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# INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

F. Hellendall

## THE JEWISH PAST THROUGH GERMAN EYES

In 1977, in the middle of a revival of the Hitler cult, the Hamburg mass circulation weekly "Der Stern" made a courageous attempt to bring to the knowledge of the West German public something which had been almost completely unknown to it: For weeks, it published a series of articles under the heading "Jews in Germany, the History of a Tragedy of 2,000 years". Probably for the first time millions of readers had an opportunity to become acquainted with the history of their erstwhile Jewish compatriots.

These articles have now been published in book form,\* and here we find this history starting with the conquest of parts of Germany by the Roman armies which brought with them Jewish slaves and later Jewish settlements on the Rhine, Main and Danube, followed by waves of persecution starting with the Crusades in the eleventh century by periods of reconstruction and further persecution and eventually by emancipation and assimilation, ending with the seizure of power by the Nazis and the holocaust.

This history is written in a fluent, sometimes even flippant style and succeeds in its main aim to popularise the essential facts of German Jewish history. The book describes how Jews played an important part even in the early days. It was a Jew, Isaac, who brought the precious gifts from Harun-al-Rashid to Charlemagne in Aachen in 802, and another Jew, Kalonymos, who saved the life of Emperor Otto II when he had been defeated by the Saracens in 982. The book sets out the life stories of great German Jews like the Minnesänger Süsskind von Trimberg, the Jewish financier Michael von Derenberg, the first advocate of Jewish rights, Josel von Rosheim, Glückel von Hameln and finally Moses Mendelssohn.

All this is well written although more than once chronological sequences get mixed up. As the history approaches the final catastrophe of 1933, the author gets carried away with his eagerness to show how attached German Jews were to their fatherland. Apart from the fact that the description of the more recent period is not free from serious errors, such as alleging that Heine became a French citizen, the author devotes a disproportionate amount of space to show the Jewish contribution to the Prussian and German military effort since the so-called "Wars of Liberation"—a chapter which with the benefit of hindsight appears pathetic. The book is superficial and one-sided in its description of Jewish reaction to anti-Semitism in the more modern period.

This defect becomes more serious when the book deals with the Hitler period itself. Describing the "Day of Potsdam", the solemn act by which Hindenburg gave official sanction to the Hitler regime a few weeks after the terror had begun with the burning of the Reichstag

by the Nazis, Leo Sievers, the author, states that the main purpose of this solemn act was "to counteract the deeply rooted opposition of the Reichswehr and the old families of Prussian officers and civil servants against the obscure Austrian". As if the "obscure Austrian" who began his political career as an informer for the Army in Munich, could ever have seized power without the active help and support of just those circles who Sievers alleges were "opposed" to him. Describing the reaction of German Jewry to the events of 1933 he quotes as his only source Professor Schoeps, who submitted a memorandum to Hitler suggesting some method of "integration" of the Jews into the Third Reich. The same Professor Schoeps is now quoted as saying as an excuse for his erstwhile lack of foresight—to put it mildly: "Nobody could have imagined in any possible way between 1933 and 1935 what crimes the Nazis would commit one day. Who alleges anything like this, is a liar". At the risk of being called a liar by the professor, the writer of this review must confess that there were many of us who realised at once after the seizure of power and certainly after the Reichstag fire that the Nazis were a gang of criminals whose battle cry "Juda verrecke" was meant seriously. Even if in 1933 we did not know by what method this aim would be achieved, many Jews and non-Jews knew what was going on in the Storm troop cellars as early as March, 1933, and that this was only a foretaste of things to come. Is Professor Schoeps quoted to strengthen the myth that the German people did not know what was going on?

As representative opinions of German Jewry in the early days of the "Third Reich" Sievers only quotes the views of the "Deutsche Vortrupp", led by the same Professor Schoeps, Dr. Naumann's "Verband national-deutscher Juden" and the "Reichsbund juedischer Frontsoldaten". The attitude of the "Vortrupp" and the "Verband national-deutscher Juden" were treated with contempt by the vast majority of German Jews, and the policy of the "Reichsbund juedischer Frontsoldaten" after the ascent of the Nazi régime met equally sharp criticism and was in no way representative of the views prevailing at the time.\*\* The responsible organisations of German Jewry which were able to continue their work until 1938, concentrated on organising emigration and re-settlement particularly of the younger generation of German Jews. To a large extent it is due to their efforts and not the antics of eccentrics like Professor Schoeps and the late Dr. Naumann that a considerable proportion of the younger generation was saved.

Sievers lets the cat out of the bag when he describes the work of Globotnik, one of the SS leaders responsible for the murder of innumerable Jews in Poland. "He was posted

to the front which had nothing to do with the front at which the Wehrmacht fought". As if the front of the Wehrmacht in Hitler's war could be separated from the front of the SS murderers?!

It is perhaps not surprising that in this attempt at whitewashing Prusso-German militarism, there is no space for one matter in the "Stern" book: Many German Jews joined the resistance against Nazism in Germany and gave their lives in this fight. Others carried on this fight from abroad, and during the war many joined the Allied Forces in the fight against Hitler. We have no reason to be ashamed of this record.

Nor do we find in this History of German Jewry a word on the contributions which German Jewish survivors made to the culture and the economic and technical life of the countries in which they found refuge.

It is unfortunate that thus the last Chapter of the book mars this otherwise praiseworthy attempt at writing a popular history of German Jewry which, in the words of Leo Baeck, came to an end in 1933.

\* Leo Sievers, Juden in Deutschland. Die Geschichte einer 2000 jährigen Tragödie.—Ein Stern-Buch: Verlag Gruner & Jahr A. G. & Co., Hamburg. DM 32.

\*\* A review of a recently written book about the history of the "Frontbund" will be published in one of our next issues.—The Editor.

### GERMAN RIGHT-WING TRENDS

In a Federal German Governmental report it was stated that in 1977 the number of Right-wing excesses had doubled as compared with 1976; they amounted to 616 as against 319. Whereas previously swastika daubings and desecrations of Jewish cemeteries were predominant, later on cases in which neo-Nazis had obtained money and ammunition by force stood in the foreground. There are at present 17 neo-Nazi groups, several of which were found to be in possession of explosives. There also exist 30 extreme Right-wing publishers and distributors, and the demand for Nazi literature, films, records and symbols is on the rise. Among the organisations which comprise more than 5,000 members, the "Deutsche Volksunion" under the leadership of Dr. Frey is the most important one. In 1977 it organised four spectacular mass meetings. The "Deutsche National-Zeitung", edited by Dr. Frey, has a circulation of 100,000 copies and tries to increase its readership by "Hitler headlines".

Commenting on the situation, the report states that the security authorities of the "Bund" and the "Laender" have taken all necessary measures against the illegal actions of the Right-wing extremists. Never before had there been so many proceedings and convictions as in 1977. Generally, criminal proceedings are described as the most effective counter-measures. In addition, steps are also taken if the laws of assembly or the relevant clauses of the Federal German constitution are infringed.

## NEWS FROM GERMANY

### STREET BATTLES IN FRANKFURT

A meeting of the N.P.D. of the Federal Republic in Frankfurt was originally banned by the civic administration, but they were over-ruled by a High Court decision. Subsequently it came to repeated clashes between members of the Party and Left-wing extremists during which 23 policemen were injured and a number of arrests made. There was also a lot of damage to property. A number of other West German cities have declared that they would ban any such meetings in future.

At a smaller meeting in Regensburg, speakers for the Party demanded a united Germany in the centre of Europe and an end to the employment of foreign workers who were threatening "Germany's biological survival".

### BAN ON PALESTINIAN ORGANISATIONS

The Federal Administrative Court has confirmed the ban on the General Union of Palestine Students and the General Union of Palestine Workers in the Federal Republic, giving as its reason that both organisations endangered the security of West Germany. They could be expected to assist terrorists whenever the case arose.

Heinz Galinski, chairman of the West Berlin Jewish community, has protested in the West German press against the cordial reception given to Arafat in the German Democratic Republic which he called "morally reprehensible". Arafat had taken part in the "East German Week of Solidarity with the Struggle of the anti-Imperialist Forces in the Middle East for Peace and Social Progress", and had been treated in the same way as Socialist heads of State.

### BOMB ATTACK ON ISRAELI OFFICES

The "Revolutionary Cell", a West German extreme left-wing group co-operating with Palestinian terrorist organisations, has claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Frankfurt offices of Agrexco, Israel's agricultural produce marketing company which caused damage estimated at about £67,000. None of the 15 people at work were injured.

### THE BERLIN VISITORS' SCHEME

Under a scheme, launched by the West Berlin Senate in 1969, about 300 former Jewish Berliners, who had to leave the city under the Nazi régime, were the guests of the City this June. Most of them came from Israel and South American countries. As usual, they were generously entertained by their hosts. So far, about 7,500 persons have benefited from the scheme. They were mainly elderly persons who lived in modest circumstances; nevertheless, more than two-thirds of them made the voyage at their own expense. The average number of visitors amounts to about 900 per year. A breakdown according to countries of origin, covering the years 1969 to 1975, reveals that about 40 per cent had come from North America and 21 per cent from South America. About 18 per cent came from Israel and ten per cent from European countries. The expenditure of the invitation scheme is considerable. Between 1969 and 1974 it amounted to about 3.2 million DM; since then the annual costs have considerably risen.

Unfortunately, so far no other West German city with a formerly large Jewish community has followed the example of Berlin with the same generosity. The position is different in a number of smaller towns which were aware of their moral obligation towards their Jewish former fellow citizens and invited them as their guests.

E.G.L.

### PROSECUTION OF NAZIS

A Hanover court sentenced former S.S. sergeant Friedrich Rathja, 64, to a suspended two years' jail term and a fine of about £1,330 for complicity in the murder of 900 Lublin Jews in 1942 and 1943. Proceedings against three of his fellow-accused were stopped because of their ill health, two others were acquitted. The Court said that Rathja took part in the deportation of the Lublin Jews and must have been aware of the fate that awaited them in the camps.

Former SS officer Richard Hospodarsch was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for murder by a Linburg Court. However, he was released on bail because of ill-health. After a trial of eight months, the Court found that 69-year-old Hospodarsch had shot two Jewish women in Opatow, Poland, in 1943 and fatally wounded another. He pleaded superior orders. The presiding judge said that in a number of cases, the accused had tried to protect the inhabitants of the town, but the fact that he had been in a position to do good, proved that he was equally capable of doing wrong.

### Life Sentence for Camp Murderer

The Federal Court in Karlsruhe superseded the sentence of twelve years jail pronounced by the Hamburg Court against 57-year-old former SS officer Wilhelm Eickhoff by a life sentence, stating that there could be no other sentence for deliberate murder. Eickhoff had been in charge of an SS camp in Ruthenia where more than 1,400 Jews were killed. The Hamburg Court had accepted a plea of higher orders, stating that Eickhoff, 21 at the time, had only been entangled in the web of murder ordered from above.

### Representative of American Nazis Arrested

Large quantities of Nazi propaganda material were seized during a major police search during a meeting of NS groups in Scharzfeld, near Göttingen. Several pamphlets and periodicals, including the revived "Völkische Beobachter", called for an attack on the life of the Bavarian Prime Minister Wilhelm Högnér, because of his involvement in the Nuremberg trials, and of Richard Meir, president of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution.

In Koblenz, 22-year-old Gunnar Pahl, main representative of Gary Lauck, the American NSDAP leader, was arrested and charged with possessing and distributing anti-democratic material. Gary Lauck founded the "NSDAP Abroad" in 1972, and since then has been sending out Nazi propaganda material to many European countries from his home in Lincoln, Nebraska. Some of this material has repeatedly been distributed in Britain.

### JANUSZ KORCSAK STAMP

The Federal Post Office has issued a stamp in honour of the centenary of the birth of Janusz Korcsak who accompanied his pupils in the Warsaw Jewish orphanages to the concentration camp of Treblinka where he died with them. He was known for his work in school reform and has often been called the Polish-Jewish Pestalozzi.

### NEW JEWISH YOUTH ORGANISATION

During a seminar at the Sobornheim Jewish Youth Centre, a new Jewish Youth League for people between 16 and 35 was set up. So far, about one hundred young men and women have joined. It has set itself the task to strengthen Jewish knowledge and knowledge about Israel and the Middle East conflict among the young post-war Jewish population.

### A CONTROVERSIAL TOWN MAYOR

Efforts to annul the election of one of the three mayors of Grafrath, Bavaria, have so far been without success. Sixty-seven-year-old Josef Friedinger was an official in Dachau concentration camp and a member of the S.S. Death Head Regiment.

### KREISDIREKTOR SUSPENDED

Forty-four-year-old Socialist Oberkreisdirektor Horst Kann, Recklinghausen, was suspended for three months and will have to appear before a Disciplinary Court for remarks made during a recent official visit to Israel. At one point he said: "This is what you like: one people, one Reich, one Führer". He admitted the remark, but said he did not know where it originally came from, and could therefore not be accused of a Nazi attitude. He added that he was the victim of character assassination.

### SALE OF NAZI EMBLEMS

The public prosecutor has started proceedings against two antique dealers in Bonn on whose premises a vast amount of Nazi emblems were confiscated. They included a complete S.S. officer's uniform, and any number of swastikas, armbands with Volkssturm insignia, S.S. decorations and medals, and had been widely distributed in Bonn and the surrounding countryside.

### GERMAN PROTEST AGAINST BRITISH TOYS

The Public Prosecutor at Emmerich in West Germany is investigating against the West German branch of Lesney Products, the makers of Matchbox Toys who are accused of neo-Nazi activities. Some of their planes and tank models are replicas of Luftwaffe fighters and bombers and German Army tanks with stick-on transfers of swastikas and Iron Crosses. A representative of the firm said this was only done to maintain historical authenticity.

### RESOLUTION AGAINST RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM

At their Annual General Meeting the German Federation of Societies for Christian-Jewish Co-operation passed a resolution in which it expressed its concern at the increase of Right-wing incidents in the German Federal Republic. The resolution referred, among other things, to trends aiming at belittling the Hitler terror régime and to the sale of Nazi "commemorative" emblems at fairs. It also requested the member organisations to prepare adequate functions on the occasion of the forthcoming 40th anniversary of the November 1938 pogroms.

### AWARDS FOR SAVING JEWS

The Service Cross of the West German Order of Merit was awarded to Mrs. Hertha Brockschmidt, of West Berlin and Mrs. Elisabeth Weeg of Lohmar near Cologne. Both women had risked their lives to save Jews from the Nazis. Mrs. Weeg and her late husband hid a Jewish couple and their daughter from the Gestapo who were looking for them.

### MEDAL FOR CIVIC SERVICES

Dr. rer. pol. Elisabeth Weichmann, the wife of the former Governing Mayor of Hamburg, Dr. Herbert Weichmann, was awarded the newly created Biermann-Ratjen Medal of the Hamburg Senate, "in recognition of her activities as a politician and engaged citizen which had an inspiring effect on the cultural and social life of the city", as the laudatio says. Mrs. Weichmann, who together with her husband emigrated in 1933, was from 1957 to 1974 a Social Democratic member of the Hamburg City Council.

## HOME NEWS

### EFFECTS OF THE BOYCOTT

A Board of Trade official explained recently that British nationalised industries are treated the same as commercial companies when it comes to making decisions on foreign contracts. It was the Government's practice to leave it "to the firm's own commercial judgement" as to whether it accepts a contract containing boycott stipulations.

In his testimony before the House of Lords Select Committee which is considering Lord Byers' Foreign Boycotts Bill, Mr Dan Halperin, deputy director-general of the Israeli Finance Ministry and head of its economic warfare department, said this attitude left British companies without protection and exposed them to unfair practices by competitors. There had been cases where companies had accused their competitors for Arab trade of having links with Israel so as to get their business. He added that Israel needed to import large quantities of capital goods for her investment and development programme and was contemplating several huge construction projects all of which would be open to tender by British companies.

A British Transport firm, Thompson Jewitt International, has had to warn its customers not to send its goods to Syria in Ford vehicles which would not be allowed in. The Greek Syria Express Line, which runs 14 sailings a month to Syria, had stated that it would no longer accept Ford-manufactured vehicles. The Ford Motor Company announced that it was aware of being on the Arab League boycott list, but not of any supplementary bans. Ford has an assembly plant near Nazareth where the Ford Kitten, an Israeli version of the Ford Escort, is produced for the Israeli market.

The Delta-T Devices firm in Cambridge has refused to supply any further orders to Israeli institutions "unless those responsible for their purchase send us a written statement dissociating themselves completely from the attacks on Lebanon and the underlying aggressive attitude of the Israeli Government". They had been supplying agricultural instruments to the Volcani Centre for Agricultural Research in Rehovot, which is part of the Hebrew University, and which said in its reply that it does not wish to trade with a firm which imposes political conditions on its trade.

### LAWYERS' ADVICE TO ISRAEL

At a dinner of the legal friends of the Hebrew University, Lord Salmon, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, said it was important that Israel should correct the unfortunate impression among some of its friends of utter rigidity and unwillingness to give up land. It had been gauche of the Israeli Government to have rounded new settlements and enlarged others immediately after President Sadat's visit. The lawyers' group had endowed a new fellowship at the law faculty of the University, and Lord Wedderburn, professor of law at the London School of Economics, the guest of honour, had just returned from giving the Lionel Cohen lecture there. Lord Wedderburn said that after his visit he was convinced that it was impossible to have Jerusalem divided again.

At a symposium of the Anglo-Jewish Association, Israeli Ambassador Mr Kidron said he was impatient of lawyers who attacked Israel for not being more forthcoming. Nobody asked the Arabs what they were doing. Mr Martin Gilbert, the historian, said he was disgusted that the lawyers had not studied the 26 points of the Israeli plan and discussed them with their Jewish and non-Jewish friends. It was appalling that legal people were not aware of them.

### JEWIS IN THE NEW LEFT

Professor Percy S. Cohen, professor of sociology at the London School of Economics, said that Jews were represented in the New Left, that phenomenon of the 1960s, out of all proportion to their numbers. Among 52 students from various countries, he had found a number who were radicals and happened to be Jewish, and radical Jews belonging to Jewish left-wing groups, but even among Jewish radicals some felt positive links with Judaism and Israel. Jews were leaving their traditional society and trying to become members of the Gentile society which did not quite accept them. They were therefore particularly prone to join movements which aimed at an idealistic change of that society.

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON

Delegates of 23 member organisations of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany and of 48 member organisations of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture met in London on June 20. The "Council of Jews from Germany" was represented at the meetings by its Joint Chairmen Mr H. Gerling (Jerusalem) and Dr. F. E. Falk (London) and its Hon. Secretary Dr. W. Rosenstock. The Claims Conference, among other things, dealt with questions of restitution and issued a special appeal to the Government of the German Democratic Republic for a humanitarian payment to be used for relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. One of the subjects of the Memorial Foundation meeting was the report of the Holocaust Commission, given by Rabbi Dr. Joachim Prinz. The moral obligation of our generation to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive, was generally considered as a paramount task, and the programme of its implementation includes the production of literature, including material for school education as well as the use of the mass media.

### VETERAN M.P. HONOURED

The Prime Minister, Mr. James Callaghan, presented Mr. David Weitzman, QC, MP, with a beautifully produced address conveying to him the good wishes of members of the House of Commons on his 80th birthday. It was signed by MPs of all parties. Mr. Weitzman, the oldest member of the House of Commons, has represented Hackney North and Stoke Newington for 33 years. He is one of six Jewish Labour veterans who will not seek re-election to the next Parliament.

## Anglo-Judaica

### Civic Service at Synagogue

To mark the accession of Portsmouth's Lord Mayor, Mr. Richard Sotnick, a civic service was held at the Portsmouth Synagogue, attended by members of the City Council and service chiefs, the Chief Superintendent of the Hampshire Constabulary, the city mace-bearer, Port Admiral W. J. Graham, Major-General Surgeon of the Royal Marines, and the two Portsmouth members of Parliament with their wives.

### "The Jewish Way of Life"

Chief Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits opened a comprehensive exhibition on the "Jewish Way of Life" at the Palmers Green Broomfield Museum. It was planned at the golden jubilee of the local synagogue and supported by Enfield Borough Council and the Board of Deputies. Sections are devoted to Jewish ritual and practice, the history of the Jews in England and the activities of the Palmers Green Synagogue during the past 50 years.

### New Day Centre in Golders Green

The Michael Sobell Day Centre which is being developed out of the former La Sagesse Convent in Golders Green, will be opened early next year. It will be run jointly by the Jewish Welfare Board and the Jewish Blind Society. In part of the building, not needed for the centre, the Menorah School has taken a 90-year lease at a peppercorn rent in return for a capital sum of £70,000.

### Cameo Corner to close

The world-famous antique jewellery shop *Cameo Corner* near the British Museum was closed in June because of increased rent. It was started 40 years ago by Mr. Edward Good, the Polish-born son of a chazan-shochev who later adopted the pen-name Moshe Oved. The late Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret were among the many faithful customers of the shop. Oved died in 1958, and the shop has since been owned by Hambros Bank. Its Bond Street branch will remain open.

### New Synagogue Plan Attacked

Mr. Herbert Loebel, a member of the Newcastle Jesmond Synagogue, attacked the plan to build a new synagogue to replace the two existing ones at Gosforth and Jesmond. He said there was no need for centralisation when there existed two conveniently situated synagogue buildings. It did not make common sense, and the outlay of some £250,000 could be better channelled into specific Jewish funds, such as the Joint Israel Appeal. Dr. Felix Lustman, the congregation's treasurer, said the upkeep of one building would be much less than that of three, and centralisation would greatly benefit the community.

### 100 Years of Jewish Life in Ireland

The recently formed Irish Jewish Historical Society has opened an exhibition featuring a century of Jewish life in Ireland. Judge Herman Good said at the official opening that the exhibition was one of the greatest events ever for the Jewish Community in Ireland. It includes photographed extracts from the first minute-book of the Dublin Hebrew Congregation which has turned up in a Tel Aviv Museum. There had been Jews in Ireland 400 years ago, but the community was only founded in the 1870s.

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# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Visas for 12,000 Refugees

Despite protests from Mr. Dultzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency, the American Government has agreed to issue 12,000 more entry visas for Soviet refugees, most of them Jews waiting in Rome. Each month, some 1,200 such refugees arrive in Vienna on Israel visas, but only about 30 per cent actually go to Israel. The other 70 per cent wish to go to the United States and other Western countries and are sent to Rome to await visas and permits. Mr. Dultzin has accused Jewish organisations in America of encouraging them to do so by giving them assistance. Mr. Carl Glick, president of Hias (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) stated that 80 per cent of the Soviet Jews wanting to go to America did so to be reunited with their families.

### Jewish Advisers at the White House

Mr. Edward Sanders has been appointed President Carter's special adviser on the Middle East. He is the honorary chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the only Jewish organisation officially registered with Congress to lobby with regard to legislation which affects Israel. In August 1978, he resigned from his post as the Committee's president in order to serve on President Carter's election campaign. His predecessor in the White House, Mr Mark Siegel, resigned three months ago in protest against the sale of aircraft to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. There are four other Jews on the senior staff of the White House. They are Mr. Robert Lipshutz, Mr. Stuart Eizenstat, Mr. Gerald Rafshoon and Mrs. Anne Wexler.

### Jew Heads Tennessee Valley Authority

Mr. Simon David Freeman, a veteran energy expert and son of a Jewish umbrella-maker from Lithuania, has been appointed head of the Tennessee Valley Authority, America's largest electric power company, set up under Roosevelt's New Deal in the 'thirties. It has 40,000 employees and serves seven million people.

### PLO Office in Washington

Against the wishes of the State Department, the Palestine Liberation Organisation has opened an office in Washington with a budget of some £24,000 for the first six months. The State Department said this did not signify a change in US policy, and American officials would not be allowed to have contacts with the office or its director Hussein. The PLO already has an office in New York.

### Rabbi under Police Protection

The police protection for the world headquarters of the Chasidic Movement and for the home of Rabbi Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, which has been given since 1966 and which was temporarily withdrawn, has been restored. The new mayor of New York, Mr Ed Koch, had wanted to cancel it, because as he said it had cost the city a total of \$4 million and he deemed routine patrols sufficient.

## CAMPS

### INTERNMENT—P.O.W.— FORCED LABOUR—KZ

I wish to buy cards, envelopes and folded post-marked letters from all camps of both world wars. Please send, registered mail, stating price, to:

14 Roselyn Hill, London, N.W.3

PETER C. RICKENBACK

## Dr. Kissinger's Reunion Party

Forty years ago, former pupils of the Fuerth Gymnasium promised to hold a reunion if they escaped from Nazi Germany. For the last three years, Dr. Kissinger who was one of them, and another classmate in America have worked on the realisation of this plan and succeeded in tracing 180 survivors. Most of them have agreed to attend the reunion party at a hotel in the Catskill mountains near New York. They will come from many countries, but only one of them, Mrs. Lisa Vincent, 54-year-old head of the German Department at Fairham Comprehensive School, Nottingham, will come from Britain. She told a reporter that most of her family had been deported, but with the help of Quakers, she and a friend had managed to escape to England. She was sixteen at the time and the two made their way to the Dutch border and escaped into Holland. They were put on a trawler for England, and Lisa was sent to a boarding school in Nottinghamshire, whereas her friend eventually went to Australia where he now lives. He will attend the reunion. She said, Dr. Kissinger's nickname has been "Kissus", he had been a bright and studious boy who missed his Barmitzva party because of measles. The reunion will start with a memorial service for schoolmates killed by the Nazis.

## Solidarity among Sportsmen

The American volleyball team has cancelled a tour of China, because Mr. Arie Selinger, the American women's team coach, was refused permission to enter China on his Israeli passport. He was offered a visa if he travelled on an American passport but the team rejected this.

## NATIONAL FRONT IN AUSTRALIA

A Melbourne newspaperman has infiltrated the newly set-up Australian offshoot of the National Front in Britain which has branches in Sydney and Brisbane. A Dutch post-war immigrant, alleged to have made common cause with the Nazis during the war, has been named as its prospective president. At the Melbourne inaugural meeting, a tape was played from John Tyndall, founder and chairman of the National Front in Britain and former deputy leader of the British National Socialist Movement.

## FRANCE

### Bombs on Club Mediterranee

A bomb attack badly damaged the Paris headquarters of the Club Mediterranee, the Jewish-owned travel and leisure organisation. A man claimed over the telephone that the bombs were left by the "French National Liberation Front" as an act of resistance against the "Jewish occupation of France" whose Jewish population had increased from 350,000 in 1939 to almost a million today. He added: "We did not fight against the German occupation to suffer the presence in our country now of seven million Jews, Negroes, and Arabs". The Club Mediterranee whose chairman is Baron Edmond de Rothschild, was founded in 1950 and is now a huge organisation with camps and hotels all over the world, including Israel. Its annual turnover is about £150 million a year, and its 1977 profits amounted to some £6½ million.

### Rabbis oppose Transplants

The French Rabbinical Council has adopted a resolution stating that Judaism was opposed to the extraction and grafting of organs. Only corneas could be donated to hospitals. It was explained that any medical act which resulted in hastening death is to be regarded as murder.

## Nazi Rally Prevented

Gendarmes ejected about 25 neo-Nazis from the grounds of Chateau Blondy-les-Tours where they were preparing a camp site for an international Nazi meeting. They included six Germans, three Frenchmen, three Dutchmen, two Belgians and a Swiss. François Hamon, who had rented the chateau for the rally, was arrested. The local population had assumed that the 25 were actors when they saw their swastika armbands, brown shirts and jackboots and only realised what was happening when they began singing Nazi songs and giving the Nazi salute.

## Airport Synagogue

At the end of the main concourse at Orly airport, near the multi-faith chapel, building work has begun on a synagogue for passengers using the airport.

## Cemetery Desecrated

Toulouse police are seeking the persons responsible for desecrating the Jewish cemetery at Portet-sur-Garonne. Swastikas and the name of Dachau were daubed on the walls, and a number of bronze Shields of David were stolen from tombstones. The Mayor of Toulouse apologised to the Jewish community "for this barbaric act by uncivilised people".

## Statue for Ben-Gurion

The city of Troyes where Rashi, the great Bible commentator, was born has honoured David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, by a statue in a square named after him.

## SWITZERLAND

### New Chagall Window in Zürich

Many visitors to Zürich are unaware of the beautiful Chagall windows which have been in the historical Fraumünster for a number of years. The 91-year-old artist has now added another window to complete his series of biblical subjects which is no less beautiful than the much better-known set of windows in Jerusalem. The new window shows the phases of the creation, the expulsion from Paradise and Noah's Ark with its promise of salvation.

### Praise for Israel's Treatment of Arab Workers

A delegation of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, which visited Israel and the occupied territories in April, has published a report saying that the 63,000 workers from the occupied territories officially working in Israel, have equality of opportunity and treatment with Israeli workers. Less skilled Arab workers, however, were given less well-paid jobs which "might produce feelings of inequality and discrimination on ethnic grounds".

## NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT FRUSTRATES BOYCOTT

The Norwegian Minister of Commerce and Shipping insisted on the removal of a boycotting clause from a contract between a Norwegian shipbuilding firm and an Egyptian company before agreeing to provide government financial support and guarantees. He stated that the Norwegian export credit guarantee institute had been instructed to ensure that no discrimination clauses were contained in export documentation within its competence.

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Fritz Friedlander (Melbourne)

## DOEBLIN CENTENARY

It was, indeed, with high expectations that I visited a Berlin bookshop in 1920 to hear Alfred Döblin read a selection from his work. His first magnum opus—the fantastic novel "Die drei Sprünge des Wang-lun" (1915)—had won him the reputation of a leading fiction writer.

On this occasion, Döblin opened with a polemic essay evidently aimed at Alfred Kerr, though the name was not mentioned. He then explained the conception of his great novel "Wallenstein", then recently published, and read a scene from it which at once fascinated me: it told how the dying General Tilly, defeated by Gustav Adolph, was shaken in his Catholic faith.

In this book, Wallenstein differs from the irresolute hero of Schiller's tragedy: he is a man of action ready to resist the onslaught of hostile circumstances. Döblin's re-creation of those chaotic times has for me something of Grimmelhäuser and of Ricarda Huch's great work "Der grosse Krieg in Deutschland".

"Wallenstein" enhanced the reputation of an author who had had no easy life. Born in Stettin on August 10, 1878, Döblin's childhood had been clouded by his father's desertion of his family. His mother moved to a poor quarter of Berlin, where she struggled to keep herself and her children. Nevertheless, Alfred managed to study medicine, qualifying in 1905 and specialising in neurology and psychiatry. His practice was in the Frankfurter Allee, Berlin. He married and raised a family, later serving in the First World War as a medical officer. His brother Hugo, meanwhile, became a well-known actor.

Alfred Döblin, however, felt irresistibly drawn to literature. He came in contact with the avant-garde Sturm circle, met Else Lasker-Schüler, and tried his hand at bizarre stories, collected in "Die Ermordung einer Butterblume" (1913). His first real recognition came with "Die drei Sprünge des Wang-lun" and "Wallenstein". He owed his success to his psychological insight, dynamic language and imaginative powers. For example, although he was never in China, he spun a web of fantasy around the founder of a Chinese

religious sect, who preached endurance as a means to purity of heart.

With "Berge, Meere und Giganten" (1924), Döblin entered the realm of science fiction; this Utopian novel, admired by Lion Feuchtwanger, revels in bold technological visions, while warning of the dangers which man may bring upon himself through an over-mechanised society.

"Berlin Alexanderplatz—die Geschichte von Franz Biberkopf" (1929) is Döblin's most successful and popular novel. It describes in broad outline the vicissitudes of an outcast from society, who changes from an unscrupulous criminal to a law-abiding petty bourgeois. The atmosphere of proletarian Berlin is depicted in masterly fashion. A very effective film was made of this magnificent novel and the German paperback edition of 1973 sold over 200,000 copies in a few weeks.

When Hitler came to power in 1933, Döblin went to Zürich and thereafter to Paris. He continued to write in German, but his next extensive novel, "Babylonische Wanderung" (1934), fell short of his earlier work. It tells of a strange Oriental deity, Konrad, who travels through the world and experiences the uncertainty of human life, but the book is marred by the author's tendency to digress from the plot.

However, in "Pardon wird nicht gegeben" (1935), Döblin had rallied his forces and produced another masterpiece. Personal memories were here skilfully combined with a splendid description of social and political development from the turn of the century to the Great Depression of the thirties. The scene is evidently Berlin, and the brutal recklessness of modern capitalism is portrayed through the rise and fall of a businessman (modelled on one of the author's brothers).

Döblin had little Jewish education and only a journey to Poland in 1924 gave him some inkling of the reality of Jewish life. He was, naturally, shocked by Hitler's persecution, but those essays in which he meditated upon the Jewish question—"Jüdische Erneuerung" (1933), "Flucht und Sammlung des Judentums" (1935)—did not deal exhaustively with the subject. As a refugee, he gave up the materialistic outlook of his youth and became

attached to a hazy mysticism; this led to his conversion to Catholicism in 1940.

When in that year Hitler invaded France, President Roosevelt granted Döblin an emergency visa. He and his family escaped to the US, where he completed the novels already begun in Paris. The first was published in three volumes in 1936 and subsequent years. Entitled "Das Land ohne Tod", "Der blaue Tiger" and "Der neue Urwald", this vast work dealt critically with the colonisation of South America. The white men believe themselves chosen to bring the Christian message to the Indians but make a mock of Christian morality by their treatment of the natives. In dealing with the clash of civilisations, Döblin, I feel, is less familiar with his subject than in his next work, in which he returns to the settings of "Pardon wird nicht gegeben".

However, there can be no doubt of his personal involvement in writing his mammoth "November 1918", published in four volumes in 1939 and succeeding years. This ambitious work was criticised on the grounds that the characterisation of historical figures has no basis in reality. Although the objection is to some extent valid, "November 1918" presents an impressive portrayal of the tragic failure of a revolution. Döblin lays the blame for that failure not only on the reactionary bourgeoisie, but also on the leaders of the working class. The novel reflects his political credo: a socialist in his youth (since he was always on the side of the poor), he became disappointed with the party bosses. Later he came to believe that the Marxist principle of class struggle must be replaced by a new sense of social responsibility.

Döblin the psychiatrist is at work again in his last novel "Hamlet oder die lange Nacht nimmt ein Ende" (1956). This tells of an American ex-soldier, Edward Allison, who suffers from loss of memory; his long night is over when he is cured by psycho-analysis.

Döblin returned to Germany, moving to Mainz in 1945. From 1946 to 1951 he was editor of a literary magazine, "Das goldene Tor". However, he did not feel at home and went back to Paris in 1953. After a long illness, he died in poverty at Emmendingen, near Freiburg, on June 28, 1957. His reputation as a great creative writer was, however, re-affirmed when a comprehensive edition of his works was published in Switzerland after the Second World War. In Berlin, a street was named after the author who threw light on the darkness round about the Alexanderplatz.

## GUENTER GRASS HONOURS DOEBLIN

To mark the centenary, Guenter Grass, who was born about 50 years after Döblin, has decided to use part of the royalties of his successful works, especially "Der Butt" (published in 1977), for an endowment of DM200,000 which is to bear the name of Alfred Döblin. The capital will be administered by the West Berlin Academy of Arts and used for awards of about DM20,000 to prospective authors of literary prose works. Grass is a member of the jury.

## EXHIBITION ON BERLIN CONGRESS

The Berlin Congress in June/July 1878, which was held under the presidency of Bismarck to prevent or reduce tensions between the European nations, is commemorated in an exhibition held in the Geheime Staatsarchiv in Berlin-Dahlem. One of the subjects of the Congress was the difficult situation of the Jews in the Balkan countries, especially in Romania. To bring their plight to the notice of the Congress, a special German-Jewish committee was created. Its chairman was Professor Moritz Lazarus. Other personalities associated with the committee's efforts included the author Berthold Auerbach, the classical philologist Jacob Bernays, Bismarck's financial adviser Gerson von Bleichroeder and the gynaecologist Geheimrat Dr. Samuel Kristeller, co-founder of the Deutsch-Israelitische Gemeindebund. E.G.L.

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## THE RETURN OF THE JEWS TO SPAIN

### German Rabbi's Pioneering Work

The signs of a Jewish-Spanish "reconciliation" would have gladdened the heart of one German Jew who, 120-odd years ago, exerted himself to bring it about—Dr. Ludwig Philippson, one time rabbi of Magdeburg and editor of the *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judenthums* which he founded in 1837. Like many Jews before and after him, he was intrigued by the spectacle of a country that once, in 1492, expelled the Jews and presumed to maintain the ban in modern times, even a generation after the French Revolution. The absurdity of it did not bemuse him as much as the sheer injustice angered him. He closely watched the course of events in Spain, as indeed in other countries, and the foreign news service of his paper was probably among the best anywhere, easily surpassing that of the *Jewish Chronicle* which in fact frequently drew on the German source.

So when the ideas of 1848 began to cross the Pyrenees and, in 1854, a band of progressive *moderados* managed to unsettle Queen Isabel's reactionary régime, Philippson saw a silver lining, a faint promise that the ghosts of 1492 might now be laid. He faithfully recorded in his paper one of the several proclamations urging the freedom of religious worship (*la libertad de cultos*): "Spain (it was said there) owes its decay to the religious intolerance which robbed the country of every kind of merchant, industrialist and workman and latterly brought about the most iniquitous persecution of the most illustrious men in science, literature and art. Now is the time to open the gates to so many of the Spanish race who were once outlawed and are scattered throughout the world where they help to increase the wealth of their adopted countries".

High hopes now sprang up in European Jewry. The Board of Deputies appointed a Committee to explore the chances of a legal return. They asked the *Consistoire* of Paris to join in appealing to Spain, but the French, so recently after the coup of Louis Napoleon, were nervous of troubling their Government on what must have appeared to them a secondary issue, and the British did not wish to go it alone.

Philippson however was determined to make the most of what he regarded as the "great changes in the political and social conditions of Spain". He addressed to the new Cortes and the Government a Memorial demanding religious freedom in general and more especially the repeal of the decree of Banishment. Claiming to speak in the name of "German Israel", he said:

Far removed from the Iberian Peninsula, members of another beautiful and beloved Fatherland, of another magnificent and esteemed people, we raise our voice in the service of that great and sublime principle of whose true application, however, we Jews in all countries have come to be the acid test—in the service of the freedom of religious worship—and we raise our voice also to demand from the representatives of a magnanimous nation the redress of an ancient wrong, justice for a great historical act of violence which, though it happened in a darkness far off, is still being felt today.

Philippson briefly sketched the history of Spanish Jewry from the earliest times—not, he stressed, as Jewish or foreign authors saw it but according to the "unbiased" contemporary Spanish historian, Amador de los Rios, who had borne witness that "the expulsion

dealt a mortal blow to trade and commerce". However, the rabbi said, he was not dwelling upon "the curse that inescapably follows the foot of religious persecution", nor on "the extraordinary material disadvantages which are bound to show themselves in the wake of intolerance":

The centuries have all too plainly preached the lesson of their experience... though the adversary is still far from having lost his power, indeed time and again manages to regain it, nevertheless he has fallen dumb; rational reasons he can offer none. Where the examples of America, France and Belgium, Holland and England, Germany and Denmark speak... we can say mankind has spoken, and the demand for this freedom of religious worship can no longer be refused in any country claiming to be civilised, among any people claiming to be regarded as humane.

But (Philippson continued) Jews have a very special right to approach the highest tribunal of the Spanish nation: in the face of God and mankind, they must plead for the repeal of the Banishment edict. That plea must be granted regardless as to whether the freedom of religious worship was or was not introduced, because by that repeal Spain's ancient guilt in history would be redeemed.

Was anybody fearful that Spain might be "flooded by Jews"? Not likely (Philippson said). People cruelly expelled from a country are not easily tempted to return; they would not soon leave a fatherland in which they had struck roots as citizens enjoying every right. The times (the German rabbi pathetically remarked) when they had to count themselves lucky if one land on earth would receive them once another had driven them out, were gone for ever. On the very day after their departure from Spain, Columbus had set sail to discover a new world, and it was in that direction that Jews were now wending their way. Philippson summed up.

We do not come to demand restitution for the inestimable goods of which they were robbed—we come only to blot out the disgrace of banishment, to obtain free entry for those of our faith who may wish it.

This Memorandum received the support of two French congregations which Philippson had previously approached as they were nearest to Spain, those of Marseille and Bayonne, though the *Consistoire* of Bordeaux, like that of Paris was, more discreetly, in favour of silence.

In Madrid a notable stir was created. The Government paper *Novedades* welcomed the petition, saying there were no reasonable grounds for refusing it: "In terms of economics the readmission of the Jews would assure us of substantial benefits". Another paper, *Esperanza*, though raising no basic objections, felt uneasy. If Philippson had pointed out that Jews had settled in Spain even before it was Christian, this might tempt the Jews to claim possession of all Spain! The "foolish scare" was ridiculed in a third paper.

Others raised the fundamental issue. In a pamphlet entitled "Popular prayers for the Spanish nation", a writer, Luis de Asoz y Rio, declared: "We confess before you, O Lord, the great sin of our nation committed against the descendants of the ancient people of Israel, whom our fathers treated so cruelly and at length drove out of the country of their birth without making any distinction. Pardon,

O Lord, this cruelty because we repent it. And when you who are the God of Abraham lead back his sons into Spain, let us not forget that you say to them 'I will bless them that bless you and curse them that curse you'."

However, the *moderados* did not last. No more than a first timid approach to religious freedom had been attempted, and even the little proved too much. The "tolerant spirit" was drowned in a wave of clericalism that sought to "make the Catholic unity of Spain a political and intellectual reality". Philippson was (unofficially) told that any action such as he had in mind would provide the opposition with "a banner for civil war" (which was probably no mere excuse), and within a matter of months, the old régime was in bloom again.

Accordingly, the Cortes referred the German Jewish plea to a parliamentary committee where it was never heard of again. Philippson found himself left as a crier in the wilderness, though he insisted that even if the first attempt had failed, the idea once uttered, and "given sufficient perseverance", was "bound to achieve its object".

Strangely enough, he did not pursue the matter when conditions definitely improved with the September revolution of 1868. The leaders of the first Republic openly, and over-enthusiastically, declared that "religious liberty" was "henceforth a fact in Spain" and that they had "abrogated the edict of the fifteenth century". They had not really, though they were, in theory, right when they told the Board of Deputies (and others) that in as much as the September revolution had proclaimed the *libertad de cultos*, the decree was by implication repealed. When the Russian pogroms broke out, in 1881, the Spanish Government actually, in a memorable (if barren) gesture, offered refuge to the persecuted.

But while the *Jewish Chronicle* rejoiced that "Spain has at last publicly acknowledged the error and injustice of barbarous intolerance", Philippson now had qualms. He thought indiscriminate immigration had "dangerous aspects". Apart from being racked with corruption, the country was held to have by no means accepted "the spirit of tolerance and the need for freedom of conscience". The reason why Jews were called to Spain was thought to be materialistic rather than idealistic: the country needed capital and Jewish enterprise, and while of course no matter for reproach, this showed that "any immigration of poor or less-well-to-do Jews would put them at a grave disadvantage, if not in peril"—except perhaps in ports, with a bigger volume of trade, where people were used to the presence of strangers.

This was, on the whole, a correct assessment. For a long time few Jews would settle in Spain—5,000 at the most before the Civil War; hardly any belonging to the lower classes except perhaps in the South, craftsmen from Morocco, and certainly even fewer came from Russia. The majority who played no negligible part in economic and social life were well-to-do, though usually pretending not to be Jews. For the official good will always had to contend with the popular superstitions that had their roots in a far-off past: the Marranos were still at large. It was only in 1968—a century after the glorious revolution—that a synagogue building was officially consecrated in Madrid: the ancient decree was then expressly blotted out, and last year a Shabbat service was attended there by the Queen, herself a student of Judaism as a branch of Comparative Religion—no more striking reinstatement could be wished for, and so there may be reason to hope that at length the prayers will come true which were devoutly offered up, 120 years ago, by Dr Ludwig Philippson, the rabbi of Magdeburg.

# TOPICAL ISSUES ON T.V.

In its "World in Action" programme, Granada T.V. showed a well-researched programme on the National Front which relied largely on information supplied by a police informer who had infiltrated the party. He said there was no doubt that the Front was antisemitic. Its members were violent and many of them carried guns, knives and other weapons. Some of them regularly raided the shops and homes of immigrants, smashing windows and daubing swastikas on the walls. A Jewish old age pensioner from Leeds, Mrs. Marcus, said she had been stopped in the street by a man distributing Front pamphlets and told: "We are getting rid of the Jews". The police investigator said he had been told it would be cheaper to kill immigrants than to repatriate them, in the same way as Hitler had killed the Jews. Records of German marching songs and Hitler speeches had been broadcast at Front meetings. The editor of the National Front bulletin, Richard Verrall, was named as the author of the pamphlet "Did Six Million really die?" The programme also showed letters written by John Tyndall, the Front's chairman, expressing his admiration for Hitler and his commitment to Nazism. In a letter to a prominent American Nazi, he had said that there was a need for a serious and responsible-looking element in Britain adhering to the principles of Nazism and Fascism in a manner with which British people could identify. "Our strategy", he wrote, "is to use the moderate elements and to work behind them as long as is necessary". The B.B.C. devoted an hour to an investigation about Israel's alleged uranium theft and came to the conclusion that Israel actually possessed atomic weapons, a statement promptly refuted by a spokesman of the Israel Foreign Ministry. In the programme, John Haddon, former chief of the C.I.A. station in Israel, praised the Israeli secret service for its efficiency. Not only had they managed to secure large quantities of enriched uranium, they had also obtained the plans for the Mirage fighter, which the French refused to supply to them, in Switzerland, and got hold of the gunboats, withheld by the French in spite of the fact that Israel had already paid for them. He said: "These gentlemen — and they are gentlemen — are extraordinarily adept at removing things at long distance." A Norwegian intelligence officer, commenting on the uranium operation said: "The operation was so clean, it must have been the Israelis; the Arabs are too messy."

The three-part "Palestine" programme on I.T.V. went to great lengths to be impartial, to show the rights and wrongs on both sides, and to demonstrate the development of British attitudes during two world wars. It stated that the Jews had no option but to side with the Allies in the Second World War, and that therefore it was more important to woo the Arabs at the expense of the Jews. Particularly harassing were the pictures of the refugee ships which tried to land in Palestine during and after the war. Representatives of both sides were united in blaming British policy for much that went wrong. Professor Yehuda Bauer, of the Hebrew University, the spokesman for the Jewish standpoint, said that the British tried to reconcile the irreconcilable claims of Jews and Arabs while attempting to retain their imperial position in Palestine.

This attempt was doomed to failure. The spokesman for the Arabs, Dr. Khalidi, said that the Palestinian problem was at the core of the Arab-Jewish conflict, and it originated from "the British imperial pride in the 1920s."

## WHAT IS A TERRORIST?

A spokesman for Independent Television News explained that they had referred to the perpetrators of the Jerusalem bomb attack as "Palestinian commandos" because they did not think they should sit in judgement on which of two conflicting groups was in the wrong. They only called IRA members terrorists, because they "are fighting against this government". He said civilian death was certainly a matter of regret no matter on whose side, but "we are not in the regret business." It was legitimate to call the Palestinians either commandos or guerillas.

## NEW LIBRARY IN MEMORY OF BOMB VICTIM

In the children's wing of the Jerusalem museum, a library was dedicated in memory of British-born Michael Jonathan Ben-Itzhak (Isaacs) and his American wife who were killed in the bomb outrage in Jerusalem's Zion Square in 1975. Mr. Ben-Itzhak had been an Oxford graduate and a London stockbroker before emigrating to Israel. His family was represented at the dedication ceremony by Mr Jeremy Isaacs, Thames TV director of programmes, well-known for his documentaries on contemporary matters, who has since retired from his post.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### IDA DEHMEL-COBLENZ REMEMBERED

At the latest National Conference of the "Gemeinschaft deutscher und oesterreichischer Kuenstlerinnen und Kunstfreundinnen" (GEDOK), the Berlin Senator of Culture, Dr. Dieter Sauberzweig, paid tribute to the memory of Ida Dehmel, née Coblenz, who as a fighter for women's emancipation was the founder of GEDOK. Born in 1870 in Bingen, Ida Coblenz was closely associated with the Stefan George Kreis at the turn of the century. In 1901, she married Richard Dehmel (1863-1920). In 1942, under the impact of the steadily growing persecution of the Jews, she put an end to her life in Hamburg-Blankenese.

E.G.L.

### CHAGALL EXHIBITION IN BERLIN

In its high-rise office block, the Möbel-Hübner concern in Berlin, displayed some 600 Chagall drawings illustrating masterworks of literature like Gogol's "Dead Souls". No similar exhibition has ever been staged outside the Nice Chagall Museum. The present one is later to be transferred to other German cities and has attracted many visitors.

### DEATH OF HELPER TO REFUGEES

Mr. Otto H. Heim, who played a leading part in the relief work for refugees, died in Zurich at the age of 81. From 1945 to 1968 he was chairman of the Verband Schweizerischer Juedischer Fluechtlingshilfen. Mr. Heim also played a leading part in the social work of other organisations, especially of the Schweizerische Israelitische Gemeindebund.

E.G.L.

### CELEBRATIONS IN ROMANIA

A congregation of over 1,000 people, including Chief Rabbi Goren of Israel and Dr. Yosef Burg, Israel's Minister of the Interior, attended a service in Bucharest's magnificent Choral Synagogue to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the election of Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen. The head of the Romanian Minister of Cults and a Bishop representing the Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church were also present, as were representatives of the Jews of Britain, France, the US, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Venezuela and South Africa. Since Dr. Rosen's election, some 350,000 Jews have emigrated to Israel. There remain 40,000 organised in 68 main communities.

### LEGACIES

Mr. Walter Oelsner of London N.2, who died in March 1977, has left £24,000 to be shared equally by the AJR and the Joint Israel Appeal.

Mrs. Frida Stahl, who died last September, left £200 each to the AJR Charitable Trust and four other Jewish charities.

Miss Lilly Mosheim, who worked as a librarian in Cambridge for many years and who died in a London Nursing Home last March, left £41,629. £150 each are to go to the Cambridge Jewish Residents Association and Chesterton Hospital, Cambridge, while the residue was left to the Central British Fund for the maintenance of the Old Age Homes for victims of Nazi persecution.

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## MEANING OF THE HOLOCAUST

At the invitation of the British Lubavitch Movement, a distinguished audience of Jews and non-Jews assembled in the historic rooms of the Royal Institution to listen to a lecture by Elie Wiesel, the writer and chronicler of the Holocaust. Lord Goodman was in the chair. It was Mr Wiesel's seventh lecture in this country. His hour-long speech, without notes, was deeply moving. He said that in its enormity, the Holocaust had remained a mystery to this day which could only be compared to the mystery of the Revelation of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. The world was still in danger, because it had not been punished for a crime which defied all logic, but he did not want to see it punished by a nuclear Holocaust, and it might be saved as long as it was made aware of the enormity of the event. It had begun with words which were not taken seriously by the leaders of the liberal world who could have prevented it. The killers had attempted to substitute themselves for God. Most of them were educated men with college degrees who combined a vast amount of knowledge with the art of killing. As opposed to their worldly knowledge, the rabbis, supported by 2,000 years of talmud studies were provided with a moral shield which obviously the study of Goethe and Schiller did not provide. They could have found refuge, but in their thousands, they accompanied their communities to the death chambers.

Those who survived among the victims did so because they were obsessed by the desire to bear witness and not to let the killers triumph.

There were chroniclers of history in all the ghettos and camps, and in the Warsaw ghetto alone one hundred chronicles were written in secret. Even the Jews selected for the Sonderkommandos who had to bury the dead, kept diaries. In view of this desire it seems unbelievable that some 65 books have been written claiming that the Holocaust never happened, and he did not know how to face this vulgar obscenity. In 1945, the survivors became friends of Mankind instead of accusers, they chose to build instead of destroying the world, and many went to Israel to fulfil the dreams they had dreamt in the ghettos.

It was a miracle that the Chasidic Movement survived. It should have been extinguished, because all its centres were destroyed, but it came back with a new dynamism. The one important task that now faced the dwindling number of survivors was to see to it that history was not forgotten, that the world was made to remember what had happened to our people by reading the chronicles assembled during the terror. M.P.

### HOLOCAUST FELLOWSHIP ENDOWED

Concentration camp survivors now living in Britain have raised £4,000 to endow a fellowship in Holocaust studies at the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies. The survivors who came here in their early teens, were helped by the Central British Fund at the time. They subsequently set up their own association, the 45 Aid Society, which raises money for the CBF, now World Jewish Relief, and other causes. Mr. Ben Helfgott, the society chairman, said at the annual dinner, the camp inmates had endured great physical and emotional stresses and had been helped by Anglo-Jewry, under the leadership of the late Leonard G. Montefiore, to adjust to their new environment and to make a valuable contribution to it. They must never tire of explaining the meaning of the Holocaust, especially to the younger generations at universities, many of whom were anti-Israel.

### ISRAEL MUSEUM IN CANADA

The Canadian Wizo has invited Christian clergy and members of Christian religious and cultural organisations to the opening of Independence Hall in Toronto, a museum showing exhibits about the State of Israel.

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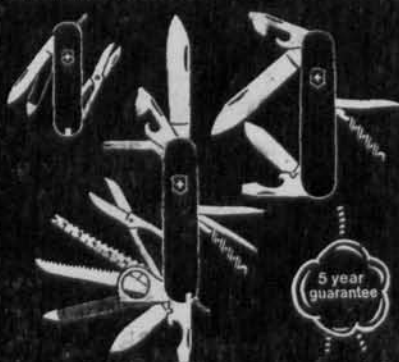
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### "WELCOME BACK" PARTY AT AJR CLUB

The Club Room and the Meeting Hall of Hannah Karminski House were filled to capacity to welcome back Mrs Margaret Jacoby, the Chairman of the AJR Club, after the recovery from her operation and to celebrate belatedly her 96th birthday. It was a real family party and, as Mrs. Jacoby stated in her humorous and cordial speech, she really felt as near to the Club members as a mother to her children. The function had been prepared by Mrs Dora Segall, Vice-Chairman of the Club. A charming poem in honour of the "birthday child" was written and read out by Mr. C. H. Guttman, J.P., the son of one of the most interested Club members. Dr. W. Rosenstock conveyed the good wishes of the AJR Executive to Mrs. Jacoby and, as so often, the Club could again enjoy the recitals of the professional artist and long-standing Club member, Mr. Friedrich Schiller. The whole function, including the ensuing informal part, when coffee and cake were served, testified anew to the strength of the Club and the feelings of friendship and solidarity among its members.

### "AJR INFORMATION" DELAYED

For reasons entirely beyond our control, the July issue of *AJR Information* was delivered with very considerable delay. The Post Office had received the copies from our mailing firm at the scheduled date but declared that, due to lack of staff, they had accumulated a large amount of mail and could only handle it with a delay of several days. We deeply regret the inconvenience thus caused to our readers and hope that the shortcomings on the part of the postal authorities were of a temporary nature. The editors and printers always do their best to secure the delivery of our journal during the first days of the month, and the great number of enquiries we received in July testified anew to the eagerness with which our readers are looking forward to each issue of "AJR Information."

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## THE ISRAELI SCENE

### VISITS BY GERMAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Professor Karl Carstens, president of the Bonn Parliament, visited Israel as leader of a parliamentarian all-party group and planted a tree in the Jerusalem Forest of Peace. Mr. Benshemesh, director of the K.K.L. to which the forest belongs, explained that it was planted in what used to be No Man's Land and now serves as a recreation centre for Jews and Arabs.

The Presidential Board of the Bavarian Parliament also paid a one-week's visit to Israel. They had been invited to do so by Yitzhak Shamir, president of the Knesset who, accompanied by other Knesset Members, had repeatedly visited Munich. At the end of their stay they expressed their admiration for the industrial and agricultural achievements they had seen. They added they were impressed by the happy relationships between Jews and Arabs in the country—their Arab driver had told them that he sent his children to Israeli schools where they received a very good education.

### YESHIVA STUDENT'S SUICIDE

"Shaarim", the newspaper of the Poale Agudath Israel Party, has revealed that Yeshiva students in training at an Israel Defence Forces Armoured Corps camp were so badly treated that one of them committed suicide. Subsequently, the training company commander was sacked, and four training officers were given prison sentences. Before killing himself, the student had written a letter to the commander saying that he could not carry on any longer, but the letter had been left in the letter-box until after his death. The yeshiva students who do their training collectively, had been forced to drink sea-water on a route march, were allowed only two hours sleep a night for a week, were forced to stand in the sun and salute the Israeli flag for four hours at a time, were beaten and cursed for their religious beliefs. The man who killed himself had been forced to go on a route march with a jerrican of water strapped to his back, even though he was running a high temperature. The Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Eitan, said he would see to it that ill-treatment of recruits would be stamped out.

### JAIL SENTENCE FOR AMERICAN STUDENT

The case of the Arab-American student, Sami Ismail, who was arrested in Israel last December, has been discussed in a number of Western papers including "The Times". Arab sources alleged that he had been severely tortured. Now two leading American lawyers, having studied all aspects of the case, have publicly declared that these rumours were unfounded. Twenty-four-year-old Ismail who is American-born, arrived in Israel to visit his dying father in the West Bank town of Ramallah. He was arrested because he was found to belong to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, George Habash's Arab terrorist group, and to have visited Libya in 1976. On these grounds he was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. The American investigators established that he had been visited by the American consul in Israel, that no signs of torture could be found and that in his prison cell he had a private bath.

### PRAISE FOR ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

At a symposium on the balance of power in the Middle East, General Keegan, former head of the US Air Force Intelligence, said that the Israeli intelligence service had provided him with otherwise unobtainable information on the Soviet Air Forces. Twice in the past 15 years warnings of murder plots against the King of Saudi Arabia were given by the Israelis and saved the king's life. In 1973, the Israelis had shot down a heavy Russian transport plane en route to Syria to show their readiness to resist increased supplies of weapons to Syria. The Russians had got the message.

### ARAB TERRORISTS IN SYRIAN GHETTO

A representative of the World Organisation for Jews in Arab Countries announced at a press conference in London that there were 800 Jewish families left in Syria, and that in the Damascus ghetto they lived side by side with Palestinian Arabs, some of whom are picked for terrorist activity against Israel.

### NEGEV PARADISE FOR MAORI CONVERT

Mr. Danny Pohatu, the only known Maori convert to Judaism and his New Zealand-born Jewish wife, Rosa, are leading members of the Sde Nissan immigrant settlement in the Negev. Nearly all the 60 families there are from English-speaking countries. The Pohatus visited Israel just before the 1973 war and decided to stay. Mr. Pohatu was converted after attending a seminar conducted by the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren. They now have two young sabra sons and live in their own house. In their four acres of greenhouses, they grow tomatoes and melons for export. They keep kashrut and attend the Orthodox services, but like everybody else on the settlement, they have to work on Saturdays during the season. Mrs. Pohatu said that they had found their rightful place and it was paradise for them.

### TRAINING FOR FUTURE WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONS

Children from all over the country receive free training at the new tennis centre just outside Tel Aviv, said to be a Wimbledon champion's dream. All children who show ability in the game, are sent by their schools, and a group of youngsters who have shown promise, are to go to America this summer to learn and to play in a number of junior tournaments.

### EUROVISION CONTEST IN JERUSALEM?

As the Eurovision contest is always held in the country which has won the previous year's contest, next year's performance will take place in Jerusalem. Israel has just announced that it will be possible to stage the event in colour.

### LEVI GERTNER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Pupils from the Camden Town J.F.S. attended the dedication of the Levi Gertner memorial library at the Givat Washington religious high school. Mr. Levi Gertner, who died in 1976, was educational director of the British Zionist Federation's Educational Trust. The library was funded with £1,000 collected by Miss Barwell, of the National Union of Hebrew Teachers, from friends and students at Mr. Gertner's Hebrew seminars.

### PRIZE FOR BOB HOPE

The Scopus Prize, the highest honour awarded by the American Friends of the Hebrew University, was conferred on Bob Hope.

### KNEIPP CURE INTRODUCED

The spa hotel, Yaarot Hacarmel, near Haifa, which provides many kinds of spa and health farm treatments, has introduced special treatments in the manner of Pastor Kneipp, which have for many years been popular in Central Europe, and in South Africa. The world centre of Kneipp treatment is Bad Wörrishofen, Bavaria. The inauguration of the Israeli centre was attended by 30 members of the Liechtenstein Kneipp League, which acted as adviser to the hotel. There is a "cure path", 600 metres in length with 12 stations at which particular exercises are prescribed in Hebrew and German.

### NEW COINAGE

A new I£5 coin (about 16½p) is the first new coin since the I£1 and 50 agorot coins were issued in 1963. Since then, the consumer price index has risen by 900 per cent.

### NO FUTURE FOR THE DEAD SEA?

During the past 30 years Israeli and Jordanian farmers have taken so much water from the River Jordan that the Dead Sea's level is falling by 80 centimetres per year. The Israelis have just built two canals which are to supply the Dead Sea with water to counteract the annual loss, but the southern basin has already completely dried up.

## Gesucht werden Tagebücher und Briefe

Wir suchen unveröffentlichte Nachlässe, Tagebücher, Briefe von deutschen jüdischen Familien aus dem 18., 19. und 20. Jahrhundert aus privaten Quellen und Archiven zur Auswertung für die geplante Veröffentlichung eines Romans mit dem Arbeitstitel "Eine jüdische Familie", der von Prof. Dr. Walter Jens, Tübingen, auf Tatsachen beruhend geschrieben werden soll. Eine äusserst diskrete Behandlung wird bei der Sichtung des Materials zugesichert. Reale Namen würden durch fiktive ersetzt.

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# IN MEMORIAM

DR. ARTHUR KAUFMANN

Dr. Arthur Kaufmann died on 10th July at the age of 76 after a short illness. He was born in Leipzig, a member of a well-known Jewish family. As a student, he joined the K.C. fraternity and maintained ties of friendship and loyalty towards fellow members throughout his life. He commenced practising as a lawyer in his home town, but he established contacts in London as early as 1927, and very soon after the advent of the Nazis, settled in London and started work with a firm of Solicitors, whilst studying to qualify as a Solicitor. During the 1930s, he helped many businessmen and others from Leipzig to establish themselves in London, many of them being, of course, members of the fur trade. During the war, he served as an officer in the British Army, taking part in the North African and Italian campaigns. After the war he resumed practising as a Solicitor and continued to do so until his death.

He was a member of the AJR Board and a personal friend of several founder members. As most of the honorary officers had arrived in this country only a few months before the outbreak of war, his knowledge and expertise as an "integrated" refugee were of particular value. His co-operation with the AJR continued throughout the years. Only a short while ago, he negotiated on our behalf with the authorities about a new, rather complex question indirectly connected with compensation to Nazi victims. On that occasion we again witnessed with admiration his grasp of legal problems and his skill as a negotiator. The question is still unsolved, and it will be difficult to find an expert to replace him. He was also a member of the London Executive of the Council of Jews from Germany, where his gifts as a careful and sound adviser were greatly appreciated. Furthermore, he was the Hon. Secretary of the world-wide United Restitution Organisation, his work in this sphere also remaining unfinished.

Arthur Kaufmann's penetrating intellect and wise counsel will be sadly missed.

DR. HANS JACOBI

Dr Hans Jacobi, who died on June 16, at the age of 68, was throughout his life a representative of the idea of *Deutschtum und Judentum*, even when the catastrophe which overwhelmed German Jewry made this idea appear to be a rather absurd dream of the past. His literary and artistic tastes, his whole style of life and thought, remained distinctly German, and in his mocking scepticism towards any kind of rigid ideology, his easy, jovial sociability and robust sense of humour he was a typical Rhinelander. When only Jews were present, he was inclined to speak of all things Jewish with a kind of affectionate irony, sometimes amounting to flippancy—modelled on that of his favourite poet, Heine, of whose writings he made a life-long study. Yet there is no doubt that he also remained, true to his upbringing, a "good Jew". He proved it as Head of the Cologne office of the *Hilfsverein* during the critical years of 1935 to 1939, when he served the cause of Jewish emigration with inexhaustible devotion and a personal courage far beyond the call of duty.

He was one of the few former German lawyers who obtained their qualification as solicitors, and he was successful in his new career. His approach to the profession was thoroughly pragmatic: he regarded the law as but a means of achieving the best possible solution in a conflict of practical interests. He had a sure grasp of economic realities, and often he understood the true interests of his clients better than they did themselves. He was an excellent adviser and an outstanding negotiator. His special talents could have been a valuable asset in the wider sphere of communal life; perhaps it is a pity that in his later years he had no ambition in that direction.

Jacobi was very much "a man with all his contradictions". A shrewd, down-to-earth man of affairs, who greatly cherished material comfort and pleasures, he also wrote sensitive lyrical poetry in a romantic vein and expressed his profound joy in the beauties of

nature with the paintbrush. On some occasions he behaved with impressive dignity and decorum, on others with a cavalier disregard of polite convention. He could discourse thoughtfully and intelligently on a wide variety of subjects, but was also apt to talk outrageous nonsense for the mere fun of provoking his listeners. As a friend he was considerate, generous and utterly reliable, but those with whom he clashed found him a very tough opponent. He certainly had his share of human failings, yet he had the strength of character to recognise and come to terms with them; and it was this which enabled him to develop an almost uncanny insight into the thoughts and feelings of others, and with it the sympathetic, smiling tolerance that was one of his most lovable virtues.

L.K.

WILLIAM STEINBERG

Dr. William Steinberg, former conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and musical director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, has died in New York, aged 78. He studied music at the conservatory of music in his native Cologne and became one of the youngest conductors of the renowned Frankfurt Opera. Dismissed in 1933, he became conductor of the Jüdische Kulturbund Orchestra and later emigrated to Palestine where, together with Bronislaw Huberman, the violinist, he founded the Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra, the forerunner of the present-day Israel Philharmonic. In 1938 Toscanini, who had heard him in Tel Aviv, persuaded him to accept a conducting post in the United States.

MEYER OPPENHEIMER

Mr. Meyer Oppenheimer, who was the first secretary of the Hendon Adath Congregation, set up in 1938, has died at the age of 82. He had been a teacher at the Fuerth Jewish school before coming to this country, and he worked for the Adath for over 30 years. One of his former pupils was Dr. Kissinger. After his retirement, he continued to blow the shofar until he was well over 80, and devoted his leisure to Jewish historical and Talmud research.

## 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.

### Birth

Fabian.—A son, Ross Mark, was born on July 3, to Paul and Linda Fabian, first grandson for Mr. and Mrs. H. Fabian; first great-grandson for Mrs. Frieda Fabian.

### Birthday

Goodman.—Mr. Eric Goodman, of 93 Gilling Court, Belsize Grove, London, N.W.3, will celebrate his 70th birthday on September 2.

### Wedding

Erle-Grant.—On July 21, the marriage took place between Ralph David Erle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Erle, and Simone Mary Grant, daughter of the late Mr. Gregor J. Grant and Mrs. Eba Grant.

### Deaths

Bachmann.—Mrs. I. Bachmann passed away on June 25, deeply mourned by her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

Bernstein.—Mrs. Fritzi Bernstein, (formerly Nuernberg), passed away peacefully on July 4, in her 99th year. Sadly missed by her son, and daughter, and their families.

Besser.—Margot Besser, of 7 Sandringham Court, Maida Vale, London, W.9, passed away in Italy on July 2. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her daughter, Natalie, son-in-law, Bernard, granddaughters, and her beloved Friedel, companion for thirty years, relatives and friends.

Cromwell.—On July 16, after a long illness, Philipp Cromwell, sadly missed by his wife, children, grandchildren and many friends.

Hayek.—With great sadness Tony Hayek and Traudi Plesch and their families announce the death of their beloved mother Margit Hayek, 83 years old. She died peacefully on July 16 after a short illness cheerfully borne at 10 Church Plantation, University of Keele, Staffs.

Sontheim.—On July 8 in a traffic accident Helga Sontheim. Deeply mourned by her sister Rita Lehmann and her many friends.

Stricker.—Paul Stricker, formerly of Vienna, 90 years of age, passed away on June 24; deeply mourned by his wife, son and daughter.

Susicky.—Jiri George Susicky, passed away on June 10, at the age of 77. Deeply mourned by his wife, Maria, and sister, Valerie.

### In Memoriam

Lien.—Edith Jenny Lien, died on May 16. Deeply mourned by her brother, sisters, relatives and friends.

## CLASSIFIED

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

### Miscellaneous

REVLON MANICURIST. Will visit your home. Phone 01-445 2915.

FAMILY moved to new home wishes to buy Persian carpet and/or antique furniture. 01-458 3010.

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### Situation Vacant

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In order to ensure that you receive your copy of "AJR Information" regularly, please inform us immediately of any change of address.

## Personal

CONTINENTAL LADY living in Wales would like to meet active retired gentleman with own home. Box 737.

## INFORMATION REQUIRED

### Personal Enquiries

Herzberg.—The address of Mr. J. Herzberg, (formerly Leipzig), brother of the late Mrs. Hilda Gruen, U.S.A., who may have changed his name, is wanted by Mrs. R. Boas, 6 Compayne Gardens, London, N.W.6. Tel. 01-624 3969.

### AJR Enquiries

Pollitzer.—Mr. A. Pollitzer, last known address 4 Crowe Hill Court, 66 Longfleet Road, Poole, Dorset, BN15 2JE.

Pomeranz.—Mrs. M. Pomeranz, last known address 115 Goldstone Crescent, Hove, Sussex, BN3 6LS.

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# PERSONALIA

## NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATES MEET

The speakers at this year's meeting in Lindau of Nobel Prize laureates for medicine included Professor Sir Hans Krebs (Oxford), who read a paper about "The Biology of Juvenile Delinquency", Sir Bernard Katz (London) and Professor Fritz A. Lipmann (New York). E.G.L.

## "POUR LE MERITE" FOR SIR ERNST GOMBRICH

The Order "Pour le Merite fuer Wissenschaft und Kuenste", which was re-introduced by the late Federal German President Heuss and whose membership is restricted to 30 German and 30 foreign personalities, was awarded to Sir Ernst Gombrich (London). Sir Ernst was born in Vienna in 1909 and came to this country 40 years ago. A widely-known art historian, he was Director of the Warburg Institute of the University of London. His best known works are, "The Story of Art" and "Art and Illusion."

## DR. WILHELM FELDBERG HONOURED

Dr. Wilhelm Feldberg, C.B.E., head of the laboratory of neuro-pharmacology, National Institute for Medical Research, London, has been admitted as a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. Hamburg-born Dr. Feldberg has been an interested member of the AJR for many years.

## LEADER OF THE WINE TRADE

Dr. Peter Hallgarten, son of our board member S. F. Hallgarten and head of Hallgarten Wines Limited, has been elected the first Jewish chairman of the Wine and Spirit Association. He is a world authority on liqueurs and said to have personally invented twelve new liqueurs. He said recently that while the British had the lowest wine consumption in the EEC, the number of adults buying wine had increased by more than 40 per cent in the 1970s, despite the fact that the duty on table wine had risen by 333 per cent since 1974.

## BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Our member Edward Arthur Marsden was appointed an O.B.E. in the recent Birthday Honours. A qualified lawyer in Germany and a solicitor of the Supreme Court, Marsden has for many years been Clerk to the Supreme Restitution Court in Herford, the highest appeal court for the former British Zone in Germany in restitution matters, one of the few subjects reserved to Allied jurisdiction under the Paris Treaties of 1954 which granted sovereignty to the Federal Republic of Germany. Through his thorough knowledge of both English and German law Marsden has been able to give invaluable help to the Judges of this Court and to the cause of restitution in general.

The Honours List also included an MBE for Mr Claus Werner Benedict, Managing Director, Porth Textiles Ltd., Rhondda. Mr. Benedict is a member of the AJR.

Professor Hans Leo Kornberg who, as reported in our July issue, was awarded a knighthood, is Sir William Dunn Professor of Biochemistry (not of Chemistry) at the University of Cambridge. He also renders essential services to this country as Chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

## CIVIC HONOURS FOR FORMER FRANKFURT LAWYER

81-year-old Dr. Ludwig (Lutz) Rosenthal, a former Frankfurt lawyer, was among the three men who were awarded the civic medal of the town of Hanau, which was presented to him by the German Ambassador to Guatemala where he has lived for many years. He was born in Bergen near Hanau and has written a number of publications on local history, and on Jewish local history in particular. In 1963 he published an essay, "History of the Jews in the area of the former county of Hanau including the Jews of Bergen, near Frankfurt, and the author's ancestors who lived there in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries". His other works include an essay about the Frankfurt metal firm, Beer, Sondheimer & Co. When Hitler came to power, Hanau had a Jewish community of 600. At present there are hardly any Jews living there.—E.G.L.

## SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

We are pleased to inform our readers that the newly acquired house in Finchley Central has now been brought up to a very high standard of comfort. There are bed-sitting rooms with a resident caretaker, central heating, hot water, cooking and laundry facilities, garden, etc. Anyone who is interested in such accommodation should contact Mrs S. R. Tausig, at AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, NW3 6JY.

## BARMITZVAH IN OTTO SCHIFF HOUSE

An unusual event took place in Otto Schiff House on July 15, when a pupil of Mr. and Mrs. Posen, who take services in the Home, celebrated his Barmitzvah there. The occasion was much enjoyed by the residents, many of whom were happily reminded of their youth.

## REFUGEE'S 90th BIRTHDAY

Mr. Adolf Feibusch who came to this country as a refugee from Koenigsberg in 1939, has just celebrated his 90th birthday. In Koenigsberg he was a building contractor who employed more than 100 staff. He settled in Southend and has since been greatly involved in synagogue and fund-raising matters. Mr. Feibusch has been a member of the AJR since its inception. We extend our sincerest congratulations to him.

## ERIC GOODMAN, 70

On September 2, our friend Eric Goodman will celebrate his 70th birthday. The son of the well-known Cantor of the Potsdam Jewish community, the late Samuel Guttman, he was on the staff of the Tietz combine in Berlin but, at the same time, received a comprehensive religious training. After the November 1938 pogroms he was admitted to this country as an inmate of the Richborough Transit Camp. Later he held a number of business appointments but also rendered his voluntary expert services to the New Liberal Jewish Congregation (now Belsize Square Synagogue) where he acted for many years as Choir-master. The AJR, of which he has been a member almost since its inception, wishes him health and enjoyment of his retirement for many years to come.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

**Great Ladies of Stage and Screen.** German Television performed a much-discussed play "Tod eines Vaters", illustrating a mother/son problem in which the part of the mother was taken by *Marianne Hoppe*. *Marlene Dietrich*, who had previously declined to accept any more film roles, was persuaded to change her mind: in the film "Just a Gigolo", shot in Paris, she is partnered by pop star David Bowie and Curt Jürgens.

**German Film Awards.** "Gold Ribbons", the German equivalent to Hollywood's "Oscars", have recently been awarded to Ruth Leuwerick, Gert Froebe, Rudolf Platte and Lilli Palmer with the citation "For outstanding services to the German Film Industry".

**Tit-Bits.** *Hildegard Knef (Neff)* has written a musical depicting her life story, which is to be premiered in Berlin. — *Heinrich Schnitzler*, son of the Austrian writer Arthur Schnitzler, is to visit London in October. — A revival of Ferdinand Bruckner's play "Die Rassen" aroused interest when given by the small Vienna "Theater der Courage". — *Daniel Barenboim* has been invited to conduct Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" at the Deutsche Oper, Berlin, in December this year.

**Birthdays.** Actor *Theo Lingen* is 75; international operatic soprano *Birgit Nilsson* celebrated her 60th birthday last month.

**A Remarkable Book.** Perhaps it is the similarity of background and the common experience of persecution, emigration and uprooting which makes *Fritz Busch's* autobiography "Aus dem Leben eines Musikers" particularly touching reading for us. The new edition of the work, published by the Ostberlin Henschel-Verlag, describes the vicissitudes of this out-

standing conductor's life. Starting in Cologne, he is especially known to most of us by his successful collaboration with Carl Ebert at Glyndebourne. Yet his activities extended to many music centres all over the world, ranging from Dresden and Bayreuth to Buenos Aires and New York. Highlights of the book are the references to his friendship with Toscanini. His clash with the National Socialists is shown in an inimitable mixture of his devotion to music, earnest convictions and unshakable humour.

S.B.

## TWO EXHIBITIONS

Alice Goldin, born in Vienna and now living in South Africa, has recently been showing with Jonathan Sandler and Freda Goitein at the Ben Uri Art Gallery. She is primarily a landscape artist, but the charming coloured woodcuts she has had on display show her mastery of this technique. She has exhibited extensively in Italy, South Africa, Germany and Rhodesia.

George Weil has been showing his own interpretation of Netsuke at the Douglas Wright Gallery, Curzon Street. Not only does the exhibition contain delightful figures in ivory, some with gold inlay, and larger figures boldly carved in wood, but also many sketches and drawings on which the actual figures are based. George Weil is one of a small group of artists in England who have adopted the challenge of this specialised and somewhat esoteric Japanese art-form. His success is portrayed in the works displayed.

ALICE SCHWAB

## Letters to the Editor

### BOMBING OF HAMBURG AND NEUENGAMME

Sir,—I am writing a book about the bombing of Hamburg in July, 1943, and would like to contact anyone who was either still living in the city at that time or who was in the nearby concentration camp of Neuengamme. If any reader can help, please write to me and I will give more details.

MARTIN MIDDLEBROOK

48 Linden Way,  
Boston, Lincs, PE21 9DS.

### BIOGRAPHY OF CORA BERLINER

Sir,—I have been asked by the family of the late Cora Berliner to write a short biography of her. As some of your readers will know, she was active in the Jewish youth movement, held governmental and educational positions with the Weimar Republic and, from 1933 onwards, was a leading personality in the "Reichsvertretung". She was deported in 1942. I would be grateful to receive any material (letters, lectures, articles, personal reminiscences, documents, etc.) referring to Cora, especially between 1919 and 1933. The material will be promptly returned to the senders.

E. HILDESHEIMER

16 Ha'ari Street,  
Jerusalem.

### B'NAI B'RITH IN SPAIN

The Spanish B'nai B'rith Lodge Maimonides was opened by David Blumberg, international president of the Order. Its president is Max Mazin, who is also vice-president of the Spanish Employers' Federation. In his inaugural speech, Mr. Mazin said that his ties with a system of free enterprise did not mean that he would introduce his convictions into the Lodge. The political leanings of members would be their private affair.

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