was held incommunicado in Israel after his return. Amas Ovadia, 22, an Israeli soldier deserted from his unit and joined Moss in his illegal trip. He has not yet been tried.

## SCROLLS STOLEN

During the past year, 120 Torah scrolls were stolen from synagogues in Israel. Many of them are thought to have been smuggled abroad, where there is supposed to be a flourishing black market for them. Their total value is estimated at about £625,000.

## SPLENDOR OF THE TENTH MACCABIAH

50,000 spectators and 2,800 contestants from 34 countries attended the great sport festival of Jewish Youth, the 10th Maccabiah in the stadium of Ramat Gan. This was the biggest gathering of Jewish athletes ever for the Games which were started in 1932.

Britain sent its largest-ever contingent of 124 players who ended up with three gold, seven silver and five bronze medals. The British rowers had their boat smashed by cargo-handlers at Heathrow airport and had to compete in borrowed boats.

## JAPAN BANS ISRAELI KARATE TEAM

During the recent karate championships in Tokyo, the Israeli team which had followed an official invitation to compete, was told on the eve of the contest in which they were to take part that, for security reasons they would not be admitted. The Japanese Ambassador in Israel apologised for the incident, but explained that the championships were private, and the government was unable to interfere. It appears that Palestinian and other Arab competitors had telephoned the Karate Federation of Japan and threatened to murder its members and those of the Israeli team. The Israeli team contained a number of Israeli Arabs.

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## SPORTS STADIUM FOR JERUSALEM

In spite of opposition by religious groups in Israel and overseas, a sports stadium is to be built on the north-eastern outskirts of Jerusalem. Half the estimated cost of about £4,150,000 will be met by Israeli fans and organisations, the remainder by overseas benefactors. The stadium will include seating for 25,000 football fans and will be completed by 1981. The protesters claim that it will be near religious neighbourhoods where the Sabbath peace would be disturbed, but supporters say it will be  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile from the nearest housing estate and that none of the approach roads will pass through religious neighbourhoods.

## ARAB VILLAGERS MAY RETURN

Israel's Defence Minister, Mr. Ezer Weizman, and Mr. Abu-Hatzeira, Minister for Religious Affairs, have given their support to the campaign to allow the Christian Arabs evacuated from the villages of Baram and Ikrit near the Lebanese Border during the 1948 War of Independence, to return to their homes. At the time, they had been promised they could return after the end of the war, but the military authorities objected on security grounds, despite the fact that their loyalty was not in doubt. They had since lived in Galilee. Any remaining security risk has been removed after the Israeli "good fence" policy towards the Christian villagers in Southern Lebanon.

## TV FILM CAUSES SUICIDE

19-year-old Zahava Tauser threw herself in front of a car and was killed two hours before a TV film was to be screened which showed how she had rehabilitated herself after living as a prostitute. She left a letter saying that she had implored the TV company not to show the film, but this had been refused. The private film company which produced the film said she had never done so, but the film showed her in a positive light overcoming her disadvantaged background. Her boy-friend and her colleagues at work had apparently been unaware of her past.

## SABBATH RIOTS

Trouble arose in the predominantly religious town of Bnai Brak near Tel Aviv when a Government-appointed committee suggested closing several roads to traffic on the Sabbath and festivals. There is deep resentment among non-Orthodox residents. The driver of a Land-Rover was killed recently when it hit an iron chain strung across the main street and hit a wall.

## TREATMENT FOR LIBYAN BOY

A 7-year-old Libyan boy who was brought to Israel by his father, a senior official in Libya's educational system, has been cured in Jerusalem of a hereditary skin disease which had confined him to a wheel-chair since birth. Doctors in Libya and in Europe could not help. After several months of treatment with an ointment, produced by the Bikur Cholim Hospital in Jerusalem, he is healthy and walking unaided.

## NO GUNS FOR TSCHAIKOWSKY

The Israeli Army has refused to provide the Philharmonic Orchestra with the guns for a performance of Tschaiikowsky's "1812" in the Tel Aviv football stadium conducted by Zubin Mehta. The Fire Brigade subsequently volunteered to provide the martial background.

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E. G. Lowenthal

## JEWISH ENTRIES IN THE GERMAN NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY

The tenth volume of the Neue Deutsche Biographie (NDB), edited by the Historical Commission of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and published by Duncker & Humblot (Berlin), was recently completed. It covers entries from "Hufeland" to "Kaffsack". Like the previous volumes, the entries also include biographies of outstanding Jews or persons of Jewish origin.

In the world of commerce, the firm of N. Israel is mentioned, and it is noted that the family had been active in Berlin's business and public life since the middle of the eighteenth century. The entry appears under the heading "Wilfrid Israel", the last co-owner of the department store. He played a unique role in Jewish affairs, especially during the emergency period from 1933 onwards, and tragically lost his life in 1943 during an important rescue mission in the Second World War. The biographical sketch also refers to the fact that he was a co-founder of the AJR.

Among leading businessmen mentioned in the volume are Daniel Itzig, Prussian court agent in the eighteenth century; the banker Israel Jacobson (1768-1826), pioneer of Jewish emancipation and founder of the well-known school at Seesen; the metal merchant Eugen Jacobi (1877-1933, Wolf, Netter & Jacobi); the Braunschweig railway signalling systems manufacturer Max Juedel (1845-1910), whose work in the social field is stressed; and Adolf Jandorf (died 1932), who in 1907 founded the KaDeWe (Kaufhaus des Westens) in Berlin.

### Authors

A breakdown as to the occupations of the number of Jews with public standing listed in the volume shows that the writers and journalists represent the largest group. This predominance was also apparent in the previous volumes.

Taken in alphabetical order the first on the list is Heinrich Eduard Jacob, writer of both fiction and non-fiction as well as musicians' biographies who died in Salzburg in 1967. Others are: Theatre critic Monty Jacobs who was for a time "feuilleton" editor of the "Vossische Zeitung" in Berlin and who would have been 100 years old early in 1975; Siegfried Jacobsohn ("Schaubuehne", "Weltbuehne", Berlin 1905-1926); Dr. of Medicine Eduard Jacobson, author of farces who died in Berlin in 1897, and the little known poet Leopold Jacoby from Lauenburg/Pomerania, a deeply committed socialist at whose funeral (Zuerich 1895) August Bebel made a speech. There is also the lyric poet and novelist Ludwig Jacobowski (Strelno 1868 — Berlin 1900) to whose opus, a large one despite his early death, attention was drawn recently by Fred B. Stern in New York. In the case of Oskar Jellinek (Bruenn 1886—Los Angeles 1949) no details are given as to genealogy and religion, but this author's emigration fortunes—originally he was a judge in Austria—indicate that he is "one of us"; his artistic field was the short story and what remained of his literary output is now in the "Deutsche Literatur-Archiv" at Marbach. The N.D.B. volume devotes an entire short chapter to the Prague family of Jeiteles (Jeitteles), many of whom were authors: Aaron Jeitels, poet, physician and deputy to the Frankfurt National Assembly (1799-1878) who became a Catholic in 1828; then the cousins Alois (Bruenn 1794-1858) and Ignaz (Prague 1783-Vienna 1843) who are reputed to have together founded "Siona, Wochenschrift fuer Israeliten".

### Medical Men

The list of doctors starts with James Israel (died in 1926), a surgeon and urologist of international repute whose younger son and colleague Arthur Israel (died in 1969) became superintendent of the "Israelitische Kranken-

haus" in Hamburg. Then follows Abraham Jacobi from Westphalia who, after taking part in the 1848 movement, emigrated via England to the USA and became, in his capacity of professor at the Columbia University in New York, a pioneer of modern paediatrics. Mention must be made also of Georg Joachims-thal, orthopaedic surgeon, a notable pupil of Julius Wolff who became a reader at Berlin University in 1902 (in his case the N.D.B. omits the usual mention of his religious affiliation). The scientifically very productive dermatologist Josef Jadassohn (Breslau-Bern-Breslau) is described as Lutheran and the electro-pathologist Stefan Jellinek from Prerau/Moravia as Catholic; the latter was still publishing scientific material at the age of 97; both had been forced to emigrate for so-called racial reasons, the first from Breslau to Switzerland, the second from Vienna to England. Heinrich Joachim from Neustadt/Posen, practised in Berlin from 1880 onwards; he was also known as an expert in the history of medicine and in the law relating to the medical profession. Otto Juliusburger (Breslau 1867) who made his name in Berlin particularly as a social psychiatrist, died in 1941 as an emigrant in New York.

N.D.B. names two surgeons by the name of Joseph: Jacques from Koenigsberg (died in Berlin in 1934), the cosmetic surgeon who became known as "Nasen-Joseph" and Eugen from Landeck, urologist who committed suicide in 1933 after having been deprived of his right to teach. The pharmacologist Max Jaffé (1841-1911) became professor in ordinary in Koenigsberg/Prussia in 1873 and from 1868 onwards he was chairman of the association for the promotion of studies organised by the local synagogue community.

Continued on page 12

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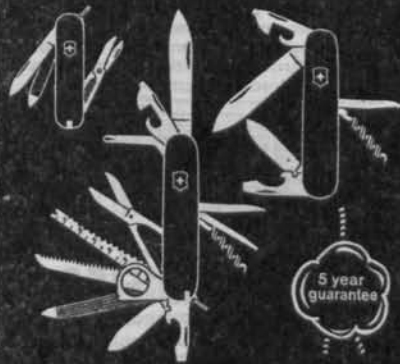
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## GERMAN NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Continued from page 11

Regine (Julie) Jolberg née Zimmern (Frankfurt/Main 1800—Nonnenweiler/Baden 1870) has a remarkable Jewish pedigree; she was the founder of a sisterhood for children's nurses, together with her second husband she became a protestant convert.

### Science

First of all the mathematicians: Carl Jacobi (1804-1851), son of a board member of the Potsdam Jewish community who was later baptised. Until 1829 he was a professor in Königsberg and, after Gauss, he was one of the most outstanding representatives in his field. He died in Berlin aged 46. Ferdinand Joachimsthal (Goldberg/Silesia), converted to Christianity in 1842, became professor in Halle/Saale in 1853. Adolf Hurwitz (Hildesheim 1859-Zuerich 1919) did not advance beyond the post of reader in Germany, but he was given a chair in Zuerich in 1892. The physicist George Cecil Jaffe was born in Moscow in 1880, but educated entirely in Germany. Before taking up a lectureship in Leipzig he worked with the Curies in Paris. In 1933, then a professor Giessen, he was pensioned off and he emigrated in 1939 to the USA where he taught in Louisiana until 1950; he died at Goepfingen in 1965. The thermophysicist Max Jacob (Ludwigshafen 1879-Chicago 1958) belonged to the same generation; he was forced to emigrate after having worked for 25 years at the "Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt" in Berlin, and he became a research professor in the U.S.A.

### In the Humanities

We learn that the educationist and psychologist Wilhelm Jerusalem, who hailed from an orthodox background at Drenic/Bohemia (1854), was originally destined to become a rabbi; he became a professor in Vienna only a few years before his death in 1923. Karl Joel from Hirschberg/Silesia (1864) took up a lectureship at the age of 29 in Basle where he became professor in 1902; he specialised in the history of philosophy and died in Switzerland in 1934. The influential phenomenologist Eduard Husserl was born a Jew at Prossnitz/

Moravia in 1858, baptised in 1886 after taking up the post of unsalaried lecturer at Halle/Saale and in 1936 he was deprived of his professorship in Freiburg/Breisgau; two years later he died.

Among the philologists are: Felix Jacoby (1876-1959) who specialised in ancient history, was "born into a Jewish family"; he was given a chair in Kiel in 1907 and he was deprived of his status in 1935. Norbert Jokl, born in 1877 in Southern Moravia, expert in Slav languages, became a librarian and later on lecturer in Vienna. Max Hermann Jellinek from Vienna specialised in Germanic languages; he was one of the sons of Rabbi Adolf Jellinek (1820-1893), himself known as an outstanding preacher and judaic scholar, was at first active in Leipzig and later for a long time in Vienna. Dr. Manuel Joel (Birnbaum/Posen 1826-Breslau 1890) was given a lectureship at the newly opened Jewish Theological Seminary in Breslau and in 1864 appointed rabbi there in succession to Abraham Geiger.

The archaeologist Paul Jacobsthal was professor at Marburg from 1912 onwards, married the daughter of a parson in 1915, was pensioned off in 1935 and forced to emigrate; he went to Oxford where he was able to teach for a time and he died in 1957.

Among the historians, Isaac Marcus Jost from Bernburg is rightly described as a "Jewish historian" because, influenced during his studies in Berlin by representatives of Enlightenment such as David Friedlaender and Lazarus Bendavid, he became the author of many works on the "Geschichte der Israeliten" and on Judaism. For 25 years, until his death, he taught at the "Philanthropin", the progressive Jewish school at Frankfurt/Main. Philipp Jaffé (Schwersenz/Posen 1819-Wittenberge 1870) was the first Jew in Prussia who as such was appointed professor extra-ordinary of history in 1862; he was baptised after that date.

### In the Arts

Among the representatives of music, theatre and fine arts as listed in the 10th N.D.B. volume, are two musicians born in 1831: The violinist Joseph Joachim, originally from Hungary and patronised above all by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, later on director of the Berlin conservatoire, converted to protestantism in 1854, and Salomon Jadassohn, a pupil of Franz Liszt, more of a music pedagogue and musicologist than a composer at

times director of the Leipzig synagogue choir and from 1887 onwards doctor *honoris causa* of the university there. Leon Jessel, successful composer of operettas ("Schwarzwalddmaedel", etc.) died early in 1942 in the Jewish hospital in Berlin after his release from a concentration camp.

The theatre director, Leopold Jessner, as productive as he was controversial, was director-general of the Staatliche Schauspiele in Berlin from 1919 to 1930, a fact not expressly mentioned in the N.D.B.; he died in exile in Hollywood in 1945.

### The Political Scene

Among the jurists mention is made of Rudolf Isay, expert in mining and commercial law, born as a Jew in Trier in 1886, who was associate professor in Bonn and emigrated to Brazil in 1935. The volume does, however, not mention Oberverwaltungsgerichtsrat Ernst Isay who was born in 1880 also in Trier and perished after having been deported; he had made a name by a number of publications in the field of public law. Father and son Jellinek, descendants of the above-mentioned rabbi in Vienna who did not remain faithful to the Jewish religion, were both well-known experts in the field of public law at Heidelberg university, Georg born in Leipzig in 1851 and Walter born in Vienna in 1885. Curt Joel, for many years Under Secretary (Minister in 1931/32) who died at the age of 80 in Berlin shortly before the end of the war, had Jewish grandparents.

The economists Max Jaffé (Hamburg 1866-Ebenhausen 1921) and Otto Joehlinger (Cologne 1883-Berlin 1924) both started off in business life. Jaffé, a Protestant later on, became co-editor of the reputable "Archiv fuer Sozialwissenschaft und Sozialpolitik", from 1910 onward professor of the College of Trade and Industry in Munich and in 1918/19 a socialist Minister of Finance in Kurt Eisner's Bavarian Government. Joehlinger became a respected economic journalist, founded in 1922 the school of journalism at Berlin University and was for a time head of the university and college education department in the Prussian Ministry of Finance; his works include "Bismarck und die Juden" (1921). The best-known Jewish economist mentioned in the 10th N.D.B. volume is undoubtedly Ignaz Jastrow (Nakel/Posen 1856-Berlin 1937).

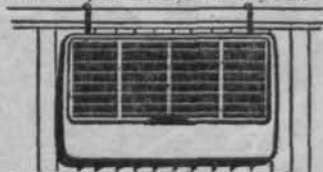
### CLUB 1943

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

- 5 Sept. Mrs. Jean Seglow, M.A.: "Changing Attitudes in Social Welfare".
- 12 Sept. Kein Vortrag (Rosh-Hashana).
- 19 Sept. Kein Vortrag (H. Karminski House geschlossen).
- 26 Sept. Paul Rom (Studienrat a.D.): "Auf der Suche nach dem eigenen Lebensstil".
- 3 Oct. Dr. C. F. Fifer (Lecturer at Whitelands College): "Bolivia, the country and the people".
- 10 Oct. Dr. Fred Gubel (New York): "The History and Collections of the Leo Baeck Institute of New York (with slides)".
- 17 Oct. Mrs. Jane Moonman, J.P.: "My Work as Justice of Peace".
- 24 Oct. Paul Friedmann: "Crete—One of the oldest European Civilisations (with colour slides)".
- 31 Oct. Dr. Ruth von Schulze-Gaevernitz: "Die Entdeckung der Erdkugel durch die Griechen".
- 7 Nov. Dr. Werner Rosenstock: "Bilanz von 40 Jahren. Geschichte und Einordnung der Nazifuechtlinge in England".

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(Kiddush after each service in the Succah)



# THE MIDDLE EAST

# GERMAN NEWS

## EL AL'S SUCCESS

The EL AL air-line carried 964,500 passengers during 1976/77, an increase of over 30 per cent over the previous year and made a profit of about £165,000 as against a £705,000 loss in the preceding twelve months. Mr. Carmel, EL AL's chairman, said these results had been achieved despite strikes. The air-line has reached an agreement with British Airways which makes it possible for seven-night package tours to be available this winter. This price will include scheduled flights, stay and sometimes also breakfast at one-star hotels, transfers, insurance and a free day's car hire and parking at Heathrow. The arrangement will start on November 1, and flights will be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Thomson Holidays offer a lower starting price of from £99 for their 7-night winter charters, but only available to Christian pilgrims.

## ISRAEL'S EXPORT DRIVE

Following recent agreements, Israeli goods can now be imported free of duty into EEC countries and into the United States. The government has devised a far-reaching programme of loans, allowances and grants to encourage exports. There are cash rebates of 27 cents for each dollar of export sales. An Investment Insurance programme, authorised by the US Congress, protects investment in Israel against nationalisation, repatriation, and war risks.

## ISRAEL'S POPULATION

According to the latest statistics, Israel had 3,549,000 inhabitants in 1976, 548,000 of whom were not Jews. There were 402,500 Arab Moslems, 89,500 Christians and 41,700 Druses and other minorities. These figures do not include the inhabitants of the occupied territories (1,112,600), but East Jerusalem and the Gaza strip.

## CHAIR OF AUSTRIAN HISTORY

During a recent tour of Israel, the Austrian Minister of Science and Education, Dr Hertha Firnberg, announced that a Chair of Austrian History was to be set up at Tel Aviv University. Dr Firnberg also discussed other fields of the economy and of research where co-operation existed and was to be intensified.

## MEXICAN GIFT FOR ISRAEL MUSEUM

The President of Mexico presented the Israeli Ambassador Mr. Aynor who is returning home after three years in Mexico, with a farewell gift in the shape of a picture tapestry by the Mexican Jewish painter Leopold Niermann for the Government and people of Israel. It will be hung in the Jerusalem Israel Museum.

## SADAT INVITES JEWS TO RETURN

President Sadat said in an interview in Cairo's press that he had decided to allow Egyptian Jews who left Egypt after 1948, to return. They would be treated as ordinary citizens with the same rights and duties "as the rest of their Egyptian brothers". Many of the 120,000 Jews in Egypt in 1945 left the country after Suez when Nasser nationalised banks and insurance companies which were mainly controlled by Jews. Of the 1,200 who remained, all men and boys between 14 and 40 were put in detention camps when the 1967 war broke out. Now there are only about 200 elderly people left. President Sadat acted in response to a PLO request which has already been accepted by Morocco, Sudan and Iraq to encourage Jews to leave Israel. When King Hassan of Morocco issued a similar invitation in 1975, only about 20 people returned. The only one to return to Iraq was a Baghdad-born Haifa shopkeeper who broadcast propaganda against Israel on radio and TV, but who has now returned to Israel in spite of the fact that he will have to stand trial for treason. He and his family had been shunned by the 520 members of the Baghdad Jewish community.

## SYRIA ALLOWS VISITS ABROAD

A headmaster of the Alliance Israelite Universelle school in Damascus received a permit to leave Syria in order to visit the Alliance Israelite headquarters in Paris for the first time in thirty years.

## VISIT BY NEW ZEALANDERS

A group of 150 New Zealand ex-servicemen visited Israel for a battlefield pilgrimage to places where they had served during the last war. They arrived aboard a cruise liner from Egypt which, together with Greece, Crete and North Africa formed part of the pilgrimage. They also visited the graves of their country's Middle East War dead.

## COURAGEOUS GENTILE REMEMBERED

During the war, Mr. Oskar Schindler, a Roman Catholic manufacturer of Bruenn, saved the lives of almost 1,300 concentration camp inmates by employing them in his factory in Krakau and accommodating them in the vicinity. His courageous activities became known only several years after the war and in recognition of his deeds he was honoured by various Jewish and non-Jewish organisations. He died in Frankfurt in 1974 and it was recently decided to name a street in Frankfurt/Niedereschbach after him.

## PRISON FOR MANFRED ROEDER

For persistent attacks on the Federal Government, former lawyer Manfred Roeder, 48, who had often appeared in court for similar offences, but always got away with suspended sentences, was sent to prison for six months. He had maintained that the only legal government was the Doenitz government, set up in the last days of the Third Reich, and that the Federal Government was an agency of the occupying powers. After the sentence was announced, Roeder's followers were involved in tumultuous scenes in the court-room. During the trial, Roeder had been sent to jail for contempt of court, because he had called the public prosecutor a terrorist in the pay of the occupying powers.

## NAZI CRIMES BEFORE THE COURTS

Werner Poehls, a 61-year-old former S.S. captain, was acquitted by a Kiel jury on a charge of complicity in the murder of several hundred men, women and children in a village near Brest-Litovsk in 1942. He had pleaded that he had only obeyed orders and not realised the criminal nature of his task.

## ATONEMENT FOR DESECRATION

The authorities of the Palatinate and a representative of the Bavarian Government took part in a memorial meeting on the site of the notorious Flossenburg concentration camp which had lately been desecrated by unknown perpetrators. The government had initiated the meeting to show their regret for the senseless defamation of dead victims of National Socialism.

## SWASTIKAS IN BERLIN

A number of show-cases and restaurant windows were defaced with inscriptions such as "N.S.D.A.P. now—N.S.D.A.P. lives in spite of ban" and painted swastikas. Stickers bore the address of the Nebraska-based "N.S.D.A.P. Abroad" organisation.

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# PERSONALIA

## DEGREE FOR RABBI DR. FRIEDLANDER

At the annual meeting of the governing board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in London, its vice-president Dr. Albert Friedlander, minister of the Westminster Synagogue, was presented with the degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred on him by the Hebrew Union College of Cincinnati. Dr. Friedlander is a member of the London Board of the Leo Baeck Institute.

## LINA HALPER'S DOCTORATE

Mrs. Lina Halper, who has for many years enlisted massive support for the Hebrew University, received a doctorate in Jerusalem for her "exemplary service to scholarship". She received a special round of applause. Other doctorates were awarded to Professor Milton Friedmann the 1976 Nobel Prize winner for economics, Benjamin Levich, one of the dissidents still in Russia, Teddy Kollek, the Mayor of Jerusalem, and Mr. Moshe Dayan, the Foreign Minister.

## RABBINICAL TRADITION

Mr. Raphael Asher who has just been ordained as a rabbi by Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, represents the seventh generation of an unbroken line of rabbis. His grandfather, Rabbi Jonas Ansbacher, had been rabbi in Wiesbaden before coming to London as a refugee. He became rabbi of the Hampstead Adath Israel Synagogue in Broadhurst Gardens. Rabbi Ansbacher's son Rabbi Joseph Asher is rabbi of Temple Emanuel in San Francisco, one of the most distinguished in the United States.

## 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 15th of the month.

### Birthdays

**Israel:**—Mrs. Frieda Israel (née Rokowsky) of 26 Sneath Avenue, London N.W.11 (formerly Frankfurt/Main) will celebrate her 70th birthday on September 2.

**Pohl:**—Mrs. Recha Pohl (née de Taube), now at 'The Retreat', York, will celebrate her 90th birthday on September 20. Fondest congratulations from her sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and from her sisters and brothers and their families. Enquiries or messages to her elder son, Sir Horace Heyman, Appletree House, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 5AS, who wishes to take this opportunity to express the family's appreciation to the doctors, matron, sisters and staff of 'The Retreat' for their loving care and compassion.

### Deaths

**Beer:**—Mrs. Alice Beer (née Kunz) formerly Breslau and Danzig, passed away peacefully on August 2 in her 82nd year. Deeply mourned by her children Muriel and Eli and grandchildren Jonathan and Gideon. Shalom.

**Green:**—Mr. Isaak W. Green (Ike) passed away peacefully in hospital on August 8. Sadly missed by his family and friends.

**Gutwein:**—Ernest David Gutwein died suddenly on July 7. Husband of Henny, father of Tommy and Jo Gutwin and grandfather of Mark and Jeremy.

**Leven:**—Lilly Leven of 17 Parsifal Road, London, NW6, passed away on August 9, aged 86. Affectionately remembered by all her relatives and friends.

**Weiss:**—Margarete Weiss (née Galicki) from Cologne, previously London, lately Eastbourne, passed away suddenly on July 26 at the age of 82. Deeply mourned by her husband, son and daughter-in-law.

## CLASSIFIED

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

### Miscellaneous

**REVLON MANICURIST / PEDICURIST.** Will visit your home. 01-445 2915.

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**PIANO** in reasonably good condition wanted by the Theodor Herzl Society. Gift most welcome but purchase gladly considered. Please phone 01-435 7221.

## POUR LE MERITE

The recently appointed new foreign members of the "Orden pour le mérite fuer Wissenschaft und Kuenste" (Bonn) include the art historian Professor Dr. Richard Ettinghausen (Princeton, U.S.A.) formerly Frankfurt, and the biochemists and Nobel Prize laureates Professor Hans Krebs (Oxford) from Hildesheim and Professor Dr. Fritz A. Lipmann (New York) formerly Koenigsberg.

## NEW MAGISTRATE

Mr. Max M. Kochmann, who was recently elected a new member of the AJR Executive, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace at Billericay.

## HONOUR FOR DR. K. BIRRENBACH

On the occasion of his 70th birthday, the industrialist Kurt Birrenbach (Duesseldorf) was awarded the Great Federal Cross of Merit with Star and "Schulterband". In 1965, Dr. Birrenbach conducted the preparatory negotiations which resulted in the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic and Israel.

## THE FABERGE EXHIBITION

The very successful exhibition of the Art of the famous Russian goldsmith Carl Faberge at the Victoria and Albert Museum has been arranged by Mr. Kenneth Snowman, chairman of Wartski Jewellers and president of the Antique Dealers Association. He recently gave a talk to the Anglo-Jewish Association on the 400 items displayed. One of them is a gift presented by the Rothschilds to the British royal family at the beginning of the century.

## JEWISH APPOINTMENTS IN IRELAND

Mr. Mervyn Taylor, a practising Dublin solicitor and son-in-law of Lord Fisher of Hampstead, has been elected first Jewish chairman of Dublin county council.

Mr. Herman Good who recently retired from the Dublin District Court, has been recalled and appointed a judge in the Special Criminal Court. Mr. Justice Good is life honorary president of the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland.

## DISTINGUISHED SILVERSMITH

Silversmith Mr. Stuart Devlin was commissioned to create a Torah crown for the Alyth Gardens North West Reform Synagogue by its senior warden, Mr. Jerome Laurie and his wife. A new Torah mantle, designed by Rabbi Rodney Mariner, Youth director of the synagogue, was dedicated at the same time as the crown by Rabbi Dov Marmur. Stuart Devlin received a number of commissions from other synagogues in recent years.

## CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP FOR LAND RECLAMATION

Mr. David Solomon of Birmingham was one of 87—out of 3,000 people—who applied for a Churchill Travelling Fellowship for his pioneer work in the field of land reclamation. The award is worth £2,000 and will enable him to go on a six-week tour of the West Coast of America looking at quarries and derelict land that could be turned into parkland.

## JEWISH MAYOR IN CANADIAN CITY

Mr. Sam Davis, a 62 year old engineer, has been elected the first Jewish mayor of Saint John, one of the oldest cities in English-speaking Canada. He is the second non-Protestant mayor since Saint John's incorporation in 1785. 1,500 of the city's population of 100,000 are Jewish.

## INFORMATION REQUIRED

### Personal Enquiries

**Charnkow/Poland:**—Will anybody who was living in Charnkow/Poland (formerly Czarnikau/Netze) please get in touch with Mrs. Frida Klein, 12 Wood Top Avenue., Rochdale, Lancs.

**Kox-Bier:**—I am looking for the family Bier. My mother was Eva Kox (née Bier), born Cologne 1918. Lived in Frankfurt, Holland and Belgium. Please contact Mrs. Jaqueline Kliffer, 51 Heathland Road, London, N.16. 01-802 7238.

**Schatten:**—Gisela Schatten, born in Czernowitz about 1898, British Nationality. Anyone knowing present whereabouts please contact Bloomberg, 9 Alicia Close, Kenton, Harrow, Middx.

**Suchowolsky:**—Will anybody knowing something about Edith Suchowolsky, born about 1920 and Ursula?, date of birth unknown, daughters of Selig and Adele Suchowolsky (née Weissberg), Frankfurt/Main, who were probably deported, please contact Mrs. Edith Jacobson (née Weissberg), Choveve Zion 42, Tel Aviv 63346, Israel. Girls believed to have come to England with Children's transport 1938/39.

### AJR Enquiries

**Lorand:**—Mrs. A. Lorand—last known address 1, Gosnay House, Bidefort Avenue, Leeds LS8 2AE.

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# OBITUARY

## LORD LEVER

Lord Lever of Ardwick, who died in Manchester at the age of 72, held many positions in national, local and communal life. From 1950 to 1970, he was MP for the Ardwick Division of Manchester and, in 1957, he was elected Lord Mayor, the first chief citizen to be an MP for the same city. He was also a member of the Board of Deputies and prominently associated with various other Jewish organisations. After the war, Lord Lever was one of the first British Jews, who visited the D.P. camps (among them Bergen-Belsen) and some of the re-established communities. Under the auspices of the Central British Fund, which had organised Jewish Relief Units in the British Zone, he was instrumental in rendering help to the survivors of the Holocaust.

## ERNST BLOCH

The philosopher, Dr. Ernst Bloch, died in Stuttgart on August 3. He was 92 years old. Born in Ludwigshafen, he began his career as a teacher of philosophy at the University of Leipzig in 1918. Few years later, he joined the Communist Party. He emigrated immediately after the Nazis had come to power, first to Switzerland and from there to the United States. In 1948, he returned to Leipzig and was, as "The Times" writes, "for a time the ranking philosophic voice in the official and academic world of post-war German Marxism". Yet gradually, dissension between him and East German authorities developed, and he moved to West Germany in 1961, taking up his teaching activities at the University of Tuebingen. "With his death", writes *The Times* "that fiercely gifted tragic world of German-Jewish hope, which also included Lukacs, Walter Benjamin and Adorno, has come to an end."

## MR. HARRY GOLDSTEIN (HAMBURG)

Mr. Harry Goldstein, who recently died at the great age of 97, for many years played a leading part in the re-establishment of Jewish community life in post-war Germany. From 1945 to 1955, he was chairman of the Hamburg Jewish community and since 1961 its Honorary Chairman. E.G.L.

## DR. ALFRED SCHUELER

Rechtstanwalt Dr. Alfred Schueler, until 1973 one of the leading lawyers of the headquarters of URO, recently died in Frankfurt/Main in his 90th year. An outstanding jurist, he issued information bulletins on restitution and compensation matters for the legal advisers of URO and also regularly contributed articles and comments on legislation and jurisdiction in the periodical "Rechtsprechung zur Wiedergutmachung". Until 1935, Dr. Schueler was in charge of the legal department of the Lingner-(Odol)-Werke in Dresden. He emigrated to Spain, Italy and ultimately, to the U.S. and after his return to Germany joined the URO headquarters staff in the middle of the Fifties. "In the annals of the United Restitution Organisation Dr. Alfred Schueler will always retain a place of honour", writes the URO Director of Operations, Mr. Kurt May, (Frankfurt).

## MR MAX ABRAHAM

Mr Max Abraham who has died at Bournemouth, was a minister and religious leader at Rathenow near Berlin in the 'thirties. Together with local clergymen and former Social Democrats, he tried to help people persecuted by the Nazis and was sent to Oranienburg concentration camp for seven months. After his release he fled to Czechoslovakia and France and finally arrived in England in August 1939. He was a council member of the New Liberal Synagogue in Belsize Square, London until his retirement to Bournemouth where he became a warden and council member of the Reform congregation.

## DIPL. ING. HERMANN GUTTMANN

The architect, Dipl. Ing. Hermann Guttman, died in Frankfurt in his 60th year. His professional works include not only residential and office buildings, but also a great number of synagogues, cemetery halls, community centres and memorials (e.g., on the site of the Dachau Concentration Camp). Mr. Guttman took part also in Jewish communal activities as a member and, for some time, chairman of the Frankfurt Jewish Community Council and as an active supporter of several Zionist organisations. E.G.L.

## MOSES GASTER PAPERS CATALOGUED

A biographical index to the catalogued part of the collection and some other additional lists of the papers, left by the late Moses Gaster and donated by the family to University College, has been published by the library of University College, London. It is available from: Mrs. Trude Levi, Mocatta Library, University College, London, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT. The material of the great scholar and Haham of the London Sephardi community consists, among other things, of letters, manuscripts, notes, photographs and illuminated certificates.

## BEN URI ART EXHIBITION

Among the works exhibited at the Ben Uri Art Society's Annual exhibition are a splendid flowerpiece by Lotte Reizenstein, an early portrait by Adele Reifenberg of her mother, and several landscapes by Harold Koppel.

## DEBUT OF YOUNG CELLO-PLAYER

19-year old Steven Isserlis, whose grandfather, the pianist Julius Isserlis, spent the last years of his life at Osmond House, and whose grandmother is a resident at Leo Baeck House, gave a concert at Wigmore Hall which received much praise from the audience and the critics. Together with his brothers, he repeatedly gave performances in the Homes which were always greatly enjoyed by the residents.

## "BRITAIN'S NEW CITIZENS"

### Request for Spare Copies

In 1951, the AJR published a brochure carrying several articles about the history and resettlement of the Jewish refugees. It was not only of interest to the AJR members to whom it was sent at that time but has also proved as most useful source material for research workers who are interested in the subject. Unfortunately, our supply of copies has run out in the course of time. Though it is realised that most of our readers who possess the brochure will wish to keep it, it would be greatly appreciated if those who think that they can spare a copy kindly send it to the AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London NW3 6JY.

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## THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

**London.** Two versions of Lion Feuchtwanger's novel "Jud Süss" were contrastingly presented by the National Film Theatre. Whilst the British film (1934) set the scene as the rise of Nazi power, the one made in Germany in 1940 led to the post-war trial of its director, Veit Harlan, who, despite his contention of only having followed instructions by his (Nazi) superiors, must remain a rather questionable figure of those dark days.

**Berlin.** "A world has changed, but human weakness remains". Such is the verdict of the German press describing a revival of the Swedish comedy "The Nobel Prize" (with Axel von Ambesser), produced by Boleslaw Barlog at the Renaissance Theater. It brought memories of the original première, well over 40 years ago when Heinrich George took the main part.

**Vienna.** The Sigmund Freud Society has erected a Memorial Stone for Freud on the famous Cobenzl hill in the Vienna Woods.

**Birthdays.** Leopold Lindtberg, theatrical producer of world repute, recently had his 75th birthday. Apart from still working regularly in Vienna and Salzburg, his many successes at the Zürich Schauspielhaus established him as a leading figure of the international stage.

On the occasion of the 80th birthday of Elisabeth Bergner, the National Film Theatre revived one of her most popular films "Escape me never". "The" Bergner has fascinated several generations of theatre- and film-goers on the Continent and in Britain with her attractive voice and fairy-tale appearance. One of the "greats" of our time, she will always

be remembered for "Ariane", "Fraulein Else", "Dreaming Lips" and "Boy David". She has lived in London since the late 'thirties.

**Obituary.** Paul Hartmann, who has died in Munich at the age of 88, joined Max Reinhardt's "Deutsches Theater" Berlin in 1914. During the 'twenties he became one of the most prominent actors of the Vienna "Burg", playing all the classic heroes, but his stardom faded after 1945.

S.B.

### Letter to the Editor

C. G. JUNG

Sir,—Egon Larsen's "Letter to the Editor" (July issue, p. 11) contains misunderstandings and one-sided statements which require correction, especially for the sake of the readers of "AJR Information".

Aniela Jaffé, the Jewish co-worker of Jung and editor of his "Memories, Dreams, Reflections", has given the facts in a frank and honest essay ("Jung and National Socialism", in "From the Life and Work of C. G. Jung", London [Hodder & Stoughton] 1972, 78-98). Some details may be mentioned to clarify the issue.

Jung took over the presidency of the Society for Psychotherapy, of which he had been honorary vice-president, in 1933 and "immediately redrafted its statutes so as to make it formally and effectively international". In May 1937, at the Congress of Bad Nauheim, he secured the right of German-Jewish psychotherapists, most of them Freudians, to become members of the International Society, thus preserving their status on which their right of work abroad depended. He tirelessly worked for, and supported colleagues, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, who had been displaced by the Nazis. In fact, he was never a member

of the strong and active Swiss Nazi party, and in 1940 his writings were suppressed in Germany and his name blacklisted.

It is true to say that during the first years of Nazi rule Jung was somehow fascinated by the archetypal aspects of some of the National Socialist ideas, as was Bernard Shaw who publicly took their side without ever being taken as a Nazi stooge. However, Egon Larsen's taking Jung's paper of 1936 on "Wotan" as witness for his own biased opinion is ill-advised because there, on the contrary, Jung unambiguously characterised the Nazis as an example of the furor Teutonicus and warned of the impending apocalyptic events. The sentence he quotes reads, complete, in the English translation ("Essays on Contemporary Events," London (Kegan Paul) 1947, p.8):

"One man who is evidently 'possessed', has infected the whole people to such an extent that everything has been set in motion and has started rolling, and is thus inevitably embarked on a dangerous course."

Two more points. Jung held the deeper layer of the unconscious, below the personal level (which Freud also observed but, terming it "archaic", discarded as unimportant), at first to be characteristic of specific human races (Larsen's "tribal" unconscious is a gross misunderstanding). Following up this observation systematically, he then discovered this layer to be common to all races and ages of mankind and thus called it the "collective" (or universal) "unconscious".

Furthermore, Jung's scientific investigation of gnosticism or alchemy can be called "mysticism" no more than, say, Gershom Scholem's work on Jewish mysticism.

Aniela Jaffé mentions in her essay Leo Baeck's attitude to Jung. When Baeck first came to Zurich after the war he hesitated to follow Jung's invitation to meet. But then the two men did meet and, after two hours' discussion, parted completely reconciled. Leo Baeck was not a man to be easily taken in.

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